

MIDWEST PROVINCE INTERIM NEWSLETTER

Notre Dame, Indiana

October 1994

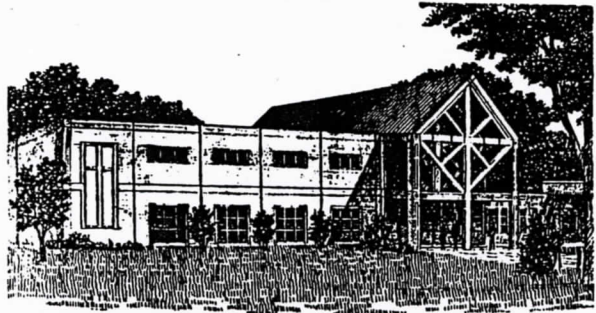
COLLEGE EXPANSION PROCEEDS

The \$3.2 million dollar expansion project at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, has been proceeding according to schedule since early drainage problems on the property were resolved. Square footage in the new addition will increase the space in the older building by 180 percent, not counting the two temporary structures attached in the eighties.

The new building will connect with the old by means of a corridor newly set between the entrance to the auditorium and the door to the library. The library is being expanded into the new structure, which will also include an attractive student lounge area, faculty offices, meeting rooms, several classrooms (computer science, art, and biology among them), restroom facilities, mechanical and storage rooms, and an elevator. The exterior brick facing and stonework are similar to that on the older building, but highlights of color and design here and there offset large areas of unbroken brickwork.

The student lounge is a two-story space open to the ceiling, with a second-story balcony running along most of three sides. The old lounge will continue to be utilized by students, giving the college a far greater area for student study and social gathering.

Br. Richard Gilman, president, expects construction to be completed by January. A formal dedication is planned for the fall of 1995.



HONORS FOR BR. LEW BRAZIL

In mid-September Br. Lewis Brazil wrote to the provincial office: "During the fall of 1990, while working full time at the Lakewood Division of Aging, I enrolled in the weekend masters program at the Mandel School of Applied Social Science on the campus of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

"On May 20, 1994, I graduated with a masters degree in social work, and on June 18 I successfully passed the LSW licensure exam in the state of Ohio.... Without the license, the degree is not that helpful when job hunting.

"At the present time I am continuing to serve the older adult population of Lakewood as coordinator of the senior center. However, I am exploring new ministry options that are more compatible with my social work degree."

Lew's dedication and perseverance have paid off, and whatever ministry is privileged to benefit from his services will be the better for his presence. The enthusiastic spirit he has brought to his ministries, present and past, will accompany him into the area of social work. Congratulations and best wishes, Lew!

TRANSITION ACCOMPLISHED

On the evening of Saturday, September 17, Br. William Geenen, provincial, hosted with his council a private dinner party at the Holiday Inn in Roseland in honor of the outgoing provincial, Br. Thomas Moser, with his council and staff.

About thirty-five people enjoyed a social hour followed by a substantial buffet supper. At the conclusion, Br. William addressed the gathering briefly and then invited Br. Thomas to introduce his councilors and staff and make any remarks he wished about their contributions to the administration over the past nine years.

The evening was a festive occasion, giving both Br. Thomas and those with whom he had worked one last opportunity to say goodbye. He had plans to leave the next morning at the crack of dawn--no, long before the crack of dawn!--for a well-earned sabbatical with relatives in Illinois and Iowa before U-hauling it out to Colorado Springs where he will continue his sabbatical (including a side trip to Chile) and then become involved in ministry for the diocese. It is rumored the State Police reported finding Myers-Briggs materials fluttering along the highway as the red Taurus and trailer toiled westward.

In all seriousness, we owe Br. Thomas our gratitude for his sincere, profoundly generous and always personal dedication to the welfare of the province members. All of us know, each in his own way, how Tom has influenced our lives. His own life, as he stated at chapter, was considerably impacted by the experience as well. We can assure him of our prayers and best wishes as he undertakes a new and, we hope, less taxing ministry.

