

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 5, 2020

## 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year for Brothers: Saint Joseph – Holy Cross

**BROTHER REMI MERIANNE: A Voice of Reason against Separatists**

**1809-1888**

Etienne Merianne was born February 10, 1809. He joined Jacques Dujarie's Brothers of St. Joseph in Ruille one month before his sixteenth birthday. He became a novice on September 21, 1825, nine months after entering, but did not profess final vows until August 19, 1838, ten years after he had received his teaching credentials on October 7, 1828. By the age of nineteen he was considered by the government to be prepared to teach French children. Throughout his years as a religious Brother, he apparently excelled in the teaching profession.

The amalgamation of two organizations is rarely accomplished without wrinkles and heartache especially if one of the organizations is fifteen years old and the other is a fledgling. Add to the mix a hierarchy of education and the result can be less than conflict free. Thus it was with the amalgamation of Jacques Dujarie's Brothers of St. Joseph and Basil Moreau's auxiliary priests in 1835, the Brothers fifty strong and teaching in thirty schools, the priests six in number with four seminarians. The joining was, however, accomplished with minimum chaos thanks to the gentle sanctity of Dujarie and the charism of Moreau, at stake a revolutionary idea of joining as equals (more or less equals) clerics and non-clerics. Originally, the apostolates of the two groups were to be separate and complementary, the Brothers as teachers, and the priests as pastoral substitutes in parishes, but rather rapidly the priests moved into school management and teaching, thus threatening some of the Brothers trained under Dujarie to manage their own schools. It did not help, of course, that the priests enjoyed a lengthy and deep education-preparation for apostolic work while the Brothers cobbled

together one or two years of study before being shuttled out to the primary schools.

In the early days of the amalgamation there was a minority of Brothers who took umbrage at the merger and developed an underground agitation for a separation of the two societies.

In France, one of the most respected voices for a united Holy Cross over the same period of time was Brother Remi Merianne, who labored for sixty-three years in education, supported his priest-supervisors, and on occasion counseled provincial superiors. We can appreciate him today as a man who entered Dujarie's group when it was moving toward Moreau's stewardship and who recognized that groups evolve like any other organic being. Remi accepted the evolutionary movement in Holy Cross as inspired by the Holy Spirit for the betterment of Church work. He did not fight to preserve the old ways, the old order, the old system of community used under Dujarie.

By 1877 Remi was a trusted source for the history of the Brothers. In a letter dated September 1, 1879, Remi reveals that the Brothers were founded as "The Brothers of St. Joseph" not "The Josephites." What we know about Remi comes from the available copies of his correspondence much of which has been lost or not preserved. For Remi then we must be content with what we have – a handful of letters and a legacy of respectability. Brother Remi died at Angers on February 2, 1888. He had given all but the first fifteen years of his life to the Brothers first known as the Brothers of St. Joseph and later known as the Brothers from Holy Cross. He was a champion of Brothers and priests united in one religious community, never wavering in this heartfelt vision.

Source: **EARLY MEN OF HOLY CROSS**

George Klawitter, CSC author

The above reflection was delivered at Mass on Monday evening by **Brother Thomas Cunningham**. A reflection each month of this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will be featured the beginning of each month on a Brother of Saint Joseph or Holy Cross.



# Thank You CSC

## Letter to CSC members who attended this Hoban celebration:

Dear Brothers and Father of Holy Cross,

On behalf of Archbishop Hoban High School, I want to thank you for your attendance and participation at last week's Mass in celebration of Blessed Basil Moreau and investiture ceremony. It is important that the Hoban family, particularly our students, have as many direct encounters with the Congregation as possible – which is why we are so blessed to have Br. Joe and Br. James here every day. I was personally heartened by your presence and look forward to connecting more with each of you throughout my ministry at Hoban.

Very truly yours in Christ and Holy Cross,  
Tom

**Thomas J. Curry, Ph.D.**



**Front Row: Father Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, India; Brothers: Joseph Lebon, Philip Smith**

**Back Row: Brothers: Kenneth Haders, Roy Smith, James Spooner, Robert Lavelle, Robert Livernois**

Pastoral Center  
Saint Brother André Senior High School  
Kasoa, Ghana, West Africa



The Pastoral Center nears completion.



Photo send in by Brother Francis Boylan

## May They Rest in Peace

Once each month during the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for our Brothers, before the beginning of Mass, those brothers who have died in the early years have their names mentioned. Following is the list of names for each month.

