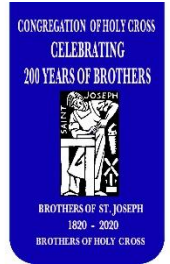


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

September 23, 2020

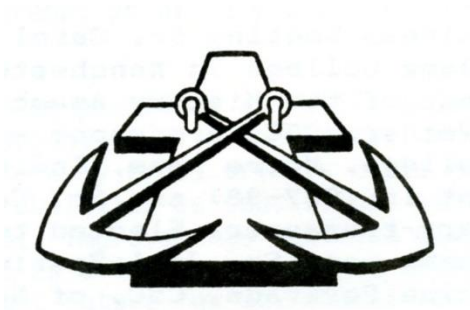
This Week



Information on individual early Brothers of St. Joseph for posting week by week in 2020.

September 13 – 19 On September 17 in 1793 the Reign of Terror began in France. It lasted until 1802 when Napoleon took over the government.

September 20 – 26 In this week Brother Basil Gary was born. An early Brother in Indiana, he taught in Brooklyn. His letters are lively.



Our Lady of Sorrows
Reflection for the Liturgy for Tuesday,
September 15, 2020

Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.



It has been traditional for the Church and our Congregation to honor Mary, as the Lady of Sorrows — of seven sorrows, that is. Most Reverend Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Los Angeles, California, has suggested, however, that we consider the likelihood of an eighth prophetic sword of sorrow piercing Mary's soul: the assault upon Mary's good name or reputation because of the reactions of some of the other people in Nazareth who at the time held suspicions about the unmistakable signs of Mary's evident pregnancy.

As in all relatively small towns, the people of Nazareth were close-knit, affording very little privacy. Within such an environment Mary most likely encountered her friends and neighbors almost every day, perhaps mingling among the those shopping at the market, replenishing water from the well, and laundering at the river, Mary undoubtedly hearing there their sometimes gossipy scurrilous questioning: did Mary and Joseph violate their betrothal obligations, or had Mary been unfaithful with another man? With Mary all the while wondering how she might explain the truth to them, and, if she did, would and could they really understand and believe her?

Even her beloved betrothed Joseph himself was considering divorcing Mary until he learned the truth from an angelic message in a dream.

Undoubtedly comforting to Mary was the fact that at least one person — her relative Elizabeth, herself a recipient of God's promise of a son, recognized and acknowledged the truth of Mary's pregnancy: the miraculous "overshadowing of the Holy Spirit."

Although the angel Gabriel's message at his visitation to Mary was couched as an invitation from God, Mary, because of the close relationship she had established with God, recognized and accepted it as a manifestation of his will, with which she was completely attuned, so that her consent included accepting all of the consequences of her willingness to become the mother of God the Father's only beloved Son, our savior Jesus Christ.

However Mary managed to bear all of those sufferings, to Father Moreau she became a model for us members of Holy Cross to emulate in living out *Spes Unica*, the cross is our only hope.

Like Mary we members of Holy Cross, by our generous and faithful living out of our vows and Community life, have committed ourselves to doing the will of God, which, very like Mary's situation, has at times been a source of trials and difficulties for us too. But, inspired by our Lady of Sorrows' example, we have persevered in also trying to bear our sorrows. And let us do so now and hereafter by continuing to honor Mary, our patroness and model, as our Lady of Sorrows.

(Note: Br. Robert is a resident of Columba Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana.)

Chimney Swifts

Charlotte, an undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame is studying biology and philosophy. The following is part of an email sent to Columba Hall:



I've always been interested in birds. I currently conduct ornithological research with a professor at Saint Mary's College and I hope to obtain a PhD in an area related to ornithology. In high school, I volunteered with the Audubon Society of Portland as a community educator at one of the largest roosting sites for Vaux's Swifts on the

West coast, an old chimney attached to an elementary school that can attract thousands of birds during their migration throughout the month of September. The swifts use these chimneys as a place to congregate and sleep for the night before continuing on their journey southward.

Upon coming to Notre Dame, I noticed a lot of chimney swifts (the eastern counterpart to the Vaux's swifts we have out west) around the campus during migration season, and I suspected there might be a roost site nearby. I hadn't actively pursued the issue, but everything fell into place a few days ago when, upon walking behind Columba Hall, I discovered the large chimney attached to the outside of the building! Earlier this fall I had specifically noted large concentrations of swifts around Columba Hall in particular, so I immediately realized that this must be a roost site. I came down a bit before sunset (when the swifts normally start entering their roost site) this past Friday to watch the chimney, and sure enough, the swifts are using it! I counted ~970 birds on Friday. I went down again today to take a count and a large group had gathered above the chimney again. About 120 entered, and then something happening inside the chimney must have spooked them because a large number exited the chimney and the rest of the birds dispersed.

Given my observations, I think it's pretty likely that this chimney on the outside of Columba Hall is a well-known roost site for chimney swifts. The lakes would be a great spot for the birds, which are aerial insectivores, to forage throughout the day to stock up energy reserves before heading into the chimney at night. Swifts are unlike other birds in that they are unable to perch (think the classic bird on the wire). Instead, they spend almost their entire lives flying, doing nearly everything on the wing--eating, drinking, sleeping. The only exceptions are when they are nesting or roosting during migrations. In both these periods, swifts use hollow trees or chimneys and cling to the walls inside (if you google "swifts in a chimney," there are some great image results of all the swifts stacked up inside). Because swifts spend so much of their life flying, they're great at keeping themselves cool. However, this can be an issue when they *stop* flying, so they huddle together in these insulated spaces to keep warm during cool fall nights. Swift populations are currently in decline, partially due to loss of these roosting sites from deforestation or the removal of old chimneys. Although some people have tried putting up new chimneys for swift populations to use, results have been mixed--it seems like newer brick might be too slick for them to cling to, unlike the worn, crumbly brick of chimneys like the one outside Columba Hall!

