



# News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

December 2002

## Provincial Chapter and Regional Meetings

The planning committee for the provincial chapter has been formed. Brother James Bluma, chair of the Community Life Committee, Brother Lawrence Skitzki, chair of the Finance Committee, Brother Richard Gilman, chair of the Mission and Ministry Committee, Brother Philip Armstrong, chair of the Restructuring Committee, are members of the committee along with Brothers John May, Edward Foken and Robert Fillmore. Brother John May is the chair of the planning committee.

The first meeting of the planning committee was held on Monday, December 2. By way of setting a tone and helping to focus on the chapter issues, at the beginning of the chapter there will be three fifteen minute presentations on province ministries: our schools, Holy Cross Village and the Associates of Holy Cross. Following each presentation there will be opportunities for questions and responses.

The chapter sessions will be held in DeBartolo Hall on the Notre Dame campus. Housing will be provided in one of the new air-conditioned dormitories near DeBartolo Hall. Meals during the chapter will be taken in the South Dining Hall. Information will be provided later concerning reservations for delegates and observers.

The process to be used for the second round of regional meetings will be a modification of what was used during the fall series of meetings. Each chapter committee will have an hour for discussion based on the issues that surfaced during the earlier meetings. During this discussion the committee will seek further direction and feedback from province members to aid in the preparation of the committee presentations for the chapter. Committee members residing in the region will facilitate these discussions.

## Nomination Ballot for Provincial

The ballots for nominating candidates for the office of provincial have been mailed to province members. Brothers living overseas are asked to send their ballots directly to the generalate in Rome making sure they arrive by midnight January 5, 2003. Brothers living in the United States are asked to make sure their ballots are returned to the provincial office arriving no later than midnight on January 5, 2003. These ballots will then be forwarded to the general administration to be tallied. In accordance with Statute 74, the superior general, Father Cleary, with the consent of his council will determine the four candidates for the position of provincial.

## Council of the Congregation

Brother Robert Fillmore attended the meeting of the Council of the Congregation held in Jinja, Uganda in early November. The District of East Africa hosted this meeting of the international leadership of the congregation. Twenty-eight representatives from the provinces and districts of Holy Cross participated in this five-day conference. During the meeting, Father Hugh Cleary, superior general, gave a report on the state of the congregation in which he highlighted the areas of growth in the third-world countries where the congregation is present. At the same time, he pointed out the changing demographics within the congregation, the disparity of financial resources and other challenges Holy Cross faces in the Church and in society. The provincial and district superiors also gave reports on their communities and their ministries. Although the reports identified some difficult challenges, the work being done clearly underscores the difference Holy Cross is making

throughout the world. The congregation's impact was visibly seen when participants visited Holy Cross ministries in Jinja and spoke with the people.

During the conference, two full days were devoted to studying the feedback received from discussions throughout the congregation on the question of restructuring. Two conclusions can be drawn from this study. The first is that it is obvious we are moving too quickly on the issue of mixed provinces. Although mixed provinces should continue to be the ideal, there is a definite need for setting up a process that will enable the members of the two societies to know one another better. It is also clear that moving into mixed provinces at this point in time would not be realistic because of strong social pressures in some countries.

Serious reservations were expressed about increasing the authority of the general administration. It was generally agreed that there is enough centralized authority and that it is being used effectively. Formation in Holy Cross was cited as a strong example. It was pointed out quite clearly that historically Holy Cross has developed successfully within the present balance of central authority and local autonomy. Other religious communities may have a stronger tradition of centralized authority; however, this has not been our tradition, nor should it be. Although efforts at congregation-wide financial planning have been successful and need to be encouraged, these efforts must be evaluated before a decision can be made concerning financial restructuring.

## Holy Cross College

### Addition of Baccalaureate Degree

Brother Richard Gilman, president of Holy Cross College, announced that the college received approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association to offer its first baccalaureate degree, the Bachelor of Liberal Studies.



