



Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

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OF BROTHER KIERAN RYAN

Brother Kieran's death occurred last month just as our December issue was to be printed and we could include only the immediate fact. Some additional matters seem appropriate.

The last three and one-half weeks of his life were at Dujarie House, a place he had been instrumental in building, along with the rest of the Brothers' Center, in 1966. Brother Bonaventure and I were present and offered the prayers for the dying as death came peacefully in his sleep in mid-afternoon of December 5. He had been anointed again on the previous Saturday by Father Ray Cour. His quiet death was in contrast to the considerable suffering with which he had lived since late August - at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and locally at St. Joseph Medical Center. During these months his sister, Mary, was almost continuously at his side and was truly Proverbs' "valiant woman" as Brother Philip Armstrong mentioned in his homily at the funeral Mass.

It was a bitterly cold evening of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception when many of us gathered at Sacred Heart Church on the Notre Dame campus for the wake service. Brother Just Paczesny, a long time friend, and for some years a co-worker with Brother Kieran at Notre Dame, gave the eulogy. Following is a quotation from the opening paragraphs of his eulogy:

"This is the evening gathering of the family of Brother Kieran or I should say "the families" - for this evening we are together with the Ryan Family, the Family of Holy Cross and, on this beautiful Feast of Our Lady, the Notre Dame Family. It is at this time, we pause in our prayers, to remember how Brother Kieran had touched each of our lives in one way or another. We want to recall the joys and sorrows, the laughter and tears we shared. And to enjoy the human condition we all find ourselves in, but how it affected Brother Kieran and how he affected us by his example, his words, his love.

"I wept at the news of Kieran's death. Oh, I knew full well that his days and hours were few, but the report touched me with a deep loss. A dear and close friend was gone - and I cried. I was grateful to God for bringing an end to his suffering and I had to cry.

"This past summer, Kieran and I spent a week together on Lake Michigan - The Coloma Cottage, where this very active man could unwind and sleep 10 hours a night - of course, his waking hours were filled with movement - trimming trees, raking leaves and washing his car once a year, whether it needed it or not, - then, he made me wax it for him. It was a good week and, when I had to leave for Pennsylvania, - for the first time in the 35 years we had known each other, he embraced me to say good-bye - I knew then, he was telling me something. Kieran knew that his time on earth was short.

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This good man was rewarded for his faithful life of service as a religious of Holy Cross with the grace to endure the suffering he would undergo these past four months. He was resigned now to let God decide when the pain would cease. --He taught us how to prepare for death."

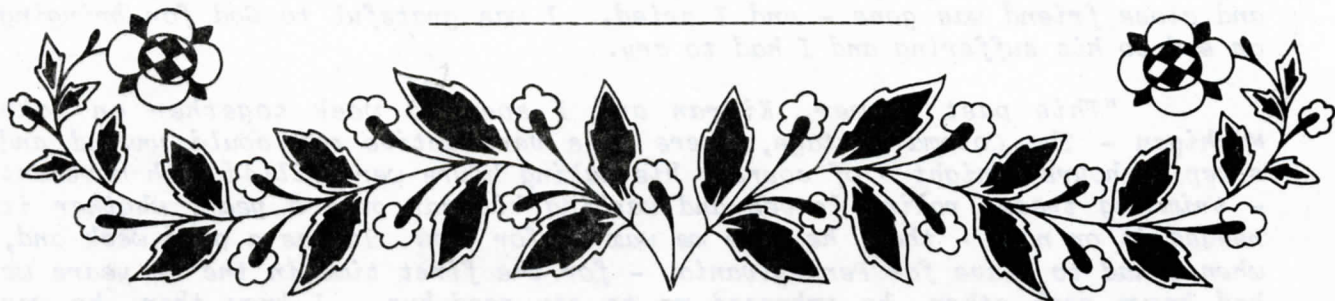
Even in his illness and when he was no longer able to speak more than a few words, Kieran seemed to enjoy visitors. We are most grateful for the devotion of his close friend, Fr. Bob Austgen, who came almost daily - as well as many other visitors, both religious and lay, from the university community. Tom Mason and Fred Freeman were especially faithful in their visits and inquiries.

Fr. Hesburgh was the Principal Celebrant of the Funeral Mass and announced the establishment of a \$400,000 Brother Kieran Ryan Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University.

