

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

January 1999

Those who did not receive the annual Christmas letter of **Br. Charles McBride** missed a great photograph of Br. Charles being dwarfed by a fish he had caught in the early fall. He describes the event this way: "Coming back to Alaska, I caught my 240-lb. halibut in some 270 feet of water 32 miles southwest of Ninilchik. It took 25 minutes to bring in." Nose to tail fin, the fish is some six inches longer than Br. Charles's 6'1" height. When asked why he had fought so long and determinedly with such a huge fish, Br. Charles is reported to have replied, "Why, just for the halibut!"

In addition to the fish story, the Christmas letter was filled with other photographs, many of celebrations surrounding Br. Charles' 40th anniversary of profession. And for the third year in a row, his corn relish took a Blue Ribbon at the State Fair in Palmer.

As reported in the December 1998 *News Items*, the father of **Br. Joseph Annan** died in Ghana earlier that month. After consultation among all family members, the Annans decided to delay the funeral until after Br. Joseph returns to Ghana on January 11. The services will be held on January 22. Please continue to remember Br. Joseph's father and the whole family in your prayers.

Other deaths have occurred as well. **Br. Myron Bachenheimer** (SW) died at Dujarie House on December 5 at the age of 90 after a long illness. He had been a resident of the infirmary for several years. His wake and funeral were held in Austin, Texas. **Fr. Edgar Szymanski, C.S.C. (I)**, died at Holy Cross House on December 8. Fr. Szymanski was well known among the brothers, serving as chaplain at Gilmour Academy (1950-51), Boysville (1951-59), and Sacred Heart Military Academy (1959-67). He ministered at Holy Trinity Parish in Chicago from 1967-69 as well. Having contracted tuberculosis as a seminarian, he felt the limiting aftereffects of the disease throughout his life, yet remained active and available, especially in parish ministry, until not long before his death at the age of 84.

Also please remember **Br. Barry Lambour's** older brother, who died on December 16, and **Sr. Rose Anita Houser, C.S.C.**, sister of the late **Br. Anthony Houser** and **Frs. Charles and Joseph Houser, C.S.C.**, as well as of **Sr. Rita Houser, C.S.C.**, who survives. Sr. Rose Anita died on January 7 at St. Mary's. And **Br. David Fitzgerald** asks prayers for his mother, who is dying of cancer. David is with her in Iowa at this time.

Br. Charles Krupp, working in planning and development with the board of the Senior Friendship Centers in Sarasota, Florida, was surprised on his 75th birthday by the number of greetings he received. He wrote, "I celebrated my 75th birthday on December 19. I can't believe that I have been around that many years, but if I had any real doubts they were dispelled by the birthday messages. I want to thank all who sent cards, called, or otherwise expressed "Happy Birthday" wishes that made this milestone in my life a memorable and rewarding event."

Br. Donald Gibbs reminds anyone still interested in attending the Holy Cross Heritage Session in Le Mans, France, during the summer (as advertised in the *December 1998 News*

Items) to submit his name *by February 5* to Br. Donald by phone, fax, e-mail or ordinary mail. If requests outnumber available places in the program, names will be drawn by lot to determine the participants.

From Indianapolis **Br. Edward Dailey** e-mailed the information that **Agnes Griffin**, sister of the late **Br. Majella Hegarty**, and cousin of the late **Br. Quentin Hegarty**, is in poor health at St. Paul's Hermitage, the retirement community operated by the Benedictine Sisters of Beech Grove, Indiana. Br. Edward's sister, **Sr. Margaret Ann Dailey, O.S.B.**, is a member of that community. Many Midwest brothers knew Agnes fairly well, and all of us are asked to remember her now in our prayers. **Br. Roy Smith** and Br. Edward visited Agnes while Br. Roy was with relatives in Indianapolis at Christmas time.

Br. Edward expects to arrive at Notre Dame on January 22 after twelve years in Rome as secretary to the superior general. While in Beech Grove, Br. Edward volunteered to help in the St. Paul's Hermitage pantry as a dishwasher when regular staff members could not reach the home because of the snow and ice storm that hit the Indianapolis area.

You are reminded that *beginning February 1, the site and delivery address of the Holy Cross Brothers' provincial administration, the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, and Holy Cross College will be 54515 State Road 933 North. Mailing addresses remain the P.O. Boxes at the Notre Dame post office formerly assigned to the various components on the brothers' campus.*

Although weather forecasters claim the current extreme cold and snow blanketing much of the Great Lakes area, including Notre Dame, in no way matches the rigor of the "Blizzard of '78," the consequences have led observers to question whether the present situation is not even more significant. Snow, driven by high winds, fell and drifted in massive amounts, and incremental snow showers daily added to the eighteen to twenty-four inches already accumulated over a ten-day to two-week period. The colleges were not in session when the storm hit, but all other educational institutions plus many businesses and industries canceled operations, some the entire business week of January 4-8, and persons were advised to remain off the roads and streets unless absolutely necessary.

Snow removal has been a problem, but **Brs. James Kumba, Joseph Fox, and Gregory Teodecki** have managed to stay on top of it by long hours in the truck and front end loader.

Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California, where **Br. Joe McTaggart** has worked the past fourteen years, was purchased by the Sisters of Providence, Seattle, some time ago. In the interim, managerial changes took place which affected Joe's work as chaplain. In the last eight months Joe was asked to coordinate two Spiritual Care Departments—Holy Cross in Mission Hills and St. Joseph in Burbank—as they became one department with two sites. A director of both departments was recently hired, but Joe will return to coordinating the Holy Cross Spiritual Care Department while he continues his first love, clinical work with Hospice and chaplain to the medical center's cancer patients and facilitator of the Cancer Support Group. Joe writes a regular column for the support group's newsletter. **Br. Tom Maddix** has reprinted those articles for the publication he edits for the Alberta Catholic Health Corporation.