

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

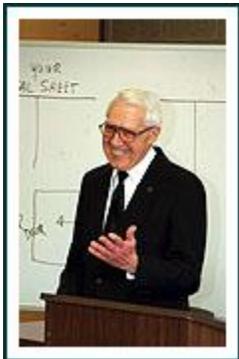
March 25, 2009

Brother Chester Freel Elected Midwest Provincial



Brother Robert Fillmore announced to the Midwest Province on Tuesday, March 24 that **Brother Chester Freel** has been elected the new provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. The election was confirmed by the superior general, Fr Hugh Cleary, by e-mail March 23. Brother Chester will officially become provincial at a service concluding the Provincial Chapter. The chapter is scheduled for June 14th to 19th. **Brother Kenneth Haders** president of Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio, was the other candidate on the provincial ballot. Congratulations to Brother Chester on his election as provincial and to Brother Kenneth for allowing his name to be placed on the ballot.

Br. James Leik Honored By HCC

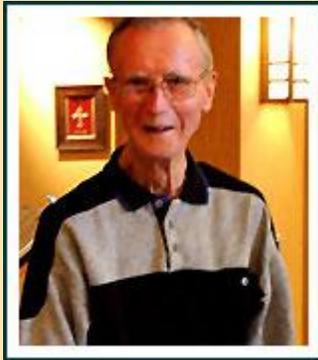


Brother James Leik was honored by Holy Cross College this past weekend during their 5th annual Ave Crux Parent and Alumni weekend which had a theme of "A Little Help From My Friends!" At a box luncheon for 175 held in the conference room of the new Pfeil Center at Holy Cross College Brother James recounted tales of his 43 years at the college. He has served as a professor, bookstore manager, director of financial aid, corporate treasurer, director of institutional advancement, and interim president when **Br. John Driscoll** died. Br. James was assigned to Holy Cross Junior College in 1966 but spent part of 1966 and 1967 getting a master's degree at the University



of Illinois. He began teaching accounting at Holy Cross Junior College in the fall of 1967. At the luncheon Robert Kloska, vice president for Mission Advancement and Craig Horvath, director of development for Holy Cross College presented Brother James with a "Hot Pink" file cabinet with "good wishes" written all over the cabinet by Holy Cross faculty and staff members.

Brother Charles Krupp Moves to Dujarie House



Brother Charles Krupp moved to Dujarie House in Holy Cross Village March 20 from Sarasota, Florida, where he recently was in a nursing home. In Sarasota Brother Charles lived with **Brothers William Geenen** and **William Schu**. Brother Charles' address is Dujarie House, PO Box 706, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. He can be reached at 574-287-1838.

Holy Trinity Holds 16th Guardians of Hope Dinner

Holy Trinity High School's 16th Annual Guardians of Hope Dinner held Friday, March 20. **Brother Roy Smith** gave the invocation at the dinner. The celebration was held at the Marriott Hotel, Chicago. Holy Trinity is currently in its 99th year of operation. At one time nearly 100 percent of Holy Trinity students were of Polish decent.

In the school year 2008-09:

Enrollment 393

Financial aid given per year \$1.5 million dollars

Student graduates going on to college since 2006-100 %

Student Population: African American – 53%; Hispanic 41%;

Biracial/other - 4%; Caucasian - 2 %.

Vocation Promotion Update

Last week the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) released its Third Annual Survey on Trends in Catholic Religious Vocations. This group each year surveys member religious communities, including the Midwest Province, to produce this report. Below is a summary of the report distributed for media use. Please keep in mind that NRVC is composed of priest, brother, and sister's communities and congregations, and that much of the below stated findings reflects that full spectrum:*

Results of Annual Survey on Trends in Catholic Religious Vocations

Continued jump in interest in religious vocations attributed to desire for deeper spirituality and easier access to information via the Internet

Chicago, March 17, 2009—Nearly 70 percent of Catholic religious communities have seen a jump in vocation inquiries in the past year, according to a survey conducted by VocationMatch.com, the leading online religious vocation discernment website. Sixty-nine percent of the communities responding to the website's annual "Survey on Trends in Religious Vocations" reported increased inquiries into religious life.