The baccalaureate option is open to students holding the college's Associate of Arts degree or 62 hours of comparable preparation from another institution. The two-year bachelor in liberal studies includes both a study abroad component as well as an internship during the final year.

Brother Richard said that the program aims at building engaged citizens, capable of leading not simply productive, but meaningful lives. The degree requirements are solidly rooted in the religious mission of the college. The programs of liberal studies will be constructed around themes that will insure the graduates are competently prepared for employment and motivated to be engaged, global citizens as well as capable of building strong families and local communities.

The program will be cohort based, meaning that each group of admitted students will study together exactly the same core program and share most of the same experiences. Cooperative rather than competitive learning strategies will help build the skills that employers are seeking in the workplace. The cohort design will make the program tightly focused and highly cost efficient. The size of each cohort is expected to be 15 to 25 students and only a single cohort is anticipated to be enrolled the first two years of the new program.

### Transfer of Property

At the November council meeting the provincial council approved deeding in trust to Holy Cross College 7.2 acres of land originally set aside for the college's future development. The value of this land plus funds raised by Holy Cross College has enabled the college to receive a matching grant of one million dollars from the Lilly Foundation.

## Holy Cross Village

At present there are 30 residences occupied by lay people, 5 residences occupied by Brothers and 25 apartments occupied by Brothers. Plans call for the construction of three additional residences.

Brother Joseph Fox reports that activities in Holy Cross Village are in full swing. Aply assisted by Village residents, Meg VanDerGracht and Ann Morris, Brother Joseph coordinates many of the social and cultural events taking place in Holy Cross Village. The most recent event was a gathering of residents and Brothers in the Dujarie



House Chapel to usher in the Advent season with a time of prayer. This was followed by a social held in Schubert Villa. Other planned seasonal events are a tree trimming and caroling evening to be held around the lake and a Christmas party where the residents will put the finishing touches on gifts collected for two needy families in the South Bend area.

The Holy Cross Village residents also have other regularly scheduled events where they gather. Among these are monthly coffees, a book discussion club and the Great Decisions Discussion Group. This latter is the primary resource for the largest adult education program of its kind with participants in nearly every state in the nation and in many countries overseas.

Village residents are frequent visitors to the Brothers at Dujarie House and many are taking classes at Holy Cross College. Several of them join the Brothers for prayer and liturgy on a daily basis in St. Joseph Chapel.

The bylaws for Holy Cross Village are currently being rewritten. Once this is completed, a board to oversee the development of Holy Cross Village will be put into place.

## **André Residential Services**

### **Resident Turnover**

Permanent residents admitted to Dujarié House since September 1<sup>st</sup> are Brother Edward Hagus (SW), Brother Thomas R. Henning, Brother Raymond Kelly and Mr. Robert Dowd, father of Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C. (I). Three brothers have been discharged from Dujarié House: Brother Donald McIntyre, Brother Terence Muehlenkamp and Brother James Linscott.

### **Renovations**

Many thought the dedication and blessing of the new Schwartz wing at Dujarié House marked the end of further expansion or renovation. Steven Kastner, Director, states that expansion in one direction highlights the need for equivalent expansion and renovation in other areas. As a result, approval was given to begin planning and construction in three areas.

The dining room of Dujarie House will be expanded westward into the present corridor space. The lounge will be shifted into the space of the four-season room. In turn, this room will be rebuilt as an extension projecting further into the garden. The result will be a much larger and more open dining room/lounge combination. The corridor leading from the chapel foyer will lose its walls and curve imaginatively into the present lounge area.

The second area to be renovated is the "back residential wing" of Dujarié House. Several of the existing rooms will be thoroughly redone to accommodate patients confined to bed. Other rooms are to be reconditioned to resemble rooms renovated earlier.

