

# Midwest News

March-April 2003



## Brother Robert Fillmore Elected Provincial Superior

Father Hugh Cleary, superior general, announced the appointment of Brother Robert Fillmore as provincial superior of the Midwest Province. Brother Robert will begin his

and for one year he was simultaneously coordinator for campus ministry at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio. Brother Robert was appointed acting provincial in October of 2003 upon the resignation of Brother Donald Gibbs.

six-year term as provincial at the conclusion of the provincial chapter in June of this year.

Born in 1939, Brother Robert entered the novitiate at Rolling Prairie, Indiana in 1958. He made his first profession of vows in 1959 and his perpetual profession in 1962. He began his ministry at Sacred Heart Military Academy, Watertown, Wisconsin, in February of that same year. In July 1962 he went to Boyssville of Michigan where he served on the faculty for seven years. He then worked as director of vocations from 1969 to 1976. Following a year of theological studies at the University of California (Berkeley), Brother Robert moved to Chicago where in 1977 he was campus minister at Holy Cross High School, River Grove. In 1981 he was co-director of TEC (Teenagers Encounter Christ) for the Chicago Archdiocese. He later served as coordinator for religious education at Our Lady of the Westside Schools in Chicago. He joined the faculty of Holy Trinity High School in 1989 where he remained until 2000. During his ministry at Holy Trinity High School, Brother Robert also was a member of the provincial council for six years. In 2000, he was appointed assistant provincial and vicar



Brother Robert has outlined a number of challenges for his mandate as provincial superior. Among these challenges is the call to community life or brotherhood. He said: "Considering the many changes in community life over the past twenty-five years, I see that in our understanding of and living out our brotherhood, we need to continue searching for new meaning and expression. We must each seek ways in which we are willing to become more accountable to our brothers."

A second challenge is to consider what ministry means for us at the present moment, especially when in the past years ministry has taken on new forms in response to different needs. As a result, we ask ourselves what does ministry mean today and where can we as individuals minister. Brother Robert said: "Our vocation calls us to minister throughout our life, and the setting in which we find



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

ourselves and our age are insignificant. Being who we are called to be as Brothers to all we meet is a lifetime ministry. We reach out to others whether it be among ourselves or to others in need."

Another challenge is the province's financial future. To ensure this future there must be professional insight and planning. Planning will of necessity involve difficult decisions. But with a sense of realism and a willing response to directions from the province finance committee and the business office and with the willing support of development efforts, the province will be able to meet future financial needs.

The overall challenge for the province and for each Brother, according to Brother Robert, is to be faithful to God's call as it is heard today without being caught up by the fears and the sense of hopelessness so prevalent in contemporary society.

The members of the province extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother Robert Fillmore upon his appointment as provincial superior. We are grateful to him for his willingness and generosity in assuming the responsibility of leadership for the province and we assure him of our support and prayers.

## LeMans Academy

After discussion with the board members and the administration of LeMans Academy about the Academy's future, the provincial council concluded that it is necessary to close the Academy at the end of the current academic year. In the discussions leading to this difficult decision, the provincial and his council took into account and appreciated the opinions, views and feelings expressed by the board members and the Academy's administration.

LeMans Academy has experienced a decline in enrollment for the current academic year. The decline is due to a decrease in the demand for a boarding school environment by parents from the United States with middle school age boys and, given the current world situation, a decrease in interest by parents from other countries in sending their young sons to a boarding school in the United States. The provincial council concluded that the Academy's viability for the future was highly questionable and that continued operation would lead to substantial debt.

Founded as Sacred Heart Military Academy in Watertown, Wisconsin, in 1955, LeMans Academy re-located to Rolling Prairie in 1968. The Academy is located on a forty-five acre track of land and is surrounded by a farm owned by the Brothers of Holy Cross. The farm is leased to a neighboring farmer. The future use of the Academy buildings has not been determined yet.

## Capital Campaign

Enclosed with the newsletter you will find the case statement for the province's capital campaign. The reasons for this extraordinary fund raising effort are explained in the statement. My hope is that each member of the province will support the campaign through personal efforts in suggesting names and by their prayers for the success of the campaign.

