

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

July 30, 2014

Words of Remembrance at the funeral for Brother Albin Kuzminski, C.S.C. St. Joseph Chapel – July 12, 2014

Good morning. I am Brother Chester Freel, Provincial Superior for the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province.

On behalf of the Brothers, I wish to express our condolences to the family and friends of Brother Albin Kuzminski who are in attendance today. With us are Albin's sisters, Lillian and Theresa, and his brothers, Donald and Anthony, and several of Al's nieces and nephews, as well as their children. Albin loved you, his family, very much, and would often speak of telephone calls, greeting cards, and especially, the occasions when you would gather at the cottage near Coloma. We thank you for being with us today to celebrate Albin's life.



We are also grateful that some of Albin's friends from his days at Boysville are with us, especially Fr. Dan Wheeler who concelebrated at the Mass this morning. Thank you for coming. In addition, I extend the appreciation of the Brothers to the staff at Dujarie House, who provided wonderful care and assistance to Albin over these last three months as his health gradually declined.

In St. Paul's second letter to Timothy, he writes: ***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*** (2 Timothy 4:7) Without question, the apostle Paul was the consummate warrior, never quitting, never flagging in his zeal for the Lord. He knew where lay the source of his strength.

Like St Paul's story of long ago, Brother Albin's life and ministry provide for us a good example for modeling Christ in today's world. Not only did Albin "fight the good fight," but he also "finished the race" and "kept the faith." Albin knew that his death was near but had no regrets. Albin lived life to the fullest, fulfilling that commitment he made as a Brother of Holy Cross when he professed vows in 1955.

I first met Brother Albin when he arrived at Boysville in the summer of 1971, and we remained there together for the next 36 years, with Al continuing on three more years after my departure. Al's arrival at Boysville coincided with the school transitioning from a home for neglected and dependent boys to a residential treatment facility for court referred youth. This changeover included the implementation of a new treatment program which relied heavily on the principles of group therapy.

Prior to his Boysville assignment, Al taught math, typing, and business at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, OH. But having just earned his master's degree in theology, Al wanted to teach religion classes at Hoban except there were no openings in the department. As a result, Al asked for re-assignment to a school in need of a theology teacher, and thus began Al's career at Boysville.

Here is an excerpt from a letter Brother Albin wrote to the then assistant provincial, Brother Rex Hennel, in late August, 1971:

Well, today's the big day. The first day of the 1971-72 Boysville School year. Believe it or not, I'm looking forward to my first class.

I've been assigned two religion classes, which is quite different from the usual five or six classes at Hoban. The lay staff is teaching "all" the secular subjects. This allows the Brothers to work more directly with the students in their dorms.

The experience is quite new to me; however, I do find it exciting---I hope this keeps up. The Program here at Boysville is new and so am I. In Algebra, two plusses add up to a plus, so I'm in luck.

The tone and content of this letter well summarizes Al's attitude not only of his new assignment to Boysville, but also of Al's overall philosophy in life: be excited about what you do, help out where you can, enjoy the experience, always try to remain positive, and be open to new adventures.

Seldom did Al undertake an assignment unless it was full steam ahead, and with a singular focus on the task at hand. Sometimes this got Al into trouble. Upon his arrival at Boysville, Al was assigned dormitory prefect responsibilities for one of the two Healy groups. They were nick-named the Lions and the Tigers by the other staff on the campus. Al was placed in charge of the “Tigers.” These nine students were among the youngest, most difficult, and on occasion, wildest on the campus. (Believe me, I can identify with Al’s experience, as I was assigned responsibility for the “Lions.”)

Remember now, the group treatment program was new to everyone at the Campus, and consisted more of a therapeutic approach rather than a series of prescribed interventions. Needless to say, sometimes Al’s interventions were unorthodox, and usually left other staff puzzled, but the students always knew he had their best interest at heart.