Thirdly, the chapel is to be enlarged by the removal of the rear wall and expanding outward into the present foyer. New automatic doors will mark the entrance to the chapel. This renovation will practically double the chapel space and will facilitate placement of wheel chairs during Mass and community prayer.

The finished project will provide a more efficient and attractive site to continue the excellent care residents receive at André Residential Services.

### **Activities Abound**

Life is anything but dull at André Residential Services. Jean Rogers schedules regular activities available to the residents: bingo, Scrabble, spelling bees, golf putting and a monthly birthday party honoring those whose birthday fall within a given month. Every Friday evening a movie is shown over the Holy Cross Village closed circuit television channel. A weekly book club meets and every month pets are brought to receive the resident's attention. Special events are also scheduled such as visiting Christmas carolers and a big band show in January.

## From the Vocations Office

During the month of October, Brother Carlos made visits to the senior classes at St. Edward High School and Archbishop Hoban High School in Ohio; and to Holy Cross High School, Holy Trinity High School and Notre Dame High School in Illinois. In November he traveled to Evansville, Indiana, where he was warmly received by both students and staff at Reitz Memorial High School. Speaking to the students in Evansville, he addressed the issue of making sound life choices and reminded them of the school's rich Holy Cross history and of the many alumni who have given their life to the service of the Church.

Over a period of two days, the entire junior class from Holy Cross High School in River Grove came to Notre Dame for a day's retreat. This retreat, held at the Sacred Heart Parish Center on the university campus was sponsored by the school's campus ministry office. During the course of the retreat, Brother Vincentius Balog spoke of the history of the University of Notre Dame and particularly about the role of the Brothers in the development of the university. Brother Vincentius also related his own story, in particular, his many years of experience working among the homeless in Cleveland's inner city.

At the invitation of the Cleveland Diocesan Vocation Office, Brother Carlos visited Borromeo Seminary where he spoke with seventh and eighth grade students about the vocation of the vowed religious Brother. Events such as these are important in the promotion of the Brother's vocation because most young people are unaware of the vocation to the religious life. The questions these young people asked indicate clearly the need to continue making our religious lifestyle known.

The "Come and See" Discernment Weekend held at Columba Hall the first weekend in November went well. Eight high school seniors from Archbishop Hoban High School and Reitz Memorial High School came together for the weekend that focused on the vocation to brotherhood in Holy Cross. In their evaluations the students commented that they understood the Brother's vocation as one that is *focused among those you serve; a community of service and commitment; helping one another as well as the people you aid and walking alongside others and helping them live religiously.* Special

thanks are given to Brothers Vincentius Balog, Edward Fox, Joseph McTaggart, Eugene Phillipp, Philip Smith and Roy Smith for their presentations and direct involvement with the retreat. Gratitude is expressed to Michael Anderson, Robbie Davidson, Kirk Mueller and Charles Riffert of the Old College Program for their testimonies and to all province members for their prayers of support.

## Bits and Pieces

The annual retreat for the Columba Hall community will begin on Friday, April 11 and end on Wednesday, April 16, 2003. The retreat master is Father Thomas Feeley, C.S.C., of the Family Rosary staff. The theme for this year's retreat will be holiness. Brothers wishing to join the Columba Hall community for the retreat are asked to contact Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, superior of the Columba Hall community.

Brother Vincentius Balog undertook the formidable task of relocating the statue of St. Joseph located on the grounds of Columba Hall. Aged and darkened by the elements, it stood for an undetermined number of years hidden among the trees and shrubbery near the Columba Hall Annex. Thanks to Brother Vincentius' generous efforts, the statue of St. Joseph, cleaned and refurbished, now stands, staff in hand, on a pedestal in the center of a large circular flower garden facing St. Mary's Lake.

## Directory Changes

Brother Carl Shonk: Fairmont House, Apt. 41, 2700 N.E. 135<sup>th</sup> Street, North Miami, FL, 33181-5501

Brother John Kuhn: residence telephone number is 574-251-2218.