A quotation from Brother Philip Armstrong's homily provides a fitting close to these remarks:

"An overriding anxiety in Brother Kieran's final weeks was being unable to pray in the ways he had known all his life, and it took some convincing to assure him his helplessness was prayer, was in fact the very essence of his vow of poverty, opening him fully and finally to dependence on the loving care of God. This, to a pragmatic man always in control, always busy, always looking toward the next project or task to be accomplished, was a literal purgatory. But after his final return from Mayo's God allowed Brother Kieran adequate time to come to terms with his condition and its implications, and his resignation to what could not be reversed was enviable. I learned from the outset of his illness a great deal about life and about death from Brother Kieran. His cheerful efforts to be optimistic when he knew and accepted the potential threat of his illness; his valiant attempts to converse when to do so was painful in many ways; his acceptance of the physical pain and deterioration which inevitably accompanied the progress of his disease; his patience with the confusion caused by that deterioration; his persistent efforts to be in control even of the manner of his dying -- all these are summarized in his faith-filled acceptance of a very human situation, the battle against which I am sure was the final preparatory step asked of him by the Lord before entering into that new form of life which itself will be a never-ending challenge even to Brother Kieran's prodigious imagination."

(Pedro Haering, C.S.C.)



FROM THE NOVITIATE at WATERFORD

#Advent and the Christmas/New Year Holidays were occasions of preparation and celebration in community at the novitiate. On the Fridays of Advent, we dedicated reflection and prayer time for the intention of world peace, celebrating a simple evening meal with prayer and reading from the Bishop's Pastoral "The Challenge of Peace." As the feast approached, we busied ourselves with house decorating, trimming a beautiful balsam Christmas tree (cut from the property at Valatie), and caroling in the village of Waterford with the women novices from the Intercommunity novitiate program.

#Christmas Day, the first away from their family homes for the novice members of our community, began with Midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Howard Hubbard in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany; a post-liturgy breakfast at a local restaurant carried us into the wee hours of the night.

#The holiday season saw many guests sharing our hospitality. The families and friends of the novices represented the bulk of our visitors, along with community members Jerome Donnelly (EB), Joel Giallanza (SWB), John Zick (EB), Philip Smith (MWB), Jim Branigan (EB), and Mike Delaney (IP). A Vigil Liturgy for World Peace and New Year's Eve party closed out the old year and welcomed in the new with great gusto -- much of which was provided by the Pawlak Clan (family of Matt Pawlak (MWB)) visiting from Michigan!

#January and February are the months designated in our curriculum for the novices' community/apostolic visits away from Waterford. We are grateful to the following local communities/apostolates for sponsoring a novice for this six-week formative experience:

Our Lady of Good Council Parish (EP), Brooklyn, NY, hosting Matt Pawlak (MWB); the Mackin Community (EB), Washington, DC, sponsoring Jom Boffetti (EP); the community at Boyssville of Michigan (MWB), Clinton, MI, sponsoring Steve

Tanneberger (EP).

The novices will work in the apostolate and reside with the local communities sponsoring them during this period to experience Holy Cross ministry and community life in an active house outside of the novitiate formation community.



COEDUCATION AT HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity High School announced shortly before Christmas that it will accept girls into its freshmen and sophomore classes in the fall of 1984. The announcement came as the school began the celebration of seventy-five years of academic ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Holy Trinity has been staffed by the Brothers of Holy Cross since its foundation as a parish school in 1910. Through negotiations with the Archdiocese in 1960, the Brothers assumed ownership of the school. Lay men and women, as well as members of other religious orders, assist the Brothers in their ministry. Women have been a part of the faculty and have held key positions in administration during the past decade.

Adaptations for co-education are already in progress; among them are provisions in the curriculum that will prepare young women for the unique role they will assume in society. The tradition of Holy Trinity will be enhanced, and Christian values will continue to be key to the overall design of programs for academic excellence.

