

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

September 1997

Br. Ralph Baird, candidate for a heart transplant at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is on the active list now and awaiting the availability of a heart matching the criteria demanded before the operation can be performed. In late August it was thought a match had been found, but the organ had to be rejected because of incompatibilities. Br. Ralph is attached to a heart pump to keep his heart functioning. His energy and spirits are high. During the day he dons a battery pack good for six to seven hours and is free to move about the intensive care area at the hospital. He talks with other patients and functions in somewhat the same way a hospital chaplain does. He reports having lost his taste for spaghetti and Mexican food and hopes with a new heart that this unbelievable gustatorial aberration will quickly disappear.

This summer **Br. James Newberry** attended the graduations of two former St. Patrick High School (Monrovia) students who continued studies in the U.S. **Momolu Walopaye** graduated *magna cum laude* from Waldorf College in Iowa, and **Moivabah Fofana** was awarded an M.A. in Peace Studies by the U. of Notre Dame. Fofana was among the Peace Scholars living at Columba Hall. He had previously studied at the University of Kiev in the Ukraine.

Much of the June 1997 issue of *InterLink*, monthly publication for co-workers of Boysville, was devoted to the Brothers of Holy Cross active on the staff of Boysville.

A full-page article noted the retirement after 21 years with Boysville of **Br. Leonard Siwierka**, since 1987 food service manager at Moreau Center in Monroe, Michigan. He was honored on June 4 at a farewell luncheon. He will remain in Monroe doing part time work and occasional catering.

A short history of the brothers' involvement at Boysville served as the lead article. **Brs. Charles Hill, Gerald Nettesheim, Albin Kuzminski and James Kozak** were pictured on the front, and **Brs. Donald Morrison, Chester Freel, Thomas Scheurer and Francis Boylan** were pictured on the continuing page. Statistical facts relative to each of the brothers were given.

Br. Douglas Roach, president of Holy Cross High School, River Grove, received a commendation from the Department of Correction, Morgan County, State of Tennessee, as *Instructor of the Year* for 1996-1997.

Among remarks made at the presentation by **Charles Wilkie** and **Dan Orange**, officials, were the following: "Your commitment to excellence as an instructor has proven vital to the employee core training program.... Your dedication in accomplishing the mission in an above and beyond the call of duty attitude has proven that you have a genuine care for the students...."

At a May 8th meeting of the Knoxville Serra Club, **Br. Roland Driscoll** gave a talk about religious life in general and the Congregation of Holy Cross in particular. The talk was written up in the June issue of the club's newsletter. Br. Roland was congratulated for the valuable content and the interesting delivery of his presentation.

Mrs. Dorothy Vessini, longtime worker at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, and a key member of the Holy Cross Associates, was awarded the *Cross of Hope* by the Midwest Province through the instrumentality of the brothers at River Grove, who submitted the request that the award be presented to Dorothy.

The award was presented on June 1 at a special mass followed by a gourmet brunch. According to Ernie Vessini, Dorothy's husband who is also a close friend and colleague of the brothers and the school, the parish bulletin and two local newspapers printed articles on the award. He wrote, "While I mentioned our appreciation to many of the brothers locally, I want all in the Midwest Province to know how very much we appreciate this high honor," calling it a highlight of Dorothy's life.

In June **Br. Joe Barry**, campus minister at St. Edward University, Austin, was awarded his Masters in Applied Behavioral Science with a concentration in Leading and Consulting from the City University of Seattle. The program is affiliated with the Leadership Institute of Seattle.

Congratulations to Joe for his perseverance and for completing the difficult work required for this degree!

On August 22, **Br. Richard Gilman**, president of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, sponsored a special dedicatory prayer service to mark the opening of the residential program in James Hall at the Brothers Center. Br. Richard delivered an address at the function, tracing the history of the brothers, the Center and the College, and placing emphasis on James Hall's prior uses and on the relationship encouraged between the resident students and the brothers of Basil Hall.

On Sunday, August 24, as part of the 25th anniversary of its Faith Series, the United Religious Community of the South Bend area, under the presidency of **Jim Fisko**, presented an open house at the Holy Cross Brothers Center hosted by **Br. Joseph Fox**, superior and director. The theme was "*What Does It Mean To Be a Catholic Brother?*" Presenters were **Brs. Donald Gibbs** and **Philip Armstrong**. The video prepared for the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Holy Cross at Notre Dame was shown to the small but select audience. Br. Donald is a former president of the board of directors for the U.R.C.

