

# Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

VOLUME 14; NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 13, 1981

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Brother Duncan Briggman died early Friday morning, January 16, in his room at Columba Hall. He professed in 1938 at the age of 38 and served his entire religious life at the Ave Press until retiring less than five years ago. During a time when many of us are going for second, third, or even fourth careers Duncan's faithfulness to one work is probably without parallel. In addition to the religious, many of his lay co-workers in the South Bend area paid their respect at his wake and funeral.

Brother Placidus Carroll, of the South-West Province, died of a sudden heart attack in South Bend on Saturday, January 24. At his request, his wake and funeral were held at Notre Dame at the Brothers' Center. Brother Patrick Sopher, South-West Provincial, gave the eulogy.

Brother Leo May, mother of Gilmour Director, Brother John May, died on Thursday, January 29th. His funeral Mass was at St. Mary's Church in Monroe, MI.

## THE APOSTOLATE OF UNDERTAKING

Brother Edward Sniatecki (EP) has come upon some interesting information from the archives which indicate a lengthy history of the brothers in undertaking.

Brother Francis Xavier (b. 1802, professed 1841) came to Notre Dame with the group, accompanied by Father Sorin, in 1841. He was described as "a model religious, regular at all the times, industrious to the very last, devoted to the community, and leading a life of complete self denial." He was a cabinet maker by trade. From his first days in America he was employed as an undertaker. He was frequently called during the night to attend the dead, sometimes going as far as eight to twelve miles from Notre Dame. Hundreds of times he was out in rain or snowstorms, perched upon an uncovered hearse, slowly making his way to the church or cemetery. He died in 1896, having survived everyone else in the original group which had come to Notre Dame.

After Francis' death, Brother Willibrord (Bartholemew) Crowley, took over the work. In his honor for his predecessor, Willibrord had his name changed to Francis Xavier. He continued the undertaking in the area until his death in 1903. Brother Bernard Gervais, as a novice, was one of the group to dig the grave for Francis Xavier.

Brother Lawrence McClymont then became the undertaker. In the 1906 edition of the DOME Yearbook there is a half-page advertisement purchased (I hope) by the WESTERN CASKET CO. of CHICAGO, recommending their "high grade funeral furnishings" which were "used by Brother Lawrence, of Notre Dame, Indiana." (Perhaps a precursor of the phrase "as seen on TV.") Brother Lawrence continued his undertaking task until October, 1911, when Lew McGann took over. (McGann's, of course, are still undertakers in South Bend.) Brother Lawrence continued until 1932.

BROTHER FLORIAN GILL - FIFTY YEARS

On the evening of February 2 a Mass, social, and dinner at Holy Cross Brothers' Center marked the golden jubilee of Brother Florian Gill. Following the dinner Brother Bruce Lescher offered the congratulations and gratitude of the Province, emphasizing that Flo's gift of just being himself was as important to us as the many works and services he has accomplished. Brother Thomas Moser spoke for the religious at the Center and presented Florian with a gift of all the tools necessary to break par, once the greens absorb the white blanket that has covered them for "lo' these many months!"

At the Mass Brother Andrew Steffes' delivered an appreciation of Brother Florian. A summary, with excerpts, of his talk follows:

The last day of May, 1902, blessed the world with the birth of Tommy Gill. Tommy lived his boyhood and young manhood on farms where seasons, plants and animals, and stern living conditions taught him to accept hard work as a way of life and to live it with joy and energy. The expertise about growing things and the know-how of all the hard work they require become built-in parts of him.

In his early twenties Tom took a job working on the railroad. But the heady attraction of railroad building paled before the deeper desire to give a meaningful life to God. He went to Watertown in November, 1929, and took his first vows in 1931. His first assignment to Sacred Heart Juniorate lasted three and a half years. The following sixteen and a half years were spent at St. Joseph Farm, the last six as superior and director. After twelve years at the novitiate at Rolling Prairie, Flo' was assigned to Dujarie Hall and in 1966 he moved with the Scholastic across the highway, where the Brothers' Center had just been constructed. In all these assignments Brother Florian looked after everything entrusted to him with devotion and hard work. For many of these years he directed the work of novices and scholastics. To them Flo was always a full-sized example of devotion to duty and to prayer -- the hand at work and the heart in heaven -- a deep influence on their lives. Like St. Joseph's, his apostolate was the care of his family in religion and the instruction of the Christ Child in the persons of the brothers in formation.

