

MIDWEST PROVINCE INTERIM NEWSLETTER

Notre Dame, Indiana

November 1994

CONVENERS MEET

On Saturday, November 5, conveners from the various work groups of the chapter met with the provincial council at the provincial house. Br. Richard Kearney facilitated the meeting.

In opening remarks, Br. Richard spoke of the success enjoyed by the new form of chapter, and addressed the issues of ongoing work that the chapter proposed. He pointed out that very little of the old style of chapter work (decrees, recommendations, etc.) was present at the chapter last summer. The real work was in setting goals and directives involving everyone.

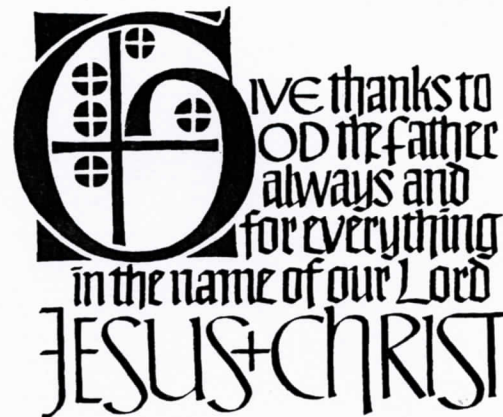
The goals were discussed and each convener used the round-table feedback from those present to assure himself that a common understanding of each goal under his particular work area was achieved. A few of the goals had to be clarified and re-directed. As a result of the meeting, plans for meetings/conferences are on the drawing board for each group. Conveners will soon contact those who volunteered to work in each area. Flexibility and assessment are keys to the implementation of the goals, and some sub-groups may be formed to carry out specific tasks.

Br. William Geenen re-emphasized the importance of the involvement of as many members of the province as possible. He went on to point out that decision making does not exist solely on the level of the provincial and his council.

We no longer operate out of a vertical power model. The members of the province are ready to take ownership, and this needs to be encouraged.

The provincial council will facilitate the ongoing efforts of the working groups, who will communicate their progress to the province at large through the intraprovince publication. All groups will have been convened for further action by February 1, 1995, at the latest.

--Br. Charles Gregg



SECOND AND LAST

This issue of the *Midwest Province Interim Newsletter*, the second of its name following the discontinuance of *Bits and Pieces*, will be the final issue before a new intraprovince news publication makes its appearance.

At the November 5 meeting of the provincial council and the conveners of work groups helping to implement the goals of the chapter, Br. Joseph LeBon,

convener of the *communications* group, announced that he felt that he and his assistants would be in a position very soon to begin formatting and publishing a newsletter more in line with the wishes of the 1994 provincial chapter.

Br. Joseph will be in contact with province members regarding submitting material for the newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any newsworthy items to be brought to the attention of the province, you may submit them in care of Br. Philip Armstrong at the provincial office.



NEW PROVINCE CONTROLLER

Br. Donald Bailer, provincial steward, requested that the Interim Newsletter contain an announcement that Margaret M. Walsh has been appointed as Controller for the Midwest Province.

Margaret has for some time been learning the Midwest system and consulting with Br. Lawrence Skitzki, former steward and treasurer for the province. Many province members have received mailings, checks and the like over her name.

Margaret is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and has been working in the province business office since December, 1993. She is married to John Walsh and they are the parents of two sons.

RELIGIOUS LIFE LECTURE

The Institute for Ministry at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit has announced a special conference in its Religious Life Lecture Series for February 2, 1995. Fr. Paul Philibert, O.P., will speak on "Reviving the Gifts of Our Founders: Religious Charisms in Conflict." Fr. Philibert is the director of the Notre Dame Institute for Church Life and the editor of the book on religious life recently sent to province members entitled, *Living in the Meantime*.

The blurb on the conference flyer notes: "Apostolic religious life involves a tension between the desire to be available for service and the restrictions of specific ministries and manners of presence. Authentic renewal means that we try to repossess the original inspiration of our founders while looking realistically at the needs of a church still in transition. How can we re-evangelize the western world, addressing the real issues of alienated Christians in our ministry and presence?"

The conference will be held at the seminary, located at 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit MI, 48206, on Thursday, February 2, from 4:30 p.m. (registration) to 9:00 p.m. Dinner is part of the program. The fee is \$20.00, payable in advance by check made out to Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Include your name, address, telephone and name of congregation. You may telephone for further information to (313) 883-8520.

This conference is brought to your attention principally to alert you to a potentially excellent presentation on one aspect of ongoing renewal in the religious life. Even if you are not able to participate, it is nevertheless good to know that such efforts are being made in different places and times to address the principal issues facing religious life today.

HOLY CROSS COLLABORAMA

From Friday, August 4, to Monday, August 7, a HOLY CROSS COLLABORAMA will be held under the theme of "One Founder, One Family, One Future." The site of the gathering will be at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Beach House in Lakeside, Michigan.