### Appendix X

**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.)**

**(The Brothers of St. Joseph, Appendix X, as assembled by George Klawitter.)**

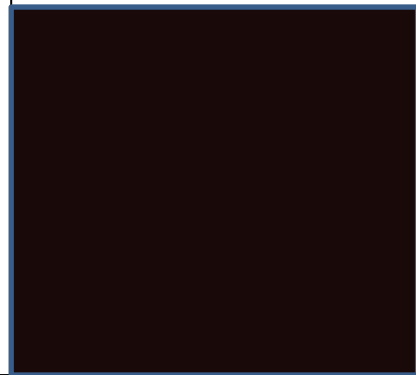
|          |  |             |            |
|----------|--|-------------|------------|
| Jan 7    | <i>Alexis (Jean-Pierre Chabrun) 61</i>                 | <b>1871</b> | <b>64</b>  |
| Jan 8    | <i>Thomas d'Aquin (Alexandre Meleux-Laperriere) 20</i> | <b>1836</b> | <b>205</b> |
| Jan 10   | <i>Casimir (Julien Bardou) 29</i>                      | <b>1841</b> | <b>134</b> |
| Jan 10   | <i>Romain (Francois Bouvier) 69</i>                    | <b>1870</b> | <b>42</b>  |
| Jan 21   | <i>Leon (Norbert-Auguste Cotin) 74</i>                 | <b>1894</b> | <b>345</b> |
| Feb 8    | <i>Maxime (Francois Boisrame) 26</i>                   | <b>1832</b> | <b>66</b>  |
| Feb 8    | <i>Dosithee (Francois Leblanc) 21</i>                  | <b>1838</b> | <b>245</b> |
| Feb 8    | <i>Elisee (Felix-Hippolyte Reau) 81</i>                | <b>1894</b> | <b>193</b> |
| Feb 12   | <i>Remi (Etienne Merianne) 79</i>                      | <b>1888</b> | <b>79</b>  |
| Feb 12   | <i>Louis de Gonzague (Pierre Galmard) 76</i>           | <b>1893</b> | <b>308</b> |
| Feb 16   | <i>Flavien (Louis-Victor Manceau) 21</i>               | <b>1830</b> | <b>176</b> |
| Feb 19   | <i>Theophile (Jean Freard) 19</i>                      | <b>1832</b> | <b>135</b> |
| Feb 24   | <i>Athanase (Michel-Etienne Tarault) 72</i>            | <b>1873</b> | <b>92</b>  |
| Feb 27   | <i>Donatien (Andre-Louis-Paul Nail) 80</i>             | <b>1886</b> | <b>215</b> |
| Mar 4    | <i>Anaclet (Joseph Hallier) 26</i>                     | <b>1833</b> | <b>203</b> |
| Mar 4    | <i>Julien (Julien Henry) 22</i>                        | <b>1836</b> | <b>247</b> |
| Mar 12   | <i>Jean-Marie (Jean-Marie Gauchet) 27</i>              | <b>1826</b> | <b>58</b>  |
| Mar 16   | <i>Andre (Andre Pierre Mottais) 44</i>                 | <b>1844</b> | <b>4</b>   |
| Mar 24   | <i>Francois d'Assise (Francois-Marie Tulou) 55</i>     | <b>1853</b> | <b>166</b> |
| Mar 25   | <i>ken&amp; (Joseph-Almire Trassard-Deslandes) 44</i>  | <b>1852</b> | <b>111</b> |
| Apr 1    | <i>Dorothee (Joseph Bigot) 70</i>                      | <b>1873</b> | <b>98</b>  |
| Apr 14   | <i>Adrien (Louis Legeai) 70</i>                        | <b>1873</b> | <b>76</b>  |
| April 17 | <i>Eugene (Constant-Julien Leroux) 79</i>              | <b>1913</b> | <b>339</b> |
| Apr 28   | <i>Jean-Climaque (Jean-Baptiste Contamin) 68</i>       | <b>1866</b> | <b>101</b> |
| May 7    | <i>Zacharie (Jean-Baptiste Cognet) 79</i>              | <b>1897</b> | <b>314</b> |
| May 9    | <i>Stanislas (Louis-Joseph-Gregoire Derve) 84</i>      | <b>1888</b> | <b>88</b>  |
| May 10   | <i>Bonaventure (Pierre Tulou) 59</i>                   | <b>1856</b> | <b>165</b> |
| May 12   | <i>Matthieu (Pierre Plumard) 79</i>                    | <b>1888</b> | <b>112</b> |
| May 24   | <i>Martin (Jean Verger) 66</i>                         | <b>1865</b> | <b>20</b>  |
| May 25   | <i>Jerome (Rene Porchere) 26</i>                       | <b>1826</b> | <b>52</b>  |
| May 29   | <i>Sylvain (Victor-Ephrem-Marie Gareau) 81</i>         | <b>1904</b> | <b>367</b> |

