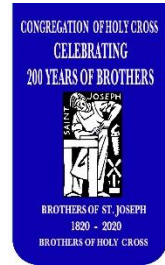


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460



August 5, 2020

Congratulations

Congratulations to our eight new members of the Congregation of Holy Cross. See next issue for pictures of the celebration.

Professori

**Bobby McFadden
Noah Junge
Aaron Morris
Ben Rossi
David Murray
Alexander White
Pierre-Even de
Fremond
Richard Bevington**



Midwest
Province
Brothers:

Ken Haders,
C.S.C.,
Provincial,

E. Benjamin
Rossi, C.S.C.

and James
Blaszak, C.S.C



This Week

Information on individual early Brothers of St. Joseph for posting week by week in 2020.

August 2 – 8 In this week in 1792 the French Revolution closed all religious houses in France (except hospitals).

August 9 – 15 On August 15, 1844, Brother Vincent Pieau wrote a letter from France to Notre Dame reporting on the results of his canvassing for Mass stipends.

**Date of death for Brothers of Saint Joseph
who entered before the 1837 Fundamental Act of Union
and died in the Community.
(Age in italics. Rank after year of death.)**

Aug 4	<i>Patrice (Thomas Briere) 65</i>	1875	249
Aug 12	<i>Onesime (Mathurin-Pierre-Francois Pillard) 79</i>	1876	164
Aug 22	<i>Vincent-de-Paul (Jean-Baptiste Vincent Plat) 67</i>	1873	82
Aug 24	<i>Philippe de Neri (Jean-Baptiste Bougault) 40</i>	1841	38
Aug 25	<i>Baptiste (Baptiste Verger) 61</i>	1859	8
Aug 30	<i>Bernard (Adolphe-Jean Legras) 57</i>	1881	352
Aug 31	<i>Gregoire de Nazianze (Henri Leroy) 77</i>	1900	289

Bye Bye Michael



If this had been a *Harry Potter* story, this beautiful cake created for Michael would have been dropped on Michael's head.

On Tuesday evening, July 28, Columba Hall had a going-away supper for Brother Michael Brickman, who is relocating to Sarasota, Florida. After a pleasant meal

prepared by the cooks Gail and Kadeesha, Brother Douglas Roach, the house superior, read a tribute to Michael, thanking him for his generous outreach to the members of the house, for tending the vegetable garden, helping with the



Kadeesha and Gail

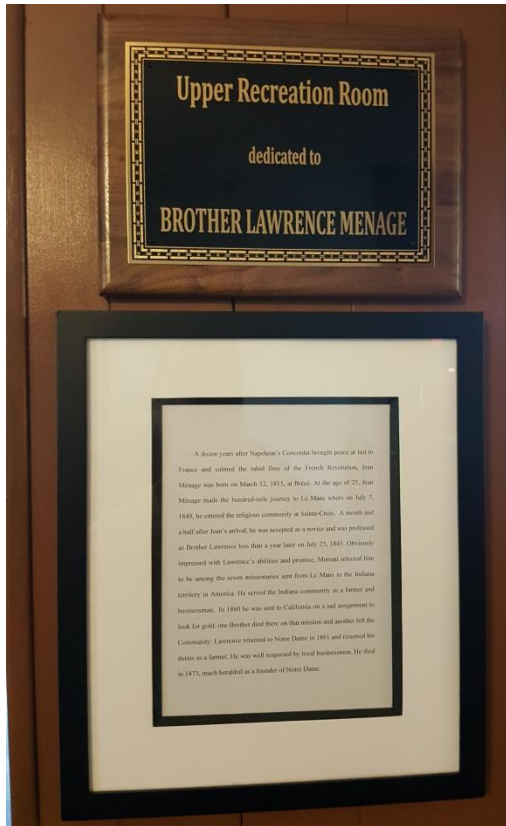
stairwell sanitizing, and making exceptional desserts for special occasions. Then Brother Robert Mosher gave a short talk explaining that in view of the virus, house members could not give Michael the usual kiss-of-peace,

so instead Michael was pelted with marshmallows. Michael is now ministering in Florida, the State of his birth and childhood.