The objective of the gathering is to foster ongoing formation among Holy Cross religious, whether men or women, cleric or lay. As the organizers say, "The initial ideas for such a gathering have emerged out of the discussions and enthusiasm surrounding collaborative ministry among our societies and congregations which were notable throughout formation, (i.e., novitiate.) Unfortunately, the reality of our present situations do not often reflect the hope and energy of our formation in this regard. It is out of this incongruence, as well as out of a desire in many of us to look more deeply at the possibilities for collaboration, that have led us to pursue Collaborama '95." Their experience of a gathering of principally younger religious in the summer of 1994 has led them to believe that opening a similar experience to a wider audience would be beneficial.

They go on to say, "the goal as we envision it, centers around renewing old friendships, strengthening our individual as well as communal identity as Holy Cross, reflecting on the issues facing young religious in our church today, and more specifically the issues that face us as men and women of Holy Cross. We look to renew ourselves--to touch anew the vision Basil Moreau had for us."

The group has asked that Collaborama '95 be advertised in the various news

publications in the provinces of men and women in Holy Cross. Any members of the province who wish to consider attending are asked to be on the lookout for finalized plans appearing during the winter months.

APOLOGIES....

The provincial office contracted with the Notre Dame Office for Publications and Graphic Services to handle the layout and printing of a brochure highlighting the approved goals and decisions of the 1994 provincial chapter. After the basic layout design was chosen, a paper color and quality were selected and the work jobbed out by Notre Dame to a subcontracting printing house. The finished product was delivered directly to the provincial office and, because of time constraints, the brochures were mailed out at once to the province membership.

Later that same day the publications office at Notre Dame, having just received a copy of the brochure from the printer, called to say how dissatisfied they were with the printing job. If the brochures had not already been sent out, Publications and Graphic Services would have insisted on a reprinting. They realized the pictures did not stand out enough in contrast, and the paper was neither the tint nor quality chosen. As a result, the publications office arranged a total cancellation of the printing fee.

The brochure you received, therefore, was not the quality intended by either the provincial administration or the Publications and Graphic Services Office, and the apologies of both groups are extended to offset the failure to place in your hands the high quality document originally planned.

MEETING OF LOCAL SUPERIORS

As one of a series of three meetings held on November 4-5, Br. William Geenen, provincial, and his council met with the local superiors and directors of houses and residences in the Midwest Province.

Present besides Br. William and Brs. Donald Gibbs, Robert Fillmore, Donald Bailer and Richard Gilman were Brs. Thomas O'Malley from Boysville, James Newberry from Columba Hall, Thomas Shaughnessy from Dujarie House, Donald Fleischhacker from River Grove, Barry Lambour from Akron, Jerome Meyer from Lakewood, Leo Kowalski from Rolling Prairie, Joseph Fox from the Brothers Center, and John May from Gates Mills.

The meeting opened with a mass at 4:00 p.m. celebrated in the provincial house chapel by Fr. Thomas Zurcher, rector of Moreau Seminary. The liturgy was followed by a social hour and then an excellent meal prepared by Madelyne Huffman and Rene Grose of the provincial treasurer's office. Immediately after supper, the brothers moved to the chapter room to begin addressing the agenda of the meeting.

Following opening remarks by Br. William and a reflection on certain paragraphs of Constitution 7, Authority and Responsibility, led by Br. Donald Gibbs, the conversation turned to issues of interest to the superiors and directors. Discussion was held on housing needs, health care concerns and the programs at Dujarie House and Columba Hall, budgetary issues, the provincial visit, and vocations, and there were reminders about events scheduled within the next year such as the Holy Cross History Conference (June 15-17), the jubilee celebration (June 24), and the Brothers' Synod (July 5-9), all to be held at Notre Dame.

In his closing remarks, Br. William expressed his gratitude to the superiors and directors for their service to the membership, and the meeting adjourned shortly after 9:00 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER....

During the latter part of the summer the deaths were announced of Mrs. Marie Gates and Mrs. Cecelia Allen, mothers of Brs William Gates and Donald Allen.

It is possible that some in the province did not learn of these deaths. Br. William had been in the States during the summer but had returned to Ghana before his mother passed away. He was unable to be in Avon, Ohio, for the funeral. Br. Donald had been in Tiberias the past two years but was in the process of travelling to the U.S. On his stopover arrival in Rome he was notified of his mother's death and was able to be in Chicago for the funeral.

Occasionally a parent of one of our brothers serving overseas dies, and funeral services must be held without the presence of the brother. We owe it to them to represent them at the funeral if possible and be supportive of the family, and to remember the deceased in our prayers, as well as in a special way the brother sustaining the loss.

Please remember also these recently deceased relatives of three of our Stateside brothers: mother of Br. Thomas Cunningham, father of Br. Francis Boylan, and brother of Br. Thomas Balaz.