Brother Paul Mensah: residence telephone number is 773-955-2532.

## Prayers Requested

Please remember in your prayers Rev. Denis Sughrue of the Eastern Province of Priests and two former members of the Midwest Province, James May and Leo Manion, who died recently.

Please remember also the members of the province who are ill or suffering from poor health, especially Brother Donald Bailer, Brother James Kumba, Brother Sigismund Danielski and Brother Frank Rotsaert

## Calendar

- January 2 – 9 Provincial visit: Columba Hall  
January 5 Nomination ballots due in provincial office by midnight  
January 6 Nomination ballots sent to general administration in Rome  
January 20 Announcement of candidates for provincial  
January 21 Provincial Visit: Schubert Villa  
January 22-24 Provincial Visit: Dujarie House  
January 25 Videotaping of candidates' presentations  
Regional meeting: West Coast  
January 29-31 Provincial Visit: Florida
- February 1 Regional meeting: Notre Dame  
February 2-6 Provincial Visit: River Grove  
February 8 Provincial council meeting  
February 14 Provincial election ballots mailed to province members  
February 15 Regional meeting: Chicago  
February 27-28 Provincial Visit: Rolling Prairie
- March 1 Regional meeting: Cleveland/Akron\*  
Regional meeting: Florida/Texas\*  
\*erroneously listed in last issue of newsletter
- March 6–12 Provincial visit: Ohio area  
March 15 Provincial council meeting  
March 19 Provincial election ballots due in provincial office  
March 21 Announcement of election results  
March 24-28 Provincial Visit: Apartments and Holy Cross Village
- April 26 Provincial council meeting  
May 31 Provincial council meeting  
June 21 Province jubilee celebration  
June 22– 28 Provincial chapter



## Book Review

### LET GO OF FEAR Tackling Our Worst Emotion

by **Carlos G. Valles, S.J.**  
(Triumph Books, NY, 1991)

Readers familiar with Anthony de Mello's life and work will find notable similarities in this practical and valuable book by Carlos Valles, a Spanish Jesuit who, at the time of publication, had ministered in India for 40 years as a teacher and a close friend and associate of de Mello.

Drawing from personal experience, especially in the classroom and in counseling situations, Valles helps the reader acknowledge and confront the variety of fears that challenge us in our everyday life. His style facilitates the process, making the book very easy to read.

He writes, "It is to our own advantage to give ourselves the freedom to look at our own fears without shame or misgivings, rather than artificially pretend we are not afraid of anything. We *are* afraid, and we should be the first to know it and own up to it." And he proceeds in 32 brief, quite manageable chapters to define categories of fear and draw us to admit we are immune to precious few if any of them.

How this book came to my attention, I don't remember. The copy I read bears the stamp of the faculty library at St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio. That the copyright date is 1991 adds to the mystery. Where has this book been all these years? How and why did it turn up on my book shelf? And yet the content is as timely as if prepared for the era of terrorism, so vividly illustrated in the 9/11 attacks and the Washington area snipers. In fact, one of the chapters specifically treats of the reality of political terrorism.

Name whatever fears you will, Valles addresses them, offering in his short five- to six-page chapters something of the "Dr. Phil approach" to human psychology, couched largely in an Indian context but colored by the Western European sources of the author's origin and training.

What are you afraid of? God? Your security? Enclosure? Being irrational in your fears? Getting lost? Being alone? Death? Intimacy? Not doing your best? That your secrets will be revealed...? All of us, Valles rightly claims, are victims of our fears. And he sets about laying them to rest by an astute mixture of human psychology, theology, and spirituality, resulting in a generous helping of good old common sense.

I don't know how available this book is today, but if you happen across it, don't fail to pick it up and give it a serious look. Don't be afraid of wasting your time. It will be well spent.

Br. Philip Armstrong, C.S.C.



*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence ... (Is. 9: 1-3)*