

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

October 24, 2012

## Year of the Brother Ends With Celebration

The Year of the Brother concluded on Wednesday, October 17, with a 5:00 p.m. Mass in St. Joseph Chapel followed by a dinner and program at Andre Place. The year-long celebration marked the canonization of Saint Brother Andre Bessette, C.S.C. on October 17, 2010 in Rome, Italy.



Emphasis this past year highlighted the vocation of the religious brother in the Church. Province vocation programs conducted by Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C. became a major theme for the year.

Fr. Andre Léveillé, C.S.C., a Holy Cross Brother before being ordained to the

priesthood, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. Fr. Chris Kuhn, C.S.C. of the United States Province Archives concelebrated. Brother Daniel Kane, C.S.C. of Gates Mills, Ohio, along with a choir of brothers provided the music. The event, along with the dinner at Andre Place, was coordinated by Brother Joseph Fox, C.S.C.

The celebration was honored with the presence of Rev. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C., Rev. Richard Wilkinson, C.S.C. and Brother Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C. of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers. Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson, C.S.C., area coordinator for the United States represented the Sisters of the Holy Cross. There were also members of the Moreau Province of brothers and Brothers from the US Province in attendance.

Members of the Year of the Brother committee included Carlos Parrilla, chair, Chuck Ball, Joseph Fox, Joseph McTaggart, John McMuldren, Nich Perez and Roy Smith.



Pictures may be viewed at:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/YOB-Oct2012/YOB-Oct2012.htm>



Report and Reflection on the ending of  
The Year of the Brother:

*Brothers are nouns not adjectives*

Br. Joe McTaggart, CSC

October 17, 2012

Geenen Hall

Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame

This presentation may be read by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/YOB-Oct2012/TalkYOB.pdf>

## Brother Robert Ludwig, CSC

*A simple man, alive with love.*

Robert dedicated his life of service primarily through farming and maintenance. He was very good at what he did. But what a person does is not nearly as important as the spirit that inspires the work. We cannot hope to catch a lifetime with a few minutes of remembrance. I would like to mention a few highlights from his long life and these, perhaps, will stress the gift that Robert's life was to all that he served and it was a great gift.



Robert's life, it seems to me, was driven by a deep love, of God and the people he served. He left his country to serve many years as a missionary in Brazil. I wear my missionary habit to honor Robert for these years of service. He worked as a maintenance man in Santarem, a city far up the Amazon river in the heart of northern Brazil. Br Joe Kinsman tells me that he could repair anything. The school, a 1930's building was originally a hospital. Robert had an enormous work load and his repair jobs were made to last. More interesting to me is the relationship he developed with the younger kids. He was able to do this in spite of the considerable difficulty he had with the language. Portuguese is, I am told, a very difficult language to master. Robert had a really tough time with it, but he got around the problem by speaking louder and sometimes mixing in English or German. He always had a dish of candy available—a good lure for kids anywhere, but what really attracted them was his heavy German accent. Think about it, poor Portuguese spoken loudly with a heavy German accent. The key here is that this was not a difficulty for him. His love for the people he served overcame the language barrier. Robert would visit families near the school and organize prayer groups. Love simply did not let the language problem get in the way. The great underlying reality here is that when one truly loves there are no barriers that cannot be overcome. When people are loved they sense it and respond to it. Robert was good at working with people through a language he did not fully understand because he loved them and they returned this love. Is there a better definition of a Brother of Holy Cross-- The ability to establish relationships with other people in spite of any barriers!

In Brazil just before Lent it is carnival season. Santarem joined in this pre-lenten fun. Robert did not much like what it represented. He started a group of young people they decided under his direction to do something different during the big carnival celebrations. They organized a three day retreat at their school, Colegio Dom Amando, and called it "Cristoval" (Christ centered). The students loved this retreat and it grew year after year drawing thousands of students celebrating not

carnival but Christ. It has grown so large that it now has to be held in the local football stadium. A simple gift given in love—what an outcome.

Richard Rohr in one of his books says something like this: our most difficult task is to learn how to be properly human i.e. to live lives of love as Jesus did! That is what we have yet to learn. I believe that is why Jesus came as a human being: he didn't come to teach us how to go to heaven but to teach us how to be simple, loving human beings here on earth. This is the Kingdom! Robert, you learned this lesson well and lived it. It is your gift to all of us. Thank you.

**Brother Raymond Papenfuss**



## Rail Line Being Removed Near Notre Dame

- *For the past week the old railroad tracks running through Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have been removed. Here is a story on the track. Editor*

By MARGARET FOSMOE

SOUTH BEND -- Crews are removing an old railroad line that runs from South Bend's west side to the University of Notre Dame.

The rails and ties already have been removed from the spur line along Douglas Road. Railroad cars carrying coal used to ride that track to Notre Dame's power plant.

The rail line is owned by [Norfolk Southern](#) Railway Co., but hasn't been used since the mid-1990s.

The rail line, approximately 3.7 miles long, runs through South Bend west-side neighborhoods, along Angela Boulevard, behind Holy Cross College, across the Saint Mary's College front lawn and along Douglas Road.

In 2011, the city of South Bend, the Brothers of Holy Cross, Sisters of Holy Cross and Holy Cross Village housing development filed a joint petition asking the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to approve the abandonment of the rail line.

To read the complete story go to:

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/sbt-rail-line-being-removed-near-notre-dame-20121017,0,3498447.story>

## Brothers House in Holy Cross Village Updates

For Octobers Pictures, click below:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/BrsHouseOct/BrsHouseOct.htm>

For all pictures, go to:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/BrsHouse/BrsHouse.htm>



## Columba Hall Tower to get Copper Cross





A lightning strike which hit the Columba Hall sheet metal cross on August 4 has brought about a number of improvements during the past month to the Columba Hall tower. Dudeck Roofing and Metal of South Bend removed the old sheet metal cross and fabricated a new copper cross which includes a lightning rod, something the old tower cross didn't have. The new cross, copied from the exact specifications of the old cross, was fabricated in the Dudeck metal shop. The project took three weeks to complete. In the past few weeks new shingles have been placed on the tower and a copper wire

runs from the tower to the base of Columba Hall. Dudeck is working on the eaves of Columba Hall and should have the new cross in place by the end of the month. It will take a very large crane to place the cross on top of the tower. Pictured with the new cross in the Dudeck metal shop is Stan Peak, project manager and Gregory A. Dudeck owner and manager of Dudeck Roofing and Sheet Metal.



The tower cross was installed on Monday, Oct. 22. See pictures on next page.



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Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

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