

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

October 1999

Br. Thomas Mittendorf died on October 2 at St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend. He had been under treatment for several days. Br. Thomas was 62. He had celebrated his 40th anniversary of profession on 1996. After working ten years at the Notre Dame Post Office, he spent twelve years in the provincial treasurer's office, then his health forced him to confine himself to being of generous service in small but important ways first at Columba Hall, his residence since 1958, and then Schubert Villa since 1997. Br. Tom was known for his cheerful resignation to his condition and his perseverance in the face of difficulty.

The wake and funeral were held on Thursday, October 7, at the Brothers' Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

On Saturday, September 25, a ceremony was held at 2:00 p.m. at the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame to mark the dedication of the new entrance way and Riverside Place, the apartment building. Under the direction of **Br. John May** of Director of Planning, a simple but engaging celebration was structured. **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, introduced and thanked **Mr. and Mrs. Murlan Murphy, Sr.**, and their oldest son **Jerry Murphy**, who had helped make the day possible. In response, Jerry spoke on behalf of the family. **Fr. Kenneth Grabner**, chaplain, led off the entrance way ceremonies with appropriate remarks and conducted the blessing of the two sites.

Following the dedication ceremonies, tours of several apartments were held for whoever among the many visitors wished to avail themselves of the opportunity, and then refreshments were served in the Schubert Villa dining room. The weather was perfect and visitors were profuse in their admiration of the two sites as well as the concept and vision of the Village.

Br. Thomas Shaughnessy has decided not to return to Dujarie House/Schubert Villa as administrator after he completes his certification internship in mid-October.

Commenting, **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, said, "I, along with the rest of the provincial administration, extend our gratitude to Br. Thomas for his effective and devoted direction and administration of the health care facilities during his several years in that capacity. At an appropriate time, an occasion will be organized that will permit all of us to express thanks to Br. Thomas for his pastoral care and concern."

The search for a replacement will be initiated soon.

For those who did not receive notice by e-mail, the *2000 Holy Cross Ordo* is ready and can be ordered directly from **Fr. Peter Rocca, C.S.C.**, Moreau Seminary, P.O. Box 668, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0668. For each copy enclose a check in the amount of \$8.00 payable to the Congregation of Holy Cross (*not* to Fr. Rocca personally).

The Ordo is the general Ordo for the Church year beginning the First Sunday of Advent (November 28), and contains the obituary for the entire Congregation of Holy Cross. This Ordo is *not* the one listing pages for the single volume of the Liturgy of the Hours widely in use.

Br. Philip Armstrong was one of a handful of religious featured in the nationally distributed flyer and the annual report of the *Bishops' Religious Retirement Fund*, for which a collection is taken annually to help defray the costs of health care and retirement for aging religious, whose congregations were earlier unable to set aside adequate funding to cover their full present costs in those areas.

The religious chosen for the ad campaign are representative of thousands who, as they age, make the transition from their former professional engagement as teachers, administrators, missionaries, etc., to a variety of useful alternative ministries.

The Holy Cross school leadership group met on Monday, October 4, from 10:00 to 3:00 at Notre Dame. Administrators continued the dialogue on the methods of fostering ongoing sponsorship by Holy Cross in their schools. **Br. Donald Gibbs** was the convener and host for the meeting.

Br. Thomas Dziekan (EB), Director of Mission Effectiveness, announced via e-mail on September 28 that the Eastern and Midwest brothers, with the participation of the Indiana Province, had established the Holy Cross Educational Ministries Office, the Office of Mission Effectiveness. It is located at the Administrative Center at the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

The mailing address of Br. Thomas's office is P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame IN 46556-0460. The telephone is (219) 251-3248. The fax number is: (219) 251-3251. And the e-mail address is: csc.schools@hcc-nd.edu.

The establishment of the office is the result of lengthy collaborative planning among the provinces. Its purpose is to assist in ensuring the Catholic character and identity of the congregation's schools, and in discerning and developing the Holy Cross spirit common to all the schools but lived out uniquely in each.

Br. James Newberry attended an Elderhostel class entitled *The Wild Wonderful World of Watercolor*. The course met for five days at the Epworth Forest Conference Center on Lake Webster in North Webster, Indiana. There were 18 enrolled in the course, 2 men and 16 women. The group included a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis. Br. James said, "I found the experience very refreshing and would recommend that other brothers explore Elderhostel courses. They can be found on the Internet at www.elderhostel.org."

Please remember in your prayers **Br. Joseph McTaggart's** mother, **Ruth McTaggart**, who died in early October in Cleveland. **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, was able to be present for the wake and funeral on October 8.

Also deceased are **Fr. Mortimer Ferrick, C.S.C. (EP)**, who died on September 29. The funeral and burial took place at Stonehill College.

Fr. Clement Podskoch, C.S.C. (EP) died on October 2 in a Scranton PA hospital. He was a resident of King's College. After a wake and funeral at King's, interment was at Stonehill College.

Fr. Jeffrey Sobosan, C.S.C. (I) died on October 6 at the University of Portland, where he taught. He was 53. He pronounced first vows in 1965 and was ordained in 1973. The funeral

and burial were held at Notre Dame.

Congratulations to **Br. Richard Shea!** He was one of five honored on September 24 at the special Peer Leaders Luncheon at Nickko's Restaurant for "dedicated services to the senior companion program."

Br. Richard is recovering nicely from pacemaker surgery undergone on August 24. He thanks province members for their concern, prayers and get-well cards.

Brs. Joseph Walter Olszowka and Don Fleischhacker celebrated Chicago's *Blessed Mother Guerin Day* with the Providence Sisters on August 28 at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. There was a program that honored the life of Mother Guerin, followed by a Eucharistic Liturgy presided over by Francis Cardinal George.

On September 15 **Br. Don Fleischhacker** represented the Franciscan Outreach Association at the annual Notre Dame meeting of post-grad volunteers for the Center for Social Concerns at Stepan Center on campus.

Featured in an article by Jill Boughton in the October 3 edition of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan newspaper, *Today's Catholic*, was **Br. James Greteman**. The article highlighted his work in private counseling, writing, and artistic expression, and referred to Br. James's book in process, *Primal Hurts*, mentioned in the September edition of the *News Items*.

Former brother **Edward Overstreet** of Boysville visited the Midwest Province Archives from October 4-6 to research documentation needed for a history of Boysville he is in the process of writing to cap off the 50th anniversary celebrations of the institution's founding in 1948.

While at Notre Dame he interviewed former Boysville director **Br. Philip Armstrong**. Other former directors are **Brs. Patrick Cain, Hilarion Brezik, and John Lavelle, Robert Hormann, and Edward Overstreet**. Current director **Br. Francis Boylan**, has been in that position for over 25 years.

The new *Midwest Province Residence Directory and Community List* contains in the *Alphabetical Listing* of province members an incorrect street/delivery address for 28 of the brothers living on the grounds of the Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. The address should be **54515 State Road 933 North**. The number shown incorrectly in the addresses is 993, while others are correct with 933. This error does not affect the various *postal* delivery addresses: *P.O. Box 460, P.O. Box 706, P.O. Box 716, or P.O. Box 1020*.

Notice of any other corrections needing to be made should be sent to Br. Don Gibbs at P.O. Box 460.