During the past fifteen years Florian has brought the grounds of the center from neglected weeds and woods into such a well tended show-case that our province rejoices in an image praised by all who come to visit us. The endless mowing of grass from April through October, the moving of snow off the drives and parking lots from November through March, the storm-broken branches to be collected and turned into firewood, the battalion of trash cans to empty each week, the scheduled and unscheduled jobs of chauffeuring and hauling, the tending to all the details of St. Joseph's Cemetery: Flo hardly knows a dull moment. In fact, listing his jobs is no small job itself.

And yet this devoted hard work, this apostolate of labor in Holy Cross, immense as it is, shows but the tip of the iceberg. Brother Florian makes time, an edifying amount of time, to follow his Lord apart on the mountain to pray. In community he is a model of kindness and patience, ever there with the helping hand of brotherhood and all the "washing-of-the-feet" kind of services he can find. As we celebrate his golden jubilee with joy and gratitude our daily prayer is that our loving Lord will grant him continued health of mind and body, peace of soul, an understanding heart, joy and love in his Father's service, patience, courage, and an increase of God's kingdom within himself and those around him so that God may be loved, honored, and glorified through him.

FROM HOLY CROSS, RIVER GROVE

Illinois State Scholarship Commission has identified 10,000 students as Illinois State Scholars, based on examination scores and academic records. Among these are twenty-one of the Holy Cross student body.

As a result of their achievements in the 1980 annual High School Drawing and Design Competition, 1980 graduates Louis Bevente and Salvatore Gaeta have been offered (and have accepted) scholarship assistance from the I.I.T. Armour College of Engineering.

On March 3rd students in physical education classes will participate in a fund-raising event called the "Crusader Crunch." Each participating student will predetermine how many pounds he can lift in a bench press. We will encourage friends and relatives to sponsor him at "so many cents per pound." The goal of the event is to supplement the general operating fund, thereby preventing the reduction of departmental budgets. These budgets might otherwise have to be reduced in favor of general operating needs.

The Holy Cross High School Volunteer Service Organization sponsored a Christmas party for the residents of the Royal Elm Convalescent Center. Some 200 gifts were collected. These were presented to the residents by Santa Claus. There was additional entertainment as the French Club sang Christmas songs.

FROM BISHOP DAVID HIGH SCHOOL, LOUISVILLE

We again participated in the Waterford Institute's visitation program. Novice Brother Vavrisk, a seminarian from New Jersey, spent two weeks sharing community life and teaching theology and history in the school. This is a good opportunity to have novices get first hand experience of what life in one of our apostolates is like. Brothers Roland Driscoll, Joseph Ballard, and some of the Evansville brothers will join the local community in a weekend retreat at Mt. St. Francis, Indiana, February 20-22. The subject will be "spirituality for the active religious."

The senior retreat program, under the leadership of Brother Carroll Posey, has initiated a follow-up program which meets every other Monday evening for discussion and liturgy celebrated in the Brothers' Chapel.

Brother Carl Sternberg represented Kentucky and Tennessee at the National Youth Advisory Board meeting, held in St. Louis, January 27. The Board voted on a national statement on youth evangelization and catechesis.

TOO FEW TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH

Above is the title of an interesting and challenging essay written by Father Jeff Godecker in the January 30 issue of The Criterion.

Among many interesting observations Father Jeff writes that he would like to be part of a church where sometime someone would be willing to say, "I didn't get this done today because I spent the morning in prayer and reflection."

He ends with the following suggested guidelines:

1. Everything does not have to get done (and in fact - won't).
2. Budgets don't always have to go up.
3. Activities don't always have to increase.
4. Numbers do not always rise.
5. Services available vary according to the sane use of people's time and talent.
6. Jesus - no one else - saves.
7. Small is beautiful. (Coined by E.F. Schumacher)
8. Simplicity is a value of the Gospel.
9. There are limits to personal energy.
10. Finally, "thy kingdom come..." but a lot more slowly.

FROM DUJARIE HOUSE

-As much "to do" as possible will surround Brother Owen Bielawski's celebration of his 95th birthday on Monday, February 16th. Other birthdays this month are Brother Vianney Dillon's 82nd (on the 11th) and Brother Luke Bauer's (SW) 85th on the 27th.

-Brother Jerome Steffes fell last month breaking his right leg (amputated below the knee). He was recovering successfully from the operation (which put a pin in the bone) when ten days later - at this writing - he suffered a probable heart attack and is presently in critical condition in the coronary care unit of St. Joseph's Hospital in South Bend.

-We are grateful for the donation of two wall hangings done in bargello (needlework) by Brother Laurian La Forest (E). Brother Andrew Steffes is presently constructing frames so that the works can be mounted in an appropriate place.

