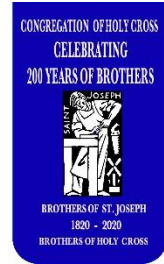


# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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



August 19, 2020

## This Week

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

**August 16 – 22** In this week in 1792 the French Revolution suppressed all religious congregations in France. James Dujarie, founder of the Brothers, went into hiding. In 1820 on August 20 Louis Duchene became the second young man to join the Brothers of St. Joseph in Ruille.

**August 23 – 29** On August 25, 1836, Brother Andre Mottais became the first Brother to take Final Vows. He was novice master at Le Mans and the first of the early Brothers to persevere.



**Original Seal**

## Becoming His Servants Reflection by Brother George Klawitter, C.S.C.

August 16, 2020, Columba Hall

Today we celebrate all members of the house who professed their religious vows on this day, August 16, however many years ago.

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, ministering to Him, Loving the name of the Lord, and becoming His servants— All who keep the Sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer.” (Isaiah 56: 6,7)



I chose these lines from the prophet Isaiah because they seem very much in line with religious profession. We were foreigners when we showed up at Watertown for our postulant program, and only gradually did we assimilate into the community of Holy Cross. It was not always an easy ride. We had to learn how to rise at 5:30 AM in a room with fifty other men. We had to find our way down to the sinks in the basement. We had to head to the chapel on the second floor for meditation and Mass. Meditation? What was that? A time to wonder what we were doing at that hour of the morning sitting in silence and pretending to meditate.

But foreigners are gradually accepted into the mainstream of a community. They start to think like the members of the community, and they begin to accept

the life they will follow for the next 40 or 50 or 60 years.

The life is not always easy. I'm not referring to the schedule or the food. We can acclimate to a new schedule rather easily, and as far as food is concerned, we ate as well as we ever did before we joined the community. I'm talking about the hardest of the three vows. Not poverty. Not celibacy. It's obedience that is the toughest vow to follow. As foreigners we were told where we would live in Holy Cross and what we would study and what we would do for a career. We trusted in the wisdom of the elders who were making decisions for us.

Then came Vatican II which declared that we were being liberated from our extended adolescence in religion. No longer would we be told what we would be doing in Holy Cross, and no longer would we blindly be following the rule. Suddenly we were adults, and the vow of obedience became the vow of discernment. We sat down with superiors and discerned our best way forward. Superiors were no longer our superiors—they were our fellow travelers. They had, of course, more experience than we had and they had a better handle on the needs of the province we worked in, but they no longer dictated our direction. We had become adults making our own decisions.

I think Isaiah would approve of what has developed with religious life in the past 40 years. He was, after all, a prophet, and prophets were known for their acute wisdom. So wise were they in fact that they could discern good and evil in other people. Old Testament prophets did not foretell the future. They told other people what was right and what was wrong. Now you are thinking "We sure have a lot of prophets in this house." Yes, we do have people who like to tell us how to live and how to pray and how to vote. That's the danger of prophecy—if something works for a prophet, that prophet may think it should work for everybody. But I have learned a mantra that keeps me quiet more often than not: "What difference will it make in a million years?" I learned that from the dry religious philosophy of James Moroney.

Think about it: the dinosaurs ruled the Earth for 167 million years. Crocodiles have been around for 95 million years. Humans have been around a mere 50,000 years. It's humbling to think backwards, and it's humbling to think forwards.

So with Isaiah let us always remember that we came to Holy Cross as foreigners, we acclimated ourselves to this religious community during formation, and we have moved into old age content (for the most part) with our ongoing religious life. I know I would not trade my life for any other life. When I first saw a Holy Cross Brothers' pamphlet in my 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom, that pamphlet hooked me. I was twelve years old. The first Brother I met was Brother Eymard at Dujarie where I came with my parents for a visit in the spring of 1955. And the small-town urchin that I was, I fell in love with Holy Cross. There I met Larry Stewart, Ed Dailey, Michael Becker, Gerald Nettesheim, and Bill Mewes. We are one. We rarely wonder what we would have become without Holy Cross because we are happy with what we have become in Holy Cross. And we are happy to celebrate jubilees of religious vows. Thank you, Isaiah, for helping to show us foreigners the way. And thank you, all the men who inspired us to keep on keeping on: Brother Dominic, Brother Lambert, Brother Bonaventure, Brother Donatus—titans who have gone before us—along with our wonderful pioneers: Andre Mottais, Hilarion Ferton, Leonard Guittoger, and Vincent Pieau. Let us continue to walk in the footsteps of these great men.





Jubilee day began with Mass at 11:15 and followed at 4:45 with a social, dinner, and an evening Bingo. Dinner was special and was punctuated with George being roasted by Carl Sternberg.



