



News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

January - February 2001

Provincial Council

The provincial council meeting opened on Saturday, January 6, with a half-hour of prayer in St. Joseph Chapel. Following this time of prayer together, Brother Donald and the members of the council moved to the conference room of the Administrative Center for the formal part of the meeting.

- The bylaws of Andre Residential Services, Inc., were approved along with the appointments of the members of the Board of Directors. The board members are Brothers Philip Armstrong, Robert Fillmore, Paul Kelly, Richard Kiniry (EB), Harold Ehlinger (SW) and Father Kenneth Molinaro (IP).
- Brother Donald announced to the council that a family wishing to remain anonymous is willing to finance building a wing that will provide additional beds for Dujarie House. The council accepted the recommendation that this wing will not only provide additional facilities for Brothers, but it will also offer the possibility of expanding the mission of Dujarie House to offer a continuum of health care for laypersons associated with the Brothers of Holy Cross.
- After a discussion concerning the assisted living needs for province members, it was decided to re-establish a program for the Brothers residing at Columba Hall. A program of this nature will assist to preserve the person's dignity while at the same time providing in a holistic manner for the needs of Brothers living in the house. The components of the program will include transportation, housekeeping, dietary needs and additional nursing assistance for those requiring it.
- The Annual Appeal, *Don't Forget to Write Your Brothers*, begun at the end of November 2000, has resulted so far in 706 gifts totaling \$65,290. Gifts still continue to come in as of this date.
- The province received two anonymous gifts of \$97,000 and \$25,000 in support of two of the projects the provincial has articulated for the first three years of his term. They are the province formation program and the establishment of an endowment for the continuing education of trustees and faculty members in province sponsored schools to further the catholicity, mission and values of Holy Cross in the field of education.
- During the meeting's afternoon session, representatives of the auditing firm Kerber, Eck and Braeckel, LLP met with the council to review the recently completed audit of the province financial position and to discuss the accompanying management letter. At the same time the members of the council were updated on the current search for a new controller for the business office.

➤ Brother Robert Fillmore informed the council that Rev. Anthony Gittens, C.S.Sp., professor of missiology at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, will direct the province retreat to be held in June at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, Notre Dame, IN. The retreat's theme will be a call to a new sense of mission. Information on the retreat and a registration form were mailed to province members at the end of January.

After the meeting, the members of the provincial council joined the Brothers at Columba Hall for a community celebration the feast day of Blessed Andre Bessette.

Brother Joseph Tsiquaye Appointed to the General Council

On January 1, 2001, Father Hugh Cleary, superior general, announced the appointment of two religious of Holy Cross to the general council of the congregation: Father James Mulligan of the English Canadian Province and Brother Joseph Tsiquaye of the District of West Africa. Brother Joseph, the first Ghanaian to enter the congregation, is currently the director of novices at Blessed Brother Andre Novitiate in Ghana. He was District Superior of West Africa from 1979 to 1987. He brings to his new position a wealth of experience ranging from education and administration to formation in Holy Cross. Prior to assuming the position of director of novices in Ghana he was the assistant director of novices for Holy Cross in East Africa. He recently received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in spiritual formation from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The province congratulates Brother Joseph on his appointment to the general council and assures him of our prayers of support as he begins his ministry to the congregation as a general councilor.

Administrative Center

Renovations are now complete in the Administrative Center and the Indiana Province has moved to its new administrative offices on the first and second floors. Fathers William Dorwart, provincial, and his two assistant provincials, Fathers Robert Epping and Kenneth Molinaro, occupy offices on the first floor along with Brother Donald Gibbs and Brother Robert Fillmore. The Indiana Province Business Office, the Associates and Development Offices occupy the second floor. The Midwest Province Development Department, Holy Cross Educational Ministries, the Province Archives and the Mission Promoter occupy new offices on the lower level along with the Planning Office and the Facilities and Grounds Department. On Tuesday evening, February 27, there will be a blessing of newly renovated Administrative Center. This will be followed by an open house and reception for the members of both provinces in the Notre Dame area.

