

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

September 29, 2021

— **Installment - 13** —

*Do We Have Another Saint?*  
*Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.*  
*(1848-1923)*



**The Cure of Mrs. Thomas Rath, 804 Washington Ave., Lorain, Ohio**

Ten letters were written between June 2 and Dec 12, 1921 to Brother Columba, and one letter written in 1933 by Dr. E. V. Hug, MD, 852 Broadway, Lorain, OH to Mrs. Rath testifying to her cure from cystitis and pyelonephritis when “the patient’s life was despaired of.” All letters are included in the appendix, but not all will be quoted in this petition.

**June 2, 1921**

- “Having heard of a number who have been asking your prayers I felt I would like to ask your prayers for me. I am having kidney trouble and will you please ask Our Lord and his Blessed Mother for the recovery of my health if it is God’s holy will that I may be spared to my family.”
- “For a few years now, I have kept a light burning before the statue of the Sacred Heart in my home.”

**June 15, 1921**

- Have been very ill since I wrote with inflammation of the kidneys but was able to say the little novena each day as you asked me to. I am happy to say I am able to be up though I am not well yet but my doctor says he is willing to admit I recovered in a very unusual short time.”

- “I know my recovery is due to the novenas and your good prayers. I finished my novena June 13.

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**June 20, 1921**

- “I am getting along very nicely because of Our dear Lord.”

**June 24, 1921**

- “If it is God’s holy will that the S.H. will hear our prayers and cure me. I am much better but still under Dr’s care. I say the novena everyday but not able to get to Mass yet.”

**July 31, 1921**

- “Am getting along very nicely but still not well yet.”

**September 10, 1921**

- “I have just returned from the Doctors and hasten to write you[.] he [sic] says he does not find any trouble now which caused my sickness.”
- “I can never tell you how much I thank you for all you have done for me.”

**February 15, 1933**

**Letter form Doctor E. Hug, MD, 852 Broadway, Lorain, OH to Mrs. Rath verifying cure.**

The entire letter follows.

In order to put your case clearly in order for proper authorities I am giving you this resume of your condition as I recall it. The written case records I had prior to 1928 were destroyed by fire on March 3rd of that year. However, I had some memoranda in my call books from which I could reconstruct the history of the case. The report follows:

I was first called to see Mrs. Rath, whom I had known for a number of years, late in May, 1921. She was then fifty-one or fifty-two years of age, the mother of six children of whom four were alive. Her previous history was uneventful from a medical standpoint. When I was called I found her in the midst of a severe chill, a rigor in fact, with a temperature of 105F, pulse 120, and respiration labored on account of severe pain in the right lower chest near the spine which restricted the inspiratory efforts. The pain radiated to the vesical region and was so intense as to cause profuse sweating. Renal calculus was suspected but there was no calculus found in the urine. The urinary examination showed presence of pus cells and a trace of albumin with a few blood cells. The diagnosis of cystitis and pyelonephritis was made. The condition failed to respond to treatment: there were daily chills and fever reaching 104-105F and she grew weaker. A nationally known clinician was called in consultation, he offered no hope of recovery short of an operation for removal of the kidney, the outcome of which would be uncertain. The condition continued to grow more alarming and the patient's life was despaired of by her attendants and relatives. About the time that everyone was becoming discouraged and disheartened, Brother Columba became interested in her case and added his prayers to those of her family and friends. She began to improve and for the past twelve years has been in good health and active in doing good for others. She has shown no evidence of the disease which threatened her life twelve years ago. I believe in the efficacy of prayer and am glad to be of some help in securing recognition for Brother Columba. / Very respectfully yours,



**Obituary of Brother Richard Huber**  
**by Brother Paul Kelly, C.S.C.**  
**September 24, 2021**

We gather today to celebrate the life of Brother Richard Huber. On behalf of our Congregation and Midwest Brothers of Holy Cross, we offer condolences to Brother Richard's family.

In John's gospel we read: In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? Jesus told Thomas: I am the way, the truth, and the life. . . After preparing a place for you, I will come back to take you with me.

