May 25, 2016

APON News Notes for first part of the year 2016

APON is a name that is well known in Bangladesh as a reputable Drug Rehab Center and a residential center for street addicts. Click on the word “APON” below for more information.

Brother Ronald Drahozal, CSC
News Notes April 2016

The events and life at APON projects continue to have ups and downs--especially with the very hot weather we are “enjoying.” Although hot outside, the large windows leave in the breeze and light as planned.

APONGAON has continued to have a rather steady flow of new admissions so the number of residents continues to increase or maintain a normal number. Some come, some go. The interesting thing is that there continues to be more adolescents being brought by guardians for admission than in past years. This is, of course, partly as a result of the vastly increased number of people of all ages in Bangladesh using Yaba/Baba, that is, amphetamines. The other interesting thing is the source and cost of this drug.

Br. Ronald is the only Brother now at APON since the others left. Sister Monju, CSC, and some of the staff at APON spent some time with over 125 of boys on and from the streets of Dhaka Metro to gather information for a “UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.” It is a “call for submissions on the General Comment on Children in Street Situations.” The data was collected from those in street situations. Much interesting data was gathered from the boys themselves.

From the UN committee there was one very meaningful comment given for the reason that the data should be gathered from the children—“because children on the street live their lives differently,” and therefore only they can give the actual events, feelings and needs that they have and know about.

The Dhaka International Women’s Association organized a picnic/party for children from the street at the water park on the edge of the northern part of Dhaka.
This is the highlight of events for our boys who most likely will never have this opportunity again.

A donor has given APONGAON a Children’s Park with swings and slides, and with our constant urging improved the football/cricket field. They raised the dirt a bit with a higher level in the middle so water can run off.

As you can see, one oldish child is in the picture sitting on a swing with a lot of the boys here at APONGAON. The tall bald gentleman is the CEO of the donor company KAFOC (a fertilizer company). The CEO knew a bit about APON, was a student at St. Gregory's about a year before I got there. He had seen a documentary that Ajmal's nephew or a relative had made of APON some time ago. Things are a bit different now. Pray for our donors who help us to help others.
We have been blessed with much appreciated help from Fr. Angelo, OMI, who comes out to APONGAON to say Mass from time to time for the Catholic residents and staff.

The Executive Director and staff have participated in some training and a regional conference. Five went to the UNICEF Asian-Pacific Regional Conference held in Dhaka where Br. Ronald was a panelist at one session dealing with adolescents and HIV/AIDS.

Brother Ronald participated as a panelist on the panel discussion on adolescents and HIV/AIDS and drugs at the UNICEF Asian Pacific regional conference.

Brother Ronald attends the monthly drug addiction counseling and discussion program held by Prothom Alo, the leading Bangla newspaper. He has also attended Colombo Plan training on addiction/substance abuse for adults in Dhaka and for children in Sri Lanka. These have changed the outlook on drug addiction in Bangladesh. Before, what APON was doing people made fun of, but now they accept and use the information, partly because of the trail we left.

Our primary school students have had the first term exams with some doing very well. They are now preparing for the second exams. We follow the BRAC system of five term exams each year. Some of the boys had run away from home because the school teachers beat and abused them, but now most are doing well.
Our combined two outreach programs APON-MARA-ODIC, one for children 4-14 and the other for children 10-19, are doing well. UNICEF is again funding the Most At Risk Adolescent program with more funds.

You are welcome to “COME AND SEE” the services given at both/either APONGAON in Singair Upazila, Manikganj Dist. or the APON MARA ODIC near Mirpur Mazar.

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**Associate Retreat**

**Retreat:**  **Reflection on Mercy**  
**Retreat Master:**  Brother Carl Sternberg, CSC  
**Thursday:**  May 19, 2016

A retreat was held on Thursday prior to renewal of yearly promises on the following Saturday at the 11:30 Mass held in Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel, Holy Cross Village, Note Dame, IN.

The three area chapters (Holy Cross Village, Andre, and St. Joseph) gathered in an upstairs room of Schubert Villa for the yearly retreat along with six affiliate Brothers:  **Carl Sternberg, Richard Johnson, William Mewes, Frederick Raehsler, and John Kuhn.**

Three associates who would be unable to attend the yearly commitment Mass made their commitments following this retreat.

The retreat was followed by Mass with a light lunch in Dujarie House ending the gathering.

**Brother Richard Johnson**
Fidelis Award bestowed on Brother Lawrence Unfried CSC
May 14, 2016

Written by Brother John R. Paige CSC, PhD, President
Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana

Brother taught numerous classes at Holy Cross: botany, zoology, general biology, human biology, premed biology, microbiology, ecology, environmental science, anatomy and physiology, basic math, and the innovative Science and Theology course team-taught by Brother and Theology Professor Ed Gareau. Most recently Brother has added teaching botany in the Westville Education Initiative as one of his accomplishments. Just a few years ago, he came up with the first concrete curricular plan for a science major at Holy Cross—Biology—and just this semester a descendent of that plan was submitted to the Higher Learning Commission for a BS in Biology.