The work in the dorms could be quite taxing, and after five years in this role, Al moved to the school program as the Values Education teacher. It is hard to believe that delinquent kids might be eager to attend a class learning values, but Al’s excitement and enthusiasm was overpowering. You could walk around the campus outside of school hours and hear students helping one another using the group process interjecting lessons learned from Brother Albin’s classes. Al was challenging students to be “Warriors” before Oprah Winfrey made the idea popular, and he was teaching Kohlberg’s Stages of Moral Development long before Dr. Phil ever became a TV celebrity.

Another area where Al’s sometimes went overboard with an assignment was in his role as House Steward. Stories of Al being frugal with house funds are legendary. Al could be tight with the money and was always looking for the best buy. The items that he brought home were not always the freshest or a name brand, and if it was a really good deal, Al would buy several of the product, even if only one package was all that was needed.

I can recall sitting with Brother Donald McIntyre in the kitchenette at the Brothers House, and Al commenting on the great deal he secured on a package of cookies, and how long they were lasting. As only Donnie the Mac could, he proceeded to explain to Al that uneatable cookies are not necessarily a good deal. Thereafter, Al stopped buying that brand.

When you are on staff in a residential treatment program, there is no such thing as a set job description. You are expected to help out whenever and however needed, and Brother Albin personified this expectation. It could be in smaller duties like staffing a group for a few extra minutes, taking a student to the hospital for a sports related injury. It could also be for more significant assignments.

I have mentioned that Al was a Dorm Counselor and a Values Education teacher, but when the school needed a second math teacher, Al volunteered. Later, when we wanted to establish a Computer/Marketing class in the Pre-vocational Program, Al said "I will do it" and at the age of 65 began taking classes at Eastern Michigan University to become a certified Vocational Instructor.

Al's willingness to volunteer was not just confined to Boysville. In later years, he became quite involved at St. Elizabeth's, the local parish in Tecumseh, and then after his retirement from Boysville, Al became the Business Manager for St. Dominic's Church in Clinton. Fr. Dan Wheeler was the pastor for both these churches and Fr. Dan's mother in her later years lived with him at the Tecumseh rectory. Given the various duties of being a pastor, Fr. Dan would often be called away, but Albin was always on standby to sit with "mother" as long as needed. Al did all this quietly, and to the best of his ability, and never with expectation of any return favor. This was Albin, helping out whenever and however needed.

However, let's not assume that life was all work for Brother Albin, and let's not forget that Al equally enjoyed playing games of all sorts. In his younger days, Al could match up with anyone in handball and tennis.....and usually won! During his days as a Dorm Counselor, Al loved to challenge the students to games of ping-pong and pooland usually won! With the brothers, Al was always good for a game of cribbage or backgammonand again he usually won!

If there was not anyone around to engage in a game, he was always willing to teach new-comers. I can remember sitting in the Brothers' rec room once while Al was teaching Brother Roy Smith the game of backgammon. Roy was starting to get the gist of the game, but made an ill-advised move, to which Albin informed all "Roy, that was a really stupid move. What is wrong with you?" Shortly thereafter, Roy gave up backgammon.

Without a doubt, Albin's favorite game was bridge. Al was a serious student of the game. He read bridge columns and various books on ways to improve one's skills. Al was always looking for an edge, first to arrive at the proper bid, and then the best way possible line of play to make the contract. In particular, Al

would employ exotic conventions and transfer bids. Sometimes when playing bridge with Al, he would suggest using one of these conventions, and I would ask him to refresh my memory of how it worked, just to see if he would explain it the same way as last time, or if he was just making up these conventions. Not only was it the same explanation, but Al usually won at these games as well.

Brother Albin's joy for life spread beyond the game table. He stayed current with local, national, and world news. Sometimes, the news stories he followed were unusual and occasionally off-beat, but always made for interesting conversation. He had a zest for life, and was willing to share it with others, be it through playing cards, engaging in conversation, or helping others. Al realized the importance of staying positive in life, not just for one's own personal mind-set, but also to benefit those with whom he interacted.

While a Dorm Counselor at Boysville, one of Brother Albin's most unforgettable students was named Keith. Keith was usually angry, occasionally suicidal, and constantly engaging in attention seeking behaviors. Al tried everything to help this young man, but little worked. Eventually Keith was discharged from Boysville, and shortly thereafter got into more trouble, and worked his way to the adult prison system. Keith's adjustment to prison life was no better than that at Boysville.

