

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 5, 2014

## Guardians of Hope Dinner to Honor Josh Hale

On Friday, March 7, at 6 p.m. at Navy Pier, Chicago, Holy Trinity High School will host its signature annual event, the Guardians of Hope Dinner. The Guardians of Hope Dinner is a benefit to raise vital funds for intelligent, capable, young men and women in need of tuition assistance. This year's Guardians of Hope honoree is Joshua Hale, President and Chief Executive Officer of Big Shoulders Fund since 2012 and the organization's executive director since 2005.

Founded by a group of business and civic leaders in 1986, Big Shoulders Fund has raised over \$243 million to support the network of inner-city Catholic elementary and high schools through scholarships, operating and capital grants, academic and programmatic enhancements and technical assistance. Mr. Hale said, "I am honored to accept this award on behalf of all of the supporters of the Big Shoulders Fund. We could not be prouder of the tremendous work being done at Holy Trinity High School to



reach out and serve the community by providing an accessible, high-quality Catholic education for its students."



More than 500 guests are expected to join Holy Trinity High School in celebrating 104

years of commitment to the Chicago community and its youth. In keeping with the Holy Cross tradition of serving those in greatest need, more than 90 percent of Holy Trinity students qualify for scholarships and financial assistance. An icon of Chicago secondary education, Holy Trinity serves students from more than 45 ZIP codes. The dedicated faculty and staff provide the individualized attention, rigorous academic curriculum, and strong moral guidance that will lead Holy Trinity into the next 100 years of excellence and integrity.

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## Brother Nich L. Perez to Make Final Profession on February 15



**Brother Nich L. Perez, C.S.C.** will make his final vows as a Brother of the Moreau Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross on Saturday, February 15 at 2:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Chapel of Holy Cross College in Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame, IN. Brother Nich Perez took his first vows as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross on August 4, 2007. All are welcome to attend.

The presider of the Final Profession Mass will be **Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C.**, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Brother Nich's vows will be received by **Brother William Zaydak, C.S.C.**, Provincial Superior of the Moreau Province. A reception will follow the final ceremony in the dining hall of Holy Cross College. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a by invitation only dinner at the Gillespie Conference Center, 53995 State Road 933 South, South Bend, IN.

**Brother John Paige, C.S.C.**, President of Holy Cross College said of Brother Nich Perez, "Brother Nich joined Holy Cross College in Fall 2012. In addition to teaching well-regarded film courses in the Communications department, he serves as support staff for college marketing efforts. With the assistance of his student interns, he produced a feature film on the Brothers vocation entitled ***BRO: Men with Hope to Bring***; the film will open at several professional film festivals during 2014. Brother Nich is a popular professor with our students and resides on campus in the Pulte Hall Brothers Community."

Brother Nich said, "I am a filmmaker and had been looking for meaning in art. I tried a plethora of fields, but couldn't decide where I belonged. I was looking for a

sense of direction and the Brothers of Holy Cross gave me that. Our founder Father Moreau imparted a zeal that allows us to be who we are. So I completed a master's degree in media and technology at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX, and now I teach videography at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN. One way I believe we can reach out and make God known, loved and served is through film, through media. There are ups and downs of course. That is what makes religious life fascinating and meaningful."

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### *'Ministers of Care, Be Prepared' by Brother Thomas Minta*

*Below is a presentation given by the late Brother Thomas Minta, C.S.C. (May 5, 1948 – January 8, 2014) to a group of people from parishes around Arlington Heights, IL. He touched the lives of hundreds of people where he lived. His talk is entitled, "Ministers of Care, Be Prepared." Tom's presentation will give a glimpse of his ministry that we may not have known.*

*Br. Lawrence Stewart, Archivist*



Tonight I'm going to talk about how we can become better Ministers of Care — in whatever type of care we give to others. I'm going to talk about how we can become better caring ministers by being prepared in three areas: (1) prayer, (2) remembering who we are and what we do, and (3) listening.

In my life, being prepared was always on my mother's mind. She always told me to have a handkerchief in my pocket. I would say, "Mom, why do I have to bring a handkerchief, my shirt has two long sleeves!" She would say, "That's why you have a handkerchief. You never know. Always be prepared." As a minister of care, you have to be prepared.

A long time ago and not so far away, I started teaching at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago. Every year Brother Majella came to my class to evaluate my teaching. He was old and wise and ready to tell me how to be a better teacher. I had 40 seniors in an English class and he was sitting in the back of the classroom

scribbling away with a pencil. I met with him after class and he gave me two words of wisdom: Be prepared. A good teacher is always prepared. Students know when you are not prepared and if you are not, they surmise that you just don't care.