BITS and PIECES from HERE and THERE

Father Tom Barrosse, Superior General, visited the Anchorage Community from January 21 - 24.

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SOUTH PACIFIC seems to be the show of the year in our high schools. On February 28 and March 1 it will be a joint offering of Catholic Central and the Academy in Monroe. And, when last we heard, it was tentatively scheduled for March 6, 7, and 8 at Holy Cross in River Grove.

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The General and the Provincial Administrations of the Holy Cross Sisters hosted Brother Florian Gill on January 29 at St. Mary's Convent. A buffet dinner was served and a handsome check was received by Flo as a token of appreciation of his years of service to the Sisters and the golden jubilee of his profession.

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The Holy Cross religious marked the anniversary of the death of Father Moreau (January 20) with a liturgy and dinner at St. Mary's College, followed by a panel presentation, evening prayer, and a social at Moreau Seminary. The panel presented an overview of the history of Holy Cross works in the South Bend area for the past quarter century. Sister Raphaelita, Fr. Vince Thilman, and Brother Pedro Haering, spoke for their respective Societies.

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Brother Charles McBride, Anchorage Archdiocesan press co-ordinator, has been busy with news releases and plans for the possible re-fueling stop of Pope John Paul II's plane in Anchorage on February 26, en route from Tokyo. Charles said "even if the pope does not stop, we'll know what to do next time."

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Brother Thomas Mittendorf was admitted to Mercywood Hospital early this month for an indefinite period. Cards and letters are encouraged. The address is: 4038 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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FROM BANGLADESH

- Twenty-three of the twenty-four members of the District attended the forum at St. Joseph's High School on December 27 and 28. The results of the Study, Evaluation, and Planning questionnaire were discussed. A new committee of seven members will now prepare a Mission Statement and develop operational goals and objectives for presentation to the District Chapter in July.
- St. Joseph's High School also hosted the District-sponsored Christmas dinner. About forty-five religious (including priests and seminarians) attended... Brother John Harris was a welcome visitor at St. Joseph's during the Christmas holidays.

- Brother Ronald Christenson was approved by the District Office as a member of the District Committee which will help coordinate activities of the Dacca and Chittagong District Chapters. Brothers Lawrence Dias, Luke Goupil, and Gerald Kraeger are the other three members.
- Brother Donald Becker has started a special course in technical subjects for workers who have never had the opportunity to study technical theory. Most of the students belong to the minority Bihari community and are very eager to learn.
- Brother Jerome Kroetsch returned from three weeks of Bengali study at the Oriental Institute in Barisal.

HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL, AKRON

ance members are invited to attend the  
n High School observance of the silver  
versary of Brother William Verstraete's  
ession. The celebration is scheduled  
Saturday, April 4 with a 5 PM liturgy  
scension Church followed by dinner at  
n. The committee requests RSVP. All  
er reservations will be confirmed and  
ets sent. (Jubilee Committee, Hoban  
School, Akron 44306).

year the brothers in the Akron area  
initiated a monthly holy hour for voca-  
s. As a special part of the January  
vity, all the religious at Hoban  
lity of Mary, Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Akron Dominicans) were invited. After  
Holy Hour, all twenty-four religious  
ed dinner and a discussion of how the  
unities could work together to promote  
igious vocations. Several of the sug-  
ions will be implemented this year.  
e comes a time in the life of every  
bl when it must stop and recognize those  
ave done much for it during its life-  
. On behalf of the Board of Trustees  
the Student Council, Brother William  
raete has announced the naming of  
h's Gymnasium for Father Joseph Barry,  
ain for the past seventeen years, and  
afeteria (to be known as Foley Commons)  
Brother Richard Foley, who has survived  
coming and going of just about everyone  
ne school's twenty-eight year history.  
religious will be officially honored  
ne 6th, at a banquet sponsored by the  
n Alumni Association.

ADDRESS CHANGES and CORRECTIONS

ner Armand Amman  
Conrad Friary  
st 75th Street  
as City, MO 64114  
) 444-6875

ner Donald Allen is now living and  
ing in the Holy Cross community in  
r Grove.

ner David Fitzgerald has moved into  
h Bend Lincoln Way Community and is  
ing in the geology program at Notre

ner Robert Dailey's home address  
ectory, p. 30) should be:  
College Road, M.R. #94  
e, IL 60532

INDIANAPOLIS CATHEDRAL CONTINUES...

Brother Philip Armstrong suggested the fol-  
lowing two quotations from speeches given  
on the occasion of the opening of a new ten  
million dollar fund drive for the school.

