

## MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

October 1996

After three years of study at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, **Br. Sylvester Quaye** of the District of West Africa was awarded a Masters in Business Administration degree on August 17.

Br. Sylvester has since returned to Ghana, where he has begun teaching at St. John's Secondary School in Sekondi and assisting with the aspirancy program at St. Joseph Hall on the campus. Prior to his studies at St. Ed's, Br. Sylvester had spent a year at St. Louis University preparing for formation work.

Congratulations to Br. Sylvester, whose return to Ghana will contribute substantially to the broadening of the range of apostolic ministry the district provides.

**Br. Richard Kearney** informed the provincial office in mid-September that to offset potential major cuts in service to the poor that would have been caused by a heavily decreased subsidy from United Way, the Diocese of Oakland gave Catholic Charities a grant of fifty thousand dollars, enabling the continuation of assistance to young persons in need of the agency's counseling services.

Br. Richard, in his twelfth year at Catholic Charities in Oakland, has been promoted from Director of Counseling Services to Director of Community and Parish Services, which means the addition of four departments to his responsibilities.

From the *African Faith and Justice Network* publication for August 1996 comes a quotation from a statement issued by the Catholic bishops of Liberia. "Due to the prevailing and uncertain situation in Liberia the Catholic Church cannot adequately operate its institutions until such time that the situation improves and warrants the rehabilitation and operation of those institutions."

St. Patrick's High School in Monrovia is, of course, among those institutions referred to by the bishops. **Br. Thomas Dillman** remains in Ghana, assisting **Br. Jerome Kroetsch** at the Skills Project and awaiting word from the Liberian bishops regarding the opportune time to begin the work of rehabilitation to which they refer in their statement. When it does begin, it will be a formidable task.

On a less serious note, the following appeared in the September 1996 edition of the *Maryknoll* magazine. The author is **Br. John Harris**, on contract with Maryknoll for several years working in Kathmandu, Nepal. John writes: "Visiting a rustic village in Nepal, I entered a restaurant for an evening meal. Inside, two carved, wooden doors caught my attention. They were marked with signs in English: WOMEN; MEN.

"I headed for the men's room only to be intercepted by a smiling Sherpa hostess. She offered me a flashlight despite the fact that the place had electricity. Passing through the door, I had to descend some steps and found myself in an open, spacious field. With a full moon rising over the towering mountain peak of Machapuchare, I really didn't need the flashlight after all!"

**Fr. David Guffey, C.S.C.**, new assistant rector at Moreau Seminary and formerly



director of Andre House of Hospitality in Phoenix, Arizona, sent a copy of an article that appeared in *The Catholic Sun*, the diocesan newspaper of Phoenix. The article features the ministry of **Br. James Reddy**, who helps staff the St. Joseph the Worker Job Service connected with Andre House of Hospitality. The job service helps people secure work by assisting them to prepare for interviews, upgrade their appearance, and find transportation to the job interview sites. James believes that "Forty percent of the Phoenix homeless are employable, so we are working to help them get jobs." Last year the job service helped place 360 clients. Needless to say, there is a great deal of organization and coordination required, but the full-time staff of three and the ten volunteers handle the details professionally, supported by "over 500 local individuals, corporations and foundations," according to Br. James.

In his cover letter to **Br. William Geenen**, Fr. Guffey remarked about the clear impact made by the brothers' presence in Phoenix over the years he has been there. He mentions the warm and fraternal hospitality of the late **Br. Leonard Leary**, and of **Brs. Just Paczesny** (now at Columba Hall) and **Remigius Bullinger** at Casa Santa Cruz, and the exceptional ministry being exercised by **Br. Richard Armstrong** at Andre House.

In the July/August issue of *Chaplaincy Today*, a newsletter for professional chaplains, **Br. Joseph McTaggart**, chaplain for Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California, authored an article responding to ideas on patient counseling submitted by another writer in an earlier issue of the newsletter.

The article is part of an ongoing debate among hospital chaplains that is reminiscent of the argument a generation ago among school counselors as to whether "directive" or "non-directive" counseling is preferable. Br. Joseph theorizes that there are times when patients have a right to be advised and counseled directly regarding possible consequences and alternatives. In so doing, he believes, a physician or chaplain does not violate patient autonomy, which might seem to call more for a non-directive approach, one that simply accedes to the patient's wishes. Rather, the directive approach respects patient autonomy even more by providing a wider framework of data within which the patient may arrive at decisions. The case of Dr. Jack Kevorkian has naturally impacted the field of medical ethics and the relationship of hospital chaplaincy to it. Br. Joseph concludes, "Kevorkian's antics do us no favor, but the issues he raises surely have placed this whole concern in the public's eye. We need to act now."

**Br. Maurus O'Malley** (EB) was hospitalized at St. Joseph Medical Center, South Bend, on September 26 to undergo heart bypass surgery on the 27th. He had gone in for a heart catheterization process and the doctor felt more aggressive treatment was required. Br. Maurus is a resident of Columba Hall at Notre Dame. Please remember him in your prayers.

*Brothers to Others: Our Way of Being*, a booklet of reflections by brothers on the life and work of the brothers, has made its appearance and will shortly be available to province members. The project was conceived and facilitated following the brothers' gathering last year by **Brs. John Paige (EB), John McLaughlin (SW) and Joseph McTaggart.** It was edited by **Br. George Klawitter** and produced by Br. Joseph McTaggart with the assistance of **Jane Pitz**, who did the design and illustrations.

The project was underwritten by the three provinces of brothers in the United States.