

## MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

July 1996

Over one hundred members of the province participated in the June 21-22 gathering at the Holy Cross Brothers Center to engage in planning for the 1997 provincial chapter.

A social opened the occasion on the evening of Thursday, June 20, hosted by the Columba Hall local community.

On Friday the 21st, a full day of meetings organized by the chapter planning committee, chaired by **Br. David Martin**, began after morning prayer in the Holy Cross College Driscoll Auditorium. The reflective ambient was meant to carry forward the prayerful atmosphere experienced throughout the 1994 chapter at Loyola U. in Chicago. The conveners of the various 1994 chapter work groups gave short reports on the action taken or proposed by their committees since the chapter. At 11:00 **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, presented a fascinating report on the activities of the provincial administration since the chapter.

After lunch at the Center the meeting convened again in the College auditorium and small groups were formed for brainstorming on possible agenda areas for the 1997 chapter. The results were later shared with the group as a whole. Each participant then had an opportunity to determine his own three or four top priority topics and note them on special forms. These priorities were carried to the altar at the offertory during the 5:00 p.m. Eucharistic liturgy in the Center chapel, at which **Br. Tom Maddix** gave an excellent homily.

After supper the chapter planning committee collated and synthesized the agenda priority suggestions. A social hosted by the Center community closed the day's activities.

On Saturday the 22nd the participants gathered once more in the College auditorium to hear the results of the chapter agenda priority survey taken the previous day. Nine principal topic areas were surfaced through the process. Participants were asked, in the light of the desire expressed by the last chapter that the membership be personally involved, to consider which of the nine agenda areas they would like personally to concentrate on as preparation for the 1997 chapter continues, and each person signed up under one topic. *Those unable to be present for the weekend will soon have an opportunity to suggest possible further agenda items and to choose one agenda area on which they would like to concentrate during the coming year of preparation for the June 15-20 chapter.* The input and participation of everyone is needed.

The planning committee also proposed a method by which a *steering committee* for the chapter can be organized. Simply stated, *each province member will be asked to nominate eight persons for the steering committee, including oneself if so inclined.* These nominations will be returned to **Br. Donald Gibbs** at the provincial office by July 15. Shortly after that, *an election ballot will be sent to the province membership, and members will vote for eight of the names on the ballot, returning the ballot before August 26 to the provincial office.* On September 21 the chapter planning committee will meet at Notre Dame with the newly elected steering committee to hand over the process of further planning and the conduct of the chapter next year.

**You will be contacted in the near future regarding both the choosing of an interest group and the nomination of members for a steering committee.**

The meeting ended before 10:30 a.m. and attention was turned exclusively to the celebration of the province jubilees, which began after lunch with a beautiful and exciting Eucharist at Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus at Notre Dame, followed immediately by a

reception and dinner at the St. Mary's College dining hall. **Br. Daniel Kane** coordinated the outstandingly beautiful instrumental and choral music for the jubilee celebration.

Both **Br. William Geenen** and **Br. David Martin** were lavish in their thanks to those who had contributed to the excellent organization and carrying out of the weekend's activities.

During his report to the province on Friday the 21st at the gathering, **Br. William Geenen** announced that **Br. John Tryon** had accepted an appointment as director of vocations for the Midwest Province, effective July 1. Br. William thanked **Br. Raymond Papenfuss**, who has held that position since 1987, and announced that Br. Raymond has been asked to spend full time from now on as Mission Promoter for the Midwest Province, a position he has also held since 1987.

As he spoke to the gathering at the Center, **Br. William Geenen** noted the presence among the participants of three former provincials of the Midwest Province, **Br. Charles Krupp, Br. Philip Armstrong, and Br. Thomas Moser**. Br. William thanked them for their leadership between the years 1968 and 1994 and acknowledged that he now has a far better understanding of what it means to bear the responsibility of the office of provincial.

#### Other Items

This is a second reminder that *The Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist* (Fr. Peter Rocca, General Editor, Paulist Press, publisher) that takes effect as of the First Sunday of Advent (December 1, 1996) will be *available to province members this year only through direct order* of copies from Fr. Rocca @ \$7.00 (includes postage and handling). Send your order *no later than October 15, 1996*, to Fr. Peter Rocca, Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

**Br. James Sullivan** received a masters in Sacred Theology from the Chicago Theological Union on June 15. **Br. John Tryon** received a masters in creative writing from DePaul University in Chicago, also on June 15. Congratulations to both brothers upon their accomplishments.

