

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

November 1999

Br. James O'Donnell died unexpectedly on November 1 after battling for several days infection, kidney failure and pneumonia in Hillcrest Hospital, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, near Gilmour Academy, where he was stationed. Br. James was only 54 years old, but had encountered problems stemming from ill health in recent years.

Besides at Gilmour, Br. James ministered in three other province schools during his 34 years in Holy Cross–LeMans Academy, Holy Trinity High School, Holy Cross High School—and two otherwise sponsored youth care programs in St. Louis and Chicago. He was known for his devotion to duty and his cheerful manner despite his bouts with illness.

After services for Br. James at Gilmour on November 3, his funeral and burial were held at Notre Dame on Friday, November 5.

Other Holy Cross religious who died recently are **Br. Jacob Eppley (SW)**, who passed away October 26 at Dujarie House at the age of 103 after years of gradually failing health. A funeral service for him was held at Dujarie on Friday, October 29, prior to a province funeral and burial in Austin, Texas.

Only a few months ago Br. Jacob received from the French Consul the prestigious French government award, the *Legion d'Honneur*, given Br. Jacob for his service to France while in the U.S. expeditionary forces during World War I.

Fr. Robert Griffin (EP) died at Holy Cross House, Notre Dame, on October 20 at the age of 74. A counselor, writer and story teller, he worked in campus ministry at Notre Dame for many years before ill health forced him to retire to the community infirmary. After services at Notre Dame, he was taken to Stonehill College in N. Dartmouth for the funeral and burial.

Br. Tom Minta of Goodwill Industries in Chicago was written up in the fall issue of *Working Together*, a publication of Goodwill in southeastern Wisconsin, for his work in helping to organize a program through which the hearing impaired can be trained to handle certain important tasks at banks, and for facilitating with First Chicago and other banking institutions the opportunity for students of the *BankForce Program* to be employed.

The fall 1999 edition of *Hoban Highlights* features a cover photo of the six Holy Cross Brothers at Hoban—**Brs. Peter Graham, Joseph LeBon, Kenneth Haders, Dennis Bednarz, Edward Libbers** and **Carlos Parilla**. A page 5 article under *Profiles* by **Jeff Stetz**, Alumni Director, notes that the school is blessed to have six brothers, saying, "In an era when many Catholic schools have one or two members of a religious order, or none at all, we have seven (including math teacher **Sr. Meg Leslie**).” The article gives a short sketch of each of the brothers and is the first in a series focusing on "People of Hoban.” On page 7 there is an article about the Associates of St. Joseph, and another about brothers who formerly ministered at Hoban and were celebrating jubilees this year. A third portion of the page was devoted to reprinting a card sent by **Br. Robert Siegel** to his friends in the Hoban community.

In the fall issue of *St. Edward PRIDE*, the development publication at St. Edward High

School, Lakewood, a beautifully written and illustrated 5-page cover story by Jeanne Hoban featured **Br. Richard Weber '55**, commemorating and honoring Richard both as an alumnus and as a Brothers of Holy Cross. The article helped mark the 50th anniversary of the school's founding by the brothers, referred to by **Br. James Spooner**, president, in his introductory column.

A communication from **Br. Tom Maddix** in Alberta had several items of interest. First and foremost, Br. Tom has become a Canadian citizen! Without relinquishing his U.S. citizenship, Tom is seeking to become more deeply involved with the people among whom he has ministered for more than ten years.

Br. Tom also gave two addresses at the Family Service's Canada National Conference in Edmonton: "Leading from Within: Spirituality and Leadership," and "Making a Commitment: Integrating Leadership and Spirituality." At the end of September he spoke to the Catholic Health Association of Ontario on the issue of Catholic identity. And on November 1 the book Br. Tom authored together with **Chris Levan**, president of St. Stephen's College at the U. of Alberta, will be published. The book is titled *Knowing Your Ethical Preferences: A Working Guide*. The book, Br. Tom says, "provides an inventory to enable people to better understand their preferences when making a decision, and the implications of their preferences as members of groups or when working alone." The book also contains profiles, an ethical decision-making process, and some essays on ethics and the power of stories to shape one's decision-making process.

Br. William Geenen, provincial, attended the annual Council of the Congregation from October 31 to November 5 in Rome. The superior general, his council, and all provincials and district superiors were in attendance. The meeting was held at the Casa Mater Ecclesiae retreat house on Via Pinetta Sacchetti, not far from the generalate.

A More Tangible Way: A Brief Account of the Foundation and Development of the District of West Africa by **Br. Philip Armstrong** appeared on October 15. The 106-page monograph, published under the sponsorship of the Holy Cross History Association and available through it, is one of the series of writings by Holy Cross priests, sisters and brothers about particular highlights in the history of the men's and women's congregations.

The Midwest Province secured copies to distribute to brothers who have served in Ghana and/or Liberia, as well as to both smaller and larger houses.

As of November 1, the house at 707 N. Allen St. in South Bend has been sold. The house has had an honorable history dating back to the seventies when it was opened by **Brs. James Moroney, Frank Rotsaert, and Douglas Roach**. Through the years it was furnished, improved, decorated and maintained in admirable fashion by those brothers residing there. Its most recent resident was **Br. Chris Dreyer**, to whom a debt of gratitude is owed for his patient zeal in keeping the house in pristine condition while he lived there and then as it was placed on the real estate market.

Keep actively in your daily prayer the success of the process for the election of the provincial and the personal and group preparation for the 2000 chapter next June.

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