

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 18, 2015

## Brother Thomas Henri Scheurer, C.S.C.

April 26, 1938 – February 10, 2015

Brother Thomas Henri Scheurer, C.S.C., age 76, died on February 10, 2015, in Dujarie House at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame, Indiana. He was born in Mankato, Minnesota, on April 26, 1938, the son of Clement and Anastasia (Leonard) Scheurer. He attended Sts. Peter and Paul Elementary School and Loyola High School, graduating in 1956.



Thomas worked for years as a heavy construction equipment operator with his father in the family's construction company. His mother was an excellent musician and loved music. She sat Tom down for his first lesson and after it she told him he didn't have to come back for another one!

In the summer of 1957 Tom recognized he had a calling to the religious life and went to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin. Two months later he traveled to Rolling Prairie, Indiana, to enter St. Joseph's Novitiate for a year of spiritual training. He pronounced his first vows as a Brother of Holy Cross on August 16, 1958. He studied for two years at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and then for another two years at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, earning his bachelor's degree in 1962. In 1970, he also earned a master's degree there in Industrial Arts.

In 1960, Brother Thomas served on the staff of Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Indiana, while finishing his undergraduate degree. In 1962, he joined the faculty of Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois, teaching drafting courses. In 1965, he served on the faculty of Boysville of Michigan, in Clinton for 6 years. He went back to Gibault School in 1971 to serve on the faculty for 9 years primarily teaching the shop and crafts classes. His mechanical and maintenance

skills were needed in 1980 when he was assigned to Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio, where he worked for 9 years, with one year off to do similar work at Columba Hall at Notre Dame.

In 1990, Tom joined a group of Midwest Brothers and Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross who went to the island of Dominica in the Caribbean, to possibly take over a school at the request of the local bishop. Unfortunately, there were too many problems that prevented that new apostolate from developing.

In 1991 Tom returned from the tropics because his skills were needed to teach the industrial arts and drafting courses at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio. In 1994, he again joined the faculty of Boysville in Clinton, Michigan, where he again taught his popular woodshop crafts and drafting classes. He took over the "Awardsville" apostolate that Brother Charles Hill had begun, where Tom would produce attractive trophies, plaques and other kinds of awards ordered from schools, businesses, auto companies, and K of C Councils in the area. His shop was usually busy.

After 15 years at Boysville (now called Holy Cross Children's Services), he retired to Columba Hall in 2009. He was still busy with projects, one was the Penwrite Program where he and other Brothers joined friends from Holy Cross Village to produce and sell beautiful hand-crafted wooden pen and pencil sets. Tom was noted for his easy-going and laid back personality. You never saw a frown on his face. He enjoyed casual conversation and was very proud of his northern Minnesota family. He had a hobby railroad train set up in his room in Akron, but just a few pieces remained in his Columba Hall room. He and his Dad loved the big trains, especially the steam engines. Tom had many caps and souvenirs of trains. No wonder some people knew his nickname was "Choo-choo."

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, at St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross College, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. The Mass of Resurrection will then follow with interment afterward in St. Joseph's Cemetery of the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, in honor of Brother Thomas Scheurer, C.S.C., to support the mission and ministries of the Brothers may be sent to: Brothers of Holy Cross, Office of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

## Reflection – Brother Thomas Scheurer

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



On behalf of the Brothers, I express our condolences to the family and friends of Brother Tom Scheurer. Unfortunately due to illness and poor traveling conditions, members of Tom's family are unable to be with us today. However, it is my understanding the family plans to journey this way in the spring for a memorial service and to visit the grave site.

As we remember and celebrate the life of Brother Tom Scheurer, I would like to share with you a few of my memories of Tom, as well as some provided by Brothers Gerald Nettesheim and John Schuszler, two of Tom's closest friends in the community.

First, please allow me to reference a short passage that comes from Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth, 9:7. I think it well summarizes Tom and his life.

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Based on this admonition, I think we would all agree that God must have greatly loved Brother Tom. Anyone who was ever privileged to spend any length of time with Tom experienced his generosity and cheerfulness.

The Scheurer family was from South-Central Minnesota, an area known for its hard working, salt-of-the-earth people. Tom's grandparents were farmers, and his father established a construction company and later ventured into the real estate development business.

