

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

December, 1995

Br. Lewis Bertrand celebrated his 100th birthday at Dujarie House on November 30 with a festive eucharistic liturgy and reception. He had earlier been interviewed by two local television channels and had received greetings from religious and political leaders. Br. Lewis is the first Holy Cross brother ever to reach the age of 100. Members of all the U.S. provinces were in attendance.

Br. Richard Gilman successfully defended his doctoral thesis at the University of Dayton in mid-November and will receive his Ph.D. on December 16. Congratulations to Richard on his accomplishment, not an easy task while serving also as president of Holy Cross College.

Despite a slight drizzle, ground was officially broken on November 27 for the expansion/renovation project at Dujarie House. Representatives of the province, the architectural firm, the construction company and other guests were present. **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, and **Br. Thomas Shaughnessy**, director, spoke briefly. A short reception followed in the Dujarie House dining room. Footings are already being laid at the construction site.

Here are some health updates. **Br. Joseph Berg** continues through therapy to recover rapidly from the swimming accident that left him partially paralyzed. He is able to move about, take care of his own basic needs, and even drive. **Br. Joseph Chvala** remains hospitalized for treatment of the stroke he suffered several weeks ago. Eventually he will go to Dujarie House to engage in further therapy. **Br. Jerome Schwabe** had serious surgery November 14 to remove part of his pancreas and stomach to counteract the reappearance of cancer. He is currently recuperating at the Holy Cross Sisters' retirement home in Ventura. **Br. James Linscott** has gone from Columba Hall to California to be with Jerome and assist in his recovery. **Br. Flavius Ellison** underwent successful surgery on his left foot recently to deal with the effects of diabetes. He is recuperating at Dujarie House.

Br. Donald Gibbs, assistant provincial, returned November 28 from an official three-week visit to the Midwest brothers in Bangladesh. While there, Don made some presentations to the young men in various stages of formation.

Br. William Geenen leaves for Ghana December 9 to make an official visit to the District of West Africa. Returning to Notre Dame on the 27th, Br. William will depart on January 9 for Peru to attend the council of the congregation and visit Br. John Benesh, and then fly to Chile to visit Br. Donald Kuchenmeister at Hogar Santa Cruz. He returns January 26.

On November 25 St. Joseph High School won the Indiana Three-A division football championship in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, climaxing a perfect 14-0 season. **Brs. Edward Foken, Alexius Adam** and **Robert Dierker** are faculty and staff members at St. Joe's. Br. Alexius was recognized by the television commentators as an extremely organized and successful manager of athletics and equipment at the school.

Br. Frank Drury reports from Sarasota that he coordinated the administering of nearly 5,300 flu shots at the Venice branch of The Senior Friendship Centers. This number was nearly the same as last year. Donations help make the shots available to elderly people on limited income and Medicaid.

The **Marianites of Holy Cross** have notified the provincial administration of the resumption of the *International Sessions in Holy Cross Spirituality* that have been held seventeen times over the past several years and have enriched over 500 religious men and women of the Holy Cross congregations. Remarks from men in our province who have participated in previous sessions have been universally enthusiastic.

The session will be held this coming summer from *June 23 to July 7*, and the location will be the *Centre de l'Etoile*, the diocesan retreat and conference center in LeMans, France. The *Centre* was the site of the 1992 general chapter and the 1995 meeting of novice directors of the men's congregation. The *Centre* is located not far from the business district of LeMans and very close to Holy Cross residences and ministries.

Limited province budget resources are available. Also, because the session is open to every province of the men and women's congregations, we will be able to send no more than two religious from the Midwest. If more than two would like to attend, a lottery will determine the outcome.

If you are interested in investigating this renewal/enrichment program, please contact **Br. Donald Gibbs** at the provincial office *before January 31*.