The time line for the feasibility study on the back page provides an outline for the first stage of the capital campaign. Since this is the first time the province has undertaken such an effort I would like to make some additional comments about the strategies used in this type of fund raising effort. The purpose of the feasibility study is to discover whether we have the support from our families, those we have served in our ministries (primarily in our schools) and others who have come to know us through our good works. Using the names province members have given us, some of these persons will be contacted for a personal interview while others will be asked to complete a questionnaire. No contributions will be solicited at this time. The information received from these interviews and questionnaires will tell us whether our case has the necessary appeal to raise significant funds and the degree of support we can reasonably expect. The results of the feasibility study will then be presented to the chapter in June.

*(Continued on page eight.)*



# Provincial Chapter 2003

The second round of regional meetings in preparation for the provincial chapter concluded on March 1. The chairs of the four chapter committees synthesized the results of the discussions at these meetings and their reports follow.

## COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE

The Community Life Committee will meet on Saturday, May 3, 2003, to review the input from the regional meetings. At the regional meeting in South Bend it was suggested that we review some of the Vatican documents that have been published recently on consecrated life. The following documents published in recent years are referred to frequently in articles concerning the religious life and community life. Some of them can be found at the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) or at [religiouslife.com](http://religiouslife.com)

*Fraternal Life in Community* - 1994 - Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life

*Vita Consecrata (The Consecrated Life)* - 1996 - Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II

*Starting Afresh from Christ: A renewed Commitment to Consecrated Life in the Third Millennium.* - 2002 A good summary outline of this document can be found at [religiouslife.com/pr\\_conlife.phtml](http://religiouslife.com/pr_conlife.phtml)

Brother Joel Giallanza, C.S.C., published an article in the Review for Religious for July-August 2002 entitled *Expert Practitioners of Union in Community*. It is an excellent article focusing on community life and is highly recommended. In the article he points out:

1. Community means more than religious living in the same residence.
2. Similarity and unanimity are no guarantee that a community is healthy and thriving or even that the members know one another more than superficially.
3. Good communities are not simply the product of carefully following some predetermined strategy.

He mentions three elements for community life:

1. Sharing the faith. Sharing and living the common faith we profess. Apart from faith, community could be described as a gathering of a well-intentioned and possibly even like-minded individuals striving to live good lives. As inviting as that may be, it does not necessarily constitute a religious community.
2. Establishing bonds. The bonds of faith, hope, and love.
3. Participation in a common mission. Its effectiveness is gauged not solely by the members' professionalism, but by their witness to God's presence and activity within the tasks and responsibilities of their ministry.

Brother Joel says that recent developments have had their effect on the understanding of community as primarily relational and not residential. Shared faith and hope, bonds of love, and commitment to the mission of the institute are significantly more important to "community" than members in a geographical region living together.

Brother Joel concludes that we are to be expert practitioners of union. We are many and yet we are one. It is possible for people to live as one; it is within people's capacity to forgive and to love, to be compassionate and to spend their life in selfless service to others.



Father Claude Grou, C.S.C., wrote in his circular letter of April 7, 1996, *Preparing for the Years Ahead*:

“Chapters may produce texts which inspire and legislation which guides our lives but they do not bring a change of attitude! Religious life today calls each of us to take responsibility for responding to the Lord’s call. Gone are the days when external rules attempt to compel everyone to adopt a standard pattern for doing things in common. Today, individuals and the community are responsible for responding to the call that we live together as the Lord’s disciples. Conversion, the effort to return to the Lord more generously, remains a personal response to the Lord’s call.”

His reflection has much to say about the expectations of our provincial chapter and about community life.

Br. James Bluma, C.S.C., Chair

## RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

The **Restructuring Committee (RESCOM)** solicited certain specific data from participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meetings that took place between February 1 and March 1. Six questions were posed, four having to do with the nature of restructuring in the congregation. Participants were asked to *brainstorm both strengths and weaknesses* of three possible forms of merging provinces as part of the restructuring process.