Not too long ago I attended the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. I started to cough a little and immediately the young woman next to me opened her purse and handed me a cough drop. She said to me, "I have four small children. I'm always prepared for anything."

When I travel, I'm prepared. I'm the one who overpacks. I'm prepared to have enough clothes for at least a week of flight cancellations. I even have everything in my kit: Tums, Alka-Seltzer, Pepto-Bismal tablets.

You probably already know this, but it won't hurt to review the basics of what it is to be a Minister of Care. If you bring the Eucharist to the sick in hospitals, homes, or hospices ... if you comfort the dying ... if you work in a food pantry, stocking shelves, filling bags with food for the hungry ... if you are comforting the grieving ... if you are helping a spouse or parent prepare for a funeral ... if you attend or preside at wake services ... if you visit the home-bound ... you must be prepared in order to minister in the best way possible. And what is the best way? It is to minister as Jesus did.

***Don't go into your ministry cold. Remember, you are witnesses of Christ and are translating your spiritual relationship with Christ into action. To the person you are visiting, comforting, consoling, you are the disciple of Christ.***

I have learned a lot by just watching. I once was at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital and watched a nurse working in the emergency room. When doctors were yelling and patients were yelling and family members were yelling, this nurse was the one who calmed the storm, who never got angry, never said an unkind word, always comforted, always helped. When I asked her how she could be so calm, she said, "I do this because I love these people." Her motto, "The closest thing to being cared for is to care for someone else."

***We are not followers of Christ unless we translate our spiritual experience into action. If we call ourselves followers, we must enter the world of despair, doubt and unbelief and bring confidence, belief and above all, hope.***

Prepare yourself by prayer. Remember that you are entering the world of the sick.

You are entering a world you may know nothing about. You may never have suffered the way that person is suffering. You have made a commitment to serve our Lord by serving others, so before your visit, first of all prepare yourself by prayer. You should pray before you leave your home ... You should pray before you enter that room in the hospital or the nursing home or the emergency room or the funeral home where you were called to help and comfort.

When you visit the sick you are now the eyes, the feet of Jesus. The word “visit” comes from the Latin “visitare” which means to go to see, to notice, to observe, to behold. It also means to give aid, comfort and assist.

***When you minister with care to those who are sick, grieving, frightened or confused, you should minister with the hands, feet and eyes of Christ whom you represent.***

Lastly, we have to be prepared to listen. There was a man by the name of Alfred Bessette who was born in 1845 near Montreal. His mother and father died when he was very young. His eight brothers and sisters were split up. He didn’t stay long in school, but worked on a farm to bring money for his aunt and uncle who were taking care of him. In time, he decided to become a Holy Cross Brother, but because of a lack of education and poor health, he was considered a risk, but he was professed as Brother Andre. His first obedience was as a porter at Notre Dame College in Montreal, where he also was the sacristan, laundry worker and mailman. Brother Andre was very interested in the sick and the poor. He had great confidence in St. Joseph and told those who were sick to place their trust in God through the intercession of St. Joseph. He visited the sick in their homes and those who came to see him. He would tell them to “Go to St. Joseph.” Soon hundreds of people claimed they were cured through the prayers of Brother Andre and St. Joseph. When he was asked what he did to cure people, Andre insisted it was not because of him but it was their faith in God and the intercession of St. Joseph. The special gift he had in dealing with people was he simply listened. Sometimes there was no conversation at all. Pope Benedict XVI formally declared Brother Andre Bessette a saint.

***Sometimes when we do our work, the only thing we can do is listen and sometimes the only thing we SHOULD do is listen. Prepare and learn to listen and be comfortable with the quiet.***

I remember visiting a young man who didn’t want to receive the Eucharist. He said he didn’t believe anymore. He was so sick and wondered why this happened

to him since he was so young. I realized there was nothing I could say to make matters better. So I sat on a chair and we were just quiet, the two of us sitting there in a darkened room not saying anything. When I left, I told him I would pray for him. He said, “Thanks for all you did for me just now.”

So my friends, listen to those you visit who are lonely, who are sick, who grieve, who are angry, who are alone. Listen to them as if you never heard them speak before. Don’t give them answers – because maybe they already know the answers. Just listen and offer your support, concern, and show you care for them.

