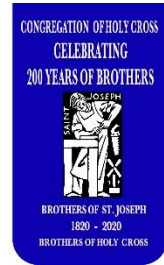


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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



April 29, 2020

In This Week

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

April 19 – 25 In 1831 on April 21, the Sisters of Providence separated their finances from Father Dujarié and the Brothers. The Sisters henceforth directed themselves.

April 26 – May 2 In April 1842 Brother André Mottais wrote from Algeria to Father Moreau about the poor conditions at the school where he taught in Philippeville. He barely got enough food to stay alive.



Brother James Kane, at afternoon prayers service, reads out the names of out early Brothers who died in the month of April.

Early Brothers' Date of Death for the Month of April				
Date	Name	Age	Year	Rank
April 1	Dorothée (Joseph Bigot)	70	1873	98
April 14	Adrien (Louis Legeai)	70	1873	76
April 17	Eugene (Constant-Julien Leroux)	79	1913	339
April 28	Jean-Climaque (Jean-Baptiste Contamin)	68	1866	101

Brother Hilarion Ferton

Reflection presented by Brother Carl Sternberg
April 21, 2020



Photo by Brother Michael Brickman

(Top Left) Reading of the plaque:

Brothers returned to Algeria, six of them in September 1844, two years after their previous mission there had ended in failure (1842). Their leader in 1844 was Brother Hilarion Ferton, who had come to Le Mans from Calais to join the Brothers in 1837 at age 20. As leader of the second expedition to Algeria, Hilarion was responsible for keeping his men in working order, a duty that included confrontation. At Oran, Hilarion ran into a tug-of-war between the pastor and the sub-director of public instruction over a house for himself and another Brother. Hilarion also became caught up in a battle over the types of students who could be accepted at his school. By July Hilarion was able to report a favorable start at Oran. Hilarion was a virtuous man with solid principles, demonstrated throughout his correspondence with Father Moreau, whom he regarded as more than a religious superior. Sadly, Hilarion died of cholera at Oran on October 15, 1849. He was 32 years old, a model for Holy Cross missionaries.



Halarion Reflection by Brother Carl:

Hilarion was born Louis Ferton on Feb. 24, 1817 at Boulogne. He was professed on August 22, 1841, just one year after Father Moreau himself took religious vows. André Motais died in Le Mans in March 1844, five months before Hilarion would be named for the director for the second mission to Algeria. Of the six Brothers bound for Algeria, Hilarion was the second youngest. Hilarion was sent to Oran to begin a school. He was an excellent teacher as the number of students increased each year. His dedication to his students is reflected in his letter to Moreau: “Oh, how I feel when instead

of being in the middle of the Sainte-Croix boarders, I find myself around children of different colors, dressed differently, speaking all manner of languages. This really touches me. Help me with your prayers. I hope God will give me the courage to do His will always.”

With many trials of sicknesses and difficulties with the Brothers under his care, it could be said of him, that Hilarion was the man whom Moreau trusted to lead the Community back into Algeria, and he fulfilled his duties as director diligently. He was a hard working teacher, and he was loyal to the ideals of this new Holy Cross Community. A man of fervent good will, he gave his life without question to a foreign land that welcomed him, challenged him and ultimately watched him die. He was a man of common sense, good humor and unflagging energy. He never stopped working for the good of his mission. He truly was a singularly effective leader.

He was a man of God, a true brother of St. Joseph in Holy Cross.

We dedicate the fourth floor of Columba Hall in his memory. As we honor him, we hope to aspire to his many virtues . We ask for the grace God given to him to meet the challenges we face in our times.

Reference Book "Early Men of Holy Cross." by Brother George Klawitter, CSC

Notes from Ghana on COVID 19: Holy Cross Response

Holy Cross in Ghana wishes you the best of health and God's protection in the face of this pandemic. The deadly impact of Covid 19 in the world has also been felt in Ghana.

Government Response:

Ghana recorded its first confirmed case on March 12, 2020 in two of the sixteen regions in Ghana. The upsurge in the number of Coronavirus confirmed cases of 137 with 4 deaths as at March 27th 2020 necessitated a partial lockdown. The government adopted measures such as mandatory quarantines, social distancing, frequent handwashing, closure of schools; moratorium on Church and public gatherings of all sorts. The virus has now penetrated 10 out of the 16 regions.