The first was if the Midwest Province were to *remain as it is*. **Strengths** generally were seen as retaining our particular identity and historical patrimony (real, apostolic, and personal) as a province; keeping our juridical status clear; remaining familiar with our personnel, works and systems; and retaining our image as brothers. **Weaknesses** were considered as postponing the inevitable; losing potential support in our ministries; being pessimistic about our future; not being productive of new ideas; facing a diminishing pool of leadership persons; and not facing the challenge to view Holy Cross from a congregational rather than a provincial perspective.

The second question dealt with *merging as homogeneous provinces*. **Strengths** were seen as pooling resources and personnel; streamlining administrations; increasing the viability of the brothers’ vocation; realizing we have a historical experience to model, and that we could merge homogeneously with success; increasing visibility and a stronger voice as brothers. **Weaknesses** were that there are strong cultural differences among the brothers’ provinces; that by limiting ourselves to homogeneity we ignore wider and possibly richer experiences of restructuring; that there would be a loss of our special identity as Midwest.

The third question posed *merging with mixed provinces*. **Strengths** were seen as having greater numbers and resources for mission; having greater security; being willing to make changes at this time; broadening our perspective of Holy Cross and its mission; and being a living challenge to the notion of clerical superiority. **Weaknesses** were that the identity of the clerics would overshadow the lay religious and the result would confuse the laity; that the brothers would lose parity and even voice eventually, as well as their special identity; that vocation recruitment would naturally favor the clerical members; and that the mission of the provinces would be blurred.

The fourth question dealt with what each participant would list as “**non-negotiables**” in the restructuring process. The most repeated responses were: maintaining the identity of the brotherhood; retaining parity as inviolable; and having brothers in charge of brothers’ formation, including the syllabus. Others added that apostolic opportunities now available must be protected and remain so, and that the brothers elected to the general administration have greater authority in brothers’ matters in the congregation.



The fifth question was a **polling question** that asked: If you had to vote today for the direction restructuring would go, and presuming the identity of the brothers was preserved and protected, how would you vote? Loosely figured, about 28% voted to remain the way we are as Midwest Province; closer to 50% thought merging homogeneously was the way to go; and the remaining 22% thought we should merge into mixed provinces. Lack of clarity on the question resulted in some imprecision in a couple of regions, affecting the total calculations, but the above percentages seem to be largely faithful to the participants' responses.

The sixth question was not asked or answered in every region. It queried what **creative ideas** concerning restructuring did participants have beyond those already surfaced. Many felt that the process of preparation should definitely include dialogue with the clerical society and with other brothers' provinces. One or two felt we could consider joining another brothers' community, or viewing the brother's vocation as temporary, or bringing the CSC Sisters into the mix. Considering the Holy Cross Associates as potentially a more involved part of a restructured mix was brought up by more than one person.

Altogether, the exercise was beneficial to the RESCOM, which now will use the data to focus more specifically on action and decisions to be discussed and proposed at the chapter. The committee meets again to consider this and other matters on April 5 at Notre Dame.

Brother Philip Armstrong, C.S.C., Chair

## MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

### FOCUS IN MISSION

There is general consensus that our mission is refocusing (redefined) and that we have probably not been pro-active enough as our numbers have declined while our age advances. Our lay religious life was an important part of providing leadership and direction to the evangelization mission of the church and service to the poor. We have founded and inspired important ministries as part of forwarding the mission of the Church. However, the current state of affairs in our culture is shifting away from committed religious who have lay status in the church to leadership from laity that are religious in their conviction but do not make formal commitment to vows. There were examples cited in some of the meetings of where we seeing this happening. To some it is a sign of hope and natural growth, while others grieve that religious life as they have known it seems threatened. There is a widespread commitment not to be paralyzed by fear but to engage ourselves in hope with our lay colleagues in shaping the future of our ministries.

There is a definite lack of clarity in the province with regard to our corporate commitments to Holy Cross Village as a ministry as well as to the associates. A few religious have committed and actively participate in these two endeavors but there are a sizeable number of religious who doubt that either the Village or the Associates have the status of "province sponsored" apostolates. This may be because these are recent developments, novel in their approach and thus viewed as not in the mainstream of our province history.

Our corporate ministries (schools) should not be prioritized, They will survive financially based on trends that we do not control. However, we have a strong responsibility as sponsors and owners to make sure that they remain faithful to the purposes for which we established them.