On the Feast of the Holy Cross, Jesus came and took Brother Richard to his new dwelling place prepared for him for all eternity. I am sure there was great rejoicing among the angels and his family in heaven as he joined them for eternity.



**Brother Richard at puzzle making.**

Brother Richard was like the energizer bunny. He ran rather than walked from mission to mission. That is why some of the novices didn't want to be assigned to work with him on the farm. I first met Brother in 1957 when he was helping to take care of the dairy herd of Holsteins. That Fall the herd was sold at public auction. Brother Nilus Grix was the herdsman and was known all over Indiana for his expertise in the dairy business. The show ring at Saint Joseph county Fair Grounds is named after Brother Nilus.

In 1993 Brother Richard fell out of the haymow on his head at Saint Joseph Farm. He was anointed and immediately taken to the hospital where he spent the next several weeks. Almost everyone thought sure Brother Richard would not make it, but he is a survivor.

Later on there was a period of some ten years that Brother Richard had no recollection of. He was very much aware of this situation, but did not let it bother him. Brother Richard kept right on helping with whatever needed to be done. For years he helped to clear and wash the dishes at Columba Hall where he lived the last some thirty years. Brother Richard was famous for making popcorn dishes out of newspaper. Just recently, I understand that he decided to pop some corn in his dishes

in the microwave. After starting the oven, he went back to his room and all went up in smoke. The Notre Dame Fire Department came and got every thing under control while Brother was wondering what was going on.



**A favorite statue of the Holy Family for Richard**

Brother Richard was a loyal Son of Mary. For years he joined the group at the Grotto for the 7 pm Rosary. He also made hundreds of rosaries and repaired many others. Brother was a very quiet person; however, he would carry on a lively conversation about Mary anytime you wanted to talk about her. The community was seeking something to honor our very generous benefactors. So Brother Richard came up with the idea of a statue holding the infant Jesus in her arms. Many of our loyal benefactors cherish one of these statues today.

Jesus told Thomas, “I will come back and take you with me ...”. Remember us, Brother Richard, as you continue to enjoy your Mansion for all eternity with Jesus, our Brother.



**Reflection on Brother Richard Huber, CSC,**  
**by Rev. Bill Blum, CSC,**  
**at the Celebration Mass on September 24, 2021**



St. Paul in writing to the Colossians pointed out qualities of a disciple, and Richard reflected these qualities throughout his religious life. Richard died in the “Year of St. Joseph,” a year dedicated to the special patron of Holy Cross Brothers. He died in Columba Hall, his home for his last years. He died late on September 14, feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and the first full day after his death, September 15, was the feast of the patroness of the entire Holy Cross Congregation, Our Lady of Sorrows. The chapel in Columba Hall is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

In the Columba Hall chapel are statues of Joseph, with his carpenter tools, and Mary, with a sword piercing her heart. Richard saw them every day and was inspired by them: Richard, our “working brother.”

For many years before Vatican II, "working brothers" did not recite the Divine Office but prayed the “Paters and Aves.” Those prayers could fit into a busy schedule and could be prayed at odd times—farmers and cooks often cannot follow a regular schedule. At Columba Hall Richard was present for all the community prayers, but always with a rosary in his hand.

Richard had a great devotion to the rosary. Every evening he went to the grotto at Notre Dame. He also made rosaries, and he had a collection of religious art which he shared with visitors. He never slowed down!

At Columba Hall Richard helped with carrying dishes to the kitchen and operating the dishwasher and scrubbing the pans, but in his last few years Richard spent more time at the dinner table where he loved to describe his life in farming and all the tasks of a farmer. I enjoyed listening to



him and learning about farming and the care of crops and animals

Father Moreau encouraged us to trust in Providence. Richard trusted in God both before and after his tragic accident on the farm in 1992, an accident which cut short his life in farming.

From the beginning of Holy Cross God has given to the sisters, brothers, and priests, many holy men and women—some even recognized by the Church as saints or ones on the path to sainthood and recognized as Venerable. Some of these were "working brothers."