**Br. William Dygert**, who has been named the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island, will be handing over coordination of the maintenance of the province cottage near Coloma to **Br. Richard Gilson** of the Brothers Center. **Br. Donald Bailer**, provincial steward, has expressed his deep appreciation of Br. William's concern in looking after the cottage and Br. Richard's willingness to take on the responsibility. The regular policies regarding the use of the cottage, including making reservations for its use through the provincial office, remain in effect.

**Br. Edward Dailey**, secretary to the superior general in Rome, had prostate surgery recently at Salvator Mundi hospital. According to a report from **Fr. Bob Antonelli**, archivist, and **Fr. Richard Zang**, accountant, Ed was doing well in recovery but was anxious to get back from liquids only to a proper pasta diet.

## MIDWEST PROVINCE JUBILARIANS

1996

### Celebrating 70, 60, 50 and 40 Years of Vowed Commitment

The Midwest Province is honored to commemorate the anniversaries of first profession of vows of ten of its members.

#### **Br. Bernard Mosier -- 70 years**

Br. Bernard Mosier's impressive presence and ministry for the past thirteen years and more in the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania, began at a stage in his life when most people, religious included, are considering retirement.

Born in Kersey, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1908, Br. Bernard (formerly known as Br. Bernardine) joined Holy Cross in 1925 as a novice. In 1926 he pronounced his first vows and three years later was assigned to teach at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. He returned to Notre Dame to study during the 1932-1933 academic year, then went back for another year to Cathedral. That assignment was followed by a year at Sacred Heart College, Watertown, Wisconsin, and by ten years as a missionary in Bangladesh, then known as East Bengal, teaching at St. Gregory High School in Dhaka and at Holy Cross High School in Bandura. During his time in Bangladesh, Br. Bernard became proficient in the local language, Bangla, a gift he retained and only recently put to use in translating a book from Bangla into English.

In 1945 at the end of the war, Br. Bernard returned to the U.S. to earn a masters degree at Notre Dame. In 1946 he was assigned to Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, and then from 1947-1950 he was on the faculty of St. Joseph's Juniorate, Valatie, New York. From 1950-1953 he was assistant superior at Sacred Heart Juniorate, Watertown, Wisconsin, then served a six-month stint on the faculty of Notre Dame High

School in West Haven, Connecticut.

From there he came to Fr. Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he remained from 1953-1980, his longest assignment and surely a very influential ministry to the young men there over the years. In 1980 Br. Bernard "retired" to the Holy Cross Brothers Center at Notre Dame, but in 1982 began an experimental presence to men in recovery in the Diocese of Erie, an experiment which has turned into a permanent and most valued ministry to this day. He says, "I give the men an example of stability. I'm always available to them. We treat them with respect and try to give them unconditional love. Love is the answer."

There is no question this philosophy has been the foundation of Br. Bernard's apostolic life wherever he has served over the past seventy years.

#### **Br. Camillus Kirsch -- 60 years**

Br. Camillus was born William Kirsch in Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 26, 1916. Eighteen years later he became a novice in Holy Cross, and he made his first profession of vows on August 16, 1936.

After studies he was asked to become a faculty member at Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana, a position he held for only one year before he returned to Notre Dame to do graduate study for a year, then moved on to the University of Chicago for another year to continue graduate studies in social work.

From 1943-1945 he was assistant

field director for Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1945 he became field director for a period of two years, then resumed his former position for another five years until 1952. That year he became assistant director at Boysville of Michigan, Clinton, Michigan, but returned to Gibault in 1953 for another six years at the boys' home. In 1959 he went for a year to teach on the faculty at Cathedral High School in his home town of Indianapolis, but returned to Gibault in 1960 and remained there until 1972.

For thirteen years Br. Camillus lived and worked in Indianapolis as psychiatric social worker for the Central State Hospital in that city, remaining, however, a trustee on the board of Gibault School. In late 1985 he retired, but three years later he took up a position as assistant to the chaplain at the Americana Health Care Center in Indianapolis.