Vocations

A Holy Cross Discernment Retreat will be held the weekend of March 2, 3, and 4 for young men who continue to express an interest in joining the province's Collegiate Pre-

candidate Program to begin this fall. The retreat will take place in the north wing of Columba Hall (Solitude). Please keep these young men in your prayers.

From the Finance Office

During the month of January or early February, you may receive from your employer or bank, W-2 or 1099 forms. These forms (with your Social Security number on them), when sent to the federal government, trigger a computer to begin looking for a tax report to be filed by you during the current year.

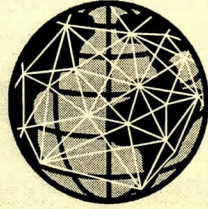
Interest earned on your Patrimony Account is also reportable income. A 1099 interest form will be sent to both federal and state government offices reporting this income. You should have received information regarding these earnings.

When you receive these forms, please forward them to the Controller in the Province Finance Office as soon as possible. We will evaluate them and determine whether an income tax return should be filed. *The vow of poverty does not exempt a person from filing a tax report on personal income.* If you are required to file and/or pay taxes on income, we will prepare and forward

to you the necessary tax forms for your signature before paying and filing.

Province Web Sites

The Holy Cross Village has now its own web page. The web page was designed and executed by **Brother Richard Johnson** and can be viewed at www.hcc-nd-edu/hcvillage.



The web page includes information about the Village, its mission, history and lifestyle as well as sample floor plans and services and amenities that are available to residents. Congratulations to Brother Richard for sharing his talents in this area.

It is hoped that by February 14 a test version of the newly completed province web page will be available to province members for their reactions, comments and suggestions. BJ Thompson, a public relations firm in Mishawaka, is developing this site and will have it available at their address. When the test version is ready, it will be announced via the MWNet. The goal is to put the full web page on the Internet by March 19.



From the Province

Three province members either have received or will receive special recognition. Special congratulations are extended **Brother Lewis Brazil, Brother Donald Johnroe and Brother James Van Dyke.**

➤ Brother Lewis Brazil received the first **Augusta Anetzberger Award for Exemplary Service** from the Community Services Division of the Benjamin Rose Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Lewis writes; "For me it was a very humbling event after only six years with the agency as a social worker. Serving older adults has been a very rewarding experience."

➤ Brother Donald Johnroe received a citation from the **Notre Dame Club of Fort Lauderdale, Florida**, as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for his "unparalleled

participation and devotion for the past twenty years."

➤ The National Association of Religious Brothers, Region 7, Chicago, IL, will present its second annual **Recognition of Brotherhood** to Brother James Van Dyke. Brother James will receive the award at the annual New Year's Gathering of Brothers to be held on Saturday, February 10, at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove, IL. Cardinal Francis George will preside at a Mass that evening to begin the event. This award recognizes years of faithful and inspiring service as a brother. Brother James currently works for the Correctional Services Department of the Salvation Army, visiting the Cook County Jail and Illinois prisons and providing counseling and services to the inmates. He also provides advocacy and services for families of prisoners.

➤ **Brother David Fitzgerald**, chairman of the Earth Sciences Department of St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, is organizing a fossil collection for the Earth Sciences Museum. The collection features almost 250 trilobite fossils from 16 countries and 14 states in the US. These are the first living organisms to have optical systems and they spanned 132 million years, preceding the reign of the dinosaurs by another 200 million years.

➤ **Brother John Benesh** has recently completed the stained glass windows for the Holy Cross novitiate in Huaycan, Lima, Peru. Working with stained glass is a hobby John had picked up since retiring from teaching. John is also a member of the novitiate staff along with Fr. James Phalan (EP). The first novitiate class in Peru began January 6 with two Peruvian novices, three novices from Mexico and one novice from Brazil.

