

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

March 1999

From February 28 to March 2 **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, attended the Sisters of Providence "Indiana" celebration at Terre Haute of last summer's beatification of **Mother Theodore Guerin**, American foundress of the congregation after its inauguration in France by **Fr. James Dujarie** just prior to his establishment of the Brothers of St. Joseph.

Following the celebration and remaining at Saint Mary's of the Woods, Br. William participated in the annual Indiana Bishops and Major Superiors' meetings at the Woods.

The Sisters of Providence own and operate Mother Guerin High School adjacent to Holy Cross High School in River Grove.

Participants in this summer's Holy Cross Heritage Session in Le Mans, France, will be **Brs. Robert Kelly** and **Carlos Parilla**, whose names were drawn from among those submitted by interested province members.

Those in the province who have experienced the session have found it an excellent opportunity not only to get to know their foundational roots in France, but to sense the international vitality of Holy Cross as personified in the brothers, priests and sisters from around the world who are also participating in the program.

On Friday, June 18, the day devoted to a continuing reflection on our vowed life just prior to the celebration of the anniversaries of profession on the 19th, **Br. Mark Knightly** (EB) will be the presenter for sessions devoted to the vow of poverty. Br. Mark is a member of the Adel, Georgia, collaborative community and does counseling for the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Please mark your calendar so as not to miss what promises to be a beneficial opportunity to reflect on what poverty means for men religious in today's world.

Please remember in your prayers the following individuals who have died during the past month. **Mrs. Helen Marie Foken**, mother of **Br. Edward Foken** and sister-in-law of **Br. Walter Foken**, died on February 2 in Cincinnati; **Mrs. Eileen Fitzgerald**, mother of **Br. David Fitzgerald**, died in Marcus, Iowa, on February 9 of cancer; and **Mrs. Helen Posey**, mother of **Br. Carroll Posey**, died on February 22 in Liberty, Kentucky. **Brs. William Geenen** or **Don Gibbs** were able to be present for the wake and funeral of each of these mothers of province members.

Br. Timothy O'Connell, resident at St. Michael's Community in St. Louis, Missouri, asks the prayers of each province member as he undergoes treatment.

Br. Raymond Dufresne, long-time Holy Cross College librarian and recently assistant under **Br. Charles Gregg** will be retiring fully as of the end of the academic year. In a letter to Br. Raymond responding to his announcement, **Br. Richard Gilman**, president of the College, wrote, "Certainly we will take note of your contribution to the College at our end of the year dinner. But I want to remark in the context of this letter about the enthusiasm and dedication you have brought to your work, along with your insistence on a thorough, professional approach to library services for our students and faculty—a tradition I am committed to continuing."

Br. Raymond anticipates taking a sabbatical and then remaining involved through volunteer work at the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, possibly, as Br. Richard hopes, doing some research on the needs of the older readers who will reside at the Village, and helping train others to facilitate the implementation of the research data.

Monumental piles of earth, some of it sand base and some topsoil, occupy formerly empty patches of ground all over the frontage area of the brothers' property across from Notre Dame as necessary infrastructure for residences at the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame is installed. The seemingly endless sound of bulldozers, backhoes, earth movers and auxiliary equipment pervade the early mornings and late evenings—as well as the usual work day—in an effort to take advantage of the mid-winter weather that saw the snow disappear and temperatures become milder than anticipated. Occasional snow or rain assures muddy conditions everywhere, especially in the field north of the Faculty House (provincial business office) where the pond is being created. Also regrettable but necessary is the violation of recently blacktopped and older roadways to facilitate the laying of conduits for utilities and huge drainage tiles. All this upheaval conspires with the stone and dirt to remind the casual observer of the realities of construction life. Because all this activity seems to forecast a completion date earlier than that predicted for late June, no one minds seriously. Besides, unusually strong interest in the Village, consultation conducted with prospective clientele, and a solid order or two for residences as of this date through the Information Center, where **Br. James Newberry** assists **Mr. Frank Macknick**, remind everyone of the need for housing construction to commence as soon as possible on the north front site.

Simultaneously, infrastructure work proceeds on the new entrance branching from the old intersection with State Road 933 North. The new road includes a divided drive and a security kiosk.

Canadian **Br. Alberic Houle** (CF) recently retired from missionary work in Bangladesh after more than 50 years of dedicated service. An article in the province news notes remarked that the Udayan School in Barisal, where Br. Alberic was headmaster, had been recognized by the government as the best school in the area. The article also noted that “Brother was a favorite of the boys and even at the age of 72 was playing soccer with them. Despite a busy schedule, Brother wrote two books: one about **Br. Flavian [Laplante]** and another about **Br. Godfrey [Danis]** [both notable Canadian Holy Cross Brothers in Bangladesh] and is still working on his third book.”

It is further stated in the article that “with his leaving the country, another chapter comes to an end for Holy Cross in Bangladesh. There are now only four brothers from the U.S.A. hanging on.” Those four brothers are **Brs. Thomas More Beere** and **Ronald Drahozal** of the Midwest Province, **Br. Nicholas Thielman** (SW) and **Br. Donald Becker** (SJP). The upside of this fact is that there is now a very solid core of 38 Bangladeshi brothers, including temporarily professed in the province, and they are buttressed by the presence and assistance of nearly 70 priests and professed seminarians from the Sacred Heart Province.

The *Midwest Province News Items* will make an effort to keep the province membership advised regularly of the progress of development in the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. Also, you are reminded to submit, even in the form of raw data, items of interest relative to you or your ministry for inclusion in the *News Items*.