**George**



**James**



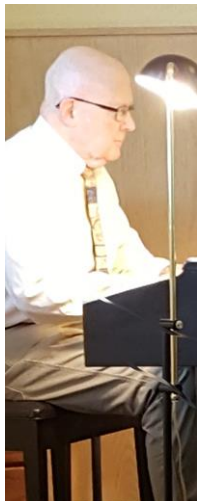
**James**



**Roy**



**Carl**



**Dan**



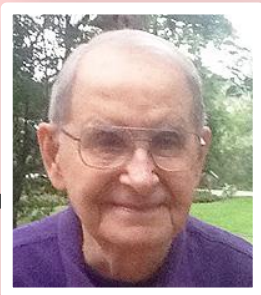
## Cardinal

What first this Sabbath morn I see  
A red-capped cardinal in a tree,  
Who long had risen 'fore me  
To sing his ancient psalmody.

Why he his heart-writ rite perform?  
Must to commandment he conform?

This the reason I've surmised:  
He made no breach in Paradise,  
So sees no difference in these skies  
Wherein God first he glorified.

**Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.**





## Today is a Day of Jubilee in Sarasota

**Brothers William Dygert (MW), Michael Brickman(M) & Larry Skitzki (MW)** celebrated their 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession with a morning liturgy at St. Martha Catholic Church in downtown Sarasota, Florida, followed by a relaxing Gulf side breakfast.

The three-some all entered the Holy Cross postulant program at Watertown, Wisconsin, together where they were under the tutorage of Brother Dominic Elder. This summer program was followed by the required austere year-and-a-day novitiate under the rigorous and perplexing guidance of Brother Gerontius

McCarthy, Novice Master/Athletic Director.

It proved to be a difficult year as we had to follow “*the Good Group*” who had set such a high standard! William, Larry and Michael made their first profession of vows at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, on August 16, 1962.

*We are all busy getting on with the mission God has given us to do, which is to continue to nurture and deliver new life.*



**William, Michael, and Larry 58th Anniversary**

**Story sent in by Brother Michael Brickman**

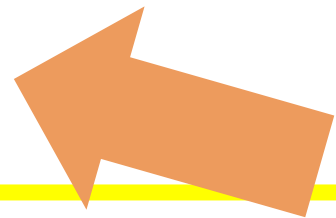
**In Joyful Remembrance of Our 1<sup>st</sup> Religious Profession**



**August 16, 1962**

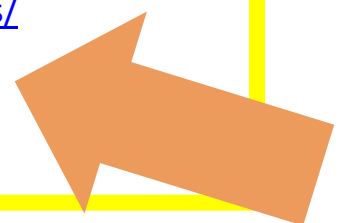
See Newsette for September 1962 for August professions of that year –  
Click below:

[http://brothersofholycross.com/bhc/wp-content/uploads/Newsette\\_1962\\_Sep.pdf](http://brothersofholycross.com/bhc/wp-content/uploads/Newsette_1962_Sep.pdf)



Search for your Jubilee pictures on the Midwest Holy Cross website at the link below:

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Midwest Holy Cross Associates  
***Holy Crossroads***  
**Writings for the Journey #20**

***The Many Parts of Me***

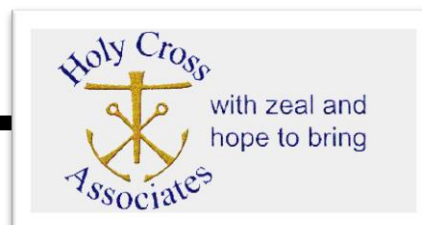
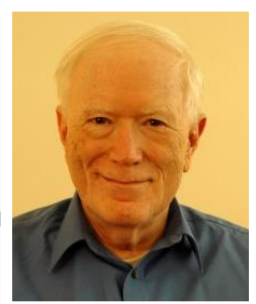
**Dear Associates and Friends,**

As we strive for wholeness, we are constantly aware of the divisions within ourselves and the many desires among our body, mind and spirit. To be contemplative in our approach to self-awareness is not to strive to stifle the tensions that might exist among them but to become open to what they are telling us as we realize their root causes. Why do I crave the very sweet dessert losing all will power to say, “no”? Does it have anything to do with not giving my body the attention it needs to remain healthy, like exercise, eating nourishing food, sleep, etc.?

What we discover eventually is that every part of us has a real effect on all the parts of our being as we advance on our journey to wholeness and holiness. We need to place our attention on those parts that have been neglected and maybe examine if our concept of spirituality has left room for them. God’s mercy and love extend to every part. Jesus says, “I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly,” and “Did you not know that every hair on your head is numbered.” Loving God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves is the foundation of our Christian faith.