OUR NOVITIATE TODAY

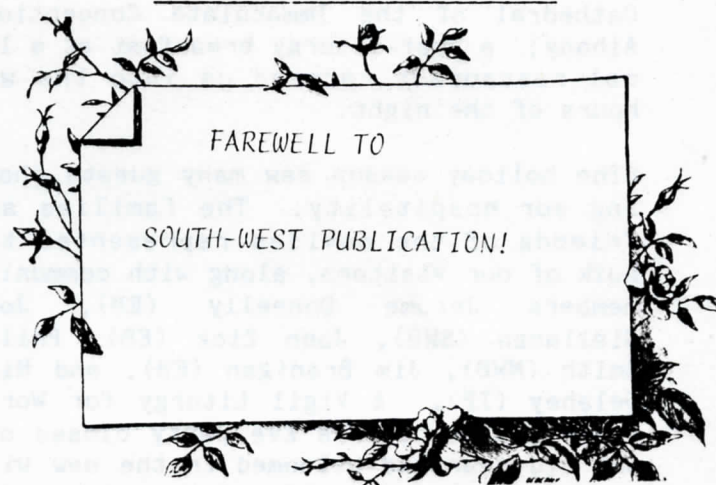
(Ed. note: Brother Mattew Pawlak was asked recently to write an essay on his novitiate experience for the Eastern Bulletin. We thank him for sending us a copy. The three typewritten pages, single-spaced would amount to about half the regular size of the NEWSNOTES, so I have taken the liberty of quoting three paragraphs which, I believe, convey the flavor of the essay.)

The novitiate team today attempts to place us (the novices) in situations that are called "stretching experiences". This is, I think, the purpose of a novitiate today: to assist the novice in doing some stretching and growing, to be involved in some ministry that may be new and possibly uncomfortable, to be put in a community setting which is brand new and scary, to ask questions of oneself that one would normally not ask, to attempt to form a foundation for a prayer life, which, in itself, may be something quite new, to be responsible for menu planning, shopping and cooking as well as cleaning. The novitiate program allows us the time to get angry with it all, to rejoice in successes, to wonder, to doubt, to sit back and just "be", to stretch, and through it all to ultimately become "...a convinced Christian and a generous religious, a mature and educated person, and a competent apostle"(Const. VII, 102).

Ministry is extremely important in helping me deal with others and relating with those whom I serve, my co-workers and myself. My ministry, which comes every Monday morning from seven until three in the afternoon, takes place at Our Lady of Hope Residence, a nursing home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. I do basic Nurse's aide duties: washing residents, feeding those who may need it, clothing and cleaning up after the bed-ridden patients, mostly men, with the aid of a competent, experienced aide. So far the experience has been a good one but most uncomfortable for me; it is doing exactly what it was planned to do—stretch me! After that eight hour day I come home and

await dinner. The Eucharist follows dinner later in the evening to bind us as a community once again.

The novitiate, I am frequently told, is much different today. Still, it is basically a year to attempt to obtain the knowledge of who we are and who Jesus is in our lives, why we are here, what we are getting into, why Holy Cross specifically, and if we wish to continue on to first profession. Much emphasis is placed on stretching experiences, and the whole of the novitiate attempts to help us strike a balance between ourselves, prayer, community and ministry. This is what is hoped of the novitiate experience today: that we might begin to become fully integrated human beings, competent religious, and effective ministers.



THE SOUTH-WEST NOTES

The December, 1983 issue, the 138th of the series, was the final issue of the SOUTH-WEST NOTES. We surely wish to commend Brother Gerard Hagemann - and Brother Franklin Cullen for perhaps a dozen years before Brother Gerard - for their fine efforts and success in keeping us abreast of happenings in the South-West province.

We understand there will be a new publication, a quarterly, out of the Provincial Office in Austin. We look forward to it.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

About six week's ago I wrote myself a note. It sits here on my desk this morning and I stare at it. It says: "Editorial idea: maybe a reflection on our work ethic - measuring our value by our work and the dilemma to which this leads us."

I am frequently disconcerted when I am introduced to a stranger. Especially if the stranger seems as disinclined to make "small talk" as I am. More often than not I find that the only "reasonable" question I can ask to get something started is "What do you do?" I suspect I am not alone in this predicament because that also seems to be the question I am most frequently asked in a similar situation. Although I've been intellectually convinced for some years that "who a person is" is more important than "what a person does" I cannot bring myself to ask "who are you?" - probably because I'm not really certain what I would answer if someone tossed that question at me. I am sure it takes a lot more time and observation to establish "who I am" than to answer "what I do", so this may be a surface explanation of the difficulty.