Tom grew up in a family that nurtured vocations to religious life. Two of his aunts were religious sisters and an uncle was a Jesuit priest. In Tom's immediate family, he was the oldest of eight siblings, four boys and four girls, each born in that sequence. Two of Tom's sisters were twins, and in time both of them became religious sisters.

Tom attended a Jesuit high school, and upon graduation announced to his family that he planned to pursue a vocation as a religious. Tom's father responded that he would respect this desire but that Tom must first spend a year of employment "living in the world" as part of the discernment process. After working the required year in the family construction business driving a truck, Tom still felt called to religious life. Fortunately for the Congregation of Holy Cross he joined us rather than the Jesuits. Given Tom's hands-on, easy-going, practical approach to life, I think we were the better match.

I overlapped living with Tom twice while stationed at Boysville. Our first stint was brief, about nine months in the early 70's. Tom taught drafting and woodshop classes, and as a teacher he was "old school." In the classroom there was only one way to do things, and that was Tom's way.

John Schuszler recalls Tom relaying a situation of his being disciplined as a child. During the war years when diesel fuel was rationed, the family had a small supply to keep the construction equipment moving. Tom was repairing his bicycle including putting the chain back on the axle, and afterwards needed to clean his greasy hands. Of course, a little gas from the fuel tank did the job, except Tom forgot to close the faucet. Upon his dad's return home, and realizing the tank was now empty. Tom was disciplined: simple, straight forward, and once delivered, lesson learned.

Boysville initiated a treatment approach in the fall of 1970 that involved group discussions, helping the problematic student identify a better way of conducting himself in the future.....some would say "talk therapy." Given this disciplinary approach did not match with his philosophy or experience, Tom decided it best to move on before he was the one being disciplined.

In 1994 Tom returned to Boysville to work with Brother Charles Hill at Awardsville, the trophy shop on the campus. When Charles had to give up the work due to poor health, Tom took over Awardsville.

I think all would agree that Tom was not a fancy dresser or overly concerned about his appearance. However with items such as equipment, cars, his room, or his work space, everything had to be well kept and in its proper place. Tom accordingly went to work on the trophy shop, and within months had it not only organized, but "comfortable" as Tom would say.

Tom really enjoyed this Awardsville ministry. He could set his own work pace, had the opportunity to interact with a wide spectrum of people from the Lenawee County community, and of course, could smoke whenever he wanted.

The trophy shop had large windows in the front show room, and during the day it was a very bright, warm and inviting location. When customers would stop at the shop, Tom greeted them with a hearty welcome, a sincere inquiry as to how things were going, asked how he might be able to help with their trophy or plaque need, and always remained gracious even if the customer needed the award “yesterday.”

Of the years that I lived with Tom, my favorite story as you might expect, involved one of his now infamous coughing spells. On this particular day, we did not have a priest available for mass, so we incorporated a communion service into Evening Prayer. Typically we would stay in the office, read and reflect on the epistle and gospel of the day, and then receive communion. Tom was the reader that night, and the Gospel passage was that of Jesus’ genealogy. As you may recall, the further you get into the reading, the more unusual and difficult to pronounce are the names of Jesus’ lineage.

Tom did OK through the first half of the reading, and then he started chucking at the names, then this migrated to coughing, then returned to laughing, and then more coughing.....and Tom’s face turned more and more red as he tried to catch his breath to pronounce the next name. This went on for several minutes, before we decided to finish the service with an “Amen,” and went over to the dining room for supper.

Years later, whenever we would reminisce about our days at Boysville, and I would recant this incident, Tom would break into laughter, then coughing, and then more laughing. It would become a mini-reenactment of that evening. That was Tom: just a great person to be with. He always had a smile on his face, and was always ready to enjoy a laugh.

Brother Gerald remembers Tom, in this way: “always calm, good natured, and extremely generous.” Tom was always available to assist with driving Gerard to doctors’ appointments, trips to town for personal needs, and of course their Saturday night ritual of going to Mass, maybe some shopping, and then dinner afterwards, preferably at an Italian restaurant that served Tom’s favorite meal, chicken alfredo. I am not sure who picked up the check, but this was their routine for many an enjoyable evening.