What I have just presented as factual and formal evidence for this honor needs to be amplified by examples of “how” these achievements were done over many years. Here is the lesson we all need to learn today, and in particular for you graduates venturing out into a world that seems to encourage nasty and disrespectful methods of getting things done. In the words of one of Brother Lawrence’s faculty colleagues: “41 years of dedicated service to the students, faculty, staff and the religious order is a hard package to beat!”

Over all of these years Brother Lawrence has been an active manager of the math and science areas. He has continuously contributed to the mission of the college by serving with interest and enthusiasm on countless committees, academic councils, and task forces. However, Br. Larry is not a “yes man.” On the various teams that I have had the fortune to also be included, I have found him to be decisive and effective in communicating the organization’s mission, values, and strategies,
especially at the time Holy Cross College transitioned from a two-year to four-year school.

Over the last ten years I have worked with him on the Academic Council, the Faculty Forum, and the Faculty Assembly. In Academic Council, he exhibits a team player approach while encouraging the group to examine all aspects of the issues. He tactfully elicits and raises issues that anticipate stressful situations. He is able to listen and constructively disagree with others. In the Faculty Forum and Assembly where we are “voices of one” I have observed him constructively disagreeing and initiating counter-thinking in deliberation. I have heard many associates comment on his ability to take the initiative and tactfully get things done. In my role as an academic counselor, I found that students who have taken his courses speak of him only in highly respectful terms. He never has lost his focus on achieving realistic academic excellence with a sense of wit and (on occasion) sarcasm.

I am privileged on behalf of generations of Holy Cross College students, faculty and staff to honor Brother Lawrence Unfried CSC for his service and his life of witnessing the Face of Christ the Brother to our college community.
Columba Hall Sing-Along
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 PM

Concert Master: Brother Carl Sternberg, CSC

On Wednesday evening, following dinner, Brothers at Columba Hall enjoyed a sing-along led by Choral Director Brother Carl Sternberg and the Columba Hall Singers.

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’       Singin’ in the Rain
Now is the Time                   Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Blue Skies                         Swinging on a Star
Tomorrow                           Corner of the Sky (solo)
When You’re Smiling             Up a Lazy River
Let’s Go Fly a Kite                You Can’t Stop the Beat
The Best Things in Life Are Free  Accentuate the Positive

The evening ended with a light soiree.
Year of Mercy
Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

Holy Cross Village members asked that Brother Joseph Fox decorate the entrance to Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel for this Year of Mercy.
BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

To schedule media interviews, or to request images or review copies, contact:

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REVISED HOLY CROSS BOOK INCLUDES NEW REFLECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTORS

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—The publication of the first edition of *The Cross, Our Only Hope* in 2008 established it as a foundational work of Holy Cross spirituality. This revised edition of reflections, which features many new contributions, is a must-have for members of the Congregation of Holy Cross; its friends, lay collaborators, and benefactors; anyone interested in the spiritual tradition of the religious order; and anyone who wants to come to better know Jesus and the hope he offers.

Priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross—including pastors, teachers, and administrators—offer an introduction to the rich, vibrant spirituality of the Congregation through a series of daily reflections on the themes of Holy Cross spirituality: trust in God, zeal, compassion, hope in the Cross, discipleship, and education in the faith.

You can learn more about the contributors at the Holy Cross Vocations website at authors.holycrossvocations.org.

This edition includes a new foreword, a new introduction by the authors, new reflections, new contributors (including more international contributors than the previous edition), and quotes from St. André Bessette, who was canonized in 2010, and Blessed Basil Moreau, who founded Holy Cross more than 175 years ago.

The ministries of the Congregation of Holy Cross include Ave Maria Press, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Portland, Stonehill College, King’s College, and many other Holy Cross schools and institutions around the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Rev. Andrew Gawrych, C.S.C., was ordained a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 2008. He serves as the director of the Congregation's International House of Formation in Santiago, Chile, after years working in parishes in the United States. Fr. Gawrych is the editor and coeditor of several Holy Cross books, including the first edition of *The Cross, Our Only Hope; The Gift of Hope; The Gift of the Cross; You Have Redeemed the World; and Basil Moreau: Essential Writings*.

Rev. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., was ordained a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 2010. In 2015, he was awarded a Ph.D. in theology from the University of Cambridge. Fr. Grove is the coeditor of the first edition of *The Cross, Our Only Hope; You Have Redeemed the World; and Basil Moreau: Essential Writings*. 

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“A splendid treasury of stories and reflections in the Holy Cross tradition to inspire and challenge all disciples of Christ.”

REV. WILFRED RAYMOND, C.S.C.
President of Holy Cross Family Ministries
Don't be pushed by your problems. Be led by your dreams.

Anonymous
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