### HOLY CROSS VILLAGE

As a ministry of the Province, there is confusion about our role in building the intergenerational community envisioned in the mission statement. That is quite apart from the concern that its finances and governance are not understood. If the Village is a Province ministry, then there is widespread agreement that more orientation and direction needs to be given to the



religious who choose to live and minister in the Village. There were no concrete suggestions as to how this could be accomplished.

There is widespread agreement that it does not need to be directed by a Brother and definite agreement that it be operated by lay colleagues who are committed to our Holy Cross vision.

#### **PRIORITY IN MISSION**

Since our corporate ministries do not depend on us financially and most are prospering despite very diminished numbers of religious, there seems widespread agreement that no prioritization is necessary. There is widespread agreement that priority needs to be given to developing established procedures for holding corporate ministries responsible for maintaining our vision and values if they wish to maintain affiliation with us.

There is widespread pride in and identity with our educational ministries. There is also gratitude and support for the freedom that has been permitted for religious to minister outside the context of congregational sponsored corporate ministries.

#### **HOLY CROSS SCHOOLS**

There is a lack of clarity about the terms ownership, governance and sponsorship. Even among those who purport to understand the difference there is not total agreement. Nor are most who are out of active ministry energized to understand the difference. But there seems to be a consensus that changes of control and governance are very much in order. We probably need to maintain ownership though some are open to complete alienation of property in return for remuneration. There is near unanimity about moving toward sponsorship models but a genuine lack of knowledge from many about the work already accomplished in this regard can or should be implemented.

#### **DISTRICT OF GHANA**

There is widespread pride in and affection for the district. There is commendation for the work of Brother Raymond in raising money for the district. There is also widespread concern about our ability to support the work of the district financially.

#### **INTERNAL MINISTRY**

We seem to be very open to having lay people working in roles that have up until now been filled by religious. We seem to agree that those fulfilling these roles need a strong orientation to our history and our role as religious and that we in turn owe our employees respect and equitable compensation.

Brother Richard Gilman, Chair

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee met on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Brother Lawrence Skitzki, committee chair, had earlier compiled the input from the regional meetings. The issues centered around four areas: 1) Province Financial Report; 2) Increase Revenues and Decrease Expenses; 3) Housing; and 4) Holy Cross Village.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTING**

There is a need for a clear and understandable presentation of the financial picture of the province. Perhaps it would be helpful to have a very simplified presentation of financial concepts first of all even without figures. Various items were brought up to be included in the reporting: income and expenses; debt—what caused it and what drives it; approximate worth of properties



held; Holy Cross Village finances; Development Office income and expenses; interrelationships of BHC Inc and Andre Residential Services and Holy Cross Village.

Instead of summarizing all of the operations, would it be possible to separate Andre Residential Services and Holy Cross Village and the Brothers of Holy Cross operations and show each of the entity's sources of income and costs of operation?

In regard to development and fund-raising, would it be good to recommend that an annual report be prepared and given to donors?

### **STRATEGIES TO INCREASE REVENUES/DECREASE EXPENSES**

Some of the ideas discussed were: update our financial assessment to determine where to go in the future; identify property that might be sold in the future; continue to investigate increased fund-raising—capital campaign; consider the possibility of a sponsorship fee to institutions to recognize current compensation for past service liability; members receive equivalent lay salaries; insure steps to make Holy Cross Village revenue producing; cost controls throughout the province; inform members regarding Medicare, Medicaid, health care insurance.

### **HOUSING**

The question is whether we have adequate housing for our current membership in light of their advancing age and medical conditions. There are no easy answers. Columba Hall has only a few extra rooms and some feel that we should not put more money into renovating this building. What repairs are needed at present and in the next few years? There had been some discussion with the Indiana Province to provide a retirement residence on the campus. This may be an attractive possibility for some collaboration. Brother Robert Fillmore will check on the status of this idea. The chapter will probably want to recommend some direction to the provincial administration to continue to address the issue of additional housing.

### **HOLY CROSS VILLAGE**

The committee agreed with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Holy Cross Village. Some of the items have been put into place already and the committee will recommend that the chapter approve some broad enabling legislation for the Village to continue to address the issues of expansion and development. It was recommended that the issues be considered individually rather than lumped together.