From Archbishop Edward O'Meara of  
Indianapolis:

In the past such institutions such as this  
have been sponsored by the great religious  
communities of men and women within the  
Church. But we are in a different age now,  
and it's truly an expression of the proper  
role of the laity that they too should be  
concerned enough to do something about con-  
viction and to bring an ideal into reality.

From James Frick, Vice-President of Notre  
Dame:

Cathedral has had a glorious past--62 years  
I understand. The imprint of the Holy Cross  
Brothers will remain with it forever. They  
were the body of men who labored here to  
build the basic character and fashion the  
Cathedral of today. And this community  
abounds with leaders--in business, in polit-  
ical life, in the church--in every facet of  
the community who in the quality of their  
lives testify to the quality of Cathedral  
High School. Time marches on. Archbishop  
O'Meara said it--this is a new day, a new  
era for the Church, for Cathedral. In this  
day in the church of partnership and col-  
legiality between the religious and laity,  
what is more natural than the assumption of  
responsibility for Cathedral by a predom-  
inately lay Board of Trustees?

At the start of the New Year Archbishop  
O'Meara announced a two million dollar  
conversion of the old Cathedral High School  
building at 14th and Meridian to house  
seventeen Catholic agencies and departments  
now scattered among seven locations in  
Indianapolis.

The Archbishop noted this was a "pledge  
of confidence in the ongoing renewal of the  
central city area."

NUTS AND BOLTS VOCATION WORKSHOP

Registrations for the Saturday, March 7,  
1981, Nuts and Bolts Vocation Workshop are  
due, Friday, February 27, 1981. The work-  
shop begins at 9:15 AM and concludes at 5 PM.  
Guest speakers include: Mike White, ND junior;  
Tom Hampsen, Campus Minister, St. Joseph's  
High School; Bill Mewes, Carl Sternberg,  
and Carroll Posey.

BROTHER DAMIAN RETIRES from the CLASSROOM

After fifty-eight years in the classroom, Brother Damian Daele has retired because of failing eyesight. In recent years he had been doing substitute teaching at St. Joseph High School after moving from the faculty house to the Brothers' Center. But he still puts in a full day at the Center at the switch-board, as guest-master, and in making rosaries.

He belongs to two national rosary research societies. His rosary display case shows fifty-three of the seventy-three known rosaries and chaplets in the Church. He has made and distributed thousands of rosaries all over the world. His favorite is a wedding rosary; it has a bit of American folklore: something old, new, borrowed, and blue.

Damian came to Holy Cross in 1915 and went from a fourth grade dropout to a Master's degree. In the mid-twenties he returned to the States from his missionary assignment in Bengal. Doctors there had given him eight days to live. Subsequently he has taught nearly all high school courses except Spanish and German. He was bandmaster at Cathedral for twenty-five years receiving three personal gold and silver medals. Former Mayor Nemeth presented him with a key to the city of South Bend in recognition of fifty years of teaching. For Damian, "teaching is the greatest profession on earth. It is the only one where a person can create something bigger than himself and share so much with so many."

BUZZY OYLER

Perhaps that name rings a bell for some of us who taught at Cathedral High School in the fifties. From winning a contest (in his junior year) that made him official ballboy for the Indianapolis Indians to playing in four games of the 1968 World Series for the Detroit Tigers, Raymond Oyler had never given anything concerning baseball less than a 100% effort. Whether playing shortstop for the Cathedral Irish, or at Duluth (where he broke into professional baseball) or at Detroit, Seattle, Oakland or California in the American League Buzzy left little to be desired defensively. Had he been able to hit a little better (.175 lifetime) he might have been a superstar in baseball.

He died of a heart attack on January 26 in Seattle. He was 43.

RETREATS, WORKSHOPS, etc.

Father William Simmons, CSC, will preside at a retreat at the Brothers' Center on April 17, 18, and 19. Brothers who wish to attend should contact Brother Thomas Moser at the Center to arrive by supper time on Wednesday of Holy Week.

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There will be a Holy Week Retreat at the Joseph Center in Valatie led by Father Antonelli, CSC, spiritual director at Moreau Seminary. The retreat opens on Wednesday, April 15, at 6:00 and closes with brunch on Easter Sunday morning. The cost of the retreat is \$85.00. For further details please write or call (before April 1, 1981): Brother Jerome Donnelly, CSC, St. Joseph Center, Route #9, Valatie, 12184. Phone (518) 784-9481.

