

## MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

November 1996

On Monday, November 21, at 11:00 a.m. a brief ceremony saw ground broken for the new Assisted Living Center being constructed adjacent to Dujarie House on the Holy Cross Brothers Center property at Notre Dame. **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, remarked that this ceremony celebrated the beginning of the second stage of development in what is hoped to be a much larger expression of the brothers' ministry, both internal and external, that is planned for the property. He called on **Bl. Br. Andre Bessette**, in whose honor a garden at the new facility will be planted, to intercede for the safety of everyone involved in the construction and for a smooth completion of both the funding and the work over the next year.

**Br. Camillus Kirsch** was remembered recently in *The Hoosier Knight*, the publication of the Indiana Knights of Columbus, by a Gibault alumnus who returned to visit the campus. Some excerpts follow.

"Just the other day ISIS therapist Joyce Lakey noticed a gentleman walking around Gibault's campus. She asked him if she could direct him somewhere.

"No," he said, 'I just want to look around. I was here about 50 years ago.'

"**Ted Biggs** is now 65 years old and is a retired TV anchor and news director from Little Rock, Arkansas. He's also a fourth degree Knight in Little Rock.

"This was not his first time back. He had been back several years ago and visited with Br. Camillus. Not knowing that Br. Camillus was retired and was no longer at Gibault, he had hoped to visit with him once again.

"Instead, Ted stepped into Elaine Pies' English classroom and learned a little bit about the Gibault of today. He liked what he saw.

"He talked some of what it was like when he was here in 1947 as a 16-year-old boy. He worked on the farm, cutting the corn stalks into silage. He played basketball and remembers 'getting decked' as a boxer. He remembers ice skating on Alerding Pond. He was an altar boy and remembers with great fondness serving at the Carmelite Monastery across the street.

"He said he held the brothers in reverence and thought they were all 'brilliant.' He had a special fondness for Br. Camillus. 'Br. Camillus endeared himself to me,' Mr. Biggs said. 'Br. Camillus was refereeing a basketball game that I was playing in and he threw me out for rough play. After the game he came to the locker room. That's the way he was--always concerned with the boys. I was crying, and he asked me why. I told him because Br. Thomas would give me 'the board' for getting thrown out. I never did, though, and I think Br. Camillus interceded for me.'

"The former student noted that the brothers were all strict disciplinarians, yet remained fair. 'I don't remember ever feeling unloved or uncared for here,' he said."

**Br. Tom Maddix** sends along news of his activities. In May, Tom presented a workshop at two conferences in western Canada. He participated in September in the Board of Directors Workshop sponsored by the Eastern Province of Brothers in Flushing.

The September/October 1996 edition of *Health Progress*, journal of the Catholic Health Association of the U.S., has an article by Tom entitled, "Heeding God's Voice," an adaptation of an article Tom had written for the Forward of "Spirituality and Leadership: On Holy Ground" for

the Center for Leadership Excellence at the Catholic Health Association.

Through St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta, Tom offers a virtual learning graduate level course entitled, "Taking a Chance on God: Major Themes in Christian Spirituality."

Talk show host **Phil Donahue** stopped in at Dujarie House on September 28 to pay a visit to his St. Edward classmate, **Br. Tom Shaughnessy**, director, and **Br. Paul Schwoyer**, Phil's band teacher. It is reported that Phil apologized to Br. Paul for not having visited him sooner. Br. Paul suggested to Phil that "you could at least have written!" It was at an earlier award dinner in Lakewood that **Br. William Geenen** invited Phil to drop in for the visit while in the Notre Dame area for a speech.

Both **Br. Donald Allen** and **Br. George Klawitter** sent glowing reports of their experience of the Heritage Session in LeMans, France, during the early part of the summer. Each was grateful for and emphasized the value of the on-site immersion in Holy Cross roots and tradition through lectures and visits, and the wider exposure to the family of brothers, sisters and priests that comprises Holy Cross.

Don and George took advantage of being in Europe to visit other locations. George was primarily interested in French sites related to the history of the Brothers of St. Joseph. Donald flew down to Tiberias, Israel, where he "house sat" at the Mater Ecclesiae Center for the Holy Cross Sisters on leave prior to beginning their final renewal session for Third World religious.

A newspaper article on September 23 in *The Pompano Pelican*, Pompano Beach, Florida, told of the excellent work the St. Laurence Chapel Caring Center for the Homeless was doing in the city. The executive director is **Rev. Robert Vaughn**, Episcopalian priest, formerly a member of the Midwest Province.

The Center, open since 1990, has six paid staff members, but receives no government funding and must rely heavily on volunteers and contributions. The article highlighted a benefit being sponsored on behalf of the Caring Center for the Homeless.

**Br. Thomas Corcoran** of Columba Hall had an article in the *South Bend Tribune's* "Michiana Point of View" on Sunday, October 6 in which he reflected on the needs of school systems today. He wrote in response to a column by David S. Broder of the *Washington Post* a few weeks earlier.

During the summer on July 14 an article by reporter Gene Stowe appeared in the *Tribune* about Br. Thomas' continuing volunteer work in teaching English as a second language at Ivy Tech in South Bend. He quoted Tom as saying, "One skill is just repetition. You've got to have a lot of patience with these people. You teach it again and again and again. St. Thomas said repetition is the mother of learning, and I believe it. I've spent my whole life in education and thoroughly enjoyed it. My body might be crippled up, but I can still think." No one familiar with Tom's work in volunteer services will argue with that assertion.

The invitation to submit creative writing with a view to its inclusion in a province publication sometime in the near future has resulted in only one or two contributions to date, but the offer is still open. Send brief manuscripts to **Br. Philip Armstrong** at P.O. Box 460.