I thought I would reach out to the Holy Cross Brothers living in Columba Hall to see if they had any information about the chimney swifts, or the chimney itself. Did the Brothers previously know about the birds using their chimney? If so, is there any record of how long the swifts have been using it? How old is the chimney? Is the chimney inactive, or is it currently being used for heating Columba Hall? Also, is it all right if I continue to come by to monitor the swifts? I would love to try to continue coming down when my schedule allows so I can count the birds and try to figure out how many birds are using this chimney, as well as potentially use these observations as a proxy for the movement of chimney swifts through the area. Finally, I wanted to let the Brothers know the birds were there in case they didn't know so that they can observe the birds for themselves if they'd like. It really is a beautiful experience--hundreds of birds amass in the air right before sunset, flying in a circular pattern right above or next to the chimney, before funneling inside.



The Sarasota/Venice Brothers celebrate our Community Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Sarasota, Florida

Our Lady of Sorrows (September 15) is the most important fest day for the Congregation of Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters throughout the world. Our five Brothers living in the Diocese of Venice, Florida, came together to observe the feast by uniting in prayer, social, and dinner in our St. Brother Andre Hall in Sarasota,



Vespers prayers Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

James Bagan and Peter Nault made the excursion from Venice to enjoy an evening of fellowship with the local St. Brother Andre community members, **Lawrence Skitzki, William Dygert** and **Michael Brickman (M)**.

The evening proved to be most engaging with a great deal of Holy Cross reminiscing, storytelling (from many altered memories), and fellowship.

Pictured right the Sarasota/Venice community continues to enjoy stories of the old days at dinner



Article above by Brother Michael Brickman, C.S.C.

Pastoral Center
Saint Brother André High School
Kasoa, Ghana

Pictures sent by Brother Francis Boylan
September 2020



Saint Edward High School
Lakewood, Ohio

Photos from the Palisin Commons
Photos sent in by Brother Dennis Bednarz



This is the top of the mural on the north wall of the Commons with St. Edward themes.



The balcony is above the cooking/serving area on the eastern side of the Commons. The balcony has seating areas with a two-sided fireplace.



Students can also eat outside on the western end of the Commons. This is the view from the Commons doors looking toward the front lawn of the school.



This is the view of the new patio looking south toward Detroit Avenue



The new main entrance to St. Edward from the front parking lot. Note the quotation from Br. James Everett, C.S.C. "A warm Holy Cross welcome to you." The entrance leads directly into the Palisin Commons.



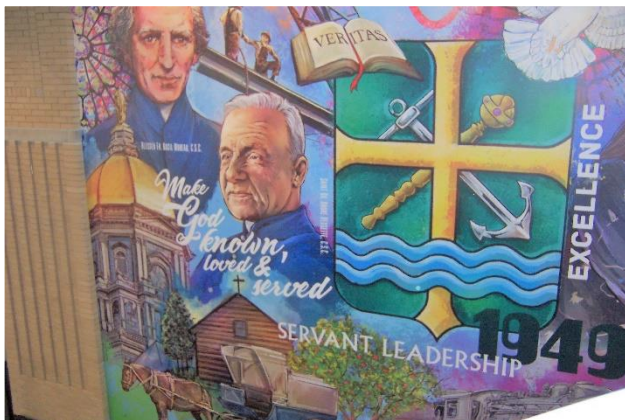
2nd Floor Hallway leading to the main school building toward the gym balcony on the east side and room 200 (the former senior lounge).



The view of the Commons from the balcony looking toward the west/front lawn of St. Edward.



This is the view of the Commons looking north toward the former gym entrance.



The new mural on the north wall of the Commons showing scenes and figures from Holy Cross history.

Trinity High School

**The 15th of September was the 110th
Birthday for Holy Trinity High
School!**

Happy Birthday!



Excerpt from a letter sent out by Holy Trinity High School Principal: F

Dear Friend of Holy Trinity,

Today is HT Day, and the entire Holy Trinity community is invited to celebrate our 110th anniversary. Founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross, Holy Trinity has been serving its students across the Chicagoland area since 1910.

...

Timothy M. Bopp
President

Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

The Genuine Thing

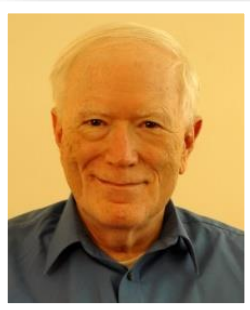
Dear Associates and Friends,

How do we know if a thing is genuine or fake? Does it spring from what it is or only what it pretends to be? Gertrude Stein reminds us that “a rose is a rose is a rose.” It is not pretending to be something it is not.

When it comes to discovering our true self, it is not so easy. We are complex beings with many ideas, feelings, compulsions, assumptions. Many times we try to fit who we are into some framework already chosen for us by the society in which we live. Part of our spiritual quest is discovering what God had in mind when God created us. Only then can we be true to ourselves. Our journey of discovery can take us down many roads that lead to dead ends. There is a way to avoid some of these false starts. We can choose a path that has the potential of finding our true selves. Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” His experience has led him to know this. His Father (God) has told him, “You are my Beloved in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.” If we do listen to Jesus, by faith, we know that we do not have to lose our way. Many have followed and are following Jesus and gave and are giving their lives to testify that He is genuine, He is the real thing.

O God, help me discover whom you have created me to be – my true self.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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



Reflection

Reflection(s) sent in by
Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.:



We must believe in the power and strength of our words.
Our words can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai



A Catholic Health Organization

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality Office, www.emmanuelcare.ca

Words(cc)pxhere

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