But in the religious life most of us have had plenty of time to establish who we are. And yet, I suspect 'who we are' is still not nearly so important to us as 'what we do'. And I think it is because the work ethic has gradually, in most of us, become an end, rather than a means. I am not criticizing the work ethic. It is an important means to get us where we want to go. But when we find men who have worked, been worked, maybe overworked in the Lord's vineyard for 45, 50 or even 60 years worrying about "pulling their weight," worrying about being "covered" by a retirement fund, worrying about being a "drain on the Community" - then I believe what was once a means has become an end.

I do not write these thoughts to be critical of anyone, least of all to be critical of persons they may describe. I believe everyone is happier when he can be working at something which he finds satisfying. I am not arguing at all for forced retirement. Rather, I am "arguing" for happiness and satisfaction. There comes a time in the lives of most men (and women!) when they deserve to slow down, to remove themselves from the world's rat race, to breathe easily, to pray leisurely, and to enjoy. Certainly one cannot do this if he has to worry about "pulling his weight." There comes a time when the many years of "pulling one's weight" merits the reward of not having to think about such things any longer.



(Brother Pedro Haering, C.S.C.)



(Ed. note: The following is the beginning of an article on Brother Ronald Drahozal, which appeared in the November 23 CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE (Iowa). The article was written by Marie O'Connell De Vries.

Profile/ Brother Ronald Drahozal

Age: 46.

Family: parents, Frank and Mary Drahozal.

Occupation: Holy Cross brother; teacher.

Hobbies: reading, bicycling, basketball.

Every day, Brother Ronald Drahozal is reminded how little a person can survive on and every three years how much Americans have to be thankful for.

Day to day Brother Ron, a Holy Cross brother, lives the life of a Bangalee in Bangladesh — a country about the geographical size of Iowa with a population of 95 million. Home is a mud hut, meals consist mainly of rice and curry, eaten usually without utensils, and survival is the main concern of most of the people.

Every three years Brother Ron visits Cedar Rapids where his parents, Frank and Mary, live in the house where he grew up at 1704 2nd St. SW. His visits usually last a couple of months; this time he came a few weeks early to help his parents celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. He'll return in January.

"What we throw away in one day here could last a long time (in Bangladesh)," Brother Ron says. "I don't throw away many things now. I know I can set it out and someone will use it or fix it up."

He was assigned to this small Muslim country 22 years ago, just before graduating from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He was 24.

For the first decade, he taught English and religion classes in a high school in Dhaka (formerly Dacca) but since has trained young Bangalee men to be brothers and priests. Though 99 percent of the people are Muslim and Hindu, there is a community of Christians that dates back about 300 years. The Holy Cross brothers, who founded Notre Dame University in this country, have been in Bangladesh for more than 100 years.

There are 25 Holy Cross brothers there; 10 of them are Bangalees.

"We're trying to work ourselves out of a job," Brother Ron says. The brothers' main objectives are not to convert members of other religions to Catholicism, but to provide a service — mainly teaching — to people who need and want education and to establish a church that is ministered by Bangalee clergy. The five schools that have been established by the order are administered by the brothers, but the teachers are local, and most are Muslims or Hindus as are the students.



REVIEW for RELIGIOUS

#The mail service being what it is, the Nov-Dec, 1983 "Review for Religious" arrived this morning (January 9). As usual, I skimmed the table of contents on the back cover. Perhaps it is not a "first" but it certainly pleased me to note that there were three articles written by C.S.C. religious. And all three are well worth our reading. (I read them!) Bruce Lescher, of our province, writes about the tension between two models of religious formation in terms that all of us, I hope, can understand and appreciate. Joel Giallanza (S-W) offers an unusually perceptive "letter" to a Master of Novices; yet anyone who has had the responsibility for a community of religious can surely abstract many situations that speak to his experience. Finally, Bill Hogan, former Provincial of the Eastern Priests' Province, offers a short, yet "overflowing" reflection on the essential need of the religious to be a consecrated person. Reading these three articles keeps one proud of CSC today.

BITS and PIECES from HERE and THERE

Brothers Thomas Corcoran, Don Fleischhacker, and Roy Smith attended the Consecration of Wilton Gregory (first Black bishop of Chicago), Timothy Lyne, Placido Rodriguez, C.M.F., (first Spanish bishop of Chicago), and John Vlazny at Holy Name Cathedral on December 13. Cardinal Joseph Bernardine, Consecrator and Principal Celebrant, also gave the homily.

Brother Douglas Roach informs us that Modesto Valle and Thomas Winbush have withdrawn from the candidate program.