|         |  |             |            |
|---------|--|-------------|------------|
| June 1  | <i>Marin (Michel Bulanger) 64</i>                      | <b>1860</b> | <b>30</b>  |
| June 4  | <i>Lucien (Alphonse-Francois Dagoreau) 77</i>          | <b>1889</b> | <b>195</b> |
| June 5  | <i>Macaire (Guillaume-Michel Chauvin) 70</i>           | <b>1880</b> | <b>227</b> |
| June 9  | <i>Leonard (Pierre-Francois Guittoger) 84</i>          | <b>1887</b> | <b>106</b> |
| June 25 | <i>Theodule (Francois Barbe) 45</i>                    | <b>1853</b> | <b>347</b> |
| June 28 | <i>Francois d'Assise (Nicolas-Pierre Drouin) 19</i>    | <b>1837</b> | <b>285</b> |
| June 30 | <i>Vital (Auguste-Casimir Breton) 77</i>               | <b>1886</b> | <b>85</b>  |
| July 5  | <i>Jean-Marie (Toussaint-Julien Gigon) 65</i>          | <b>1851</b> | <b>284</b> |
| July 8  | <i>Marc (Francois-Charles-Marthe Galinand) 77</i>      | <b>1879</b> | <b>104</b> |
| July 17 | <i>Elie (Auguste-Nicholas-Patrice Perony) 51</i>       | <b>1867</b> | <b>338</b> |
| July 23 | <i>Vincent (Jean Pieau) 93</i>                         | <b>1890</b> | <b>18</b>  |
| Aug 4   | <i>Patrice (Thomas Briere) 65</i>                      | <b>1875</b> | <b>249</b> |
| Aug 12  | <i>Onesime (Mathurin-Pierre-Francois Pillard) 79</i>   | <b>1876</b> | <b>164</b> |
| Aug 22  | <i>Vincent-de-Paul (Jean-Baptiste Vincent Plat) 67</i> | <b>1873</b> | <b>82</b>  |
| Aug 24  | <i>Philippe de Neri (Jean-Baptiste Bougault) 40</i>    | <b>1841</b> | <b>38</b>  |
| Aug 25  | <i>Baptiste (Baptiste Verger) 61</i>                   | <b>1859</b> | <b>8</b>   |
| Aug 30  | <i>Bernard (Adolphe-Jean Legras) 57</i>                | <b>1881</b> | <b>352</b> |
| Aug 31  | <i>Gregoire de Nazianze (Henri Leroy) 77</i>           | <b>1900</b> | <b>289</b> |
| Sept 2  | <i>Clement (Francois Deschamps) 42</i>                 | <b>1851</b> | <b>287</b> |
| Sept 6  | <i>Ignace (Louis Boisse) 17</i>                        | <b>1835</b> | <b>254</b> |
| Sept 6  | <i>Etienne (Etienne Gauffre) 58</i>                    | <b>1851</b> | <b>5</b>   |
| Sept 13 | <i>Celestin (Louis Forton) 27</i>                      | <b>1841</b> | <b>170</b> |
| Sept 15 | <i>Pierre (Pierre Oger) 64</i>                         | <b>1869</b> | <b>14</b>  |
| Sept 21 | <i>Celeste (Francois Boisse) 21</i>                    | <b>1835</b> | <b>255</b> |
| Oct 4   | <i>Abraham (Joseph-Louis Veaufleury) 27</i>            | <b>1834</b> | <b>105</b> |
| Oct 15  | <i>Hilarion (Louis Ferton) 32</i>                      | <b>1849</b> | <b>315</b> |
| Oct 31  | <i>Arsene (Louis-Pierre Bouvet) 78</i>                 | <b>1883</b> | <b>61</b>  |
| Nov 6   | <i>Placide (Urbain Alard) 38</i>                       | <b>1850</b> | <b>351</b> |
| Nov 13  | <i>Leopold (Pierre-Nicholas Putiot) 59</i>             | <b>1864</b> | <b>241</b> |
| Nov 21  | <i>Simeon (Charles Bouvier) 23</i>                     | <b>1830</b> | <b>49</b>  |
| Nov 21  | <i>Hilaire (Pierre Beaury) 81</i>                      | <b>1890</b> | <b>282</b> |
| Nov 24  | <i>Julien (Francois Corbin), 76</i>                    | <b>1892</b> | <b>350</b> |
| Dec 2   | <i>Antonin (Pierre Lefebvre) 77</i>                    | <b>1882</b> | <b>189</b> |
| Dec 3   | <i>Augustin (Jean-Baptiste Riet) 60</i>                | <b>1860</b> | <b>13</b>  |
| Dec 13  | <i>Basile (Michel Gary) 76</i>                         | <b>1888</b> | <b>311</b> |
| Dec 18  | <i>Valery (Jean Bruneau) 65</i>                        | <b>1883</b> | <b>307</b> |
| Dec 20  | <i>Justin (Louis Gautier) 69</i>                       | <b>1870</b> | <b>373</b> |
| Dec 23  | <i>Francois Xavier (Joseph Menand) 64</i>              | <b>1888</b> | <b>368</b> |
| Dec 29  | <i>Narcisse (Jean-Francois Hulot) 70</i>               | <b>1887</b> | <b>280</b> |