➤ After 17 years of faithful service, **Brother Flavius Ellison** has retired from the position of director of the Association of Saint Joseph. We offer a special word of gratitude and appreciation to him for his dedication to this special pastoral ministry and for his interest and concern for the many people who have corresponded with him since assuming the position in 1984. The new directors of the

Association of Saint Joseph are Brothers William Gates and James Newberry.

➔ **Brother Philip Armstrong** has published an article entitled: Who is a Brother? The article appears in the January/February 2001 issue of Review for Religious.

➔ The Regional Directorate of the Ghana Education Service confirmed the appointment of **Brother Joseph Annan** as assistant headmaster of St. John's School in Sekondi. Brother Joseph's appointment is a recognition of the Brothers of Holy Cross' contribution to the field of education in the country. The Brothers have played an integral role in the development of St. John's School since their arrival in Ghana in 1957. Congratulations, Brother Joseph!

➔ **Brother George Klawitter** wrote to say that he has been promoted to the position of full professor at St. Edward's University, Austin, TX. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to him as he assumes his new position in the fall.

➔ The **Brothers at Columba Hall** will have their annual retreat beginning Friday, April 6, and ending on Thursday morning, April 12. The retreat master will be Rev. William Seech, superior of Corby Hall. Father Seech is a graduate of St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio. For more information on the retreat, you can contact Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, superior at Columba Hall.



Prayer Intentions

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the souls of: Brother Richard Gilson, Brother Augustus Patin, Brother John Campbell of the South-West Province, Rev. Henri Bernard of the Canadian Priests Province, Brother Jean-Pierre Lefebvre of the Canadian Brothers Province, Brother Charles Burns of the Eastern Brothers Province, John Geenen, brother of Brother William Geenen, Robert Stout, brother of Brother John Stout, Bernice Jorae, mother of Brother Anthony Jorae, Ruth Westbrook, sister of Brother Jerome Kroetsch

and Sister Catherine Platte, DOSF, sister of Brother Bernard Platte.

Please remember also Brother Bennet Nettleton, and Brother Carl Shonk the following who are recovering from illness.

Let us also remember in prayerful thanksgiving the many benefactors of the province who have helped us in so many ways.

Province Retreat, Day of Reflection and Jubilee Celebration June 11 to June 16, 2001

An information brochure with a registration form was mailed out in January. If you have not received it, you can contact Brother Edward Dailey at the Provincial Office.

Please complete the form and return it to the Provincial Office.

The deadline for registration is March 1, 2001.

Momentum Growing in Moratorium and Abolition of Death Penalty

From the J/P Alert,
Conference of Major Superiors of Men,
January 2001

Supporters of the moratorium and abolition of the death penalty gathered in San Francisco for a "Committing to Conscience" conference to network and plan strategy to move the moratorium and abolition agenda during the next year and build on the growing momentum of the success of the past year and the shifting public attitude toward the death penalty. Keynote speaker, Sister Helen Prejean told the group that "Life is given to us to work with God to create the world and when

the world is hurting we must change it. The death penalty hits to the core of what it means to be a human being and a society."

The diverse voices heard during the November 16-19 conference highlighted the way the death penalty impacts our society, especially specific communities, and the way organizations are responding to raise voices of solidarity with the victims of violence in our nation. The United States is the most prominent nation where the death penalty not only still exists on the books but in practice. The rate at which executions are taking place in the United States is approaching that similar to the number of executions in the 1940s. The growing trend of sentencing juveniles and mentally handicapped individuals to death is particularly chilling. It was pointed out that the death penalty is still applied to those who cannot afford an adequate defense and to members of minority communities.

A representative of the Italian government, which has taken a leading role in the world-wide efforts to ban the death penalty, told the participants that other nations follow the lead of the United States on this issue and point to the use of the death penalty in this country as justification for them keeping and enforcing the death penalty. Some speakers stressed that public opinion is shifting in favor of moratorium and abolition of the death penalty and the work of prominent leaders such as Sen. Russell Feingold (D-WI) and Gov. George Ryan (R-IL), who have been outspoken critics of the death penalty and were honored at this year's meeting, are pointing out the flaws in the judicial system and demand a change in policy.