Our prayers and sympathy to Brother Donald Stabrowski and other members of the family upon the death of their mother on January 5. Mrs. Josephine Stabrowski was 71 and had lived in Mishawaka since 1927.

Brother William Mewes writes from Indianapolis that the six-year-old international boycott against Nestle products will continue until the company's infant formula marketing practices fully comply with the World Health Organization code. While Nestle has improved some of its marketing procedures there are still four areas of violations of the WHO code.

There will be a retreat at the Brothers' Center beginning the evening of June 4 through June 7. Father J.J. McCarthy, O. Carm. will moderate the retreat program. The title: "The Crisis of Limits: Mid-life beginnings." (There will be no retreat at the Center during Holy Week.)

On December 4, Brother Don Fleischhacker joined in the 150 year jubilee with the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at a special liturgy of thanksgiving at Holy Name Cathedral.

Brother Albert Kern's mother, Celia, died on January 7. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. The funeral was on January 10 at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Brother Charles Smith will be living at 4645 Beacon Street, Chicago, IL 60640. He can be reached by phone at (312) 334-1293. Also, Brother Kenan Judge is now living at Columba Hall.

FROM DUJARIE HOUSE

#The biggest event of the month was the annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 18. All the staff members, along with members of the Provincial Council and those in residence at the Provincial House were invited. Nearly everyone came. Mass was at 10 a.m. and Santa Claus Murren made his appearance about 11:15. Members of the house received individual gifts from the Provincial Council as well as a gift from a staff member. The "Houses'" gift to the members this year was a new TV set, replacing the eight-year old set in the main TV room. This was actually financed, mostly, by Henry Shea's gift to the house. (Henry is Brother John Shea's (E) brother.) Each member of the staff received a gift from the Director. The Director also received a gift from the staff and the "Provincial Brothers" were given a five pound beef stick by Dujarie House. Mary Schaar (of the nursing staff) sang during the Mass and also arranged for a choir, to which she belongs, to come around noon and sing several carols. A scrumptious buffet/dinner, prepared under the supervision of Mr. Ron Ori, was served at 1:30.

#Brother Bernard Platte prepared dinner and supper on December 11 when chief chef, Mr. Ron Ori, had an accident en route and was unable to get here... Brother Robert Siegel did another excellent job of spelling the regular cooks on December 24, 25 and 26.

#Brother James Kell (S-W) visited us December 12-16 and, among other things, assisted with the Christmas decorations.

#South Bend had blizzard conditions and record cold at Christmas. Ninety consecutive hours of sub-zero temperatures. We were fortunate with our staff. Several stayed overnight because of, or anticipating, difficult to impossible travel conditions.

#Brother August Sosa's (E) sister, Mrs. Kathleen Fonosch came to visit over the holidays. Coming from southern California

she experienced a nearly traumatic change in weather. On January 4 Brother August entered St. Joseph Medical Center for additional neurological testing and more intense therapy (physical, speech and occupational).

#Brother Richard Weber has been spending more of his maintenance time with us recently. As our building enters its eighteenth year of service it is showing more and more signs of "wear and tear".

FROM HOLY CROSS IN BANGLADESH

#The District Council has set the tentative date for the District Chapter for June 8-15, 1984. Brothers Gerald Kraeger (E) and Thomas Moore Beere have been appointed to the preparatory committee. There was a pre-chapter discussion meeting on December 26.

#Brother Donald Becker has had severe back trouble and recently spent three weeks at St. Joseph's, Mohammedpur, in bed resting with daily visits to his therapist.

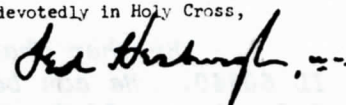
NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM FR. HESBURGH!

Dear Brother Philip

There is no way I can adequately express the gratitude of all of us at Notre Dame for the tremendous service that Brother Kieran rendered here over so many years. As my secretary, Helen Hosinski (who is in a good position to know), often remarked, "He is the best administrator in the Main Building," and I assume that includes all the rest of us, too. He was ever faithful, even when he was not feeling well, and he gave his all every day.

I am, of course, offering a Requiem Mass for him and to you and his Brothers in Holy Cross, I send from all of us at the University our deepest sympathy. He was a good friend for more years than I can count and a great inspiration to all of us.

Ever devotedly in Holy Cross,



Brother Philip Armstrong, C.S.C.
Box 460
Notre Dame, Indiana