



# Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

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On April 3rd, Br. Dominic Elder died unexpectedly at Columba Hall. Six days later Br. Fidelis Pommier died at Dujarie House after being ill for some time. Both Dominic and Fidelis, who served so faithfully in so many different capacities, are so well known and loved by so many province members that no lengthy biography is necessary. Committed to the religious life and the province for so many years and to the very end of their lives, they are striking examples of faith and hope and perseverance. May God our Father reward them both with resurrected life.

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FROM LE MANS ACADEMY: Br. Edwin Mattingly has been appointed the new superior, effective June 1st. \*\*\* Br. Jerome Schwabe received a special blessing from the Vicar General of the Diocese of Gary, making him the first in the diocese to become an extraordinary minister. \*\*\* Plans are being completed for the Academic Day program on May 2nd, a day dedicated to Br. Jerome Schwabe, fifth headmaster of the Academy. All community members are welcome to attend: liturgy at 10:00 a.m., a program in the gym at 1:00, a choral presentation in the chapel at 4:00, followed by an Open House honoring Br. Jerome. \*\*\* Several students attended Br. Dominic Elder's funeral; he was the first headmaster, and last November received a plaque of appreciation at the first annual headmaster's weekend. \*\*\* Br. Shaun Gray and Mr. Fred Snyder attended a basketball clinic in Michigan for three days. \*\*\* Plans are going forward for the International Children's Summer Village to be held on the grounds this summer. Br. Edward Grams, executive director, will be the liaison man for the Academy. \*\*\* Eleven seminarians from Moreau recently held their retreat at the Academy. Several other small groups from the Notre Dame campus also made retreats at various times. \*\*\* Fifteen staff members attended the NCEA convention in Chicago. They were guests of 50th-on-the-Lake Motel on Lake Shore Drive.

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FROM DACCA: The district council recently approved a proposal to ask the local communities to begin a process of evaluation of apostolates. \*\*\* Br. Nicholas Thielman's basketball team won the Independence Day tournament and is now in the running for the national championship. \*\*\* Nicholas also moderates a club which conducts a literacy school for poor children and which also works at a local orphanage. \*\*\* At St. Gregory's, a memorial service was held on March 31st to commemorate teachers and students of the school who were killed by the Pakistan military on that date in 1971. \*\*\* At St. Joseph Trade School work is in progress on the permanent chapel for the brothers and students.

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GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE: From a special province fund for charity, Br. Charles recently contributed a thousand dollars to the reconstruction following the disastrous earthquake in Guatemala. Figures indicate that 22,778 were killed, 76,504 injured, and 250,000 houses destroyed. Living conditions are indescribable. Our prayers are requested to sustain these people in face of the pain and suffering they are enduring.

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Cletus Hammer signed his acceptance of dispensation from final vows on March 27th.

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FROM ST. EDWARD, CLEVELAND: Br. Thomas Henning has been appointed by the Bishop of Cleveland to serve on the Catholic Committee on Desegregation. He has also been appointed to the diocesan committee to study high school admission procedures. \*\*\* The Associates of St. Joseph chapter, their families and friends, and many Brothers--about 125 in all--honored St. Joseph at their annual Communion breakfast. Fr. John Blazek celebrated the liturgy. Br. Jerome Meyer moderates this very enthusiastic and active Associates group in the Cleveland area. \*\*\* Br. Lewis Brazil recently spoke at a dinner for members of the Cove Methodist Church in Lakewood about his student project to assist the elderly, "Operation Clean-up." His presentation was prefaced by remarks about vocation of the Brother and his role in the Church. \*\*\* Approximately fifty senior citizens from the neighboring Barton Center/Westerly Apartments were bused to the school musical extravaganze, "Annie Get Your Gun." Bishop James Hickey also grace the occasion by his presence. \*\*\* Br. Robert Berthiaume just completed teaching a class in general psychology during the winter quarter session at Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus, North Olmsted Branch.

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FROM HOLY TRINITY, CHICAGO: What was to be a periodic dental checkup turned out to be a surprise donation of dental equipment to Boysville from Doctor Dutka of Chicago. Br. Celestis Mueller has learned "never to look a gift horse in the mouth." \*\*\* Br. Celestis will represent Holy Trinity's business department at the National Catholic Business Education Convention at the Pick-Congress Hotel on April 21st and will chair one of the sessions.

