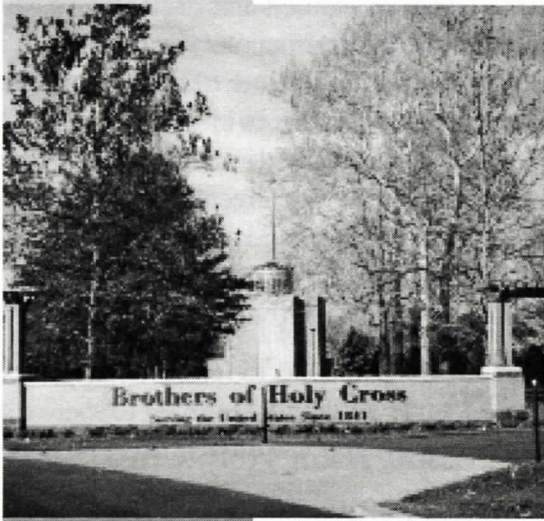


Midwest News

June 2003



Provincial Chapter

The 2003 provincial chapter will open with a Mass at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday morning, June 22nd, in the chapel of the Welsh Family Hall on the Notre Dame Campus. Following lunch on that day, the opening business session will be held in Room 126 of DeBartolo Hall. Chapter materials and the agenda will be distributed prior to this business session. All general sessions and committee meetings during the time of the chapter will be held in DeBartolo Hall. It is anticipated that the latest the chapter will be in session is Friday noon, June 27th.

Brother Edward Foken will be the moderator for the chapter. In addition to deliberating on the reports of the four chapter committees (Community Life, Mission and Ministry, Restructuring and Finance), the delegates will elect two provincial council members and the delegates and alternates to the congregational general chapter to be held in 2004.

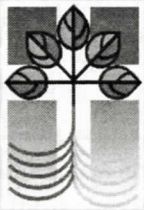
On Thursday, June 26th, in the late afternoon, there will be a commissioning ceremony in St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village. The ceremony will be followed by a social to be held in Schubert Villa.

Accommodations for the delegates and observers will be in the Welsh Family Hall. The hall is located behind the Morris Inn. The South Dining Hall will be the main area for chapter participants to take their meals. A special place will be reserved for the members of the chapter. There will, however, be options to take meals at other dining places on campus. The meal cards issued to chapter participants will enable them to eat at Reckers, The Huddle or Greenfields Café.

Provincial Council

The provincial council studied the petitions for first profession of vows from the novices in Ghana. With the consent of the council, Brother Robert Fillmore admitted Brothers Nicholas Arthur, Francis Agyevi, Godfred Ashun and Robert Koomson of the District of West Africa to first profession of vows as Brothers of Holy Cross. The date for their profession is July 12, 2003 in the chapel of Blessed Brother André Novitiate, Brawfu Yaw, Ghana. The provincial council approved the annual renewal of vows for Brother Edward Fox.

The provincial council also consented to submit to Father Hugh Cleary, superior general, the request from Brother Donald Gibbs to transfer to the Benedictine Community of Benet Lake, Wisconsin.



Brothers of Holy Cross
Midwest Province
P.O. Box 460
Notre Dame, IN
46556-0460

Province Jubilee Celebration

The Midwest Province will celebrate the jubilees of first profession of 14 Brothers at a Mass of Thanksgiving in Sacred Heart Basilica on Saturday, June 21 at 2:00 P.M. Father Thomas McNally of the Indiana Province will be the celebrant of the liturgy and Brother Joseph McTaggart, also a jubilarian, will give the homily.

Joining the jubilarians will be Brother Nee Wayoe of the District of West Africa and Brothers Harold Bijoy Rodrigues and Stephen Binoy Gomes, members of St. Joseph Province in Bangladesh. These three Brothers are celebrating their 25th anniversary of religious profession.

Following the liturgy in the basilica, a reception and dinner will be held in the North Dining Hall on the Notre Dame campus for the jubilarians, their guests and members of the province.

St. Edward High School

Two hundred seven seniors make up the 50th graduating class at St. Edward High School. The class of 2003 has received over \$4.5 million in scholarships including two appointments to the United States Air Force Academy.