At this point Keith contacted Albin asking for his advice. Over the next 35 years they exchanged letters and phone calls, and on occasion Al visited Keith. As best possible with someone who is in prison, Albin was a positive influence in Keith's life, helping him out financially and offering guidance. This is only one example of many that I could cite of Albin's openness and generosity in quietly helping others. Openness, quietness, and bigheartedness are qualities not normally associated with the more publicly known Albin, but that is a side of him that I was fortunate to witness firsthand.

The last time I visited with Brother Albin at Dujarie House, it was evident that Al was in his last days. He reached out to shake my hand when I entered the room, but either was unable or chose not to speak. He was restless, fiddling with his oxygen tube, and appeared uncomfortable sitting in the chair. I noticed 5-6 medals sitting on a nearby table. They were Olympic-style medals, gold and silver, with red, white, and blue ribbons, which he had won at last year's South Bend Community's Senior Games where he represented Holy Cross Village. I turned to Al and asked, "You won all these? Well done, Al!" Al did not answer, but he smiled proudly.

Brother Albin passed on to his heavenly reward knowing that he had fully accomplished all that the Lord called him to do. Albin fought the good fight. He finished the race, and he kept the faith. May he now enjoy everlasting life....and several good bridge games, of which I am sure, he will win more than his share. Thank you.

Br. Chester Freel

Four Brothers Profess First Vows in Ghana

On Tuesday, July 8, four novices from the Congregation of Holy Cross, District of West Africa (Cape Coast, Ghana), made their First Profession of Religious Vows.

The four men, all religious brothers, spent the previous year at the St. André Bessette Novitiate in Brafoyaw, Ghana, under the direction of Novice Master, Br. Joseph Tsiquaye, C.S.C. They entered the Novitiate on July 7, 2013.



Br. Ignatius George Betinim, C.S.C., Br. Francis Ewulley, C.S.C., Br. Dominic Joseph Moonen, C.S.C., and Br. Nathaniel Obbih, C.S.C., professed their vows in a Mass held at the District Center in Brafoyaw. Their vows were received by Br. Daniel Dardoe, C.S.C., the Superior of the District of West Africa.

Fr. Robert Gilmour, C.S.C., presided and preached at the Mass, at which six Holy Cross brothers also renewed their temporary vows. In his homily, Fr. Gilmour spoke of the "beauty and mystery" of religious profession.

Having completed their Novitiate, the four newly professed Holy Cross brothers will now continue their initial formation in the Congregation.

"We are blessed to have this additional number in the District," said Br. Tsiquaye. "It enhances and affirms our determination to carry on the mission of the

Congregation in West Africa. It will be a while before they are ready to take part in full time ministry, but we see a bright future for the Congregation."

View photos of the profession at:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/118446232903385018825/albums/6034168916463352593?banner=pwa>

St. Edward Graduates First International Baccalaureate Class

It is with great pride that I share the extraordinary news that 28 members of St. Edward's inaugural International Baccalaureate class have achieved the distinction of earning the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma. The 28 recipients represent 85% of our first IB class, placing St. Ed's among the top schools in the world for students earning the diploma. The world-wide diploma achievement average for IB schools in 143 countries is about 78%.

This achievement is a testament to countless hours of hard work put in by these students, combined with incredible dedication from our faculty, who worked tirelessly to ensure that our students met the goal of earning the IB Diploma. Not only did our students demonstrate mastery of the most challenging secondary school curriculum in the world, but they spent two years researching and writing the 4,500-word IB Extended Essay, performed more than 150 hours each of creativity, action and service outside of the classroom, and answered the question "How do we know what we know?" through the Theory of Knowledge course.

Our students take 6 honors level courses, complete an 18 month research project and a 4500 word essay on that research; they sat for 8 hour exams in each course in May; they completed a huge CAS (Community, Action and Service) project. They persevered in the most difficult curriculum in the world and took the same exams as students in 143 countries across the globe. St. Edward certainly offers a world class education! Again, thank you for your tremendous support of this initiative! This is a great day for St. Edward High School.