EXPANSION IN MONROE

Br. Bob Livernois, principal of St. Mary Catholic Central High School in Monroe, Michigan, informed the provincial administration of the launching of a \$1.5 million dollar campaign to enable the school to construct ten new classrooms and an expanded women's locker room. The expansion will help in making the entire school handicapped accessible.

A loan from the Archdiocese of Detroit will enable the school to begin work in early spring, and the fund drive will begin probably late next year.

In an article by Dean Cousino in the Monroe Evening News, Bob was quoted as saying, "There are a lot of people in the county who have confidence in the school. This will show them that we are here to stay. It's exciting because our enrollment is up considerably. The archdiocese is excited, too, that the school is on very stable ground."

An editorial in the Evening News on September 12 concerning the plan to expand noted that "while meeting the practical needs of the students and staff, it also will be a monument to the community's faith and confidence in the school."

In a period when many Catholic secondary schools are either closing or scaling down, it is encouraging to observe the increasing effectiveness of the institution in Monroe, where many of the Midwest Province members have had long years of experience as teachers and administrators.

THE DISTRICT OF RWANDA

A communique from the generalate in Rome included a report from Fr. Claude Grou, superior general, on his recent visit to Uganda, where the surviving members of the District of Rwanda are temporarily located.

The visit confirmed that eleven of the sixteen Rwandan members of the district (ten Hutus, one Tutsi) were able to make their way out of Rwanda to Nairobi, Kenya, where they were welcomed by Holy Cross there. The Rwandans confirmed that the other five indigenous religious, all Tutsis, had been killed. Because the Rwandans had only short-term visas for Kenya, arrangements were made for them to go on to the Holy Cross formation house in Jinja, Uganda. After a moving memorial liturgy there commemorating the five dead confreres, they travelled westward across the country to Saaka, the site of the novitiate for East and West Africa, located a few miles from Fort Portal. However, given the very difficult relationship between Uganda and Rwanda (Uganda was a staging site for the training of rebels from Rwanda), the confreres feel uneasy about remaining. Nevertheless, they realize it will be a long time before they can safely return to their own country.

Fr. Grou and Br. Reginald Robert, provincial of the Canadian Brothers' Province, which sponsors the District of Rwanda, met with the Rwandan brothers, their district superior Br. Vianney St-Michel, and Br. Ulysse Hamel, another of the Canadian brothers from Rwanda. Br. Reginald promised to send two more brothers from Canada to help at Saaka.

Fr. Grou learned of the great burden of suffering and fear all the religious from Rwanda are experiencing. Time will be required to begin healing the wounds of the past several months. At the end of September the group was guided through a directed retreat specifically designed to assist those who have experienced trauma. The prayers of the entire congregation are requested for all these men, Canadians and Rwandans alike.

The Rwandan brothers have been warmly welcomed in Uganda by the Holy Cross brothers, priests and sisters there. Other corners of Holy Cross have responded to the situation as well. One of the most touching expressions is that of St. George's College, Santiago, Chile, where the students organized a campaign and collected a significant amount of money to help the poor with whom Holy Cross works in Rwanda.

Fr. Grou's visit also confirmed that Br. Jean-Baptist Nsinga, elected in 1993 superior general of the Rwandan community of Brothers of St. Joseph, was among those killed. Jean-Baptist lived at the generalate in Rome from 1989-1992 while earning a doctorate in spirituality.



EULOGY FOR BR. KENAN JUDGE by Br. Charles Krupp, C.S.C.
September 28, 1994, St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Brothers Center, Notre Dame IN

I speak for all the Brothers as well as myself in extending our sympathy to Mary, Ellen, and Brother Kenan's nieces and nephews. This is a sad occasion because Brother Kenan, or Pat, or Uncle Pat, as you affectionately called him, has been taken from us; but it is also a happy occasion because we celebrate his going to God--and you now have another family member and we have a fellow Brother looking out for us and interceding for us.