**O God, help me realize that your love and mercy extend  
to all the parts that make up who I am.**

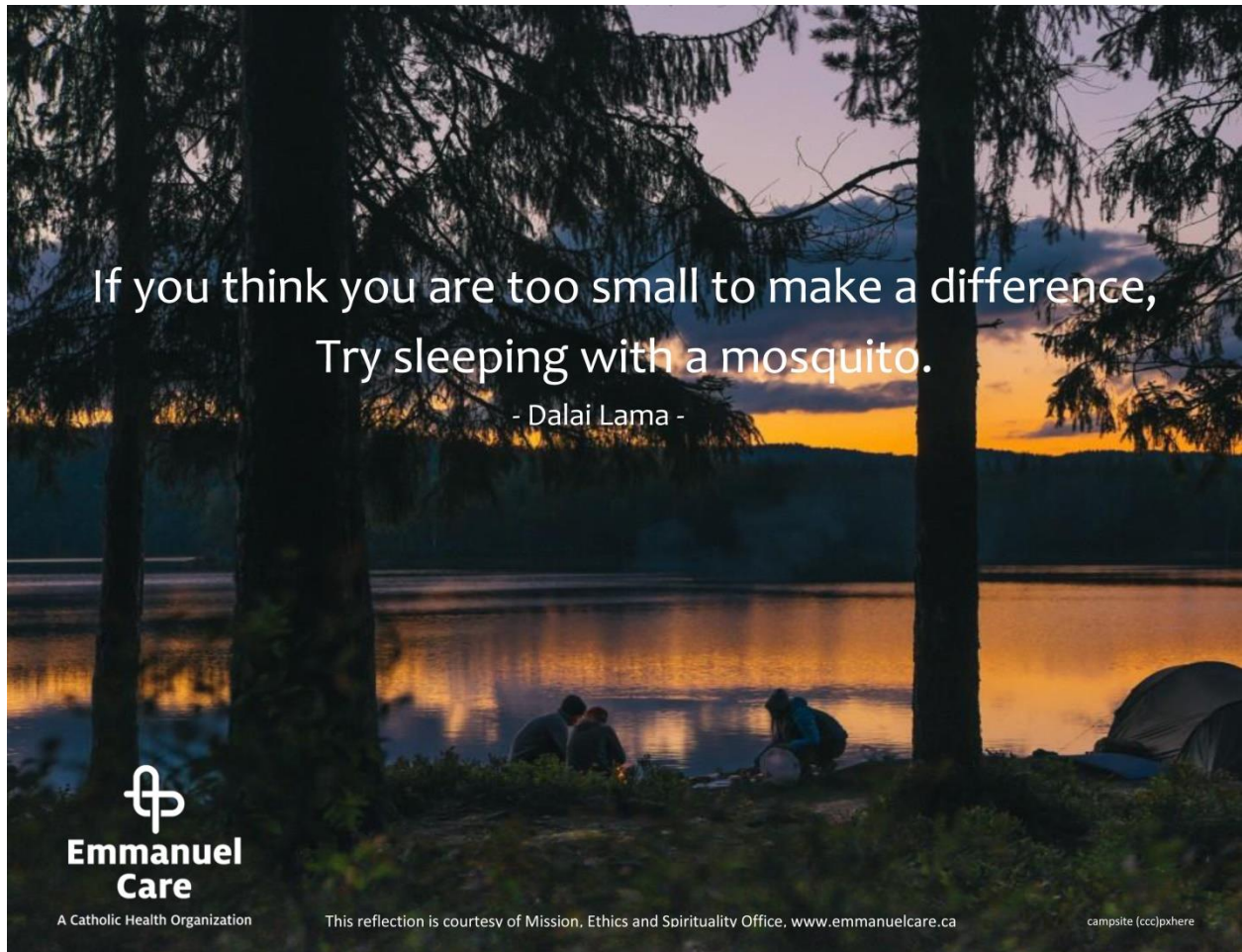
Brother Carl Sternberg, CSC  
<http://holycrossassociates.org/>

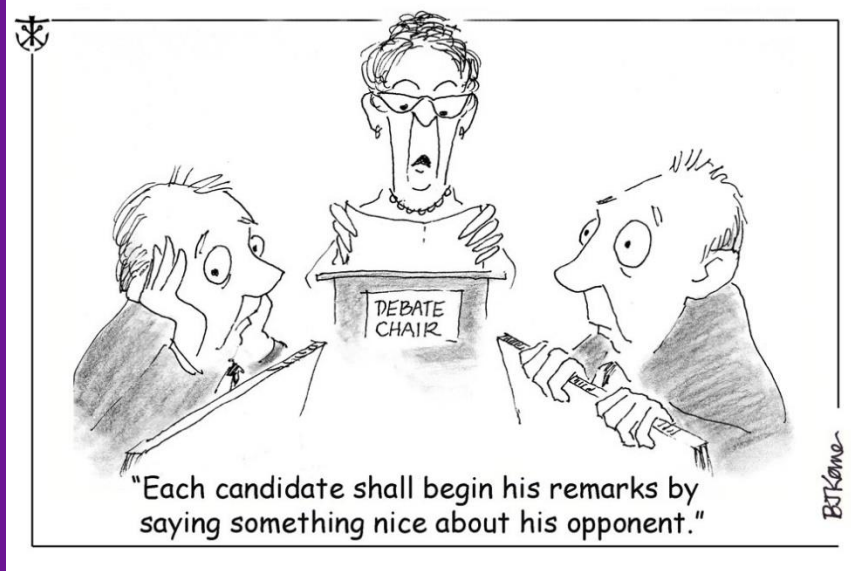




## Reflection

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





Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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Since February 2006

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