In presenting an award recently to Br. Camillus, Gibault officials noted, "The *excellence* that exists at Gibault today is a direct result of the high level of professionalism and commitment that was established by Br. Camillus and his colleagues during the period of time from 1934 until 1981 when the Brothers of Holy Cross from Notre Dame administered the school....It was a period of significant growth, change and improvement for Gibault." This was a fitting remark in describing a man who spent twenty-seven years on campus and another several years on the board and represented all the Holy Cross religious who served with distinction at Gibault.

### **Br. Just Paczesny -- 50 years**

Born in South Bend, Indiana, on June 13, 1926, Br. Just's formidable list of community involvements more closely resembles the history of the congregation in the United States than the chronicle of one man's apostolic activity, but it highlights the openness and availability, not to mention the

effectiveness, of the man celebrating his 50th anniversary of first profession of vows.

As Eugene Paczesny, Br. Just joined Holy Cross as a novice in 1945 and made his profession a year later. His first assignment was as a teacher at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, where he remained for five years, the final two as assistant superior and assistant principal. From 1954-1956 he taught at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California, and when the provinces split in 1956 he returned to the midwest to teach for a year at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. The next two years he was assistant principal at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, and then he became assistant superior at Sacred Heart Juniorate, Watertown, Wisconsin, a position he held for two years, at which time he went to Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana, for three years to serve as superior and principal.

Br. Just returned to Holy Trinity in Chicago in 1964, again as superior and principal, from 1964-1968. That year he became assistant superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Chicago, but remained as superior of the brothers at Trinity.

In 1970 Br. Just responded to a need in the Gary Diocese and became principal of Marquette High School in Michigan City, Indiana. Three years later he went to the University of Notre Dame as rector of Alumni Hall, then of Flanner Hall. In 1975 he became vice president for student affairs at Notre Dame, a position he held until 1978. That year he was named administrative assistant in the diocesan department of education in Phoenix, Arizona, and a year later he became the vicar for Christian formation in the Diocese of Phoenix.

After several months' sabbatical, in August of 1981 Br. Just became dean of students at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1986. At that time he became assistant director of Dujarie House, the brothers' infirmary at

Notre Dame. In July 1989 Br. Just retired to Casa Santa Cruz in Phoenix, but came back north to serve at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, for several months. In December of 1990 he was named director of admissions at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, a position he held for two years. He returned to retirement in Phoenix until 1995, at which time he came back to Notre Dame to help in the assisted living program at Columba Hall on the campus.

Wherever he has served, Br. Just has brought humor, inarguable logic, orderliness, and determination, and he has been nowhere, for whatever length of time, that has not benefitted immensely from his presence.

### **Br. Flavius Ellison -- 50 years**

Born James Ellison on March 28, 1927, Br. Flavius took the habit on August 15, 1945 and pronounced his first vows in 1946.

He spent one year in the scholasticate at Notre Dame, then from 1947-1949 was on the staff of the Community House (now Columba Hall) across the lake. From 1949-1960 he assisted in the post office on the campus of the university, the last three years as assistant superior of the brothers' residence at Columba Hall. In 1960 Br. Flavius began working for the Midwest Province's Dujarie Press, whose offices were housed at Columba Hall, and in 1962 he became responsible for the Community Stores in Columba Hall.

His interest in the welfare of the mentally challenged led him in 1968 to intern at and be on the faculty of St. Coletta's School in Jefferson, Wisconsin. After a year there he returned to South Bend and assumed direction of Corvilla, Inc., a home for mentally challenged persons, a position he capably and lovingly handled until 1984 when he was asked to undertake the direction of the Midwest Province's Association of St. Joseph, a large group of lay people who support the life and mission of

the province through their prayer and sacrifice. Br. Flavius has been in charge of the Association of St. Joseph since that time.

While at Dujarie Press, Br. Flavius was one of the more prolific writers of books for young people on the lives of saints and holy persons. As director of Corvilla, Br. Flavius earned the following comment in a publication: "Thanks to his affability and enthusiasm for the work, along with his fine decorum as a Holy Cross religious, Br. Flavius has in a short time become well known to people in South Bend who work with or help support the mentally handicapped. Recently he was appointed to the State of Indiana's planning committee for the mentally retarded."

Though spent largely at Columba Hall on the campus of Notre Dame, Br. Flavius's life has been one of cheerful and generous outreach to others in a spirit of total dedication to his calling as a religious of Holy Cross.