As at April 27th, the number of confirmed cases stands at 1,550 with 11 deaths and 155 have recovered. The government attributes the sudden increase in confirmed cases to an enhanced contact tracing and testing efforts. The government has implemented several social policies such as absorbing water and electricity bills, providing food to help ease the burden of those in need, particularly the poor and the most vulnerable persons.

Despite the lifting of the lockdown on 19th of April, 2020, Ghana's borders have remained closed. Religious, social and public gatherings are still prohibited. Schools remain closed.

The Church In Ghana

The president of the Catholic Bishop's Conference also urged the faithful to adhere to the government's directives to deal with the pandemic. Several parishes and church organizations have distributed food and hygienic items to needy persons. The Church has also contributed to the Covid 19 Trust Fund to support government's efforts to deal with the crisis.

Holy Cross in Ghana

No Holy Cross persons or relatives have been infected by the virus. However, the impact of the pandemic has taken its toll too on the District. District programs have come to a halt. Members are taking precautions by adhering to all the protocol measures. Nonetheless, our spiritual life remains strong and unshaken. Our usual prayers, including Mass, have taken place while observing the social distancing protocol.

Some members and houses have devoted time for special prayers and Holy Hours through the intercession of Blessed Fr. Basil Moreau and Saint Brother André for God's protection for all CSC members, our families and God's intervention in our world to subdue this pandemic.

In response to the needs of God's people in the midst of this pandemic, the authorities of St. Brother André Senior High School and the Brothers Community sponsored the production of hand sanitizers at the school's chemistry lab.



They were assisted by the science students. The sanitizers were initially meant for students' use. The Brothers later saw the need to produce more sanitizers for the village communities that surround the school. Education on the effects of the virus accompanied the distribution of sanitizers, as well as provision of popular staple food in the area, were distributed to needy families. In so doing, our call to have the competence to see and the courage to act was meaningfully manifested.



The school authorities and the Brothers at Saint André High School continue their effort to help by using the water producing and purification facility to provide clean, drinkable sachet water for the surrounding villages.



Thanks to these Brothers for sponsoring this project from their own stipend and resources. Our gratitude goes to Brother Robert Lavelle, through whose efforts the water system at St. Brother André High School was installed.

Yes, Covid 19 has griped us. Easter has been celebrated on a low key, in indoors for the first time in my life; however, as Christians, we cannot live in fear. We remain confident in the grace of our risen Lord in prayer, with compassion and in solidarity with those who suffer the most.



**John Badu Affum, CSC
DWA, Ghana**

Reflection
By Brother William Mewes



The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord. (sung)

I guess we all know the story of the bum or poor person who comes up to the well dressed Brother and asks for money. The Brother says that he doesn't have any money for the man because he has a vow of poverty. The man asks the Brother, "Where can I get some of that poverty?"

Most of us when we joined Holy Cross had very little money or possessions. We gave up all and in return we got free food and clothes and college educations and advanced degrees.

Now at this stage of our lives we still share in the 100-fold promised by our Lord. I see us as some of the richest men in the world in that the very rich can buy everything they want, and if we want nothing, then we have all that we want.

Still, as the saying goes, one cannot buy love. One cannot buy happiness.

Well, yes, I would like better health, but even the rich cannot buy an unending healthy life here on earth. So yes, I'm among the world's richest and yet, we are all poor.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord. (sung)



Learning About Oneself-What Would I do....

**A reflection presented by Brother Roy Smith
Sunday communion service, April 26, 2020**

Often when I read stories in the Bible, I put myself in the story and say I would have done it differently. If Jesus had invited me to go into the mountains to pray with him---- I would not have fallen asleep. Had I been on the road to Emmaus, I would have recognized him.

In reality do we recognize people who are in our midst? Are we blinded or short sighted because of blind spots. The conversation between the two was snappy and exciting so much so that they said, “Where have you been that you don’t know what the buzz is around town about this Jesus guy. You haven’t heard! Get with it!”