Columba Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Named in Honor of Brother Vincent Pieau



Brother Vincent was born Jean Pieau on February 15, 1797. He was orphaned early, and in 1822, at the age of 26, he traveled to Ruille to join Dujarie's young band of Brothers. He served as one of the four resident Brother Directors of the Brothers of St. Joseph until he was sent to America in 1841, the oldest of the seven men sent from Le Mans to Indiana. He was chosen because he could train the two missionary novices sent with the group, and he could train new recruits in Indiana. Vincent's duties over the years were multiple: he was a factotum who could be used to fill any vacancy that arose at Notre Dame. Of the seven Holy Cross men who came to America in 1841, Vincent, eldest of the missionary colony, outlived all but two of them. Death came to the patriarch Vincent on July 23, 1890, at the age of 93.





**Dedication:  
Reflection on  
Brother Vincent  
Pieau  
By Brother Philip  
Smith**

Just as Andre Mottais has been deemed the second founder of the Brothers

of Saint Joseph and Father Dujarie's right-hand man, so, too, we can honor Brother Vincent Pieau as the co-founder of the American branch of the Brothers and of the University of Notre Dame. For the entirety of his years in the States, he was referred to as the Patriarch of all Holy Cross religious. A very intelligent and adaptable man, he was able to attend to any situation or assignment. Brother Vincent held just about every position in the American Congregation from that of baker, butcher, sugar master--to director of several schools and orphanages--to master of novices and provincial council member to Assistant Superior General. Father Sorin had complete trust in his abilities and in his wisdom to handle any situation in an insightful and compassionate manner. The following was written about him in August of 1890 in the *Notre Dame Scholastic*.

"On Wednesday, July 23, the venerable Brother Vincent passed peacefully from earth in the 93rd year of his age. He was one of the 6 religious, who, in 1841, accompanied Father Sorin from France to the shores of this Western World. Ever since that time he has been the associate of the venerable Founder of Notre Dame in the great work which he inaugurated and has carried on to such a successful issue. For many long years Brother Vincent had directed and watched over the formation of the religious spirit in the youthful candidates in the novitiate, and the lessons inspired by his piety and beautiful example left a deep and lasting impression and contributed materially to the infusion of that zeal and devotion which have made the Congregation of Holy Cross, in the United States, so happily successful in the attainment of its mission. When advancing years deprived him of physical strength, he still continued a model to his fellow religious, whose work he aided by the power of the prayers with which he constantly was occupied. His was a life full of years and merits, and we may have every confidence that it has been fittingly rewarded by that glory and joy which await the good and faithful servant." -- *Scholastic*, 24:1, 1890.



## Reflection

May your choices reflect your hopes,  
Not your fears.

- Nelson Mandela



Sunlight/Cocophere



**Emmanuel  
Care**

A Catholic Health Organization

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality Office, [www.emmanuelcare.ca](http://www.emmanuelcare.ca)



Cartoon  
by  
Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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