Each month, on the fourth Wednesday, parents, faculty, staff and a host of volunteers prepare and serve a meal to nearly 300 of the area elderly and poor in the school cafeteria. They also provide meals for homebound senior citizens and the Temple House. Paul Bosley, chair of the school's mathematics department and originator of the project, said, "This is such a great experience because students don't just hear what you say; they see what you are doing. Each month they see parents, teachers, administrators and staff members along with other students living the gospel we discuss every day in class.

The community meal project began ten years ago during a downturn in the economy. Paul Bosley approached the principal and

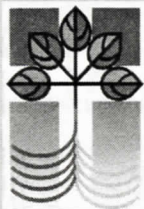
asked if he could cook a meal for the poor and the idea took hold. To date, over 36,000 meals have been served for the area elderly and poor at St. Edward High School.

In May, the students at St. Edward High School along with the generous residents of the Lakewood community collected over 5,000 pounds of canned and dry food for the Lakewood Christian Service Center. Over a three-day period, the students volunteered over 200 hours in service to the community collecting food in the second such drive of the year. Steven Greenwell, director of the Service Center, said, "This donation will see us through the next four to six weeks allowing us to provide for almost over 500 families."

Second Asian Holy Cross Educators' Conference

Against the backdrop of heavy violence that swept the state of Tripura in which 31 people were gunned down, the Second Asian Holy Cross Educators' Conference was held from May 8 to May 12 at Moreau Community House in Argatala, Tripoura State, India. The conference was inaugurated by Sri Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister of Tripura, who gave the keynote address on the theme "Educating Hearts and Minds: The Need of the Hour In Asia." Sixty-five Holy Cross educators from the provinces of the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph (Bangladesh), the District of India and the District of the Northeast (now the Province of the Northeast) participated in the conference. The conference theme, "Educating Hearts and Minds in the Asian Context," was an opportunity to engage in conversation Holy Cross educators on the congregational mission within the multi-religious, cultural and political contexts of Asia. A special message from Fr. Hugh Cleary, superior general, and Fr. James Mulligan, chair of the Congregational Education Commission, was read during the conference.

At the conclusion of the conference, the Holy Cross educators resolved to "promote value-based education in classrooms and institutions by educating the minds and hearts



of the young people entrusted to our care.” The resolution further stated that, “In view of transforming society, we commit ourselves to accompany the young minds by considering teaching as a vocation and a mission. As members of the family of Asian Holy Cross educators, we strive to transform our institutions into communities of love.” The conference also resolved “to work towards uplifting the poor and marginalized and be educators in faith according to vision of Father Moreau and the charism of Holy Cross.”

In Brief

Father Roy Thalackan was elected the first provincial of the newly established Province of Northeast India. Fr. Hugh Cleary, superior general, who was present for the first chapter of the new province, confirmed his election during the course of the chapter.

Brother William Geenen received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Holy Cross College at the college’s commencement ceremonies held on Saturday, May 10th. Brother William was recognized for his inspiration to others to volunteer, to reach beyond themselves and to assist others in receiving the dignity, respect and companionship they deserve. During the ceremonies, Robert and Dorothy (posthumously) Pfeil received the college’s Cross of Hope Award for their long association and service to the Holy Cross College.

On May 29th, **Brother Paul Mensah** received his certification for having completed the program of studies at the Institute of Religious Formation at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.

Brother Roland Driscoll wrote that on May 15th Knoxville was on the edge of a tornado about four miles west of the city. The weather was such that he was unable to see the house across the street because of winds from 73 to 112 miles per hour, rain, hail the

size of golf balls and debris in the air. One storm came through at 5:00 P.M. and it was followed by a worse storm later in the evening. There was no electricity from Thursday to Saturday morning and during this time he had to live on only bread and water. Over 50 roads were blocked with hundreds of trees down and countless homes were damaged. He said that in all his 85 years it was the worst storm and wind he ever experienced.

Brother Rene Gaudreau of the Eastern Brothers Province is the newest resident at Dujarie House.

