

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

December 1996

November 22 saw the appearance of the seventh monograph in the series known as "Preliminary Studies in the History of the Congregation of Holy Cross in America," sponsored by the Holy Cross History Conference. *The History of the Indiana and Midwest Provinces* (Ave Maria Press, 104 pp.), was written by **Br. Philip Armstrong** and **Fr. James Connelly**, each briefly addressing the development of his province beginning with the division of the U.S. Province into two autonomous entities in 1946.

In an introduction, **Fr. Bill Blum**, archivist for the Indiana Province, notes that "the present monograph...serves as a kind of framework or backdrop to the other [earlier] studies, situating them in the broader history of the Congregation in America. Hopefully it will also lead to other more particular studies such as the ones that began the series." The first six monographs treated Holy Cross in East Africa, Oregon, Dhaka, Texas, and the Polish areas of South Bend (by **Br. Donald Stabrowski**), and the search for gold plus other western ventures.

Writing from the Marianist Community in Pittsburgh, **Br. Philip Alessandro** indicates things are going well in his first weeks of study in the culinary arts. Before those classes began, he was able to be of service in the Marianist school as a substitute teacher.

In the November issue of *News Items* mention was made of former Midwest member **Rev. Robert Vaughn**, executive director of a center for the homeless in Pompano Beach, Florida. The article described the fine work the center was doing for the homeless.

Just as the November issue went to press, another article was received headed *Homeless Center Director Resigns*. Fr. Vaughn felt he must submit his resignation as executive director because his salary and benefits were habitually being paid irregularly, at times not at all. He has taken a position at a mental health facility in Dade County and will continue to serve as deacon within the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. Although admittedly in financial straits, the center hopes to remain in operation through donations from private or corporate sources.

The October 18 issue of *The Edsman*, the school paper at St. Edward High School, Lakewood, featured a front-page article on the return of **Br. Joseph Chvala** to the faculty at St. Edward after overcoming the effects of the stroke he suffered last year.

Acknowledging that his recovery was the result of "prayer, people, and affirmation," Br. Joseph also cited his own determination to overcome the effects of the stroke. "Most people quit after they have had a stroke," he said. "I didn't. You have to get angry with yourself; make yourself do it!" Visits and letters from faculty, friends and students gave Br. Joseph the will to continue his efforts at recuperation.

Br. Joseph is currently involved with the Psychology of Testing classes and Classroom of Champions. In the future, the article relates, he hopes to teach one or two English classes.

At the 1996 University of Notre Dame Alumni Association's September Conference on Excellence in Teaching, Br. Joseph was one of 50 teachers nationally recognized for his "singular contribution to the education of youth." Also, thanks to several alumni of St. Edward, the *Brother Joseph Chvala, C.S.C., English Scholarship* was established. It will be granted annually

to a needy incoming freshman talented in English. And at the November 19 St. Edward Alumni Recognition Dinner Br. Joseph was presented with the *Br. Thomas Henning Eagle Award* for his outstanding accomplishments over the years as a nationally recognized exceptional teacher.

The Marianites of Holy Cross have notified the provincial administration that there will be a **1997 International Session in Holy Cross Spirituality**, the two-week heritage session attended in 1996 by **Brs. Donald Allen** and **George Klawitter** (as noted in the November *News Items*) in LeMans, France. In 1997 there will be only one session--from *June 22 to July 6*.

As before, the Midwest Province will sponsor two of its members as participants. If more than two members apply for the grants, a lottery will once again be used to determine who goes. However, we are reminded that the 1997 provincial chapter runs from June 15-20, and the jubilee celebrations are held on June 21.

Open to the men and women of all the congregations in Holy Cross, the session's purpose is "to discover the roots of our common heritage as members of Holy Cross as well as plan for the future in the light of this heritage." Dialogue, conferences, and reflection on key persons in the foundation of Holy Cross and on Holy Cross spirituality are highlighted by visiting sites that "have a significance relative to our heritage" as part of a process of examining "what is needed to make us more effective in mission today."

The session is held at the *Centre de l'Etoile*, the LeMans diocesan retreat center located close by the provincial house/novitiate of the Holy Cross men's French Province. Animators for the sessions are **Sr. Judith Coreil, M.S.C., Br. Joel Giallanza, C.S.C., Sr. Mary Kay Kinberger, M.S.C., Sr. Lucie Germain, C.S.C., Fr. Jacques Grise, C.S.C., Fr. Bernard Lafreniere, C.S.C., and Sr. Mary Louise Gude, C.S.C.**

Province members interested in attending this session should contact **Br. Donald Gibbs**, assistant provincial, *in writing before December 31, 1996. Unless you submit your name specifically for this purpose you will not be eligible for selection in a lottery.* If a lottery is necessary, the names of the two whose names are drawn will be notified early in January so they may begin making arrangements.

The assisted living facility, for which ground was broken on October 21, continues to progress despite the early arrival of persistently cold and wet weather at Notre Dame. **Br. John May**, liaison between the provincial administration and the architects/contractors, notes that the footings have been laid, concrete block walls are being erected on the south wing of the building, and a cellar is being developed on the site formerly occupied by the Dujarie House garage and south parking area. Completion of the building is expected within another year.

Br. Ralph Baird is once again a member of the Midwest Province. For health reasons he had to leave Bangladesh to benefit from the special care he could not receive there. The St. Joseph Vice Provincial, Br. Bijoy Rodrigues, his council and the other religious expressed regrets that Br. Ralph had to leave them after so many years of exceptional presence and service to the community and the people of Bangladesh, but understood the reasons that made his remaining there impossible. The superior general announced his approval of the transfer near the end of November.

The Midwest again welcomes Br. Ralph. He is residing at Columba Hall and is currently assisting Br. John Kuhn, archivist, in entering essential information onto the computer.