### **Br. Julian Przybyla -- 40 years**

Br. Julian hails from Rogers City, Michigan, where he was born on January 6, 1936. He became a novice on January 25, 1955, and made his first profession of vows a year later.

All of Br. Julian's first twenty-five years were involved with food preparation in the province. For several months in 1956, after his profession, he cooked at Dujarie Hall at Notre Dame. In August of that year he went to Sacred Heart Military Academy, Watertown, Wisconsin, to serve in food preparation until 1958. That year he came back to Notre Dame and worked in the kitchen at Columba Hall for several months, at which time he moved across the lake to the Dujarie Hall scholasticate to cook for a year. The yo-yo reeled back toward Columba Hall in 1959 and Br. Julian found himself once again in the familiar kitchen there. In 1960 Holy Trinity High School brothers' residence

stood in need of someone to cook, and Br. Julian answered the call. He remained there for eight years. In 1968 he came to the recently constructed Holy Cross Brothers Center at Notre Dame to work in the food service department. But two years later, just down the drive was Dujarie House, the brothers' infirmary, which required a cook, so Br. Julian moved into that position and undertook to prepare the vastly varying menus needed by the patients and staff.

At that point in 1980, professed nearly twenty-five years, Br. Julian saw a major change called for in his life. He left food preparation and became involved in maintenance work at the Brothers Center, but within months his services were demanded at Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois, as a maintenance person. He remained in that position until 1993 when he moved outside into grounds work at the school, a task he continues to fulfill with good natured enthusiasm.

Br. Julian enjoys being outside and experiencing a sense of freedom in his surroundings. The change from cooking to maintenance kept him mostly indoors, but the move to grounds work has been liberating. An avid sports fan, he also golfs, a sport that certainly brings him out of doors into attractive surroundings. His quiet but effective contributions to the province missions and men have been outstanding over the years, and there are few who have not benefitted from his dedication.

#### **Br. James Kinsella -- 40 years**

Born on September 1, 1929, in Richmond, Indiana, Br. James entered the novitiate on August 15, 1955, and made first profession of vows in 1956.

His first assignment was to study at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, where he spent only a year before being transferred to teach at St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio. He remained there for

three years, and in 1960 he was assigned to the faculty of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. After only one year there, Br. James moved to Boyssville of Michigan as a faculty member and remained there for seven years.

In 1968 Br. James joined the faculty of Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Illinois, a position he held until 1975, when he undertook a two-year stint as a staff member on Silver Lake Farm, the province farm attached to Le Mans Academy at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, the former novitiate of the brothers.

In 1977 Br. James returned to the classroom in Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana, where he stayed for three years. In 1980 he was assigned once more to St. Edward High School in Lakewood and spent the next seven years there. In 1987 Br. James rejoined the staff at Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, a position he retains at this time.

As noted in a province newsletter some years ago, Br. James "is at home in the classroom, behind a tractor at Silver Lake Farm, or admiring a set of finely crafted silver in some exclusive shop." Br. James admits admiring fine craftsmanship and has an eclectic interest extending to many facets of life. But "perhaps the nicest tribute one could pay to Br. James is to say that he likes doing things for others." This is an honest assessment of the expansive, witty, and dedicated spirit of Br. James.

#### **Br. Thomas Mittendorf -- 40 years**

Br. Thomas was born on January 4, 1937, in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended the brothers' school in Lakewood, St. Edward High School, and entered the novitiate for Holy Cross on August 15, 1955, pronouncing his first vows a year later.

After two years of post-novitiate training, Br. Thomas began working as a clerk in the Notre Dame Post Office, a

ministry staffed by the brothers from the time of its establishment on the campus. He spent ten years in this position, then moved across the road to the provincial treasurer's office in the provincial residence, where he provided valuable service for thirteen years.

At this point ill health required Br. Thomas to relinquish a full time position, but he retired to Columba Hall and continued to assist in various ways, including the delivery of campus mail and other communications between houses of the province in the Notre Dame area.

The late Br. Majella Hegarty wrote about Br. Thomas, "I always found him a man with a fund of humor, and an appreciation of the humorous situation that helps a man fight melancholy with a funny remark and fight defeat with a defiant (even if rueful) grin and shake of the head...that is what is deservedly called 'class'."