Most important, all of our IB students learned perseverance, met this challenge with vigor, and grew enormously through their intellectual engagement with the

rigorous IB curriculum. They are undoubtedly ready to take on their next challenge in many of the country's top universities. Congratulations Class of 2014 IB Diploma recipients on your world class results!

Jim Kubacki
President, St. Edward High School



ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2014
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

Holy Cross Village Honors Five Brother Jubilarians



Brs. Thomas Rock and George Klawitter



(Rt) Br. Donald Morrison



Br. Paul Rosonke



Br. Carlos Parrilla



Br. James Reddy

The honoring of the Brothers of Holy Cross who celebrated their jubilees on June 21 from the area was postponed by residents of Dujarie House and Schubert Villa of Holy Cross Village due to the recent deaths of three brothers and the 4th of July holiday. Nevertheless, on July 14, residents met in the Dujarie Library to meet and honor the Brother Jubilarians. Honored for 60 years of religious vows were **Brother Paul Rosonke** of Columba Hall and **Brother Thomas Rock** of Schubert Villa. Honored for 50 years of religious vows were **Brother Carlos Parrilla**, superior of the Brothers living in Schubert Villa and Dujarie House and a resident of Columba Hall, along with **Brothers Donald Morrison and James Reddy** of Columba Hall. **Brother John Paige** of the Moreau Province, who also celebrated his 50th Jubilee with the brothers, was not able to be present.

It was good to have **Brothers Raymond Dufresne and Robert Fillmore** of the Quinn Center join in the celebration. Food and drink was served to residents needing assistance by the staffs of Schubert Villa and Dujarie House. There were 12 members of the Midwest Province who celebrated jubilees on June 21.



Progress Made to Open St. Joseph Residence Aspirancy Program

As a result of an April 21, 2014, joint statement by provincials of the Midwest and Moreau Provinces entitled *“Unification of Vocation and Formation Programs of the Midwest and the Moreau Provinces,”* renovations to the

second Floor of Pulte Residence Hall of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN, are nearing completion. The second floor of Pulte will be renamed St. Joseph



Residence. The renovation project was designed by Kingscott architects, engineers, and interior designers of Kalamazoo, MI. Holladay Construction of South Bend is the general contractor for the nine-week project.

The Brothers of Holy Cross Aspirancy Program was initiated by the Moreau Province. This began in January 2014 with four aspirants. In September 2014 there will be seven aspirants. In the past, the Moreau Province ran their formation program at St. Joseph Hall, St. Edward’s University, Austin, TX.