*You are a minister of care. When we care, we are certainly bringing the message of Christ to someone. Be prepared to pray. Be prepared to listen. Be prepared to be the hands, feet, and eyes of Jesus.*

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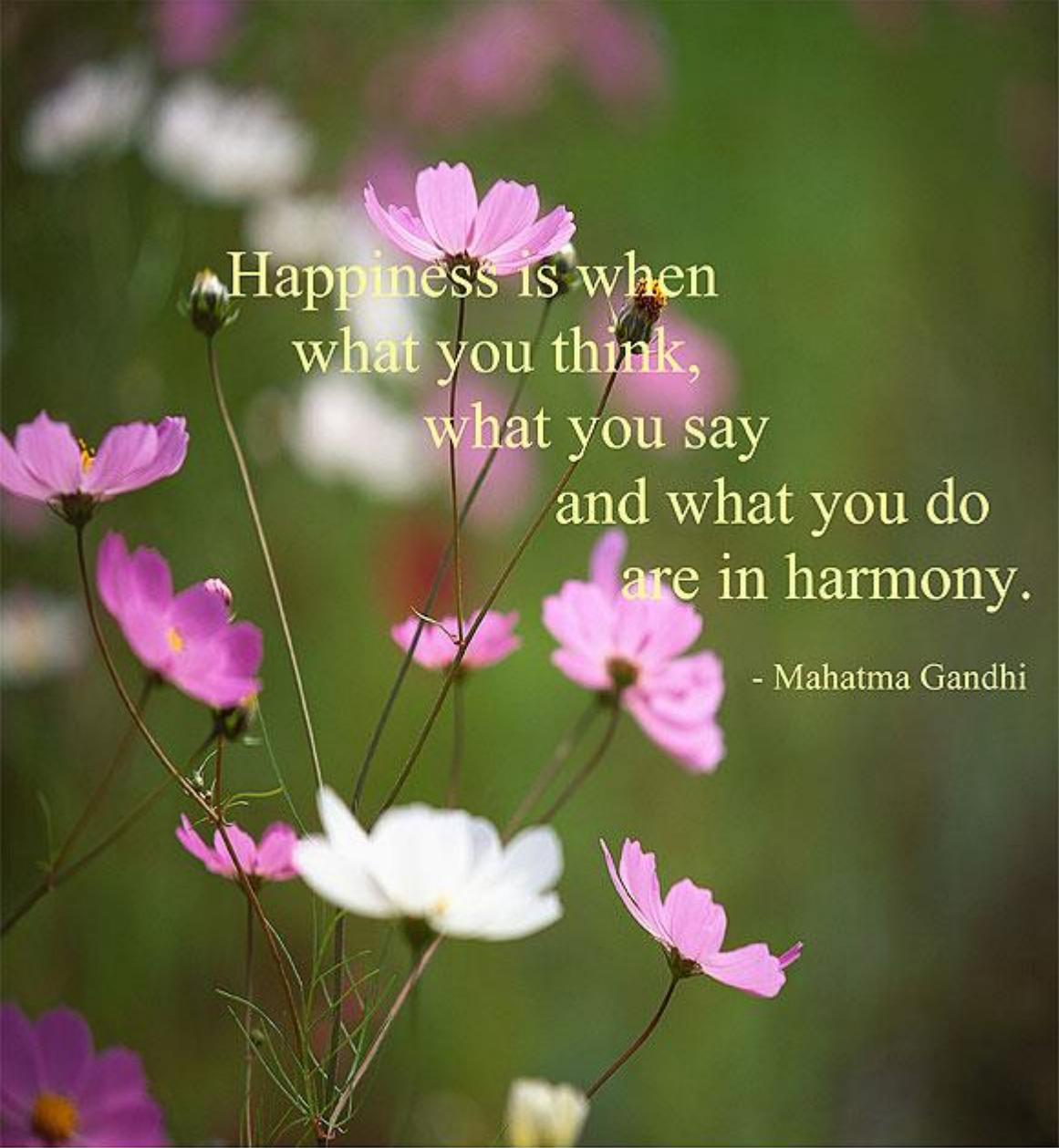
## Brothers Urged to Complete Congregational Task Forces Survey by Friday, February 7

My Brothers in Holy Cross,

As you know, the Congregational Task Forces sent a survey to your email address asking you to assist us in our planning efforts by responding to a survey in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese or Bengali. While we have received completed surveys from 61% of our total membership, and 94% of you have opened and at least seen the survey, 400 have either started the survey but not finished it or left it aside for one reason or another.

I am writing to thank sincerely those of you have completed the survey and to ask those who have not done so to complete the survey before Friday night, February 7, after which date it will no longer be possible to do so.

**Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C.  
Superior General**



Happiness is when  
what you think,  
what you say  
and what you do  
are in harmony.

- Mahatma Gandhi

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Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

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