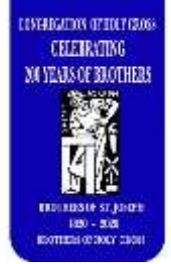


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 6, 2021



A Blessed New Year

[Saint Brother André Bessette](#)

**Saint Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross
Village, Notre Dame, Indiana**



Through the prayers and
example of Saint André
Bessette,

___ May we grow in our
devotion to Saint
Joseph, and in our
commitment to the
poor and the afflicted.

(Directory of Devotional Prayer)

Three Kings



Weekly Spiritual Reflections from the Early Brothers of St. Joseph

Week 1

For everything, we thank you and offer you our wishes for a happy New Year and a large share of our prayers, as feeble as they are, on condition that you offer us a share of yours and those in your house. (Brother Vincent Pieau to Mother Theodore Guerin 1/1/1842)





Reflection for Christmas Morning Liturgy

Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.

A thought becomes a word and becomes a reality.

In the prologue to his gospel, the evangelist St. John proclaims in Chapter 1 verse 1 that “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” In doing so he portrays the preexistence of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who, incarnated, became Jesus. Thus, “the word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:23).

As we know, in his incarnation, the Second Person chose and united a human nature to that of His own divine nature, each of which was intrinsically distinct but perfectly united in wills, so that whatever the animation of either one of the wills be, it can be attributed to the one same person – Jesus.

The phrase “In the beginning” in today’s gospel, echoes back to the creation story in Chapter 1 verse 1 of Genesis. Speaking of the Word’s participation, St. John says in Chapter 1 verse 3 of his prologue:

All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.

Furthermore, In *Proverbs* Chapter 8:22 verses 8ff the Word himself, speaking as wisdom personified, recalls his presence at the time of creation:

From of old I was formed,
At the first, before earth.
When there was no fountains or springs of water;
When he made firm the skies above,
When he set for the sea its limit,
When I was beside him as artisan;
I was there,
Playing over the whole of his earth.
Having my delight with human beings.

So delightful must it have been that he became one of us, a creature like us, except without sin. Thus God, who after Mount Sinai had directed Moses to have the people build God an ark and tent to house his presence among them, once again pitched his tent by becoming incarnated and being born among us humans.

From Chapter 2:8-14 of St. Luke's gospel, we learn of Jesus' birth through an angelic announcement to nearby shepherds: "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and King" (v11), a long wished for and prophesied expectation ever since the reign of King David of Old Testament times.

Descendent of the house of David through his foster father Joseph, Jesus was indeed the heir to the throne of King David.

Kings like David were also warriors. And Jesus' destiny as a king was to be a warrior too, not by violence to gain territory or more power, but to conquer all evil. Recall Jesus, as an adult, once said that his mission was not to bring peace but the sword. (Mt. 10:34). The sword, however, would not be the conventional weapon; instead it would be the means by which a firm state of righteousness would be achieved. As a consequence the peace won would be a complete and lasting one, not the peace of periodic complacency or tolerable accommodation with the status quo, but one established by the permanent attainment of universal truth and justice.

As king, Jesus, in the words of his own Mother would look "with favor on his lowly servant[s]," show "the strength of his arm," scatter "the proud in their conceit," cast "down the mighty from their thrones," lift "up the lowly," fill "the hungry with good things," and send "the rich away empty" (Gospel of Luke Canticle).

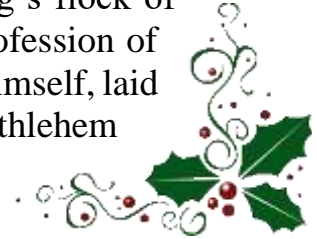
Furthermore, as king, Jesus would be a lawgiver of a new law that would fulfill or complete what was lacking in the old law: in place of do not kill, do not even get angry, instead of do not take an oath, tell the truth; in place of hate your enemy, love your enemy; be merciful, a peacemaker, a sufferer of persecution for righteousness (Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel).

Jesus, as this kind of a king and warrior, would later as an adult ultimately defeat the greatest evil consequent of human sin, death. By Jesus' own death and subsequent resurrection, he has forever removed death's sting.

The newly born infant of the gospel nativity narratives appears little like being either God or king. And according to St. Paul in Philippians 2:7 Jesus intended it so, considering it little "to empty himself."

So God the co-creator, as a new born creature himself, experiences his first breath of air, the touch of soothing hands, the sight of a flickering fire to keep him and his parents warm, the smell of the oxen, donkey, and sheep stabled with him, hearing the sound of the adoring shepherds voicing their astonishment, the taste of the nourishment he draws from his mother's breast, and, perhaps, finally, the easy confidence of falling asleep in the inviting security of his foster father's arms.

