

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

July 1997

The Midwest Province chapter was held at Notre Dame from June 15-20 inclusive, with residence for the 112 self-selected delegates at Knott Hall on the east edge of the campus, and dining and meeting arrangements in the nearby North Dining Hall. All prayer sessions and liturgies, again as in 1994 organized by **Br. Tom Maddix** and led by **Mr. Steve Warner** of the Campus Ministry office at Notre Dame, were in the beautifully renovated chapel of Keenan-Stanford Hall directly across the quadrangle from the dining hall. **Br. Paul Rahaim** (EB) and **Sr. Lea Woll** served as very effective facilitators throughout the chapter.

Sr. Francis Bernard O'Connor, C.S.C., former superior general of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Mary's, gave an inspiring and eminently appropriate keynote talk, "Ordinary Men, Extraordinary Lives," on the role of brothers today in responding effectively to the realities of today's world.

The highlight of the chapter was **Br. William Geenen's** opening day report to the members on the concept and financing of The Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

Other informative and inspirational presentations were heard in a Health Care and Retirement panel comprised of **Brs. Lewis Brazil, Don Gibbs, Jim Reddy, Tom Shaughnessy, Richard Shea,** and **Sr. Patricia Mulvaney**, C.S.C., who is in charge of similar issues for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. **Br. John Tryon** spoke on membership, including the Associates. A Spirituality and Community Life panel provided moving testimony from **Brs. Ken Haders, Bob Fillmore, Paul Kelly, Tom Maddix, Joe McTaggart, Tom Moser,** and **Jerome Meyer**. Brief sessions were held on Sponsorship by **Br. Ken Haders**, Finance by **Br. Don Bailer**, and Congregational Planning by **Fr. Claude Grou**, superior general, and **Br. Joel Giallanza**, the assistant general who was also the official representative of the superior general to the chapter.

The district superior of West Africa, **Br. Michael Amakyi**, with his assistant, **Br. Dan Dardoe**, gave a report on the status of the district.

On the final two days representatives from all the province branches of the Holy Cross Associates joined the gathering. One couple from among them made a moving presentation on their ties to Holy Cross. Their presence encouraged hope for the future.

Near the conclusion of the chapter a document summarizing the province's evaluation of its effectiveness in mission was affirmed as representative of a consensus on province direction and as containing in essence the most up to date statement of the mission of the province. This document, in addition to **Br. William's** verbal report and its accompanying document on the nature of The Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, was accepted by the chapter as the defining statement of vision and mission for the coming three years.

Elected to the provincial council were **Brs. Ken Haders** and **Joe Fox**, replacing **Brs. Bob Fillmore** and **Richard Gilman**. Bob and Richard had served on the councils of both **Brs. William** and **Tom Moser**. Elected as delegates to the general chapter of 1998 in Rome were **Brs. Ken Haders, Don Gibbs, Mike Amakyi, Tom Maddix, Richard Gilman, Joe Fox,** and **Doug Roach**. Elected as "pool members" as well as first and second alternates were **Brs. John Tryon** and **Raymond Papenfuss**. **Br. Don Stabrowski** was chosen as third alternate.

On different evenings the capitulants were hosted by **Br. Joe Fox** and the Brothers Center community, **Br. Jim Newberry** and the Columba Hall community, and the Indiana Province

chapter delegates and the Fatima community.

The chapter was judged to have been highly effective, pointing up the value of plenary sessions and informality as the rule rather than the exception. Edited summaries of consensus on the principal issues were affirmed by the chapter rather than proposed in the form of decrees/recommendations/statements coming out of committees.

The Steering Committee, co-chaired by **Brs. Phil Smith** and **Ray Papenfuss**, drew deserved praise for its effective organization and planning both before and throughout the chapter.

The usual meticulous accuracy was evidenced by the secretaries for the chapter, **Brs. Charlie Gregg, Tom Minta, and Joe LeBon**, and **Br. John May** spent more than his share of foot-weary and finger-cramping time in front of an overhead projector recording the results of the numerous ballots required for the various elections.

The chapter ended on Friday afternoon, June 20. Most capitulants remained on campus for the impressive Saturday afternoon celebration of the anniversaries of profession at Sacred Heart Basilica, presided over by the superior general, **Fr. Claude Grou**, with a reception and meal following at the South Dining Hall.

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We have been asked to remember in our prayers the following deceased religious or their relatives:

Br. Louis-Joseph Thibault, C.S.C., (CF) who died in Montreal on May 16 at the age of 87 in the 67th year of his religious profession.

Mr. Charles A. May, father of **Br. John May**, who died at the age of 89 on June 12 in Monroe, Michigan.

The mother of **Br. Binoy Gomes, C.S.C.**, (SJVP) novice director in Bangladesh.

Fr. Joseph Houser, C.S.C. (I), who died at Holy Cross House, Notre Dame, on June 25 at the age of 89. Joe was the brother of **Br. Tony Houser** and **Fr. Charles Houser (SHJVP)**, and two Holy Cross Sisters, **Srs. Rose Anita** and **Rita**.

Br. James Kinsella continues to make a remarkable recovery at Dujarie House from the ruptured aneurism he suffered in February that almost cost him his life. **Br. Bernard Platte**, who underwent knee replacement on May 14, also continues to improve steadily and ought to be ready shortly to take up arms once again against the local ground hogs, who have erroneously concluded that they have finally got the best of Bernie.

You are reminded that the *Midwest Province News Items* will not be published in August. Those with information they wish disseminated to the province membership in the September issue are asked to contact **Br. Phil Armstrong** or **Br. Don Gibbs** at the provincial office.