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There will be a Brothers' Retreat at the Family Monastery in West Hartford, CT, beginning at 5 PM on Tuesday, August 4 and ending in the late evening of Monday, August 10. The cost is \$225, payable by May 1. The retreat will be limited to 35 Brothers on a first-come, first-served basis. The retreat will be organized as an intensive experience of community life and prayer. More information may be obtained from Brother Don Gibbs (Allen St.) who made the retreat last year. Register with: Tim J. Balfe, FSC, 95 Grove Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 (401) 438-1660.

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Since the thanksgiving forum some brothers have expressed interest in the province sponsoring a Prayer of Centering Workshops at the Brothers's Center. At this time the Provincial Team prefers that those interested attend existing workshops. For example, an introductory workshop on Prayer of Centering will be given by Brother James Vondran, SM, March 20-22 and again July 17-19 at: Bergamo Center, 4435 Patterson Road, Dayton, OH 45430. (513) 426-2363. Cost: \$58. Contact: Mary Dwyer.

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Workshop: Religious Living Alone  
February 27 (7 PM) - March 1 (Noon)  
Registration Deadline: February 20, 1981  
Deposit: \$20; Balance: \$40.  
Register with: Peg O'Flynn, OP  
Weber Center, 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221. (517) 265-5135.

FROM GHANA

This is the golden jubilee of the foundation of St. Augustine's. The celebrations were commenced on the first day when a car ran through the streets during a Brass Band procession through Cape Coast. Several students were seriously injured and two of these later died.

Sekondi, Brother James Kozak, Director of Formation, has been visiting schools with slide shows and vocation talks.... Another major addition is the short wave radio which Fr. Bob (Gilmour) has been operating. Direct communication has been established with the United States and the rest of the globe.

Sunyani, Brother Francis Meduri is presently at the SVD Language School, studying Twi. The program lasts six months. Brother Joseph Tsiquaye's General Chapter trip last summer included visits to Deer Park, The Midwest, a Marriage encounter, Ireland, and Rome. It went without a hitch until he arrived back in Accra and had to wait a week for his baggage to be picked up with him.

OTHER KIERAN RECEIVES AWARD

Brother Kieran Ryan, assistant vice president for business affairs at the University of Notre Dame, has been chosen recipient of this year's James E. Armstrong Award presented by the Alumni Association. The award honors a university employee who has performed his job outstandingly and whose personal life reflects Christian principles. Brother Ryan has served in his position since 1970 and is former director of financial aid and scholarships.

FROM CATHOLIC CENTRAL, MONROE

Several brothers assisted the Goodfellows in preparing Christmas boxes for the needy in the C.C. gym. Recent house guests included Brother Philip Alessandro and Brother Philip Smith's mother.

The annual Christmas faculty party was hosted by the brothers this year. Brother Philip Smith was a guest oboe soloist at St. Joseph's parish for midnight Mass.

Several brothers from Akron and Gilmour were overnight guests recently, attending the funeral of Brother John May's mother.

BROTHER CELESTIS RECOVERING

Hearsay and scattered information have prevented our giving, until now, any specific report on Brother Celestis Mueller.

Celestis flew from Monroe to Houston in mid-December, and after two weeks of tests at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital was operated on December 31. Skin was grafted on two-thirds of the bottom of his foot. (In six months there will be another infusion in the groin area.)

Celestis has been a guest at St. Thomas More Parish both before the operation and during the recovery period. He manages to get around the house on crutches and in a wheel chair, but has had trouble sleeping at night. He was to have an evaluation of the healing last week. We certainly wish him rapid recovery.

EDITOR'S NOTES

We are fortunate, elsewhere in these pages, to have the tribute to Brother Florian Gill, spoken by Brother Andrew Steffes earlier this month. This is the first of our tributes to this year's 25th and 50th jubilarians. It was our hope to cover one or two each issue scattered through the year but so far Andy's has been the only response to our October request that friends of this year's jubilarians send us sketches, anecdotes, or other information from which we could write these tributes. Once again we make this request which now takes on the aspect of urgency, since the Province celebration is scheduled for May 2 (only two and one-half months from now).

This year's jubilarians, in addition to Brother Florian, include Joachim Reiniche (St. Joe Farm), Thaddeus Gottemoller (Holy Trinity), Giles Martin (Gilmour), Julian Przybyla and Walter Duda (Holy Cross), James Kinsella and James Bagans (St. Edward's), Thomas Middendorf and William Von Driska (Columba Hall) and William Verstraete (Hoban).

Material for publication in a particular month must reach us by the fifth of that month. That which comes to us on the seventh, eighth, etc. (as, it seems, often happens) becomes so "dated" by the following month that it is difficult to use as "news". Please address material to: Brother Pedro Haering, CSC, Dujarie House, Notre Dame, IN 46556.