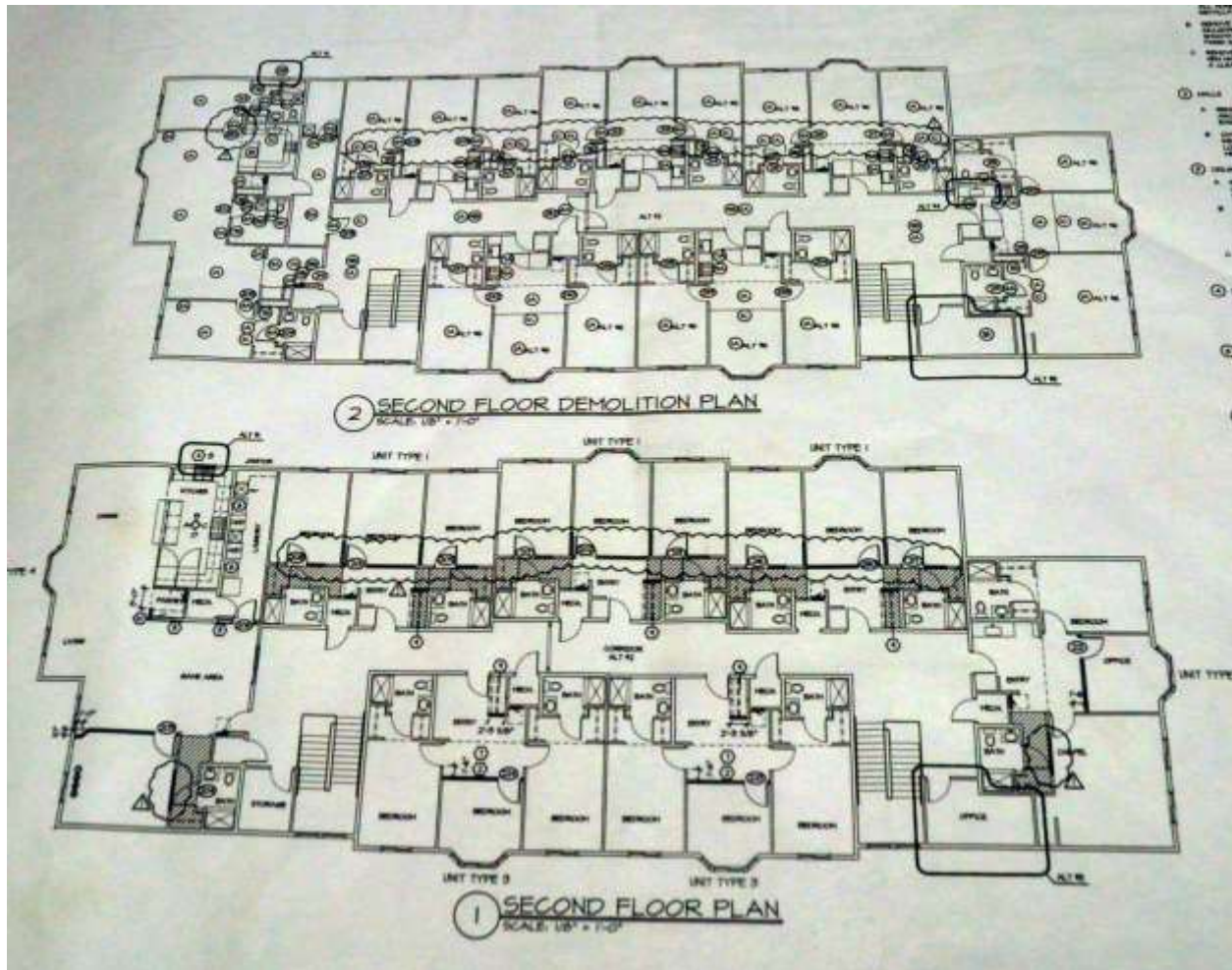
Each province in its 2012 chapters issued statements on the need and encouragement to dialogue and establish collaborative efforts with other provinces as well as implementing the goals of the Congregational Vocation Plan which includes initial and continuing formation. The Midwest Province Provincial Council has been supportive of the establishment of the Formation Residence at Pulte Hall recognizing the benefit to the entire Congregation of Holy Cross and giving substance to the words collaboration and dialogue. The renovations of Pulte Hall are being financed by the Moreau Province.

Brother Chris Torrijas of the Midwest Province, will join the Pulte Hall Community in September 2014 and will be the Director of the Aspirancy and Postulant (Candidacy) Program there. He will be assisted by **Brother James Posluszny**. Brother Chris will accompany these young men in their vocation discernment, while these aspirants live in community with him and **Brothers Jesus Alonso** (local superior), **John Paige**, and **Nich Perez**.

A slide show of the renovation to build St. Joseph Residence at Pulte Hall may be viewed at:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com>

See floor plan below:



Columba Hall Wellness Program Expands to Physical Therapy

Since April, brothers at Columba Hall have added physical therapy sessions to the Wellness Program begun a number of years ago at Columba Hall. Previously brothers had to go to Dujarie House to receive therapy. Having the program at Columba Hall solved the major problem of transporting brothers to and from Dujarie House. The physical therapy department at Holy Cross Village now includes 14 members according to Lori who directs the program. The program is exploring the possibilities of expanding the space needed for their programs at Holy Cross Village. An aging population at Holy Cross Village as well as Columba Hall makes physical therapy a necessary component to continued health and mobility.