Tom can best be described as a good man, a gentle soul and a prayerful religious, always faithful to daily prayer and mass. Even when in the hospital this last month, Tom faithfully said Morning and Evening Prayer, and attended Mass via television. Brother John Schuszler told me of Tom's insistence that John bring him his ordo, so that Tom could be sure he was on the right pages, saying the proper prayers, and honoring the correct saint for the day.



The framed picture displayed near the statue of Brother Andre is a drawing of Tom created by one of his students from St. Edward High School. It captures Tom's likeness well. Simple but professional appearance, sitting at a drafting table, work scattered about, and Tom quietly getting the job done. However, to my observation, the representation of Tom is oversized to that of the desk, the classroom, and the work. I would say this is an accurate caricature, because Tom's work was important, but Tom's real ministry was his presence of being gracious and cheerful to all he encountered.

Returning to Paul's writing to the church at Corinth: You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Our Brother Tom was a cheerful and generous giver. His life and his life's work are examples of exactly what the disciple Paul preached. Long ago, when Tom decided he wanted to be a religious, he freely gave of himself to our community, and to the Church, and throughout the course of this commitment was ever ready to help when and where needed. And of even greater importance, Tom gave of himself cheerfully in a pleasant, generous, and gracious manner. Yes, Tom was what St Paul would call "a cheerful giver."

Rest well, Tom.....your life's work is done. Enjoy now the love of your God.

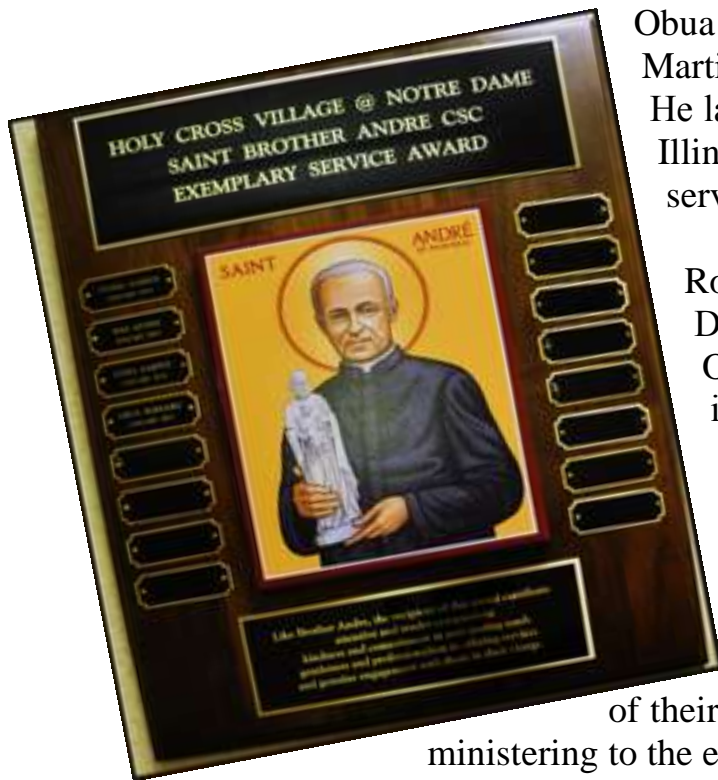
## Obua Rodgers Saint Brother André Award Winner for Holy Cross Village

The Brother Andre Exemplary Service Award is given each year to a Holy Cross Village staff member on January 6. Obua Rodgers, 35, a native of Uganda, East Africa was this year's winner. His name, along with the previous award winners, are listed on a plaque at the entrance to Dujarie House.



Kindness and commitment in anticipating need, gentleness and professionalism in offering service, genuine engagement with those in their charge, regardless of how small or large the task, are the outstanding traits of Obua.

A native of Kampala, Uganda, Obua attended St. Henry and St. Leo schools run by the Congregation of Holy Cross in Fort Portal, Uganda.



Obua earned a soccer scholarship to attend Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tenn. He later earned a degree as a nurse's aide in Illinois. For the past three years he has served at Dujarie House.

Rodger's kindness and care for the Dujarie residents "just comes naturally," Obua said. There are no nursing homes in Uganda. "We respect our elders and care for them until death, as we would have others do to us as we were taught while growing up," Obua added.