When I received word that I should call Brother Thomas Shaughnessy for an urgent message, I knew instinctively what had happened. My spontaneous response was "Kenan is free at last." Since early April his only interest and desire was to go to God.

So often we reveal our deepest selves in a crisis. Kenan's firm faith, so characteristic of his Irish heritage, was during the past several months all that he clung to. Gone was the lighthearted, jovial spirit that distinguished the Kenan I met in the early 1950s.

When I was a scholastic, Kenan taught at St. Joseph High School. Happily he was assigned to supervise my student teaching. I observed his classes and later took over his freshman social studies. Kenan's love for teaching was both obvious and inspiring. He was a natural story-teller. Occasionally Kenan would--tongue in cheek--take liberties with minor details of history. I recall his charming a lower section of freshmen with his explanation of the Hispanic explorers going down to what is now Mexico and concluding with "...and today if you look carefully you can still see their footprints in the sands along the Rio Grande." Wide-eyed youngsters took it all in with amazement. Not a snicker or a smile in the classroom.

With the older and more capable students, he was demanding. However, he had no illusions about the importance of his history course in the overall life of the student. That Kenan maintained a healthy balance and never took himself too seriously was evident in his frequently saying, "Don't be fooled into thinking that your class is going to be the salvation of even one of those kids." Unspoken, but implied, was, "The love and concern you show is as important as the remote facts of history." Kenan was a secure and masterful teacher who understood the adolescent and could respond to his needs.

He seldom had to be the authoritarian or to discipline with harsh words. He held students's attention with his humor and interesting presentations. His students sensed and respected the stature of this man.

It was this kind of relationship with students that made Kenan the ideal senior counselor that he was for so many years at St. Edward High School, Lakewood. He had a wealth of information and experience. His time was their time. He would stay on long after the last bell of the school day had rung. But his greatest gift was putting seniors at ease, often assuring them that they did not have to be absolutely certain about what they would do in later life. He gave them confidence as they prepared to leave behind the security of family and friends to pursue the next phase of their education.

During my years with Kenan at St. Edward High School, I quickly discovered that what he was to his students, he was also to fellow faculty members and to parents. To ease the tensions of the day, I would often stop by Kenan's office in the late afternoon

or meet him in the recreation room for a few good laughs. Within a short time the cares and efforts of the day seemed to have been worthwhile.

Kenan was at his best as Moderator of the Mothers Club, which quickly picked up on his light-hearted spirit. Freedom and encouragement characterized his leadership. The mothers consistently filled the large cafeteria for regular meetings. They raised substantial sums of money, but above all they enjoyed the socializing, the parties, and particularly the appreciation dinner in May. With a few fortified beverages before that meal, they were one happy group of ladies! To say that the mothers loved him is no exaggeration. Many became long-standing personal friends.

Despite Kenan's light-hearted spirit, and his ability to see the humorous side, he did not seem to appreciate the contribution he made in the lives of those he touched. Nor did he seem to appreciate his many professional accomplishments. In the early sixties the Provincial Administration brought personnel files up to date by asking Brothers to list accomplishments, recognitions, and the like. I saw what Kenan submitted. The account includes a litany of professional associations to which he belonged, the offices he held in many of these associations, his teaching a History Methods course for ten summers at the University of Notre Dame, his involvement in developing curricula for history courses. Not mentioned were the many extracurricular activities he moderated through the years. The surprise for me came at the end of the account. The last paragraph was short. "If anything is written about me, please, no flowers. People know me for what I am, and my life hasn't been all that much." Kenan, we are here this afternoon to say that your life has enriched the lives of thousands of your students and all of your friends. What each of us recalls this afternoon are not in fact the flowers. What we recall is what we remember, what we know--and it is good.

Several of Kenan's recent years were difficult. There was a time during which he did not sense God's love and mercy. I was surprised that he could speak of this so openly. It was almost constant prayer that carried him through those dark days. He maintained a fervent devotion to the Sacred Heart, and each afternoon he spent a long period of time in chapel.

