

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

December 20, 2023



Brother Robert Henry Dierker, C.S.C. 11/23/1931 – 12/10/2023

On Friday, December 16, 2023, Brother Robert Dierker, CSC, was given accolades and thanked for his many acts of kindnesses over his number of years at St. Joseph High School, South Bend, Indiana. For thirty-three years Brother Robert met and welcomed many a guest to St. Joseph High School.

Excerpts from eulogy:

Brother Chris Dreyer in writing about Brother Robert Dierker said the following:

Robert Dierker was a man who knew no guile. He was a very dedicated guy to working and to riding his bicycle. When I was with Robert at Riverside Place, he used to ride his bike in the underground parking garage when the weather was inclement. When I worked with him at Saint Joe high School, he was so proud when the chess club, which he moderated, won the state championship by saying on the PA system- "Well, they did it!"

Brother Joseph McTaggart said the following:

Of all the people I've known in the community for 60 years, a goodly number, Robert is certainly the kindest, most gentle, pleasant soul of the whole lot. He was a blessing and a real witness to why the Brothers are such a diverse, wonderful group of human beings. Just by being his unassuming self, Robert made you want to be kind and sweet like him . And that was consistent every time you interacted with him and came away from the encounter.



Brothers' Medal

—Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.

Christmas in Africa

leaving Capetown on a small plane,
low, over flatlands, zebra and gnus
in their natural habitat,

landing on a dirt landstrip,
then by jeep to a magnificent lodge,
paradise, villas, a guide for safari,

escorts with rifles
in case we meet—
a lion!

Christmas Eve, cocktail hour,
dinner after entertainment
under candlelight.

Native dress, chorus,
African songs engulf us,
hearts soaring for

Silent Night finale,
tears,
Christmas Past with family,

soul moving
feeling more than church,
the birth of Christ re-birth,

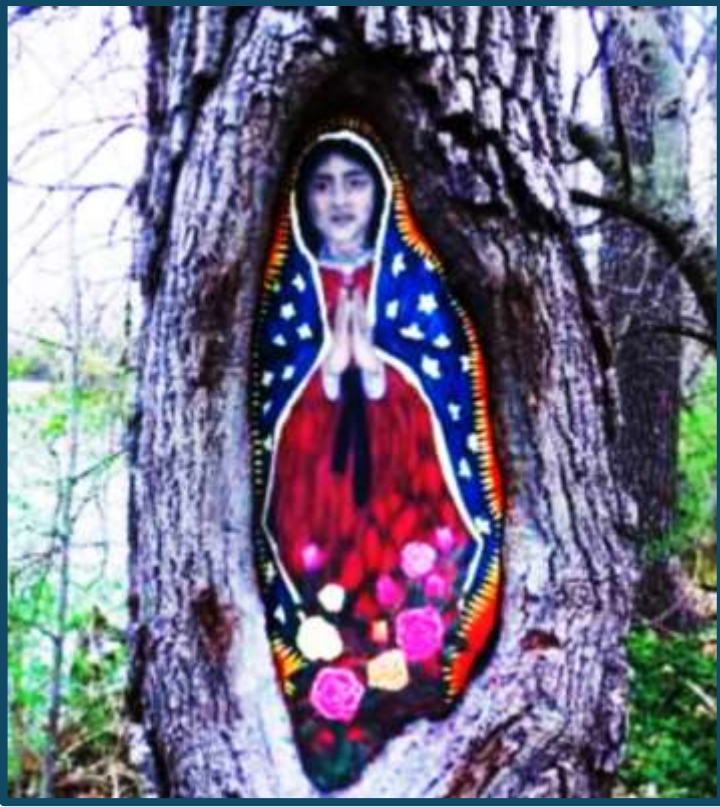
never to be forgotten.

—Peg Claeys, Holy Cross Village



Tree Trimming Columba Hall 2023





Columba Hall Dinner

Midwest Province, Associates and Brothers, enjoyed a Christmas season Mass and dinner together. It was held on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Painting on a tree along the walk skirting around Saint Joseph Lake, Notre Dame, IN.







Holy Cross Associates
with zeal and hope to bring

Christmas Dinner Columba Hall Staff

Friday, December 15, was held the staff dinner.







Photos and red sketched flowers by brj.

Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.
Servant of God

Website
<https://brothercolumba.com/>



Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C.
Postulator of the cause for Brother Columba



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Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey



God Dwelling in You

When we ask Christ to come with the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” we acknowledge that we are asking God to come among us. But St. Paul goes further and proclaims that we are “in Christ.” God in Christ dwells in us.

Does this statement have any real meaning for you? At Christmas and Christmas Tide we have an opportunity to make it a part of our awareness. If Christ dwells in us, how can we be obsessed with our short comings which can lead to sadness and a sense of hopelessness. Yes, conflicts leading to wars, the climate crisis, the unwellness to seek understanding with those with whom we disagree all play a part in our experience on a daily basis. Is there an answer to all of this? Christ will not abandon us. This is why he comes to us to bring us salvation. By taking on human flesh, he not only understands our plight but shares in it with us. His presence within us enables us to have the faith, hope, and love to reach out to our brothers and sisters with that unconditional love that he offers us. Like the heroes honored on CNN, we have the capacity and power to make a difference in our own unique way, which many times might flow from the hardships we have had to face.

- What do you wish to receive at Christmas?
- What gift(s) can you bring to the people in your life?
- How will the Christ dwelling in you help you to make a difference in your world?

O God, help me rely on the Christ within me.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklspiritualinsights.org/>



Holy Family

It is at this time of the year – Christmas, that our thoughts tend to drift toward thinking about the Holy Family, that is, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Influenced by the Nativity accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (Chapters 1 and 2 respectively), my thoughts ruminate on the family’s socioeconomic status.

Although certain inferences may be drawn from Matthew’s and Luke’s narratives and from numerous anonymous apocryphal stories emanating down through the centuries that may suggest otherwise, the Holy Family would not have been “dirt” poor.

As the legal head of the family, it was St. Joseph’s position that was the determinate: As a carpenter in his day he merited the title of **artisan** – one skilled in the fashioning of wood, metal, and stone, elevating the individual above the commoner or peasant class, deserving of more than adequate financial compensation.

Furthermore, considered authentic, is Matthew’s declaration that



St. Joseph was **royalty** by birth, “of the family and house of [King] David” (Matt. 2:4).

Notwithstanding St. Joseph’s crown heritage and more than likely lower-middle class socioeconomic status, we can be more than confident that both virtuous he and his wife and foster son lived a modest style life, contented, as the majority of their neighbors, with the resources God provided.



Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.B.



Providence Health Care
How you want to be treated.

To get the full value of joy
you must have someone to divide it with.

~ Mark Twain



Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

Henri Nouwen

Emmanuel Health...A vital community of health, healing and hope
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emmanuelhealth.ca





**Do you know Santa
Nicholas?**

That is his real name!

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