Discerners—those interested in religious life—are primarily under 40 years old and say they are looking at religious life because of a desire for deeper spirituality. Most are quite serious about exploring religious life, and nearly 20 percent plan to enter religious formation in the next 12 months.

The NRVC and its publishing partner TrueQuest Communications annually survey discerners who have completed profiles on VocationMatch.com, as well as vocation directors of religious communities featured in VISION Vocation Guide, an NRVC print and online publication.

An impressive 90 percent of discerners say their inquiries into religious life are made easier because of access to information about religious life on the Internet. "With the dawn of instant and anonymous information-gathering via the Internet, we've begun to see a steady increase in inquiries about religious life, which we expect will translate into more vocations over the next decade," said Patrice Tuohy, executive editor of VISION Vocation Guide and VocationMatch.com.

All in good faith

In addition to their desire for a deeper spirituality and a life of faithfulness to the church, discerners say they are most drawn to a particular religious community by its prayer life and community living. A significant 35 percent ranked justice and peace outreach as essential.

Men flip for habits

An interesting turn in trends: A higher percentage of men compared to women (68 to 61) ranked wearing a religious habit as important or essential to what attracts them to a religious community. This preference has flipped from a year ago when women outranked men in their interest in wearing religious garb.

Let's get personal

Not surprisingly, those discerning a call to religious life still consider personal contact with someone in religious life as the most essential resource for gathering information about vocations (53 percent). However, “Come and See” weekends ranked high on every age group’s list (42 percent) as did working with a counselor or spiritual director (38 percent). A religious community’s website ranked next, above vocation directors, parish priests, parents, and friends, and 58 percent rated vocation-related websites as either very important or essential to their information-gathering.

Religious life is ageless

In a piece of very good news for religious communities with aging memberships, “living with someone not my age” is ranked as the least challenging aspect of religious life. Celibacy, a life of service, and living simply are all perceived as more challenging to this year’s crop of discerners than last year’s. Prayer and spiritual direction continue to rank as the most essential element in making a decision about religious life, and the discipline of prayer remains the greatest perceived challenge in living as a religious priest, sister, or brother.

Brothers gain ground

Religious brothers must be getting the word out because interest in their way of life has jumped 9 percentage points in the past two years. The apostolic/evangelical way of life—living and working outside of a monastery or cloister—remains discerners’ preferred religious lifestyle, with the exception of 50- to 59-year-olds, who feel most drawn to a semi-cloistered/active way of life.

Hopes and fears

As for fears, many women expressed a fear of not seeing friends and family enough if they entered religious life; men expressed a fear of the loss of personal freedom and being unfaithful to their vows. One man captured the sentiments of many: “My greatest fear is not of religious life itself, but of the process of getting there--the reordering of my life to make the religious life possible.”

Half of all discerners going through VocationMatch.com are under 30--good news for communities looking for an infusion of youth. A sizeable 16 percent of discerners are over 50, a fact which invites religious communities to find new ways to associate with discerners of all ages.

Don't hide your light under a basket!

“What these 2009 VocationMatch.com survey results show is that communities with effective online representation and promotion strategies stand the best chance to benefit from the significant interest in vocations that is clearly out there,” said VISION Executive Editor Patrice Tuohy.

* The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is the professional organization representing members of 280 congregations, provinces, or communities of religious brothers, sisters and priests who are committed to vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment. NRVC began in 1988 and today has an annual membership of 1300 women and men, most of whom are in vocation ministry or leadership for their congregations. NRVC provides education, resources, and other supportive services for the personal and professional growth of its members. **Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC**, Eastern Province of Brothers, is the Executive Director of NRVC.

Br. Chester Freel

St. Joseph Day Celebration

Click on this link to view pictures of the St. Joseph Day celebration at Notre Dame. <http://www.brothersofholycross.com/STJ09.htm>

Eulogy for Brother Edward Courtney, CSC
Eulogy Delivered by Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, C.S.C.
St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame. Indiana
March 21. 2009



On behalf of the Congregation of Holy Cross, I want to welcome you to the celebration of the life of Brother Edward Courtney who was a true American hero, a patriot and a faithful and humble member of the Brothers of Holy Cross for more then 60 years. If he were with us today he would he wondering what all this fuss is about. He would want to thank all of you for how you had enriched his life and help him gain purpose in his senior years. a blessing that most of our elderly do not attain.