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FROM BR. JOHN MILLER IN LOUISVILLE: Br. John gave a presentation at the National Catholic Education Association convention in Chicago. He spoke on the creative uses of short films in religious education. He gave a similar talk in early April at the diocesan religious education institute in Columbus, Ohio. He will be guest editor for the quarterly newsletter of the Catholic Audio-Visual Education Association. He will write, edit and design the May issue for this national organization. \*\*\* Cassette tapes for the Midwest Focus of the talks given by Fr. Larry Gorman are still available to community members for only \$12.78. Send a check to cover cost of the seven tapes, postage and handling to: Br. John Miller, Roncalli Center, 3940 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40213.

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FROM BISHOP DAVID HIGH IN LOUISVILLE: Dr. Robert Munson, Psychology Department chairman at Bellarmine College, has been working with the Brothers' community at once-a-month meetings since October, focusing on goals and needs in community, prayer, and personal spirituality and methods in problem solving. \*\*\* At the final meeting of the Greater Louisville Council of Teachers of English, Br. James May relinquished his position as president, but he will remain a member of the executive committee for the next two years. At the same meeting he gave a presentation on "Teacher Effectiveness Training," which was one of five round-table presentations teachers could choose to attend. \*\*\* Br. Bill Mewes has become a "Big Brother." The purpose of the organization is to provide a male model for the "Little Brother" since most come from a one-parent family with the father missing. The method of accomplishing the goal is by developing a meaningful and supportive friendship by getting together once each week for over a year at least. \*\*\* Mike George, a religion teacher at the school, has been living with the brothers since January; he is interested in exploring the brother's life, experiencing community, and may join the community in the future.

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FROM INDIANAPOLIS: Cathedral High School is to be relocated at what was Ladywood-St. Agnes School; it will also become coeducational. The Cathedral school board bought the property for \$1.8 million. The coeducational school opens in the fall of 1976. The Sisters of Providence owned and operated Ladywood-St. Agnes School, on the northside of Indianapolis at 56th and Emerson, since 1926.

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FROM RIVER GROVE: Under direction of Br. Chester Rachel, the annual Good Friday walk was most successful. This fourteen-mile hike by some 225 students and faculty raised about \$4700 for our Dacca missions and Marillac House. \*\*\* Final preparations are on for this year's musical production, "George M," directed by Br. Richard Shea. Performances are scheduled for May 1, 2, and 3. \*\*\* In your prayers please remember the brother of Br. Joseph Dudek, who is ill. Also for the repose of the soul of Marguerite Vosimeier, sister of Br. Caius Weber. Their mother, Marie Nieman, lives at 2345 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260.

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Br. Norbert Allerton signed his acceptance of extension of exclaustation for another year.

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FROM THE BROTHERS CENTER: On April 8th, Fr. Bill Simmons conducted a penance service for the local community, using the new rite. \*\*\* Carmelite Father David Murphy, studying theology at Notre Dame, gave the retreat conferences to the local community on April 14th and on Good Friday. Fr. Lawrence Gorman gave the conferences on Holy Thursday. \*\*\* April 26th to 29th, twenty-six Maryknoll priests from the Midwest participated in a community workshop at the Center.

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Pope Paul has designated Sunday, May 9th, as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day is to have a threefold objective:

- The day should have a spiritual significance with emphasis on meditation and prayer.
- It should be set apart as a day on which the attention of the Faithful is directed to the various kinds of dedicated consecration: priestly, religious, missionary, contemplative, and secular institutes.
- It should have as its objective the needs of the universal Church with some special attention given to those parts of the world where difficulties are more serious in these times.

Each local community is asked to respond in some way to these objectives. The enclosed article, "The Religious Brother and the Future," is meant to be a help for personal reflection and recommitment to our vocation.

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On May 1st at the Brothers Center approximately 450 Holy Cross religious, relatives and friends of ten of this year's jubilarians joined in celebrating their jubilee. This year's jubilarians include: 60 years: Br. Benedict Gervais; 50 years: Brs. Vianney Dillon, Benjamin McNulty, Bernard Mosier, Eymard Salzman; 25 years: Albert Rimlinger, John Dobrogowski, Robert Ludwig, Robert Woodward, Charles Krupp, Simon Murren, Thomas Dillman, Rudolph Talaga, Rene Guertin, William Doherty, Charles Van Winkle, Philip Armstrong, Donald Allen. Sincere congratulations to all our jubilarians.

