

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

December 6, 2023



God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

Where Titles Mean So Much

The baseball playoffs, football Monday night,
an atmosphere the Ringlings would have savored,
the warriors of fall lined up to fight
to wear the crown of champion, the favored,

the kings of sport—where titles mean so much.
And yet, it seems so out of place, so crude,
because of 9/11 and the clutch
performances of hordes of civil brood

whose prowess far outshone what sportsmen do
and whose reward was death, while fear
set in across the land as if on cue,
disrupting U.S. ways that all hold dear.

Restoring life, not letting death or doubt
destroy the nation: that's what it's about.

—**Brother Philip Armstrong, CSC**, October 15, 2001



Christmas Concert Niles, Michigan - Dec. 3, 2023

On the afternoon of Sunday, December 3, the Michiana Chamber Orchestra presented its annual Christmas concert in the rotunda of the Niles, Michigan, public library. On the program were traditional favorites, both religious and secular, including a beautiful arrangement by Ric Flauding of "The First Noel." Little children in the audience delighted in the tunes of "Frosty" and "Rudolph." Among the violins was Brother George Klawitter, assistant-principle second. And in the audience were Brother Roy Smith and Notre Dame pre-med student Andrew Kim. The orchestra will next perform in April.

Brothers George Klawitter, CSC
and Roy Smith, CSC

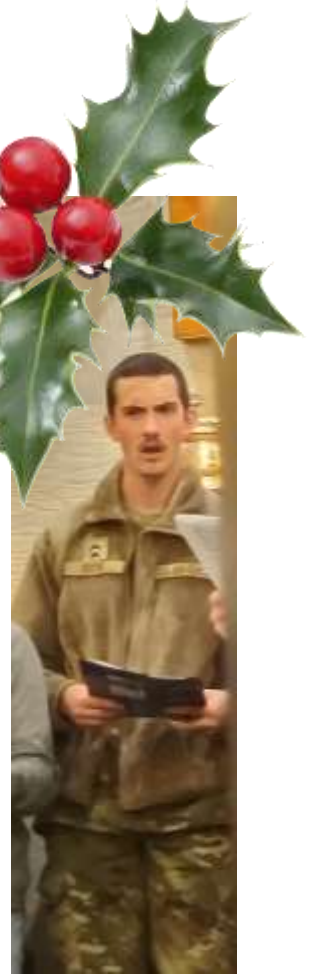


Brother George Klawitter, CSC and
Notre Dame Student Andrew Kim



Christmas is Coming to Columba Hall ND Folk Song Choir





Christmas Trimmings going up at the Village
Brother Joseph Fox, C.S.C., Organizer





Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

Love One Another

One of the key gifts the saints give to us is their willingness to forgive. No one is perfect. Being perfect is not why they were made saints. The saints had their struggles. Even the Apostles argued, but they recognized the God life within each person and did not let their differences destroy the bond of unity that enabled the early community to grow.

As the Church in our time enters into the process of synodality, we need to be mindful of the deeper unity which binds us together. We pray the Holy Spirit will guide those participating in their meetings as they minister to its people and to the people of the world. The Church is always called to renewal. As we search for the way forward, Pope Francis urges us to not leave anyone out. We need to be a welcoming Church that prides itself like the Samaritan to reach out to those who have fallen by the wayside with an invitation to be with us as we recognize the world we live in as our common home.

- What are your thoughts about where the Church is today?
- Should unity amidst diversity be an aim?
- What should the Church be doing to move into the future?

**O God, help me be open to recognize the Spirit as the Church
moves into the future.**

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



Bible Bites by Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.

One of Jesus' Ancestors

The season of Advent began last Sunday, December 3, reminding all that it is the time of special preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, an event which is, as we know, chronicled in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

In the genealogy of the *Prologue* of his narrative of the Nativity of Jesus, Matthew cites one of Jesus' ancestors identified as Rahab, the mother of the righteous Boaz (very early ancestor of Jesus), husband of Ruth of the *Old Testament Book of Ruth*.

A Canaanite living at the time of Israelite invasion of Cana as the land promised them by God, Rahab was a prostitute. She is credited in the biblical book of *Joshua* (2:1-21 and 8:22-25) and *Hebrews* in the *New Testament* with her role in helping Joshua succeed in the Battle of Jericho, of which a brief synopsis follows:

Joshua had commissioned three Israelite spies to reconnoiter Jericho. Arriving there at night, the three spies accepted lodging at the house of Rahab and her family. Rahab, knowledgeable of the reputation of the Israelite's God's favored assistance to his so-called chosen people, wagered a deal with the spies that she would conceal their true identity and mission and hide them in exchange for a sworn promise that she and her family would be spared in perpetuity from any consequences resulting from Joshua and his armies attaining any victory (in Biblical times the victorious in battles often annihilated the defeated populace or took them prisoners to enslave them). Having been assured that she and her family would remain forever safe, Rahab hid the spies on the roof of her house. Even when the king of Jericho inquired of her, Rahab denied knowing anything about spies.



Hebrews 11:31 commends Rahab: "the prostitute Rahab, because she *welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.*

Matthew concludes his genealogy with a reference to another ancestor of Jesus – a king by the name of David.



Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



Nelson Mandela

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Advent
December 3, 2023



It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us
memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

Pope Benedict XVI

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