When I visited Kenan in January, it was clear that the Dark Night had passed. When I entered his room, his face was brighter and he spoke immediately of a turning point that brought him a great sense of security and God's love. He was peaceful, content and resigned, a spirit that stayed with him until the end.

Although a gradual demise is in many ways difficult, it has its blessings. Kenan could and did look forward with longing to his entry into the eternal mansions. He prayed and asked others to pray for him. His longing reflected the words of a prayer of Cardinal Newman, "In His mercy may God give us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at last."

In conclusion, I will paraphrase Jesus's final words to his disciples as recorded in the last discourse by St. John. "For a little while you see me, and again for a little while you will not see me, because I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you also may be." In speaking for myself, and for all of us who know and love Kenan, I say, "So long, good buddy, we will see you again in a little while."

(Fr. John Gerber, C.S.C., as former superior and friend of Br. Marcellus, gave a revealingly moving eulogy for him. Unfortunately there is no text to reproduce here.)

EFFECTIVE BODY BUILDING

Whoever today's popular exemplars of mighty physical development may be, most of us were impacted in our youth--surely I was--by the comic book advertisements extolling the virtues of "dynamic tension" in the school of Charles Atlas. I saw the 98-pound weakling on the beach with his girl friend being harassed by a sleekly muscular bully contemptuously kicking sand in their faces. I witnessed the humiliated but angrily determined victim beat his fist into his palm, sign up with Charles Atlas, and emerge soon afterward from the program a real he-man, totally in control of every situation, including punching out the bully. Boy, I thought, If only I could be like that! I'd make sure no such thugs ever ruled any beach or playground or bus or school if I was around. But...that's as far as it went.

I was reading from Ephesians (4:11-16) the other day and was struck by Paul's curiously reminiscent use of "body building" language. The possibility suggested itself of drawing an analogy between his figure of the building up of Christ's Mystical Body through the various gifts of its members and our own situation as a province in mission.

Paul says, "To some, Christ's gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself."

Paul speaks of the gifts given by God to individuals who are intent on bringing about the kingdom of God, and of their pooling of those gifts toward a corporately effective ministry. No more accurate a description exists of the role of a community of apostolic religious.

At every provincial chapter we examine our understanding of our mission. We review how our ministries accord with this mission and evaluate our effectiveness. We try to determine how we, as "saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ." There is frankly no other motivation that can properly underlie our efforts.

Yet repeatedly we acknowledge our underdeveloped ministerial physique. Gazing into our evaluative mirror, we perceive in ourselves, perhaps a bit distortedly, something of the 98-pound weakling and imagine ourselves coming face to face with the beach bullies we may encounter on our way toward the accomplishment of our goals. What contributes to our perception? We identify three conditions: our increasing average age, our declining number of active members, and our diversification and fragmentation in ministry. We see these conditions as problematic, and, if weighed against our expectations in previous generations, to some degree they are. As our average age climbs into the sixties, we confront the reality of human nature in our decreasing individual and corporate energy and impact. Our province has not welcomed anyone into our professed ranks in recent years, and no one has pronounced perpetual vows in our province--apart from the District of West Africa--for the past seven years.

We come together for chapters and forums knowing little of what our confreres are accomplishing in ministry, and we learn perhaps for the first time the important contributions we are all making in our apostolic work.

We can't change our ages. Nor do we exert significant control over the vocation picture either, apart from constantly renewing our ongoing prayerful stance of humble reliance on the Lord. But, however scattered geographically and ministerially, we certainly can become better aware of how we truly function together as a body, utilizing our various gifts--apostolic, educational, pastoral, prophetic, evangelical--"to hasten along the kingdom." At the chapter, the goal proposed by the work group on community life called us to a more intense effort at "connectedness," at sharpening our awareness and appreciation of one another as gifted contributors toward the fulfillment of our mission as one of the provinces of Holy Cross. Both the impressive presentation of this particular goal and its enthusiastic reception by the members of the chapter were powerful signs of a determination to become familiar with one another's impact in ministry and influence on our life together, and through this "body-building" effort to draw energy from the experience, directing our energy freshly toward an even greater effectiveness in ministry everywhere.