The space on the second floor of Columba Hall used by the therapy program is where the Columba Hall Superior's office used to be. The equipment in the area is from Dujarie House. Lori meets with Elizabeth, the Columba Hall head nurse, and **Brother Lewis Brazil**, director of Health Care and Aging for the Brothers, to provide care for the brothers living there.

There are four male therapists who work with eight brothers at Columba Hall from two to five times a week for an hour each session. Pictured are therapists Ryan and Dave working with **Brothers Ronald Christianson, Carroll Posey and Bernard Klim**.



Br. Ronald Christianson



Br. Carroll Posey (Using Walker)



(L) Br. Bernard Klim

BEYOND THE CAMPUS

Holy Cross teaches basketball fundamentals

Children complete a drill during the Holy Cross College 2014 Fundamentals Camp. (Photo provided)

By **KATHERINE ZIOLA**

The Holy Cross College Athletics Department has worked to develop camps for young local children geared toward helping them stay active and developing their athletic skills.



This past June, the Fundamentals Basketball Camp was held. Open to local children ages 8 to 14, this camp taught them the basics of basketball, such as ball-handling, passing and shooting.

Director of Athletics and head coach for women's basketball Aimee Niespodziany says the success is measured in helping the children learn something different.

“We have had great success with the kids at every camp. It is our goal that each child will walk away learning something new or improving.” The value of teamwork is instilled while helping these children discover and foster their passion for friendly competition.

In the summer of 2011, coach Bob Schermerhorn and Niespodziany came up with ideas to help engage the local community. She recalls, “We both had camp experience so we decided to start a youth camp. We thought that we could build it up with the number of grade schools, elementary schools and middle schools in the area. But we also realized that it would take time due to the established camps already around.”

Niespodziany said she sees greater accomplishments from the camp each year. “We just concluded our fourth year. I believe that we are still building but definitely on the right track, especially with the addition of coach McBride for the past two years.”

Coach Mike McBride came to Holy Cross College to coach the men's basketball team upon Schermerhorn's retirement. Since then, the camp has been a uniting effort from the coaches as well as some of the student-athletes. In teaching younger children the fundamentals, student-athletes were able to see their efforts make an impact on these young lives as they develop skills for their future. Niespodziany comments, "It is a highlight of the summer to see the HC players really impacting these young kids' lives and seeing the kids light up with a big smile when they get here in the morning."

The camp is an opportunity for the children to develop their love of the game by providing an educational, yet fun, way to spend their free time during the summer. What makes this camp unique is the fact that it is purely Holy Cross counselors chosen very carefully from the men's and women's basketball programs. The goal is to have individuals who are able to interact and help the children grow and learn in a fun and competitive way. This is directly in line with the mission of the college to give students an experiential education while serving the needs and developing the abilities of others.

Katherine Ziola is the assistant director of marketing, communications and public relations at Holy Cross College.

Courtesy of South Bend Tribune

Prayers Requested

Brothers,

Please remember in your prayers Mrs. Mary Therese Cunningham, the sister of Brother Timothy O'Connell, who passed on to her eternal reward on Sunday, July 20th. Mary Therese was Tim's only remaining immediate family member, being two years his senior. Both the wake and the funeral service was held at Blake Lamb Funeral Home, 4727 W. 103rd Street, Oak Lawn, IL, on Wednesday, August

23. The viewing was from 9:00 am – noon (Chicago time) with the funeral service at noon.

Condolences may be send to Brother Timothy O’Connell at 1150 Holy Cross Parkway, Holy Cross Village, P.O. Box 839, Notre Dame, IN, 46556-0839.



District of West Africa Newsletter

Click left icon or scan right QR code for district newsletters.

Click below for the latest district newsletter:



<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/GhanaDWA/Publications/DNL16-01AprJun2014.pdf>

Past Copies of Midwest-Midweek

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



Summer Schedule

Next Issues will be published on **August** 13 and 27.

View Website at: www.brothersofholycross.com	View Midwest-Midweek at: www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm
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Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

Editor: **Br. Charles McBride** - cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com

Webmaster: **Br. Richard Johnson** - rjohnson@brothersofholycross.com

Proofreader: **Br. Raymond Harrington**