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Registration for the Notre Dame Pastoral Institute for Social Ministry is encouraging. So far the following will be in attendance: Brs. Gregoire Bleau, Lewis Brazil, Dennis Calsin, James Caley, Joseph Chvala, Joseph Dudek, William Dusseau, Leon Gnewuch, James Greteman, Wilbert Leveling, James Linscott, Louis Mangini, Jeffrey Michels, Lawrence Miller, Isaac Motz, Edward Olszowka, Gilbert Scher, Henry Skitzki, Basil Thomas, Edward Wauchter.

. . . . Continue to send your registration to the Personal Director of the province.

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More personnel changes: Brothers:

Amegashitsi, Leo: Ghana, West Africa.

Balog, Vincentius: Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills.

Hecox, Donald (E): Silver Lake Farm, Rolling Prairie.

Kinsella, James: Reitz Memorial, Evansville.

McBride, Charles: Holy Cross High School, River Grove.  
Rev.

Matthews, William (Indiana Prov.): Chaplain, Holy Trinity High School, Chicago.

May, James: Holy Trinity High School, Chicago.

Moroney, James: Holy Cross Junior College.

Siegel, Robert: Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron.

Sukenik, Andrew: Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills.

Vaughn, Robert: Holy Trinity High School; res. Joseph House, Chicago.

## The Religious Brother & The Future

In the minds of some, the hope of the church and society rests on the non-ordained religious. He (or she) is free, flexible, less hampered by structure, more personally committed, less concerned with status and more with service, more able to meet the specific needs of people, supported by a community, willing and able to take risks, well trained and educated, exercising a wide ranging apostolate, and on and on.

In fact, Brothers can fit this description perfectly -- if they are willing to.

In the U.S., some 10,000 Brothers in 25 all-Brother groups and 70 priest-Brother orders, live a wide variety of life styles and exercise a wide variety of ministries. Half are teachers, the rest are involved in an almost limitless range of activities.

In my three years of frequent travel for the National Assembly of Religious Brothers, I have had contact with Brothers nationwide, though usually for brief periods and in situations where problems aren't readily discussed. I have seen great vitality in many Brothers, an acceptance of a changed role, amazing growth in educational and ministerial opportunities among those in the clerical orders, an openness to new apostolates, a small but steady move away from traditional work such as teaching, a forward thrust that says let's not let the drones among us hold us back, some very vibrant communities, psychological change lagging behind legal change, Brothers publicly accepted in roles formerly reserved to priests, new apostolates and new life styles side by side with jealous conserving of past forms, and some belief that the vocation crisis has leveled off.

To put this (perhaps biased?) picture in perspective, it would help us to look at the history of Brothers.

In the first 1500 years of the church's life, virtually all male religious orders were brotherhoods. Early founders saw their followers as Brothers, a few of whom were to be ordained for the service of the members. Brothers and the few priests worked side by side in the monasteries. Gradual changes took place that resulted in the majority of religious becoming priests and being involved in the so-called active apostolate. Parallel to this development in the older orders was the founding since the 16th century of many groups engaged in specialized apostolates. Most became predominantly clerical, with Brothers serving in subordinate roles.

Since Vatican II, though, there has been a strong swing back to the concept of brotherhood in the mixed orders. Brothers moved quickly from servicing the material needs of the community and assisting the priests, to collaborating equally in the ministry.

Giving witness to the community of love and concern founded by Christ, Brothers can, through their lives and service, be essential elements in Christianity.

Perhaps the best summary of this exciting potential for religious is contained in a statement of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. Paraphrasing their "expectations for the future" we might predict:

--In the light of their gospel-orientated questioning of national values, Brothers will become ever more critical in their appraisal of U. S. culture.

--Hence, Brothers will live more simply and in sharp contrast with the consumer mentality, thus identifying more with the poor and insecure of the world.

--Brothers will be more truly contemplative in response to gospel values and the charisms of their communities, less dependent on the national culture.

--Brothers will increasingly live in small communities, and most forms of large institutional living as we have known them will disappear.

--The young men attracted to religious life may be fewer in number but they will reflect a greater commitment to community and ministry.

--Unless Brothers can understand and accept their differences in the light of the gospel values, we can expect more polarization.

--As Brothers grow in their critical awareness of U. S. culture, they will develop a new understanding and appreciation of their commitment and vows as counter-cultural forces and religious life as a prophetic movement.

--Brothers will increasingly realize that religious formation is a life-long process incorporating many diverse forms and experiences.

--Religious superiors will come to grips with their prophetic and reconciling roles and speak frankly, boldly, and with integrity in their communities and in the public forum.

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