Like those shepherds tending their flocks outside of Bethlehem, the first to be invited to pay homage to the infant born in a stable and wrapped in swaddling clothes, who one day would become known as the Good Shepherd, we as Religious of Holy Cross have also been invited to become shepherds ourselves, and by our ministry, whatever it has been, have faithfully pastured in righteousness our king's flock of sheep, even those who strayed or became lost, and by our Profession of Vows have willingly, like our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd himself, laid down our lives for them. Therefore, let us all go in spirit to Bethlehem and do homage to our King, Redeemer, and fellow human being, Jesus



Columba Hall



**Two pictures of CNA Mae:
Grandma Mae with pictures of her grandchildren as elves and a second outfit as the Grinch.**



**Record snow for South Bend: 12+ inches accumulation
Old record was in 1919**



Oldest house member, Brother Rober Moshier, brings Jesus to the crib.



December 25th Daytime Mass



Christmas Dinner Staff – A delightful meal prepared

Saint Edward High

On Tuesday, St. Edward High School hosted its annual Advent prayer service, "Lessons and Carols," one of St. Ed's holiday traditions. Live-streamed from the Holy Family Chapel, our community gathered together virtually for an evening of music, performed by our Liturgical Choir, and prayer in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

[Click here to watch this year's Lessons and Carols prayer service.](#)



Golden Dome of Saint Edward High School

Brother George Klawitter, C.S.C

Poem set to Music The Unity of Men in Love

You may want to print out the poem which was posted in the last Midwest-Midweek of December. You would be able to listen and view *The Unity of Men in Love* with text.

A link to Youtube:

[THE UNITY OF MEN IN LOVE - Zachary James, Charity Wicks, Persis Parshall Vehar \(Official Video\) - YouTube](#)

From the Zachary James visual and audio album CALL OUT, December 2020

Composer Persis Parshall Vehar
Poet George Klawitter
Charity Wicks, Piano
Zachary James, Voice

This Week

(Last year-ends Info for St. Joseph Brothers.)

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

December 20 – 26 In this week on December 26, 1795, James Dujarie, the founder of the Brothers, was ordained in secret in France during the Revolution.

December 27 – 31 On December 29, 1849, the colorful and energetic Brother Joseph wrote to Father Sorin about life in Indianapolis.



Last Days of Advent
and
Christmas
viewed below

Columba Hall Annual House and Staff Dinner

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

We (cooks, nursing staff, house keeping, maintenance, and Brothers) ate in different rooms and sported masks (when we were not eating).





Brother Walter Gluhm, C.S.C

On His 86th Birthday



Dec. 15, I was very fortunate to celebrate my 86th birthday receiving many cards from 5th graders in Austin, TX, and South Bend, IN.

The written comments were so good no purchased card could match them. I thank God for many blessings.

Since Walter did not have a refrigerator door to post messages, he created his collage on his closet doors.



Ginger Bread Houses

Wednesday, December 23





Columba Hall Brothers and Kitchen Staff create ginger bread houses.



Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

The Christmas Gift

Dear Associates and Friends,

The child in us is always looking for gifts at Christmas. “No”, we say, “That’s not necessary, I have everything I need.” Or we say, “The true meaning of Christmas is not about the gifts you receive.”

But wait! Isn’t the birth of Jesus God’s gift to us? “Unto us a child is given.” When something unexpected arrives at our doorstep, when something comes that we have not paid for and we receive it, we say it is a gift.

What is the gift that God wants to give you this Christmas? With all that is going on, we might honestly say “I have no idea.” It is at that moment that God is able to surprise you with a “miracle.”

I do not know what it will be, whether it’s something in person, by mail, a phone call or something via the internet, but be on the lookout. This year at the end of Christmas day you will be able to look back and with the eyes of faith acknowledge how God’s gift of love in Jesus has visited you.

- Do you like to receive special gifts at Christmas?
- Are you willing to be looking for a surprise this Christmas?
- How is the baby Jesus being born in you at Christmas time?

O God, give me the faith and hope to receive the gift of your love this Christmas.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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

From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, or a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below.



Website: <http://www.voiceofmoreau.org/>



**Brother
Philip
Smith**



**Brother
Ben
Rossi**



Reflections

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



From
The
fourth
week
of
Advent

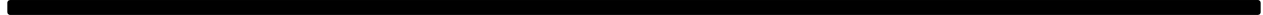


Between Christmas and New Year

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5



... and anyone who misbehaves during this Zoom session will be deleted!

BT/Kowal

Brother James Kane, CSC

Past Copies of *Midwest-Midweek*

Since February 2006

Past copies of *Midwest-Midweek* may be viewed by scanning the icon or clicking on the link below.

<http://brothersofholycross.com/publications/archived-publications/>



View Website at:
www.brothersofholycross.com

View *Midwest-Midweek* at:
<http://brothersofholycross.com/publications/midwest>

Editor	Br. Kenneth Kane
Webmaster	Br. Richard Johnson
Proofreader	Br. George Klawitter

Please send material to the link below by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

Send material to this address:
Midwest-Midweek@brothersofholycross.com

A Blessed New Year to All!