Holy Cross Village is honored to have a person like Obua as a member of their staff. He is a great model for all those ministering to the elderly. Congratulations to Obua, even if this recognition is over a month late.

## Great Cure for a Cold Winter by Brother Charles McBride

My last three weeks in rehab at Dujarie House has been interesting. Kelly and her Life Enrichment staff have gone above and beyond to make the cold chill of winter more bearable for the residents at Dujarie. The dates of the events depended more on the number of staff that would be available than the date of the event itself.

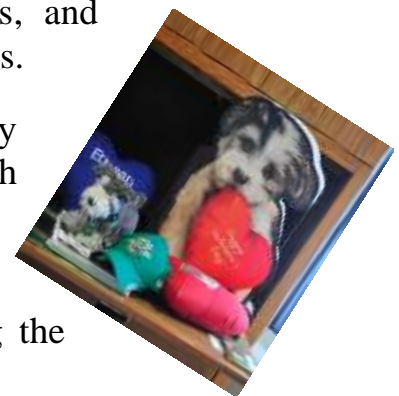
A day after I arrived at Dujarie we had a Luau Dinner and Social on January 23. Chef Patrick carved a tiki mask out of ice for the dinner and social. The frozen mask is still outside Dujarie by the chapel. The dinner had an island theme with Kahlua Pork and Island Chicken.



On February 11, three days short of Valentine's Day, Notre Dame and Holy Cross students visited residents bringing cards, chocolate bars, and flowers. There was also a chocolate fountain to coat goodies.

Valentine's week concluded on Friday, February 13, a day too short, but not too short for the Sweetheart Dance which featured a 3 piece jazz Trio, The Sophisticated Jazz Trio.

For Valentine's Day desert, chocolate strawberries were on the bill. Congratulations to Life Enrichment for making the life of the residents a bit brighter during a cold bitter week.









## Recovery



Recently a couple of Brothers are on their way to recovery. Last week, Brother Richard Gilman (pictured with Dujarie House nurses Cindy and Patty) is on his way back to Riverside Place after a second hip replacement at St. Joseph Medical Center.

On January 12, Brothers Chester Freel, Lew Brazil and John McMuldren had a visit and prayer service with Brother Charles McBride before his Aortic Heart Valve operation in Naperville on January 13. The Brothers remained at Edward Heart Hospital in Naperville, until the operation was a success. Brother Charles is presently rehabbing at Dujarie House.

## John S Marten Program in Homiletics & Liturgics

Rev. Michael E. Connors, C.S.C., Director



234 Malloy Hall ♦ Department of Theology  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-4619 USA

Telephone: [574-631-3006](tel:574-631-3006)  
E-mail: [martenpr@nd.edu](mailto:martenpr@nd.edu)  
<http://martenprogram.nd.edu>

February 11, 2015

Dear friends in Holy Cross,

Greetings to all! A few updates for you.

1. Registration for the 2015 Marten conference, “‘What We Have Seen and Heard’: Fostering Baptismal Witness in the World: A Conference in Celebration of the 50th Anniversaries of *Gaudium et Spes*, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* and *Ad Gentes*,” is now open. The dates are June 22-24, Monday evening through Wednesday. Keynote speakers are: Archbishop Joseph Tobin of Indianapolis, Max Johnson, Zeni Fox, Ed Hahnenberg, and Matt Ashley. In addition, there will be more than a dozen workshops. For more information, including tentative conference schedule with presentation titles, follow this link:

<http://theology.nd.edu/graduate-programs/the-marten-program/conferences-and-events/2015-conference-what-we-have-heard-and-seen-fostering-baptismal-witness-in-the-world/>

Registration front page (includes ND Conference Center event website and housing details -- note registration link at top of page):

[https://notredame-web.ungerboeck.com/coe/coe\\_p1\\_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=ALLREG#JUNE201](https://notredame-web.ungerboeck.com/coe/coe_p1_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=ALLREG#JUNE201)

Direct link to registration:

[https://notredame-web.ungerboeck.com/reg/reg\\_p1\\_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=CONFREG&eventid=15372](https://notredame-web.ungerboeck.com/reg/reg_p1_form.aspx?oc=10&ct=CONFREG&eventid=15372)

Note that as in past years, the registration fee will be waived for CSCs. (Choose the "Scholarship Awardee" option, and on the next line, after "Scholarship Group," simply enter "CSC." On the payment page, choose "Pay Later." After reviewing your registration, we will see that your registration fee is waived before your arrival.)

