

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

February, 1996

Br. William Geenen arrived back in the United States late in January after travelling to Lima, Peru, for meetings of the council of the congregation and a visit with **Br. John Benesh**, principal of the *Fe y Alegria* school in Lima. Afterward, Br. William went on to Santiago, Chile, to visit **Br. Donald Kuchenmeister**, director of the Hogar Santa Cruz orphanage.

On his way to the council of the congregation, **Br. Bijoy Rodrigues**, vice provincial of the St. Joseph Vice Province in Bangladesh, stopped at Notre Dame for some days. He spent time visiting with brothers formerly in Bangladesh: **Br. Hobart Pieper**, **Br. Brian Lyon**, **Br. Liguori Denier**, and **Br. Eligius Ruscik**, all of Columba Hall. While Br. Bijoy was at Notre Dame, word came of the death in Dhaka of **Fr. Charles Gillespie** on January 5 of a heart attack. Fr. Gillespie was buried in the Tejgoan cemetery on the 6th.

On February 3, a local celebration was staged by **Msgr. James Peterson** and the Diocesan Lodge of the diocese of Erie, to honor **Br. Bernard Mosier** on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his profession of vows. The event was held at St. Thomas Church, Corry, Pennsylvania. **Br. Donald Gibbs** represented the provincial administration.

The next day, February 4, at St. Hedwig's Church in South Bend, a family celebration of the 50th anniversary of profession was held for **Br. Just Paczesny**. Many brothers from the South Bend area attended the mass and dinner at the parish to honor Br. Just.

On the health update scene, the news is universally good. **Br. Jerome Schwabe** arrived at Dujarie House in early January from California and is undergoing various forms of treatment to counteract the cancer that prompted serious surgery in mid-November. **Br. Joseph Chvala** continues through regular therapy and personal determination to recuperate from his stroke. He is up and about and is working diligently on regaining strength on his right side. **Br. Joseph Berg** continues to recuperate from the beach accident that caused some paralysis on one side. Joe is walking with a cane, is driving, and was expecting to be back at work sometime in January. **Br. Flavius Ellison** returned to Columba Hall from Dujarie House after recuperating from surgery performed on his left foot. **Br. Frederick McGlynn** in Cape Coast is again teaching Sixth Form mathematics at St. Augustine's Secondary School after having delayed by a few weeks his return to Ghana following heart bypass surgery last summer.

Br. Thomas Dillman finished his leave at home in early January and returned to Monrovia, Liberia, to continue work at St. Patrick's High School. While in the U.S., Tom had a chance to talk to students of Reitz Memorial High School about conditions in Liberia and to raise both funds and materials in the Evansville area for use at St. Patrick's.

Though St. Joseph Farm has formally ceased functioning as a South-West Province operation, four brothers remain there helping to maintain the residence and assisting the farmer who leases the arable land. Among the four are Midwesterners **Br. Albert Kern** and **Br. Gregory Teodecki**.

The second planning meeting for the 1997 provincial chapter will take place at the provincial house on Saturday, February 17. **Br. David Martin** is chairman of the committee appointed by the provincial to initiate the organization of the chapter.

On Saturday, April 20, the provincial council will host all of our Holy Cross administrators and trustees of institutions in a meeting at LeMans Academy to discuss and take action on the intent of the 1994 chapter goals relative to the schools. **Br. Donald Gibbs**, assistant provincial, is the convener of the meeting.

The team of Holy Cross men and women who facilitate a collaborative response to the Church's call for justice and are known as *Holy Cross Convergence for Justice* are sponsoring "a reflective and participative retreat on the spiritual and practical dimensions of being *people of peace*." The retreat will be held from August 2-8, 1996, at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and will be facilitated by **Constance Kozel, R.S.M.**, and **Jim Doyle, C.S.C.**, assisted by additional resource persons.

The retreat will draw from Western and Eastern spiritual traditions, and will provide time for prayer, reflection and discussion. It will also offer an opportunity to develop practical skills in peacemaking and mediation and will feature a variety of approaches, such as lectures, reading materials, videos, audiotapes, and role playing. All activities are on a volunteer basis. The cost of the retreat is \$270.00, including retreat, meals, an air-conditioned private room and shared bath facilities. Registration must be completed by May 1.

If you are interested in this retreat, contact **Br. Donald Gibbs**, assistant provincial, for more details.

Considerable progress has been made in the construction of the new wing at *Dujarie House* despite the consistently cold and snowy winter. The general contractor, Verkler, Inc., has raised the concrete block exterior walls and faced them with brick, and has completed roofing the structure enough to permit work on the interior to continue throughout the winter.

Br. William Geenen and **Br. John May** have found response to the first issue of the province development newsletter, *BROTHERS*, to be very supportive and encouraging. Many recipients have written or called to express their pleasure in being contacted and put in touch once more with Holy Cross.

Your help is needed in providing news items involving or concerning you that would be of interest to others in the province and could be included in future editions of *Midwest Province News Items*. Please contact **Br. Donald Gibbs** (219) 239-8301, or **Br. Philip Armstrong** (219) 239-8335, by phone, FAX (219) 289-0487, or letter.