

## MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

*December 1999*

Presentations by the four candidates for the office of provincial were videotaped on Friday, November 26, in the chapter room of the provincial Administrative Center. **Brs. Donald Gibbs, Robert Fillmore, Kenneth Haders and Joseph Fox** addressed a live audience comprised of members of the Chapter Planning and Facilitation Committee and other brothers who opted to be present. **Fr. Steve Gibson, C.S.C.**, director of Fatima Retreat House, an experienced and professional videotaper, handled the technical side of the event. **Br. James Bluma** was moderator for the occasion.

Twenty-five copies of the tapes will be ready shortly to be circulated for province members' use in determining their vote. The Planning Committee is handling arrangements. The committee is chaired by **Brs. John May and Jerome Meyer**, through either of whom you may communicate or submit papers or suggestions for the chapter, the theme of which is *Living With Hope*. Regional meetings, to be completed by February 15, are being organized to discuss areas of concern. Dates, times and places, plus resource materials, will be communicated soon to each province member.

The election ballots are being distributed at this time, but they need not be returned to the provincial office before *February 29, 2000*. It is the hope of the Planning Committee that reflection and dialogue in the meantime will help province members in deciding their vote.

As of July 1, 2000, and appointed by the provincial, **Br. Frederick Raehsler** will become administrator of the Andre Residential Services, Inc. (Dujarie House and Schubert Villa), at the brothers' Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. Br. Fred succeeds **Br. Thomas Shaughnessy**, who has just successfully passed his examinations terminating a six-month course in certification for health care administration. Congratulations and thanks to both Fred and Tom!

Both the *San Antonio News-Express* and the *S.A. Kids Magazine* featured articles on "the best kept secret" at St. Mary's University—the Earth Sciences Museum in the Department of Earth Sciences—and **Br. David Fitzgerald**, who is responsible for establishing the museum.

Br. David wrote, "Since I came to St. Mary's back in 1982, I have spent much energy in improving our facilities, curriculum, etc., and one of these is the establishment of an Earth Sciences Museum here in the department. Part of my reason for doing this was to have a place for nature's gifts that the department owns displayed so that students and the general public could see them." He also noted that it is a "working museum," used by almost every class within the department for a "seeing is believing" experience of the scientific method. The museum has taken on a life of its own, and Br. David is happy that these two publications were willing to highlight the accomplishment and the potential of this rich resource in San Antonio.

Please remember in your prayers **Fr. Thomas Hewitt (IP)**, who died at the age of 88 on November 16 in San Antonio. He was a long-time Air Force chaplain who retired and continued to minister in Texas. He was ordained in 1939.

**Br. Thomas Balaz** of Columba Hall asks for your remembrance in prayer of his brother-in-law, **Steve Gotch**, who died on September 28, 1999, in Florida. Steve was the husband of Br.

Tom's sister, **Harriet Gotch**.

Prayers are also asked for **Br. Richard Johnson** in Ghana. He suffered a serious flare up of his ulcers and required treatment in three hospitals, including one in the capitol, Accra. His condition was stabilized and the bleeding stopped, and he was expecting to be released about December 3 to return to Brafuyaw, where he is assistant novice director, to recuperate.

**Br. Carlos Parilla** of Bonaventure House in Akron suffered chest pains on December 2 and was undergoing treatment in the hospital. Please remember him as well.

In the Syracuse, New York, diocesan publication, *The Catholic Sun* (October 14-20 issue), a front-page article entitled "Weakened Body, Strengthened Soul," described the activities of **Br. James Bagans**.

The sub-heading of the article notes that, "Brother James Bagans, C.S.C., provides support and guidance to cancer patients as part of the Lourdes Hospital Spiritual Care Team." Br. James says he does not visit with the patients with a specific agenda in mind. "It's a matter of where the patient is at in terms of what they are facing. Do they have a spirituality, and if they do, how is that going to help them in terms of what they are facing?" He tries to convey a sense of God as "a rewarding God, a merciful God, a compassionate God. And I think taking an approach in that way to God can be very comforting to people."

The *Lakewood Sun Post* of November 11 alerted readers to the fact that "a little bit of South Bend is being brought to Lakewood." The article described plans at St. Edward High School to build a new chapel in front of the school on Detroit Avenue. The chapel as designed "has a gold domed roof reminiscent of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana."

**Br. James Spooner**, president of St. Edward, confirmed that the design similarity was intentional. "Absolutely. We're a (Brothers of) Holy Cross institution as well."

The design has been granted conceptual approval by the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review. The chapel is intended to seat about 300 persons and will be located in front of the east end of the building and have outside entrances as well as a connecting hallway to the main building. If everything goes as hoped, groundbreaking is anticipated for the spring of 2000 with completion expected in the fall.

The article goes on, "Spooner said the chapel was placed in front of the building partly because it would not displace parking or other needed space. "Mostly, it was done to put our Catholicism out front, to make it obvious to people," he said.

**Br. William Geenen**, provincial, on October 7 received in the name of the province the *St. Joseph Benefactor's Award* at a special presentation held by St. Edward High School in Lakewood, this year celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The award was presented by **Br. James Spooner**, president, in appreciation of the province's irreplaceable support through manpower and funds over the years.

### **Directory Changes**

- p. 12 – Br. Roland Driscoll's area code number was correct as originally printed—865 (not 423).
- p. 17 – Br. John Harris's e-mail address should be <[joharris@sfhs.com](mailto:joharris@sfhs.com)>.
- p. 25 – Br. William Mewes's home address is 1300 Pennsylvania St., N.E., Apt. 19.