

Midwest . . . News Notes

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

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Two copies of Midwest . . . News Notes will be sent to all Superiors of the Province. One of the copies is intended for the house bulletin board. This will be our initial mailing policy. However, some Brothers because of their address or occupation, for example canvassers, will receive individual copies.

"Is it possible for you to come up with an experimental formation program by January, 1968?" Brother Donatus asked the newly formed Commission on Formation. At an organizational meeting on August 17 at the Provincial Office, the first step was taken to implement Decree #2 of the Committee on Religious Formation and Professional Training: "A committee shall be appointed to research and formulate an integrated formation program to be conducted by a formation faculty, bringing together the present aspirancy, novitiate, and scholastic phases." The personnel of the Commission will be announced as soon as all prospective members have been contacted. The first meeting of the Commission will be held on Sept. 12, 1967.

The newly formed Commission on Formation is a "working committee" of the Chapter Committee on Religious Formation and Professional Training. Its primary responsibility will be the implementation of last summer's chapter decrees and recommendations having to do with formation.

A new classroom building and gym are being planned for the novitiate. If chapter decrees and recommendations in this matter are approved by the Superior General, Brother Carl Englert, Superior at Watertown, will be ready to take initial steps at converting the novitiate into a military academy. Brother Carl and his staff have been working intensively with the Provincial and Council in this matter.

"I will need some help to keep this place in operation," says Brother Bernard Donahoe. After the first-vow group left the novitiate on August 16, there remained twelve novices (Midwest 9, South-West 3) in a building that can accommodate at least one hundred. Our August reception group (three in number) received the habit at the Valatie novitiate, and there is a tentative plan whereby the January 1968 group will begin their formation program here at Holy Cross Junior College. The second semester 1967-68 will be a time of converting the facilities at Rolling Prairie for use by the military academy in the fall of 1968. The farm operation at the novitiate will continue under the direction of Brother Sixtus.

The General Chapter delegates of our province are disposed to listen to or hear from any Brother who wants to be heard or has suggestions to make in the matter of General Chapter business. The position of our Provincial Chapter on the matter of questions proposed by the Superior General in his two Circular Letters is quite clear to the delegates because they were present at the Provincial Chapter. In order that all province personnel may know what the mind of the Provincial Chapter is, we plan to include answers to these questions in successive issues of the Midwest . . . News Notes. You may have additional or different views on these and other issues that affect our lives as religious and you are asked to share these with the delegate of your choice.

The masthead of the first and present issue of Midwest . . . News Notes is the work of Brother Thomas Gauthier, a scholastic at James Hall. It is an imitation of one prepared by Brother Harold Ruplinger. Brother Harold's art work will be seen through the printers by Brother Charles McBride. We plan for the final format to have a professional look!

The first proof of the 1967-68 Residence Directory is now in our office. At the recommendation of Father Lalande, there will be several new features. The Community List will be numbered. There will be an alphabetical listing by last name of all the Brothers in the Province. The number to the left of your name indicates rank and precedence and the number to the right indicates your residence. Each residence has a number. If you observe any errors please inform us so that future issues can be corrected. We also added names of deceased Brothers since publication of the General Obituary List in 1962. The Directory will go to the printers on Sept. 15 and should be ready for distribution by late September.

The Steering Committee on Inter-Community Implementation of Vatican II, South Bend Deanery, recently held a planning meeting at the Provincial Office.

A reminder: please keep your Superior informed of the name, address, and phone number of nearest of kin. This information is on your Membership Data card but there may be a change in your case.

Brothers Thomas Corcoran and Robert Kelly have been appointed to the faculty at River Grove and Cleveland respectively. They will function in the guidance department. Area Directors recently met with Provincial Office staff and the two Principals concerned in order to define roles and establish guidelines. "There is no day to day commitment they have to meet" was a decision reached, and Brothers Thomas and Robert as well as Brother John Lavelle will be available to the schools as in the past. Our schools have become our biggest source of vocations.

Mr. Currens, of the VA office in Indianapolis, visited Holy Cross Junior College on August 23, 1967 to investigate our interest in qualifying for GI benefits. He took copies of letters from three State Universities which indicated a readiness to accept our credits, along with three copies of our Catalog. Mr. Currens was of the opinion that HCJC will be approved for receipt of GI benefits. He will inform us directly of the approved petition. In order to qualify for payment, a former GI must submit an application to the VA within 15 days after the start of the school term. "Full-time" attendance is defined as 14 semester hours of credit. Under provisions of the GI Bill, a full-time student can qualify for \$100.00 per month subsidy while attending college.

The tentative enrollment statistics for Holy Cross Junior College for this fall are as follows: novices (part-time) 12; aspirants 14; scholastics 25; lay students 25; for a total enrollment of 76.

"From your letter of July 22 and the materials which you sent us on Holy Cross Junior College, I feel that you would have no problem obtaining affiliation with the University." This quotation is part of a letter from Reverend Thomas J. Taylor, Director, Program of Affiliation, The Catholic University of America, and is addressed to Brother John Driscoll, President HCJC. A team of representatives of Catholic University will visit HCJC some time during October.

The following two questions are from the Superior General's recent circular, Section I, page 58, and the answers are those supplied by the Provincial Chapter:
1. Is the approach suggested for the beginning of the new Constitutions acceptable? If not, what alternate approach do you suggest?

The approach suggested is very much acceptable. To set the framework of our lives, including the vows, in the context of community life and spirit at the beginning of our Constitutions is to focus attention on the very purpose of our Congregation and the efforts of each member--love of God and neighbor. Everything else must be viewed in this light.

2. Does the proposed text (No. 12) seem faithful both to Father Moreau's great concerns and to our own? --If it seems deficient, please suggest an alternate text or an alternate form for specific paragraphs.

The proposed text seems to be most faithful to the spirit or outlook of our Founder. At the same time, it is in harmony with the contemporary emphasis on community which is indeed a vital expression of the Christian life itself--unity through love, which is the very life of God. There is nothing we could add to this text.