(L-R) Daniel, Thomas, Michael, and David.

Note: Marshmallows on the table.





Plaque to Brother Lawrence Menage Upper Recreation Room

A dozen years after Napoleon's Concordat brought peace at last to France and calmed the rabid fires of the French Revolution, Jean Ménage was born on March 12, 1815, at Brécé. At the age of 25, Jean Ménage made the hundred-mile journey to Le Mans where on July 7, 1840, he entered the religious community at Sainte-Croix. A month and a half after Jean's arrival, he was accepted as a novice and was professed as Brother Lawrence less than a year later on July 25, 1841. Obviously impressed with Lawrence's abilities and promise, Moreau selected him to be among the seven missionaries sent from Le Mans to the Indiana territory in America. He served the Indiana community as a farmer and

businessman. In 1860 he was sent to California on a sad assignment to look for gold: one Brother died there on that mission and another left the Community. Lawrence returned to Notre Dame in 1861 and resumed his duties as a farmer. He was well respected by local businessmen. He died in 1873, much heralded as a founder of Notre Dame.

Brother Lawrence Menage

Reflection presented in Columba Hall Chapel for the dedication of the upper recreation room to Brother Lawrence Menage by Brother Nicolas Thielman.



Lawrence Menage was born on March 12, 1815, at Brece, in the district of Mayenne. We do not know the names of his parents, but we can presume they were probably farmers in the area. At the age of 25, Lawrence Menage made the hundred-mile journey to Le Mans where on July 7, 1840, he entered Basil

Moreau's fledgling religious community at Sainte-Croix. If we can believe Edward Sorin, it was Sorin who induced Lawrence to come into Holy Cross. This may well be a fact. After all, Sorin's hometown (Ahuille) was not far from Brece, and Sorin, from gentlemen-farmer stock, could have known the Menage family, probably, also, farmers. At any rate, a month and a half after Lawrence's arrival at Le Mans, on August 23, he was accepted as a novice and professed as Brother Lawrence less than a year later on July 25, 1841. Obviously impressed with Lawrence's abilities and promise, Moreau selected him to be among the seven missionaries sent from Le Man to the Indiana territory in America. In fact, within two weeks of his first profession, Lawrence was on board the Iowa steamship bound for America, setting off from Le Havre on August 8, 1841, with his companions Brothers Vincent Pieau, Joachim Andre, Marie (later named Francis Xavier) Patois, Anselm Caillot and Gatian Monsimer. The group was headed by the twenty-eight year old Edward Sorin.

The Iowa docked in New York on September 18. After resting in the city for three days, the group set off for Indiana. On October 10 they arrived at Vincennes, stayed for four days with Bishop Hailandiere and then settled in at Black Oak Ridge. The property was known as St. Peter's.

Soon it became obvious that the St. Peter's location was NOT a good place for what Holy Cross wanted to do in America, i.e. found a boarding school for boys. Thus the Bishop offered the Holy Cross community a large parcel of land (524 acres) in Northern Indiana. So Sorin, Francis Xavier, and Gatian headed north in November 1842 for the new property at Notre Dame. Lawrence and Joachim were left behind at St. Peter's with eight novices and a postulant. Three months later, on a Monday morning in February 27, 1843, Lawrence and the group reached Notre Dame.

WE have very few items remaining in Bro. Lawrence's hand: eight letters, a memo, a receipt and two copies of his last will. Thus to reconstruct most of his life is impossible. For example, his activities in his first years at Notre Dame can only be guessed at. He probably assisted in the erection of the first brick building in 1843 (today called Old College), possibly even helping make the bricks from marl dug from the banks of the St. Joseph River. He may also have helped put up the second brick building (1844), today part of Columba Hall. Undoubtedly he was entrusted with the farm enterprise.