Our only Holy Cross saint, Brother Andre Bessette, was a "working brother." Another very holy brother, Brother Flavian Laplante, worked with fishermen in Bangladesh, helping them improve their lives. Our Brother Columba was a shoe cobbler with great devotion to the Sacred Heart. People are wondering if he might be the next Holy Cross religious to be declared not only Venerable but even Blessed. Our Canadian sister Mother Marie-Leonie Paradis founded a congregation of Sisters who support religious houses, especially in food service and laundry service. They are known as the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. I have experienced their ministries first hand over a number of years in Canada and Rome. They are some of the happiest and most joyful people I have known: "working sisters."

As we gather to say farewell to a "working brother," our Brother Richard, let us be thankful for all he left us in his witness to holiness and of our call to be faithful religious and persevere in seeking God up to our dying day. Richard surely left us an example of how to live and how to die—even if we live as he did to the ripe old age of 92!







## Saint Edward High School Annual Retreat

Email from Brother Dennis Bednarz, C.S.C.

The faculty and staff from St. Edward High School held their annual retreat on September 17 at *The Foundry* on the west bank of the mighty Cuyahoga River.

The theme of the retreat matched the school theme for this year: "With Eyes of Faith." The focus was our shared mission as a Holy Cross school.

The group paused for a group photo by the Cleveland sign on the banks of the Cuyahoga followed by activities such as hiking, biking, kayaking, or touring the Aquarium.



*Cleveland Scene* published its listing of the "Best in Cleveland" for 2021. St. Edward High School was voted No. 1 in the "Best Private School" category.

<http://m.clevescene.com/cleveland/and-the-winners-of-best-of-cleveland-2021-are/BestOf?oid=37350231>





## Dujarie Picnic



**Brothers  
(Clockwise L-R)**

**Chris Torrijas  
Paul Kelly  
John McMuldren  
Lew Brazil  
Ed Dailey  
Jim Newberry  
Ron Christenson(**

### **Email from Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.**

Brother Chris Torrijas, CSC, religious superior at Dujarie, organized a picnic lunch for a few residents and a few other brothers in the area. It was served just outside of the Brother Thomas Shaughnessy Rehabilitation Center.



## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Who is Jesus for you?

Dear Associates and Friends,

Jesus asks, “Who do people say that I am?” Jesus wants to know how he is coming across to the people who listen to him and especially to those who choose to be with him and follow him.

Are we in this group of people who want to be with Jesus and follow his lead? As Christians we say that we are. That means that each of us can experience Jesus walking with us through our day giving us meaning and consolation as we live the reality that is our lives - a reality that includes beauty, love and the challenges of breakthroughs as well as setbacks, times of stability and crises, and times of building up and letting go. Jesus wants to be with us and in us through it all giving us the support we need to make “all things benefit our good.”

Remember the painting that has Jesus knocking at the door but no handle to open the door himself. The handle is on the other side of the door where we are living. We need to invite Jesus in by opening the door of our minds and hearts.

- What part does Jesus play in your life?
- Is it difficult for you to experience Jesus being with you during your day?
- Are you ready to open the door of your mind and heart to invite Jesus in?

**Jesus, help me be ready to invite you into all of the areas of my life.**



**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.**

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

From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, or a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below.



Website: <http://www.voiceofmoreau.org/>



**Brother  
Philip Smith**



**Brother  
Ben Rossi**



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

A large, vertical poster with an orange and brown color scheme. The background features a stylized illustration of several hands of different skin tones clasped together in a supportive grip. The text is centered over the hands.

NATIONAL DAY  
FOR  
TRUTH  
AND  
RECONCILIATION

Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Emmanuel Care....With you on your journey toward health,  
healing and a better quality of life.  
[emmanuelcare.ca](http://emmanuelcare.ca)

The logo for Emmanuel Care, featuring a stylized purple and white symbol resembling a cross or a caduceus.

**Emmanuel  
Care**  
A Catholic Health Organization





Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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