I would like to take a few minutes to talk with you about the Brother Edward I knew. Brother Edward was a man of God, the Brother of Holy Cross, who dedicated his adult life to the mission and ministries of Holy Cross. He came to our Holy Cross family from his family home in Portland, OR after four years of combat in WWII. I truly did not understand Ed's irascible and somewhat moody personality until I saw the movie "Saving Private Ryan" which opened with the horrific battle of Omaha Beach where some 2400 Americans died and many more were wounded, both physically and emotionally. Ed was at Omaha Beach and other battles in Europe in 1944. Ed received several Bronze Stars for his bravery.

President Regan commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion stated it was the worst of wars, men bled and died for a few feet---or inches of sand as bullets and shell fire cut through their ranks, Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero. No speech can adequately portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism.

Brother Ed was one of those heroes. I firmly believe he was a casualty of that war. But it wasn't until the Vietnam War that we started to formally recognize and treat post traumatic stress syndrome. I believe the stress of battle in WWII haunted Ed all his life. Despite his continuing emotional stress and suffering caused by the war, he led a fruitful and productive life, dedicated to God and his fellowman through the ministries of Holy Cross,

In Holy Cross, Brother Ed spent many years as a canvasser for Ave Marie Magazine. In my opinion, it was a lonely and difficult job. A ministry not too many wanted hut Ed did it well and without complaint. He spent a number of years at LeMans Academy in Rolling Prairie, IN working on maintenance. This followed a number of years assisting at Columba Hall on the ND campus. Through all those years I would describe Ed as a quiet, prayerful, and generous religious. Always willing to help or pray for others. He had an intense interest in our foreign missions and spent hours collecting stamps he gave to the Sisters of

Holy Cross to sell to support our missions.. he spent many summers at our Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal as a tour guide for English speaking tourists. If you needed help you could easily turn to Ed.

As he reached retirement of 70 years of age, Ed became re-invigorated by his patriotic spirit as he saw what was happening with and to the Stars and Stripes. He was determined to push for the constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration. He did not realize that his personal campaign would attract so much attention and bring him into contact with so many people from St. Joseph County and across the country. But you know it brought him to full life at seventy years of age. As he sat by his flag on 933 he met many people who stopped to show support. He was able to share, to encourage, to cry and to laugh with them all. Many of them are here today. All those persons could he assured that Ed would pray for them when they left. Ed was a unique person who grew more confident and comfortable in his senior years; because of the support he received He had views on more than patriotism and the American flag and shared those views many times in the Michiana Point of view in the South Bend Tribune and other publications.



He would tell me how much he gained from meeting the folks, from supporting our troops , proclaiming his patriotism, and helping people have a new respect for our flag, the symbol of our freedom. He felt blessed by the support he received. The Brothers at Columba Hall had a brick in his name placed at the Veterans Memorial Park at the airport when it was being built. He was so pleased to go out and see his name in that monument to our service men and women. Ed was a member of our “Greatest Generation.” It hurt him when his failing health made it impossible to be on 933 with his flag. But I tell you he was overwhelmed with emotion as the Reserve Marine Corp Company B, just before they deployed to Iraq, placed a lighted flag pole on 933 in his honor.

So today we gather in joy, not in sorrow, to celebrate the wonderful and unique life of Brother Edward Courtney. We are pleased that Brother Edward is at rest in the Lord. Although Brother Edward has gone to his eternal reward, his patriotic and God-fearing spirit continues to inspire us. I know Brother Edward would want me to close thanking you for being here, He would say may God Bless you and MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

View Website at:
www.brothersofholycross.com

View Midwest-Midweek at:
www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm

Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published:
cmcbride@hcc-nd.edu

For technical problems or errors please contact: **Br. Richard Johnson** at rjohnson@hcc-nd.edu