Brother James Van Dyke has a new e-mail address. He can be contacted at jvdcsc@yahoo.com.

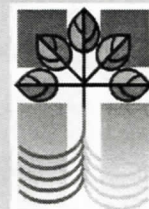


Requests for Prayers

Please remember in your prayers Jane Ann Boltz, sister of Brother Michael Becker, and Marika Schwartz, wife of Holy Cross Village resident Charles Schwartz, who died recently. Charles Schwartz and his family are generous benefactors to the Brothers of Holy Cross. Their generosity enabled the construction of the Schwartz Wing at Dujarie House.

We remember also our confreres who are ill or who are recuperating from surgery: Brother John Gleason of the general administration, Brother Walter Davenport, Brother James Linscott, Brother Donald Bailer, Brother Philip Alessandro and Father Harold Zink (I).

Our prayers are requested also for Mr. Robert Kloska, campus minister at Holy Cross College, who has been diagnosed with lymphoma. Robert Kloska is a Notre Dame graduate and was a novice in the congregation. He and his wife are currently expecting their fourth child in September.



GRACE NOTES
Embracing the Joy of Christ in a Broken World
by Lorraine V. Murray
(Resurrection Press, Totowa NJ, 2002)

Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M., claims that “Lorraine Murray will help you to see what we should be able to see naturally, but for some reason it takes grace to recognize grace! Her book is well named.” And Br. David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B., says, “A book for seekers who want to recover their childhood faith on an adult level.”

This slim volume reads very quickly, not that speed is necessarily a criterion as to the value of any book on spirituality. But speed -- a factor in reading that is experienced in hindsight more than during the process -- indicates a simplicity of content and style that facilitates the reader’s absorption of the message the author wants to convey.

Steindl-Rast is correct in saying *Grace Notes* is about recovering one’s childhood faith. Murray’s experience was that of literally millions of Catholics raised in the second half of the twentieth century. Once free of parental expectations, responsible only to herself in college, Murray dropped the externals of Catholic practice and investigated and adopted atheism. Circumstances arose after a couple of decades that brought her back to the Church, and it is that experience, that journey, that the author highlights in largely anecdotal verbal illustrations of God at work within the human soul.

Murray had lost contact with God because, as she says near the end of the book, “I prayed to a rather distant old man perched on a heavenly throne. Sadly, His love had strings attached. If you cleaned your room, you deserved His affection, but if you failed a spelling test, He turn His back on you. And He was certainly too busy overseeing the universe to read a love note from a child.” And she goes on, “All these years later, I’m trying to embrace a different version of our Heavenly Father. I’m longing to know the God of unconditional love, whom St. John described when he wrote, ‘Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God.’”

Simple enough. Maybe too simple for where you stand as a reader. Perhaps you have already gone well past this mile marker on the road to spiritual maturity and would find Murray’s experiences less than your needs call for at this time. Maybe. But I will say that, whatever your assessment of your location on the journey toward God, this little primer may not be such a bad source to glance at as a look back to be sure you didn’t miss any of the important signposts or get too deeply mired in cavernous potholes.

When authors write of their spiritual journey, they do not do so in order to pose its experiences as models that would serve the needs of everyone. Not at all. As with any advice shared with others and illuminated by the tangible illustrations of experience, the one who shares is merely suggesting similar reflection on the reader’s own very personal experiences could possibly render similar results. And who can predict the richness and eventual value of such results?

Murray’s chapters introduce in brief incidents single-word themes, then in two to four very short related chapters expand on her approach to the theme, of which there are eleven: believing, trusting, praying, suffering, forgiving, simplifying, resurrection, serving, denying, grace, and loving.

Those among us who feel no need from time to time to run these familiar themes through the laundry of our life experience might, without intending it, be clothed in slightly soiled linens and faded colors. It need not be Murray’s book we choose to help us check off our laundry list, but some source other than our own blinding complacency should be selected to refresh our memories and inject a bit of challenge into our perennial resistance to ongoing conversion. Murray does the job if we aren’t necessarily demanding a spiritual classic from her pen.

