

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

May 30, 2012

Brother Frederick McGlynn, CSC A Dedicated Compassionate Teacher

“Every human being has a great yet often unknown gift—to care, to be compassionate, to become present to the other, to listen, to hear and to receive. If that gift would be set free and made available, miracles could take place.” John Henri Nouwen

I have known Brother Fred for a long time starting when we worked together in Ghana. I wear my mission habit today to honor the fact that he dedicated so much of his time to the people of Ghana—he was in every respect a missionary. In an attempt to sum up the gift he was to Ghana, to Holy Cross and to the church I want to focus on just two aspects of his life recognizing that much more could be said.



First and foremost Fred was a teacher. He was an excellent math teacher. He specialized in Form 6 Mathematics. This was part of the high school system in Ghana, but in the Cambridge system it was in reality, a college course. His reputation as a teacher was such that many students came from around the country to St Augustine's just to have the opportunity to be taught by Brother Fred. A very patient teacher he made math come alive for his students. I am not sure that he ever had a failure in his advanced math classes. Yet, he didn't just teach his students; he became great friends to many who visited with him and with whom he kept contact via the computer until he died. During my visits with him on Sunday mornings he would tell me about the “old boys” that had contacted him. The relationships that he developed with his students can be seen in the expression they used for him “behind his back”. If a teacher wants to know what students really think about him, he should try to find out how they refer to him when he is not around. To his students he was known as “old Freddie”. Within the Ghanaian

context this is an expression of enormous respect. Because of his concern for them, they grew to love him. In Ghana they say “You don’t get grey hair for nothing!” Old age is respected, honored and appreciated. Because of his interactions with his students he had become like a father to them. Thus the appellation “Old Freddie” was a sign that they knew he loved them, and they returned this love.

Fred was also the Headmaster at St John’s school. He worked very hard and was an excellent administrator. He led the school through some difficult times and was an excellent organizer. His students were quick to see that Fred spent many evenings late into the night working in the Headmaster’s office, and they knew he was working for them. Perhaps one of the most significant things he did was after finishing his term as Headmaster, he returned to teaching. Within the Ghanaian context this was extraordinary and seen as significant to all his students. In Ghana the adage is: once a chief, always a chief. No one, under any conceivable circumstances would return to the job as an ordinary teacher once he had been a Headmaster. This just didn’t happen! Fred did it because of his love of teaching, and his love of Ghana, and it turned many heads. Without knowing it he also gave an excellent example to our young Ghanaian Brothers— in the religious life you can have an important position one day and return to the ranks the next.

Well old Freddie, my friend, you have used your gifts well. You cared for your students and your friends here in Holy Cross Village. You were compassionate, you were present to others, you listened, heard and received. There are many grateful “old boys” who will mourn your death. They are the miracles your life helped to form.

Brother Raymond Papenfuss



Fox 8 Cool School



St. Edward High School was chosen as a “Cool School” this week. We were featured on Chanel 8 this morning. Enjoy!

Jim Kubacki
President,

<http://fox8.com/2012/05/24/st-edward-high-school/>

Metropolitan Brothers Hold their Local Jubilee Celebration

Last Wednesday, May 23, the Metropolitan Brothers from Holy Cross Village and the South Bend/Granger area celebrated the jubilees of four of their own in the **Brother William Geenen Hall** of Holy Cross Village. Honored as 60-year Jubilarians were **Brothers Bernard Donahoe, Raymond Harrington and Joseph Berg**. **Brother Richard Gilman** is a 50-year Jubilarian.



Brother Joseph Fox was responsible for the menu and planning of the event along with the culinary staff of Holy Cross Village. It was a dinner to be remembered. Columba Hall celebrated the Jubilees of **Brothers Robert Dierker and Roy Smith** earlier this month.

Summer Gatherings at Coloma Begin

Close to 30 Holy Cross members joined together at Coloma Cottage on Lake Michigan to celebrate Memorial Day this year. **Br. Tom Moser** did the honors of planning and putting out the meal. Others brought a favorite treat – **Fr. Bill Blum's** rum cake, **Br. Chester Freel's** Strawberry and Rhubarb Crisp with ice cream and **Br. Robert Berthiaume's** cupcakes with small memorial flags. **Brothers Robert Dierker and James Newberry** accompanied Tom for overnights at the cottage to ensure that all was ready and all was cleaned up afterwards. A few dared 52 degree water temperatures to take a quick dip.



In a day or so, pictures will be posted on the website at
<http://brothersofholycross.com>

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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