

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 18, 2012

Reflection on the Life of Brother Joseph Ballard

By Brother John McMuldren

Bertile, James, Leo, Bernard and all the Ballards and friends: Welcome! I'm so glad you are here. Thank you for coming from Louisville and beyond. Earl would be so proud, and thank you for sharing your brother Earl's life with us. He was our brother in Holy Cross, so we share your – **loss** – in his passing, and we share your – **joy** – in his new life.

There is an old saying: “**No one is ever lost, – IF – you know where they are.**” Joseph is **not lost** – Joseph was a **kind** and **loving** man who lived his life for others – **we know** where Joseph is, – **Joseph is in Heaven.**



It's amazing how Joseph's **entire life** from the very **first** day – to the **last**, has always been under the seal of **Holy Cross**.

Earl Ballard was born on Nov. 22, 1934 in – **Holy Cross**, Kentucky. He was baptized in – **Holy Cross** Church. He lived with his family in – **Holy Cross**, Kentucky until – at the age of 19, when he joined the Brothers of **Holy Cross** in 1954. And **today**, – he will rest in peace – in **Holy Cross** Cemetery.

Joe was the **10th** of **12** children (7 boys and 5 girls). His earliest memories were of growing up on a farm – in rural Kentucky. It was a much simpler time then: deep family roots, and close to the Church. He was very very – close to **family** – close to **nature** – and close to the **Church**.

Joseph was very proud of his “Southern Roots” from “Kentucky” And – He was always – “**A southern gentleman**”: **polite, respectful with a quiet unassuming dignity** – and a private devotion to **St. Joseph** and **St. Andre**. – Whenever I **called**, or **visited** Joe in his illness, he would always say. “**Thank you for calling.**” Or “**Thank you for stopping by.**”

He had an incredible **free spirit of adventure**, and he was always **on the move**. He went solo to counsel at an Air Force Base there. He was there when the Berlin wall came down, and took a piece of it home.

He liked **family reunions, community gatherings** and **socials** at **Columba Hall**. He enjoyed singing, and **playing country music** on his **guitar** – for friends.

As a **Brother** he lived his vows **humbly** and **quietly** through **good example**. I was a junior at **Hoban High School** when Joe came there to teach for the first time in **1958**. He was **24** years old, and by his good example – like the other Brothers at Hoban High – I was **led** to become a Brother of Holy Cross.

Joe was always modest about any of his achievements, even though, throughout his life, he was a **good** teacher, a **concerned** counselor and an **able** principal.



Brother Joseph was **humble** and **kind** – and enjoyed the simple life. He preferred **service to others**, – more than being served.

He died, early in the morning – on the Feast of the **Epiphany**: Epiphany! (When the **Wisemen** followed the **star at night** – that led them to – **Jesus**) I remembered a **painting** – Joe made several years ago, and I asked him to tell me about it. He said “It is *Coming out of the **dark of night** – into a **bright new day** – into the **Light of Christ**.”*

How appropriate he should enter eternal life early on the morning of the EPIPHANY, as the Wisemen came out of the Dark of night and found the light of Christ.

Last month I visited Brother Joseph in Memorial Hospital and told him – he should eat his lunch, so he could get better, and come home. He said he wasn't interested in going home. He said, **"I'd rather go to my reward"**

... **Then** – he said **he saw on the news that a famous man had died recently**, and his wife gave the Eulogy, ... and she said... that just before her husband died – he sat up in bed and said, ... **(then** Joe sat up to demonstrate – and said expressively,) **"Wow, Wow, Wow"**. He said that **made him feel good**; it gave him **hope** and **encouragement**.

Early last Sunday morning when Bertile called me to tell me that her brother **Earl** had died, I remembered Brother Joseph, in his hospital bed, sitting up to **demonstrate** (Steve Jobs last three words.) – **and say expressively: Wow, Wow, Wow!** And it made me – **feel good**.

Columba Hall Annual Retreat



The annual retreat at Columba Hall will begin with an 8pm Conference on Friday-Mar. 30. The retreat will end with Mass at 10 am on Wednesday, April 4. Retreat Master is Fr. Noel Mueller, OSB from St. Meinrad's. If interested please contact Br. Walter at 574-631-9946 (6284) or by e-mail: wgluhm@brothersofholycross.com . Rooms are available on first come first serve basis.

In Holy Cross,
Br. Walter Gluhm
Superior-Columba Hall

Carl's Fox News Video

Channel 4, Fox News in Dallas, interviewed Carl and his cousin, Jane Idzy, January 13. Fox News broadcast the interview on the 5:30 pm news here in Dallas. The interview can be viewed on the following website: www.myfoxdfw.com. *Check it out.

Carl will be discharged from Medical City Hospital next Wednesday, Jan 18th. He is not sure yet where he will be going. I met with the kidney transplant social worker today to start working on some plans. He may go to a nursing home, if he meets the Medicare regulations for eligibility. I am hoping this goes through...if not, he will be with his cousin in Dallas. However, she cannot drive for 2 weeks and he cannot drive for 3 weeks. He also may not be able to go up and down stairs.

I am glad to be here and help him coordinate everything. I am sure he will be on the Holy Cross Associates conference call on Saturday.

Carl did talk about Brother Andre to the interviewer. He had a prayer service and asked Brother Andre to intercede for both he and Jane before they went up to the pre-opt area. He told the interviewer that Saint Brother St Andre's ministry was Healing. She was impressed.

Brother Lewis Brazil

* Note: You will need to search for the name of the video – It may be archived by now. Go to the address: www.myfoxdfw.com, search and click on the article named, [Clergyman Gets Lifesaving Transplant](#). – Br. Richard Johnson



South Bend Tribune.com – Velma Harris
“Employee's actions garners service award”

Click link to view award article for Velma Harris:

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/community/sbt-employees-actions-garners-service-award-20120115,0,852815.story>

International Baccalaureate Program

St. Edward's High School, Lakewood, Ohio, was featured on a local NPR station in Cleveland. The story about their International Baccalaureate Program ran on Monday.

The address for a direct link to the broadcast is:

<http://www.ideastream.org/soi/entry/44617>

Dr. Gregg Good, St. Edward Executive Vice President and Director of the International Baccalaureate Programme, will be featured on National Public Radio's "The Sound of Ideas" via WCPN.



Health Updates

Brothers,

I have some good news to share related to the requested prayers of Tuesday, Jan 10th.

Brother Carl Sternberg's kidney transplant appears to have been successful. After surgery, the doctor informed **Brother Lew Brazil** that all went well and that Carl's new kidney is functioning at top speed. As of last night Carl was in ICU for initial recovery, experienced some pain, but was alert and engaged in conversation with his sister and Lew. If all continues as expected Carl's level of care should be stepped down today.

Brother Charles McBride reports he is feeling better, and that the doctors are looking at discharging him to Dujarie House on Friday, January 13, for continued care. Charlie continues to evaluate his option regarding the needed heart repairs, and plans to seek a second opinion next week.

Thank you for your prayers for these two members, and please continue to pray for their continued improved health.

Thank you.

Brother Chester Freel

Next publication will be in two weeks, February 1, 2012.

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.

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