

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 25, 2009

Brother Harold Ruplinger, C.S.C.

Eulogy

February 24, 2009



On behalf of the Congregation of Holy Cross, I wish to extend our sympathy to Harold's family. I would also like to thank the staff of Dujarie House for their constant loving care of Harold during his illness of over three years.

**Harold Aloysius Ignatius Ruplinger** was born in Milwaukee, one of four children of Matthias and Marie Ruplinger. He was very proud of his German heritage. On February 2, he had been professed as a religious of Holy Cross for sixty years. During his religious life, Harold was assigned to duties (mainly teaching) in Lakewood, Indianapolis, Akron, Alaska, River Grove, and Notre Dame.

Harold was a lover of beauty.

He was a lover of Opera and other music. His tastes ranged from the *sturm und drang* Wagner through the gentle Puccini – particularly the classic aria “Un bel di” from *Madama Butterfly*. The beauty of the human voice inspired him and he would appear to be ecstatic when listening to the opera, *Norma*. He listened to the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts until he became too ill to listen. But he also loved the fun music of *Annie*, *the Sound of Music*, and *The Canterbury Tales* as well. He loved bagpipe music. And he could rock.

He loved the beauty of the written and spoken word, too. He could quote Shakespeare at any time and always find the exact quote for the right occasion. His favorite lines came from Hamlet – “In thy orisons, be all my sins remembered.” I think he liked that one because he saw the human condition so well exemplified in the work. And it was Harry's humility which allowed him to say those lines frequently. He wasn't all\_serious in regard to the word. He was

the master of the pun. His famous “Abyssinia” (for “I’ll be seeing you”) demanded an immediate response of “I don’t Bolivia.” Even when he felt his worst in the last few years, his sense of humor combined with his concern for the comfort of others never failed him and made his acceptance of his illness all the more admirable, in that he was always concerned for the other person. He rarely complained.

He was quite the cook, and if you ever tasted his chicken cacciatore, you’d definitely say “amen” to that. He was well known for being able to pick out any spice that appeared in any dish.

Harold was an artist, and we all know that. His work adorned many of our houses the famous bookmarks of the big four (Dujarie, Moreau, Andre and Ephrem) appeared in many houses and served as vocation promotion literature. There was always something eternal in their value. His portrayal of the giving of the habit by Fr. Dujarie to the early brothers hangs over the mantle in Schubert Villa and his portrait of Fr. Dujarie which greets all who enter the infirmary are two classic pieces. The compassion reflected in the portrait of Father Dujarie was reflective of the artist and his compassion for others.

But the real beauty which Harry saw was the beauty of his brothers and his students, even at the times when we didn’t deserve it. Harry was quick to respond to any situation and at times he could be rather sharp but he was just as quick to apologize and to do something special for the person. Harold could make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear and take the student with no talent and turn him or her into a respectable artist. This was because he could see the innate worth and beauty of the person as a child of God.

One anecdotal remark...he used to spend a great deal of time in the art room at the college, preparing his classes or just cleaning up. One evening several years ago a former student came into the library and asked me if Brother Harold was around? Of course he was. The student went down to visit with him and came back to see me when he was finished talking with his favorite teacher. His eyes were sparkling when he said, “That Brother Harold is so cute, I could just put him in my pocket and take him home with me.” All of his students felt that way about him and so did his brothers in Holy Cross. We will miss his words of encouragement and the twinkle in his eye, and his typical parting words of “God Bless You.”

God has blessed us with Harold and has blessed Harold by allowing him to remain hope filled – living out our community motto – “One Hope”.

I’d like to end with a line near the end of Hamlet –“May flights of angels guide thee to thy rest.” May these same angels lead you to the beauty which you always knew – and now know in abundance – and that is the beauty of life with God.

**Brother Charles Gregg**

### Village Maintenance Building Nears Completion



The new 4000 square foot maintenance building at Holy Cross Village is nearing completion. The shingles and siding, brickwork and doors are completed as well as the electrical systems, interior insulation and wall board. All that needs to be done is the concrete floor. The project began the first week in December. Brown and Brown is the principal contractor and the garage is built in the style of Andre Place in Holy Cross

Village.



## Indiana's High-Speed Statewide Fiber Optic Cable for HCC

Holy Cross College is in the process of joining I-Light, Indiana's high-speed statewide fiber optic network for higher education. This connection is the first of its kind both in the state of Indiana as well as the United States. Its purpose is to provide high speed communication to all higher education institutions both public and private in the state. The connection will provide the college with digital communications at a speed of 1,000 mbps to other colleges in the state and speeds of 25 mbps to the commodity network better known as the Internet. The work being done on campus is the connection to MetroNet, the local fiber optic network, which in turn connects to I-Light. This "last mile connection", funded by the state of Indiana, will greatly strengthen the ability of the college to provide an excellent education to their students by accessing resources from other Indiana colleges as well as collaboration with same. **Br. Charles Drevon, CSC**, Director of Campus Technology hopes to provide access to this resource to the entire campus community both the Brothers of Holy Cross as well as Holy Cross Village. He will be speaking to them with respect to that possibility in the near future.

### Br. Charles Drevon



## Former Brother Visits Holy Cross Village



It is now Thursday, Feb, 19 at 6:00pm. I am back home in Kentucky after spending some precious time at Holy Cross Village. I was a member of CSC from 1956-1960 but have always thought highly of the Brothers. I have had the good fortune to return to ND and Holy Cross Brothers' Center on several occasions over the years.

I want to thank all the Brothers for their gracious hospitality while I was there the last few days. I got to see several Brothers that I knew and several that I didn't know, but without a doubt they were all the most friendly, good-hearted people that I know. It was a great honor to visit the infirmary and see Brother Frederick Williams (one of my classmates) and Brother Simon Scribner (my Speech Class Teacher) at St. Ed's.

A very special thanks goes to **Brother Tom Rock** for putting up with me and giving me all those rides in the wheelchair. I couldn't have done it without his help.

I had one of his little dogs in my suitcase but he caught me before I got away with it. Oh Well!

I wish all of you the very best.

**Joe Miles**

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## THE WAY OF THE CROSS FOR VOCATIONS TO THE FAMILY OF HOLY CROSS

For copies of "The Way of the Cross for Vocations to the Family of Holy Cross, click on one of the following links:

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Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published: [cmcbride@hcc-nd.edu](mailto:cmcbride@hcc-nd.edu) The next edition of Midwest-Midweek will be March 11. Brother Charles is taking off next week for “Spring Break.”