### **DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA**

After the discussion of the four main issues, attention was turned to the District of West Africa. What is the plan for self-sufficiency? What are the variables in this plan and the demographics? What is the relationship between the development of infrastructure for the district and increased cost of operations? Since a number of the members are involved in formation work rather than income-producing positions, can the province's support of the district be seen as an investment in the future? The suggestion was made that the district superior be encouraged to address some of these ideas in his report to the chapter.

Brother Lawrence Skitzki, Chair



## Chapter Planning Committee

The Chapter Planning Committee met on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Each committee chair presented a summary of the results of the two regional meetings. The committees felt that they got valuable input from the regional meetings and the committees will work to synthesize this information and develop directional statements to present to the chapter. Several of the committees have meetings scheduled within the next few weeks.

The Planning Committee discussed the beginning and end dates, the theme, and the process that the committees will use during the chapter. Many of the actual details of the chapter are sketchy at this time and actual times will be provided as planning progresses.

The Chapter will begin with a Mass on Sunday morning, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. On Sunday afternoon the opening business session of the chapter will be held. On Sunday afternoon we also intend to hear reflections from several persons who minister with us in institutions or ministries.

The theme of the chapter will be: *Celebrating our heritage; Owning our present; Building our future*. This theme incorporates the goals of the chapter and will permeate the prayer and liturgy preparation.

During the chapter the committees will present information based on their processing of the input of the regional meetings, discuss and get feedback from the assembly, and then later present their responses of statements, recommendations, or decrees for the assembly to consider.

It is anticipated that the chapter will end at latest by Friday noon, June 28<sup>th</sup>. A commissioning ceremony will be planned for Thursday evening, June 27<sup>th</sup>. This event will be held in St. Joseph Chapel. There will most likely be some type of open house at Holy Cross College prior to the ceremony and a social at Schubert Villa after the ceremony. Province members and Holy Cross Village residents will be invited.

Living accommodations at Notre Dame for the chapter will be in Welsh Hall, meetings in DeBartolo Hall, and food service at South Dining Hall. Arrangements have been made so that persons coming for the jubilees on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> will be able to check in as early as Friday afternoon, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Information and forms for the room registration will be sent in May.

### Capital Campaign *(continued from page two)*

The actual time line for the campaign will be spread over a two-three year period during which time cultivation of identified major donor prospects, with your participation, will commence and financial support solicited. Concurrently, there will be a direct mail appeal made to other friends and supporters.

To assure the success of the campaign, professional assistance has been retained. Community Counselling Service (CCS) will be directing the process beginning with the feasibility study and most likely through the entire campaign. They were chosen because of their impressive success rate in raising similar funds for dioceses and religious communities. Over 94% of all CCS campaigns met or exceed their goals with the remaining achieving 80% or better of their goals. One of their most recent successes was for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart in Monroe, Michigan. Like us the sisters had never done a capital campaign; yet they went well beyond their original goal.

After the feasibility study has been completed, a representative from Community Counselling Service will set up interviews and accompany province members during actual solicitations. Periodic reports will be given on the progress of the campaign.

## In Brief

**Brother Jerome Kroetsch** has returned to the United States from Ghana. While here he will be undergoing medical tests. He is currently living in Schubert Villa.

**Brother Robert Lavelle** is the fifth member to be appointed to the Holy Cross Village Board.

**Brother Daniel Kane** has accepted an appointment to the Andre Residential Services Board.

In early 2004 the Ave Maria Press will publish a book by **Brother Philip Armstrong** on several sets of alternative mysteries that can be used for reflection while praying the rosary, one set quite similar to the new Luminous Mysteries Pope John Paul II promulgates last October. Brother Philip has been preparing the manuscript for several years and was ready to submit it when the Pope's encyclical appeared.

Father Hugh Cleary appointed **Brother Richard Critz** to a second term as provincial of the South-West Province.

### Prayer Requests

Our seriously ill, especially,  
Brother Carl Shonk, the stepmother of  
Brother Walter Davenport, the sister of  
Brother Frederick McGlynn

Our deceased:  
Brother Thomas Henning, Rev. Robert  
Lochner (I), Rev. Jack McCarthy (EP)