"Then," as Paul continues, "we shall not be children any longer, or tossed one way and another and carried along by every wind of doctrine, at the mercy of all the tricks men play and their cleverness in practicing deceit. If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by



whom the whole body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each separate part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up, in love."

I believe a sincere effort to regroup through "connectedness" in the province will help bring about an energized sense of mission. We can then, as it were, whatever our age, whatever our numbers, return to the beach powerfully built up through God's strength at work in each of us and affirmed by all of us, to face and dominate whatever sandy challenges the various bullies of the world may kick in our corporate face in an attempt to foil the accomplishment of our capitular goals.

As Paul reminds us, it is through love that the building up of the body will be accomplished. Learning anew to love and appreciate one another is one aspect of our present condition over which we do exercise some control. We have chosen in chapter, clearly and unambiguously, to exercise that control.

--Brother Philip Armstrong, C.S.C.



**BROTHER DAVID
FITZGERALD, CSC**

Photography

*"Symmetry and Patterns"
Natural and Man-made*

October 4 - 28, 1994

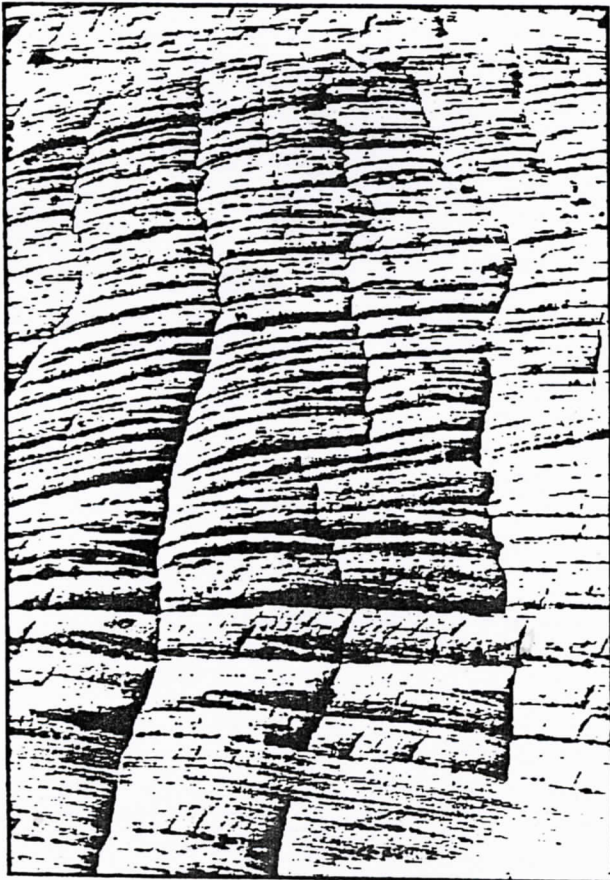
**Reception
Friday, October 7, 1994
5:30 - 7 p.m.**

St. Mary's University Academic Library

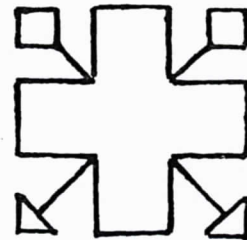
Monday - Thursday, 7:45 a.m. - midnight
Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 1 p.m. - 1 a.m.



"Reflections"
Honolulu, Hawaii, 1984



"Joint Patterns in Navajo Sandstone"
Checkerboard Mesa, Zion National Park, Utah, 1992



Felix Culpa

Could David soar so high in song
If David hadn't tasted wrong?

Would Magdalene be talked about
If Magdalene had been more devout?

Could Peter lead us down the years
Without the scars of bitter tears?

It hardly seems that wrong stays wrong
When God accepts scents, tears, and song.

--Br. Remigius Bullinger, C.S.C.