As with the other jubliarians, Br. Thomas has been and remains a man in generous service to others.

#### **Br. Walter Duda -- 40 years**

World War II and post-war adjustments back to civilian life convinced Br. Walter that a far better choice would be to answer the call to join the Congregation of Holy Cross. Born in Chicago on January 6, 1923, Br. Walter served in the South Pacific during the war, and worked for several years following that conflict. Then in August of 1955 he entered St. Joseph's Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and made his first profession of vows in 1956.

For two years after profession he worked on grounds and maintenance at Dujarie Hall, the scholasticate for the brothers at Notre Dame, then moved across the lake to the Community Infirmary to do similar work for a short time. In February 1959 he was assigned to the staff of Sacred Heart Military Academy, Watertown, Wisconsin, where he remained only until January of the following

year. At that time he was asked to be a canvasser for subscriptions to the *Ave Maria*, a Holy Cross congregational periodical. For eight years Br. Walter plied the roads of the U.S. to find potential subscribers and to renew older subscriptions. No one denies the sacrificial nature of this element of Holy Cross ministry, and subsequent reflection on the work of the canvassers in Holy Cross has acknowledged the magnificent contribution they made to the overall mission of the congregation.

After completing his term as canvasser, Br. Walter came back to Columba Hall at Notre Dame and was a member of the staff there for a year. In 1969 he began working as a clerk in the Notre Dame Post Office, and in 1972 he went west across the highway to St. Mary's College to serve in the post office there. In 1973 he returned to staff work at Columba Hall for a year, but in 1974 he was lured back to his home area to do ground and maintenance work at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Illinois, a position he held until 1995 when he retired to serve the brothers' local community at the school there.

Br. Walter has been a man dedicated to the service of others throughout his religious life, a dedication acknowledged by everyone with whom he has come into contact over the years. The variety of ministries he has engaged in have challenged him to respond, and he has always done so with the same quiet but witty reserve that speaks much of the undeniable substance within the man.

#### **Br. Ronald LaLonde -- 40 years**

Br. Ronald was born on April 15, 1932, in Detroit, Michigan. After working in the auto industry for a short time and serving in the armed forces during the Korean conflict, he entered the novitiate on August 15, 1955, and made his first profession of vows in 1956.

After a year in post-novitiate formation in Austin, Texas, Br. Ronald began his teaching and counseling career at Cathedral High School, Indianapolis, Indiana. He remained there until 1960, when he was assigned to St. Joseph's High School, South Bend, Indiana. After only a year there, he went to Catholic Central High School in Monroe, Michigan, but again after only a year he was asked to return to the school in Indianapolis. This time he remained there for eight years.

In 1970 Br. Ronald headed back to Michigan and another stint, this time a much longer one, at Catholic Central in Monroe. He was there at the time the school merged with the I.H.M. community's girls' academy down the street and became St. Mary/Catholic Central High School of Monroe.

In 1987 Br. Ronald began work as a faculty member at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. In 1991 he became director of attendance at the school. He has remained at Gabriel Richard since that time.

Br. Ronald has been no stranger to outstanding yearbook preparation, and has been an avid follower of the various schools' athletic teams. He is quiet but generous and supportive of others, qualities that have endeared him to many over the years.

### **Br. James Bagans -- 40 years**

A product of Catholic Central High School in Monroe, Michigan, Br. James was born on March 30, 1937, in Dearborn, Michigan. He entered the novitiate at Rolling Prairie on August 15, 1955, and made his profession the following year.

He attended St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and earned a bachelors degree there. In 1958 he was assigned to St. Charles Boys Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he served on the staff as a counselor until 1964. Then for three years he was on

the faculty at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio, and for a year on the faculty of Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois.

In 1968 Br. James moved to Lakewood, Ohio, where he joined the faculty and counseling staff at St. Edward High School, a position he has held ever since.

Br. James has been attracted to the contemplative side of the province's usually hectic active life in ministry, and he uses every occasion to engage in quiet pasttimes such as gourmet cooking and landscaping or growing things. As was said of him in an earlier province publication, "he nurtures an instinctive intimacy with the earth and nature."

Br. James's image as "always cool, calm, and collected," a "man at peace with himself and with the Lord," is his trademark, one recognized by those both within and outside Holy Cross who know him best.