What prevents us from seeing the humanness in others? Is it their height? Weight? Sex? Sexual orientation? Skin color? Country of origin? Education? Language? Why don’t we recognize the humanness of others?

In a recent ad on tv a middle school student comes to the lunch table and goes to sit down until the “leader” signals him there is no room for you at this table, at least not in this vacant seat. A young lady sees the affront and goes and re-arranges with help from her friends the seating pattern. The lunch tables are re-designed into a block where every one can see each other, there is no ranking in the seating pattern, so everyone, yes, all are welcome.

Who do I break bread with? We are more and more conscious of the tables in our lives as we live with COVID19. Around a table we learn about people, their likes and dislikes, what they consider to be funny, serious, important. Who dat man?

We learn who” dat man” as they say in New Orleans, really is now!

I’d like to share a poem **GATHER AT THE TABLE** with you.

When I began to reflect on the word, the object of a table,
I realize that tables are in our lives in many ways and times.

- Some of us may have been born on a table-in an operating room.
- Early on we sat at a table in our house, or our grandparents’ houses.
- At school we sat at work table, lunch room tables
- In college we sat at a tables in seminars, then in the business world we

sat at tables and realized that certain positions carried, in the mind of some, importance in some situations.

- Then we learned that in some negotiations, the shape of the table carried significance.
- In social settings we have end tables, coffee tables, dinner tables, card tables, bid whist, bridge, poker, pool tables
- In sports an expression is used, at least in NBA parlance, “He set the table for him”. Wade sets up a pass allowing, enabling Shaq to dunk the ball.
- Expression> What do you bring to the table?
- Then there is the table of the Lord. Eucharist.
- What happens around meals? Who is invited to the table? Why were you invited? What is expected before you come to the table? What is expected once you are at the table? What do you take away from the table?

Questions for reflection: Who do you take your Emmaus walks with? In other words who do you walk with and talk about who Jesus is in your life?

Would you rather have Jesus than silver and gold?

Could it be we are so focused on ourselves that we cannot see the beauty in the differences of others? Do we become the story or try to be the story?

Midwest Holy Cross Associates

Holy CrossRoads **Writings for the Journey** **(#006)**

Where do we go from here?

Dear Associates and Friends,

We are in the in-between time – the time between the death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We experience the life of the risen Lord and wonder if it has any real connection with our lives and our own rising from the problems and dilemmas that we face individually, as a nation and as a planet.

One of the aspects of the spiritual life that is so important and yet so difficult is the grace of being able to wait.

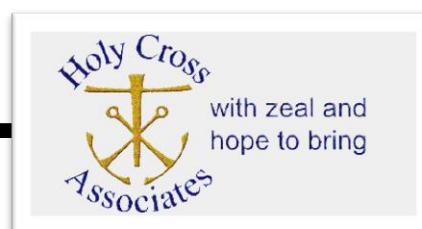
In nature the dormant stage of winter gradually gives way to the blossoming of new life in spring. To wait is to be open and ready for new sprouts to spring up. The same is true in life. We should not force premature solutions. Can we not wait for the Holy Spirit to send us gifts not only for our survival but for a new awareness and ability to know where to go from here and how to get there?

Lord, help us to be content with waiting as a sign of our trust in you.



Brother Carl Sternberg, CSC
March 24, 2020

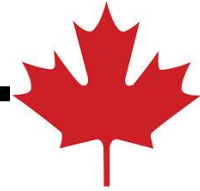
<http://holycrossassociates.org/>





Reflection

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



Poem

Poem sent to Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C. by a friend of his:

Mother Earth Took a Breath

At the confluence of the human condition and COVID19
mother earth took a long overdue breath
and then another,
and another.

While we crave a cure
she seeks healing, redemptive breaths,
easing the stretch marks
on her patience
bringing a balm to her scars,
her wounds,
inflicted by, me, you,
humankind.

This old lady is tired
and in need of this breathing time
this healing time.

Soon we will be in a new time,
let's not forget this time,
when mother earth took a breath
at the confluence of the human condition and COVID19

©Ciaran Mc Kenna April 21, 2020, inspired by a conversation with Janet Froid

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