2. The 2015 annual Marten Lecture in Preaching was held this past Friday evening. The speaker was Dr. Frank Thomas of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. The video recordings of both his sermon and lecture are posted on YouTube:

Sermon on Lamentations 3:19-24: "Did Heaven Make a Mistake?"  
<http://youtu.be/8okHDApFe88>

Lecture: "Keepin' It Real: Preaching, Jay-Z and Hip Hop Poetics"  
<http://youtu.be/wZpmVZ4qHA8>

I think you will enjoy both!

3. Finally, a book recommendation: Gregory Heille, O.P., *The Preaching of Pope Francis: Missionary Discipleship and the Ministry of the Word* (Liturgical Press, forthcoming, March 2015).

I hope to see many of you in June for what promises to be a very exciting conference! Blessings for the Lenten journey ahead!

**Fr. Mike Connors, C.S.C.**



Lenten Lecture Series – 2015 - Reminder  
Wednesday Evenings - 7-8 PM  
Geenan Hall

February 18  
Brother Raymond Papenfuss CSC

February 25  
Father Matthew Cowden



## Lenten Saturdays at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame

Lenten Saturdays at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame — Pope Francis declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life, and NDSJV is offering unique opportunities for alumni, parents, and friends to "meet and greet" members of the male religious communities at Notre Dame. Join us for one-hour informative sessions on the six Saturdays of Lent 2015. Abbot Austin Murphy, O.S.B., a doctoral candidate in theology at Notre Dame, will begin the series on Saturday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m. in the Pfeil Center, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. Convenient parking on the HCC campus is available directly in front of Pfeil Center. Although there is no charge for this event, please register online at <http://lindsjy.undclub.org/lenti5> so we know how many attendees to expect. Other presenters will include Dominicans, Franciscans, Holy Cross Brothers, Holy Cross Fathers, and Jesuits. For detailed information on all six Saturday programs, contact Joe Mulligan at [josephpmulligan@earthlink.net](mailto:josephpmulligan@earthlink.net) or 312-399-7048.

### Holy Cross College Webcam

Here is a link to the new college website that has the live video camera of the new dorm being built.

<http://www.hcc-nd.edu/watch-us-grow/>

## Prayer Requests

Brothers,

I pass along the following request for prayers:

- 1) Brother Henry Skitzki is in South Bend Memorial Hospital recovering from an acute infection.
- 2) Brother John Doran (Moreau Province member who resides at Columba Hall) is in St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka, IN. John had a severe cold for two weeks, was not able to shake it, and now is diagnosed as having pneumonia.
- 3) Brother John May is also at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center after falling on Thursday. The doctors are trying to determine if the fall was secondary to some other problem, possibly influenza.
- 4) Brother Charles McBride had a follow up appointment earlier this week with his heart surgeon and sends along this note: *The report was very positive, just minor changes to the rehab and medications. It looks like I may be in rehab about another month to 5 weeks to get my strength back, and get off the oxygen I am now using. My direct number is [1-574-472-1916](tel:1-574-472-1916).*
- 5) Brother Richard Gilman has completed the inpatient portion of his rehabilitation at Dujarie House for a hip replacement procedure, and is now back in his Riverside apartment at Holy Cross Village. However, Richard reports that his mother has been hospitalized in the Cleveland area due to pneumonia and general weakness, and asks that she be remembered in prayer.

Please remember all of those mentioned above who are addressing various health care needs and issues.

Thank you.

**Brother Chester Freel, CSC**

## Past Copies of Midwest-Midweek

Past copies of Midwest-Midweek may be viewed by scanning the icon or clicking on the link below.

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



<b>View Website at:</b> <a href="http://www.brothersofholycross.com">www.brothersofholycross.com</a>	<b>View Midwest-Midweek at:</b> <a href="http://www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm">www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm</a>
---	---

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

Editor: **Br. Charles McBride** - [cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com)

Webmaster: **Br. Richard Johnson** - [rjohnson@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:rjohnson@brothersofholycross.com)

Proofreader: **Br. George Klawitter**