

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

April 1997

The 1997 directory of brothers in the St. Joseph Vice Province, Bangladesh, lists forty-four professed brothers, of whom four are expatriates. Two of the latter are members of the Midwest Province, **Br. Thomas More Beere** and **Br. Ronald Drahozal**. Twelve of the brothers are students at various stages of preparation. **Br. Bijoy Rodrigues** is the Vice Provincial. Together with the nearly sixty professed members of the Sacred Heart Vice Province of Priests and Brothers, of whom thirteen are expatriates, the presence of the men's Congregation of Holy Cross in Bangladesh numbers over one hundred religious. **Fr. Benjamin Costa** is the Vice Provincial of the Sacred Heart Vice Province. Holy Cross Sisters from two congregations account for nearly fifty women religious in the country.

In Akron, **Br. James Caley** underwent surgery to his left leg and foot in early March that forestalled the need for amputation resulting from diabetic complications. **Br. James Newberry**, superior at Columba Hall, and **Br. John Kuhn**, province archivist, both underwent unanticipated heart bypass surgery in recent weeks. Br. James has returned to Columba Hall after recuperating at Dujarie House, and Br. John has just begun his recuperation at Dujarie. **Br. Joseph Fox**, superior and director of the Brothers Center, has completed his recuperation from separate back and colon surgeries and is once more at the Center. **Br. James Kinsella** remains in intensive care at Rush Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago after aneurism complications affecting the aorta. His condition is serious but hopeful.

Fr. Len Collins, provincial of the Southern Province, sent word that **Mrs. Agnes Martin**, mother of **Fr. James Martin (S)**, formerly of the South-West Province, died on March 6. Mrs. Martin lived in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where the wake and funeral took place on March 7 and 8. Fr. Martin was director of Dujarie House from 1988-1991. Prayers are requested for Mrs. Martin and for the family.

Br. Donald Gibbs, assistant provincial, received information from the Christian Brothers announcing two workshops available to other religious as ongoing formation and summer retreat opportunities.

The first is *55 Alive*, a personal renewal program for religious brothers fifty-five and older, that runs from July 6-26, 1997, at the Christian Brothers Center, Narragansett, Rhode Island. The other is *Re-Imagining Our Mid-Years*, a mid-life experience to be held from July 18-31, 1997, at the Sangre de Cristo Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico. This retreat is "for mid-life brothers who wish to explore the integration of the developmental and religious tasks of this life stage." **Br. Miguel Campos, F.S.C.**, and **Br. James Zullo, F.S.C.**, will collaborate in offering this workshop.

Please make the following four-digit addition to the zip code of **Br. Donald Johnroe** in Fort Lauderdale: 33305-2502.

Two letters to the editor from members of the Midwest Province appeared in the March

24 issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*. **Br. Philip Armstrong** and **Br. Douglas Roach** wrote letters for the "Repartee" section of the NCR. Br. Philip's was in reference to a news brief from the February 28 issue concerning the departure of Marist Br. Cyprian Rowe from his congregation and from the Church to join George Stallings' breakaway African American sect. Br. Douglas's letter related to columnist Tim Unsworth's article in an earlier issue on brothers and the "significant niche" (in education) one Marist Brothers claims they occupy. Br. Douglas was asking whether brothers today in fact have a proper "niche" as such that they occupy in the Church, and whether it is time for brothers to reassess their overall apostolic effectiveness in terms of perhaps a new mission focus.

Br. Michael Becker of the province business office asks that any unused applications for football tickets received from Notre Dame by province members who are alumni of the university be sent to Br. Michael at P.O. Box 460. He very much appreciates past cooperation in this matter and thanks everyone in advance for continued consideration.

As he awaits a possible heart transplant, **Br. Ralph Baird** is residing at the Northern Indiana Heart Institute in Fort Wayne, undergoing a test drug treatment to boost the functioning of his kidneys, which currently are operating at only 40% of their capacity, too low to sustain the complexities of a heart transplant. If tests indicate that the kidneys can be upgraded to higher production, Br. Ralph will remain at the Institute for monitoring of the kidneys and for an actual heart transplant as soon as possible.

Br. Ralph asks our prayers for the success of the treatment and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in arriving at future decisions.

Former brother **Lawrence Emge** wrote recently asking for prayers for his brother, **Lee Emge**, who died on February 5 in Tampa, Florida. Lee was a 1958 graduate of Reitz Memorial in Evanville, so some of the Midwest brothers will have been acquainted with him.

Br. Joseph McTaggart, pastoral care chaplain at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California, presented a paper at the annual conference of the California State Hospice Association in Universal City, California, on March 12-14.

The subject of Br. Joseph's paper was, "What's Spiritual about Hospice? A Chaplain's Perspective on Facing the Final Journey." The purpose of the paper was to explore the historical background and basis for spiritual focus to arrive at a psychological understanding of death as transition and natural process.

Br. Joseph reports that the workshop was well received.

Br. Donald Allen has been appointed by **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, superior of Columba Hall to succeed **Br. James Newberry**, whose second consecutive term comes to an end shortly. The effective date for handing over has not yet been determined. Br. Donald has been living at the brothers' residence at River Grove and assisting with meal preparation there.

By an indult granted by **Fr. Claude Grou**, superior general, **Br. Joseph Fox** has been appointed by **Br. William Geenen** to a third term as superior and director of the Holy Cross Brothers Center in order to continue and complete the on site supervision of the transfer of the facility to Holy Cross College as a student residence.