Please remember in your prayers the following who have died: in May, **Oscar J. Unfried**, the father of **Br. Lawrence Unfried**; on May 16, **Br. Louis-Joseph Thibault** (CF); on June 16, **Fr. Benoit Brunelle** (CP); on July 13, **Br. Felix Schoen** (SW), 88, a 25-year missionary in Bangladesh; on July 16, **Fr. Peter Mueller** (I), 82, Holy Cross House, Notre Dame; on July 19, **Katie Hennel**, sister of **Br. Rex Hennel** of the Brothers Center; on July 20, **Br. Gonzaga Day** of Dujarie House; and on August 18, **Fr. Gerald McMahon** (I), retired missionary from Bangladesh.

Br. Gonzaga died at the Cleveland Clinic. Because Cleveland had been his home town and he had helped inaugurate Gilmour Academy, a service was held in the new chapel at Gilmour before the body was transferred to Notre Dame for the community wake and funeral celebrations, which were well attended. The contributions of Br. Gonzaga to the missions,

including the home missions, were recalled continuously during these days both by brothers and others who benefitted from his service.

Prayers are requested for several province members: **Br. Charles McBride**, who suffered a mild stroke in August, was hospitalized and later released for outpatient therapy with full recovery anticipated; **Br. Richard Hillis**, who required an angioplasty to relieve some arterial blockage. After a short hospitalization he is doing well at Columba Hall; **Br. Eugene Phillip**, who recently had heart bypass surgery in South Bend, then returned to Evansville after a period of recuperation at Dujarie House; **Br. Ramon Purzycki**, who has been hospitalized in Mishawaka with congestive heart failure; and **Br. Dan Mallon**, who because of a bone spur in his upper spinal column causing partial paralysis and pain had to return from the University of Portland to Notre Dame in early September for surgery and recuperation.

Also remember the brother of **Br. Barry Lambour**, **Mr. C. J. Lambour**, who is ill, and **James Foley**, brother of the late **Br. Richard Foley**, who suffered a stroke in May.

Entering the novitiate in early July was **Br. Emmanuel Minu** of the District of West Africa. He is beginning his canonical year at the collaborative novitiate in Saaka, Uganda, a few miles outside of Fort Portal. **Br. James Nichols (EB)** is novice master, and **Br. Joseph Tsiquaye** is a member of the staff of the novitiate.

Br. Edward Fox began the novitiate program at Cascade, Colorado, on August 8. **Fr. Rick Wilkinson (EP)** has been appointed novice master for one year following the election of **Fr. Bill Dorwart (I)**, former novice master, as provincial of the Indiana Province this past summer. **Br. Tom Moser** remains in the staff at Cascade.

Please remember both novices in your prayers. A note or letter from you once in a while to encourage them would be appreciated.

On September 3 **Br. William Geenen** signed papers finalizing the borrowing of funds through an economic development bond issue designed to cover the cost of a portion of the new construction at *The Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame*. Construction is expected to begin within two to three months.

In an effort to ease the parking crunch caused by the addition of 20,000 seats at the Notre Dame stadium and the removal of considerable parking space closer to the stadium, the Midwest Province is collaborating with the University of Notre Dame by leasing frontage along U.S. 31/33 for parking during home football games this season.

Though receiving compensation for the leasing of the property, the Brothers will in no way be responsible for any aspect of organizing or supervising the parking. This task will be handled by an agency hired by the University, and the University will bear full responsibility for security, insurance, etc.

An **ENTRANCE PASS** is required for access to the Holy Cross Brothers Center property. Passes can be obtained through one of the following: **Br. Donald Gibbs** (for those outside the Notre Dame area), **Br. Richard Gilman** (Holy Cross College), **Br. Joseph Fox** (the Center), **Br. Thomas Shaughnessy** (Dujarie House), or **Br. Donald Allen** (Columba Hall).

These are *season* passes and can be re-used at subsequent games. If you obtain such a pass, please return it before leaving the area to the person from whom you got it.

If in the process of arriving at the Brothers Center property you find yourself caught up in traffic routed off Angela through St. Joseph High School property, you can, if you have a pass displayed on the dashboard, continue north by means of the railway right of way to the Center area. *It is not advised, however, that you plan to enter this way.*

As in previous years, the police will not permit a left turn off U.S. 31/33 onto the Center property at the main entrance. You have to approach from the north and turn right into the Center.

Traffic lights have been installed at the intersection, even if for the purpose of facilitating traffic flow they may not be functioning on game days during peak hours. The new signals are the result of the collaborative planning and persistent effort among Holy Cross College, the Holy Cross Brothers, the WNDU Stations, and Notre Dame. The four entities shared the cost of installation. Notre Dame's engineering department contributed valuable technical planning and design service. After weeks of preparation and construction, the lights were installed and functioning 48 hours prior to the opening of the academic year.