The first real chronicle of his activities, however, dates from 1850, the year he set out for California (on February 28th) with six companions to look for gold in the heady days of the Gold Rush. The first letter we have from Lawrence on this trip is dated March 5, 1850, from Mount Joliet in Illinois.

Lawrence's next letter is posted ten days later (March 15, 1850) complaining of Captain Woodworth making them work on Sunday. Their search for gold began on August 1, 1850, and the work was not easy, nor would it prove very profitable. Nine days later Lawrence pens a short, sad letter to Sorin:

Several days ago I wrote to you about our sick man. Today it pains me to tell you Bro. Placidus died on November 6.

He was buried on-site, but the grave has been lost, quite possibly, to the South Fork of the American River when it was diverted years after Lawrence and the other men left the area. Sorin called Lawrence and Justin back to Notre Dame. Any money they had was used for living expenses. So Sorin did not achieve his intended goal: support for the University.

Once back at Notre Dame, Lawrence returned to the things he did best: farming and managing money for the university. Sorin, as we might expect, had a high regard for Lawrence.

Bro. Lawrence carries with him the deep and unfeigned sentiments of esteem and respect, not alone of his entire Congregation, but all with whom he came in contact, either as a religious, or, as agent or steward of the Institution. During that time he made many staunch friends among the farmers of the county and among business and professional men of South Bend and Chicago.

He died on April 4, 1873 and was buried in the community cemetery on St. Mary's Road, Notre Dame.

Source: EARLY MEN OF HOLY CROSS
Author: Bro. George Klawitter, c.s.c.

PRAYER:

May the Lord bless this room and everyone within it. May God make this room into a home. May He fill it with love and a generous welcome to all who visit..May family and friends find peace and contentment within this room. May this room always overflow with hospitality, warmth, and peace. May all who seek nourishment be nourished. May this be a place where all can go for their happiness, growth, and refreshment. We pray that the Lord bless this room and protect all who dwell within it.

AMEN

Brothers: Etienne Gauffre – Andre Mottais
By Brother Carl Sternberg



(We were gathered in chapel, Monday, the evening of August 3, for the following reflections along with our regular office of prayers.)

Here are some facts about Br. Etienne Gauffre, an early Brother of St. Joseph.

Etienne is French for Stephen. He did not take a new name when he entered the Brothers. He was born on September. 8, 1792, at the town of St. Loup du Gast. His father was Francis Gauffre and his mother was Marie Pipoin. He was the 4th man to come to Ruille to join the Brothers of St. Joseph. He arrived on Nov. 16, 1820, about a month after Brother Andre Motais, He became a novice on Nov. 25, 1821, but did not profess vows until August 23, 1842. He got his teaching certificate on May 18, 1822. In the summer of 1822 he walked outside of Ruille with Father James Dujarie to wait for Brother Andre who was returning from studies in Paris. On, that road outside of Rueille near a wayside shrine, Father Dujarie gave both Andre and Etienne a religious habit to wear. In Dec. of 1821, Brother Etienene opened a school in St. Denis d'Orques. He must have been a very good teacher because he stayed in one school for 13 years. He died at Le Mans on Sept. 1851. He was 59 years old at the time of his death. We are sorry that none of his letters have been saved.

Andre Motais

Since we have very little information about Etienne's life, I would like to spend a few minutes to share with you an aspect of Andre Motais thinking which I am almost sure was shared with Etienne. This thinking took the form of a very important letter Andre sent to the bishop about the vision Andre had for the future for his community. It was written after the Sisters, now known as the

Sisters of Providence, had separated finances from the Brothers of St. Joseph.

In it Andre envisioned an institute of three societies. Brother George writes in his book *Early Men of Holy Cross* "Andre elaborates a totally new idea for the Brothers, suggesting that they be amalgamated into a new tripartite Community of priests, brothers, and lay people. The new community would be named for the Holy Family." Andre writes in his letter to the bishop, "The lay teachers, once formed, would be free to establish themselves and live as they wished, except that they would be given protection, good advice, and counsel and any of them who found themselves closer to the spirit of the Order as a whole by their zeal, good morals, piety, could form a branch with a rule, one like to or shortened from the rule of the Brothers of St. Joseph."

