

MIDWEST PROVINCE NEWS ITEMS

September, 1996

The results of the election of Steering Committee members for the 1997 provincial chapter were announced recently. The province nominated twenty-seven candidates, then in an election ballot chose eight to form the Steering Committee.

Elected were **Brs. Kenneth Haders, Pedro Haering, David Martin, John May, Raymond Papenfuss, Philip Smith, Donald Stabrowski, and John Tryon.** Together with **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, and **Br. Paul Rahaim (EB)**, facilitator, these eight men will comprise the group that advances the chapter preparation process between now and next June, and then directs and supervises the daily functioning of the chapter once it is underway.

After consulting each individual, Br. William made official the appointments to the Steering Committee.

The newly formed Steering Committee will meet with the Chapter Planning Committee on Saturday, September 21, at 9:30 at the provincial house for the official briefing and handing over, and for the first meeting of the group.

Two committees have been formed, one representing the Holy Cross Brothers Center (as both local community and province center) and the other Holy Cross College, to discuss both general and specific matters that need detailed attention and resolution relative to the inauguration in the fall of 1997 of a residential program for the College in James Hall at the Center.

Chosen by **Br. William Geenen**, provincial, to represent the province, are **Brs. Joseph Fox, John May, Just Paczesny, and James Linscott.** Named to represent Holy Cross College are **Brs. Richard Gilman and James Bluma** and **Mr. Mark Mullaney and Mr. Christopher Ruhe.** Br. Richard is president of the College, and Br. James Bluma is Director of Student Life. Mr. Mullaney is Vice President for Finance, and Mr. Ruhe is the newly appointed Director of Residential Life for the College. Br. Joseph is superior and director of the Brothers Center, and Br. John is a resident there. Brs. Just and James Linscott reside at Columba Hall.

The Brothers Center group has met once so far. The first meeting of the combined group will be early in September when all members are in place.

Br. Thomas Dillman wrote recently from Ghana that after returning to Liberia in July for a brief two weeks, he was advised once again to leave because no work can begin on renovating the damaged Catholic schools for some months yet. Tom had gone from the U.S. to Ghana during the summer to position himself for re-entry into Liberia at the first opportunity. That chance came in July, but before mid-August he was back in Ghana.

Tom used his time in Liberia to accomplish much needed tasks, including forming a security system to protect both the St. Patrick's school property and that of the brothers. He bought supplies to store against future need, paid salaries to staff members of the school, and assisted needy persons who had been coming to the brothers for help even before the conflict.

A theft from his room deprived Br. Thomas of his passport and some money plus a number of other things he had brought back with him from the U.S. He considers his loss minor, however, contrasted with the serious deprivation afflicting the majority of Liberians. A former

teacher at St. Patrick's whom Tom met reported that everything had been taken from him a few weeks earlier except the sandals, shirt and trousers he was wearing.

Br. Thomas feels that the U.N. is serious about supporting efforts by combined African military forces to disarm the rebels and assure the return of peace to the country.

Br. Daniel Mallon, having made his first profession of vows on July 27, is now living at Columba Hall and has begun the academic year at Holy Cross College. He will engage in some apostolic ministry at **Fr. Steve Newton's** substance abuse rehabilitation program in South Bend. **Br. Larry Unfried** will be Dan's personal director as a temporarily professed brother pursuing the process of initial formation.

This is a *final* reminder to those who wish to have a copy of the ORDO for 1997. Contact **Fr. Peter Rocca** directly at Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, IN 46556, *no later than October 15* and enclose payment of \$7.00 per copy. Checks are to be made out directly to Fr. Rocca.

Br. James Greteman presented two workshops in early July at Notre Dame for the *North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics*. His topic was the building of healthy relationships. Participants came from both the United States and Canada.

Heading a column of Letters to the Editor in the *Chicago Tribune* on August 4 was a "Voice of the People" letter from **Br. Philip Smith**, president of Holy Trinity High School, telling how Trinity is addressing the plight of incoming 9th graders, assisting them to make the transition into high school successfully. Br. Philip pointed out how Trinity has traditionally been supplying the basic needs identified in a July 25 editorial, "Shedding light on the high schools," and how recent initiatives implemented at Trinity have added to the potential for making not only Trinity but any public or private school a "safe haven of real learning and self-esteem."

Br. Robert Berthiaume was profiled in the August 9 issue of the *Catholic Universe Bulletin*, official newspaper of the diocese of Cleveland, noting especially his 24 years of service at St. Edward High School in Lakewood. Earlier, on June 3, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* had included an article about **Br. Bennett Nettleton** headed, "Teacher has world in classroom." It related how Br. Bennett has collected artifacts from Asia, Africa, South America and Europe while traveling, saying that now his history lessons "are international tours." A photo shows Br. Bennett among many of the nearly 1000 instructional props he has collected.

You are again reminded that the editorial staff of the *Midwest Province News Items* depends heavily on you for timely and interesting material each month. Thanks to those who over the past year have submitted ideas, articles, or raw data. It seems the publication will be able to appear monthly, even during the summer. Drop an article, a photo, a line or two into an envelope and send it to **Br. Philip Armstrong** or **Br. Don Gibbs** at the provincial office. That's all it takes.