Thus from the very begin in the vision of Andre Mottais, there was a prophetic validation of who the Midwest Holy Cross Associates are today.

So when we pray for them in our prayers of the faithful and specifically ask God's blessing on them with the prayer when we pray before Mass on Saturday morning, we can recall Andre's vision of what they could be 200 years ago.

Thank you, Brother Etienne. Thank you, Brother Andre Mottais for inspiring us during this very challenging time in our history.

Midwest Holy Cross Associates

Holy Crossroads

Writings for the Journey

#18

A Contemplative Mind

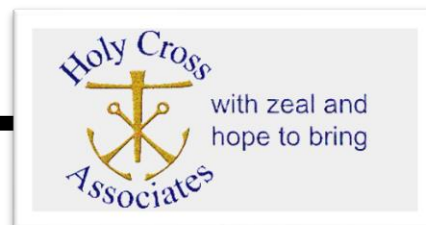
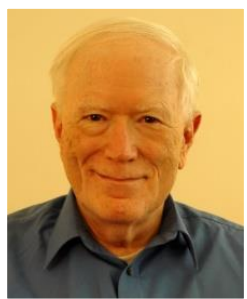
Dear Associates and Friends,

How can we avoid getting imbued by ideologies that can lead to a closed mind and a constant gnawing away at our sense of well-being? Consider the natural world. Jesus says, “Look at the birds of the air, the fishes of the sea, the lilies of the field. They do not worry or fret and yet God takes care of them. You are worth more than many sparrows.”

How do we get to a point of complete trust by putting ourselves into God’s hands? Is there something that we must do? Even that question can lead to frustration. A contemplative is a person who allows space and emptiness into his or her life. By letting go and letting God enter, he or she is surrendering to the deeper self which is intimately connected to the Creator. As a “mere” creature we allow God to do God’s continued work in creating us and sustaining us. From that basic stance many wonderful things can start to happen. Our contemplative mind has been revealed to us.

O God, help me put myself into your hands

Brother Carl Sternberg, CSC
<http://holycrossassociates.org/>





Reflection

Reflection(s) sent in by
Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.:



Friends make life a lot more fun.

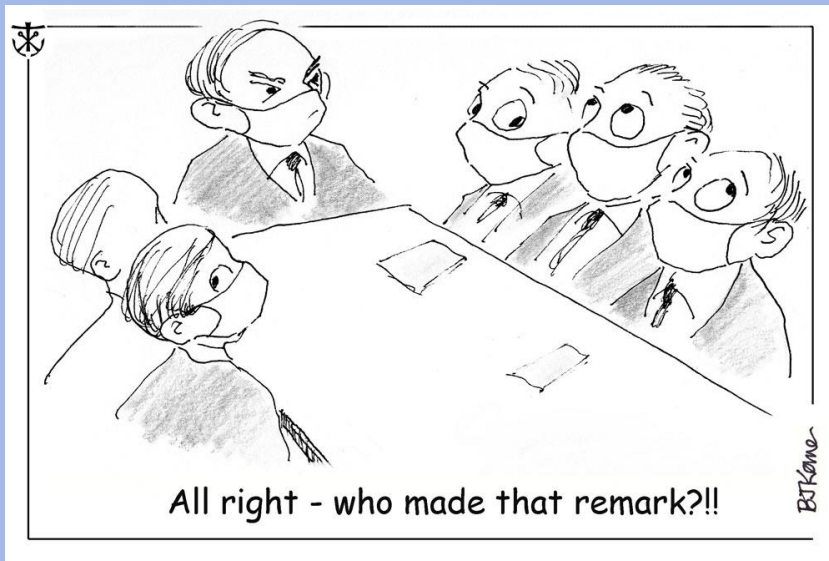
Charles R. Swindoll


**Emmanuel
Care**

A Catholic Health Organization

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality Office, www.emmanuelcare.ca

Friend(ccc)pxhere



Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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