Religious organizations play a prominent role in the moratorium and abolition movement and an entire day of the conference was dedicated to sharing programs that exist and planning for a more effective way of collaborating to end the death penalty. The "Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty" will take a more active role in bringing together the religious communities to promote anti-death penalty activism within the different religious traditions and as a coalition. In addition to strategic planning, conference participants also discussed the broader issues of the justice system in the United States, the treatment of prisoners, and restorative justice

programs. The conference ended with a demonstration at San Quentin prison where men on death row are housed and where executions in California take place.

At the August 2000 Assembly, CMSM members renewed the Conference's commitment to work to bring about an end to the death penalty in this country. Joint Presidential letters were sent from LCWR and CMSM protesting each planned execution. Working with the broad network of religious communities and other organizations CMSM will continue to promote the growing moratorium movement and work to abolish the death penalty.

Individuals and communities can participate in several programs. "Religious Organizing Against the Death Penalty" has a collection of Sermons, Homilies, Reflections on the Death Penalty and Religious Community Calls for Abolition. Statements of Opposition to Capital Punishment available by contacting them at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, or by phone at 215-241-7130. Their web site is www.envisioning.org. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" is a national initiative to have religious organizations across the country toll their bells or display a banner whenever there is an execution. Information about this program and how to bring visibility to the number of executions in our country is available by writing P.O. Box 2736, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2736 or www.curenational.org/bells. "Murder Victim Families for Reconciliation" promotes alternatives to the death penalty, violence prevention, and addressing the needs of victims of violence. They sponsor a photo and text exhibit "Not Our Name" in which family members of murder victims and of those who have been executed express their opposition to the death penalty. The moving display provides reflection on the cycle of violence that the death penalty promotes and how some individuals and families have worked toward healing and reconciliation that enables them to rebuild their lives. For information on the display contact MVFR at 2161 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 01240, or call 617-868-0000.



Book Review:
THE HOLY LONGING
The Search for a Christian
Spirituality

Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I.

(Doubleday, NY, 1999, 241 pages.)

Reviewed by Brother Philip Armstrong

Sr. Helen Prejean of *Dead Man Walking* fame says of Rolheiser's book: "a master weaver is at work here ... I found my soul on every page. At last we have a guide who helps us know what to do with the fire of desire within us. At last a comprehensive, life-giving approach to sexuality. At last a dynamic understanding of how the Paschal mystery plays in our lives. At last a way to weave love for the poor and struggling people with the highest mystical love of God."

I wouldn't quote Prejean if I didn't think she accurately captures my own reaction to Rolheiser's book. As I read, I found myself admitting, "Well, finally someone has put into words what I have sensed but was unable to express!" This "At last!" factor kicks in repeatedly as the reader encounters and recognizes familiar territory mapped out clearly and unambiguously.

Rolheiser, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate from Toronto, has an unusual gift for taking the popular but lofty topic of spirituality and unraveling its complexity in words and imagery none of us will have a problem interpreting or relating to, and within which we very well may find more than just a shadow of our own struggling pilgrim experience.

In his four-part book, Rolheiser first defines *the situation* -- what is spirituality, and what is the current struggle with it? In part two he establishes some *non-negotiable essentials* for a Christian spirituality. Part three situates *the Incarnation* as the basis for this spirituality, and part four elaborates on some *key spiritualities* underlying Church, the Paschal mystery, justice and peace, sexuality, finishing with an excellent chapter on sustaining ourselves in the spiritual life. Sound dry? No way!

Outstanding in the author's reader-friendly style is the comforting reminder that we bear the same frustrating anomalies of humanity Jesus shared with us for thirty-three years, and that some elements of our nature at times thought to comprise deterrents to true spirituality are in fact substantive to it. The disembodied ascetical-mystical theology of the mid-20th century gives way to a healthy incarnational one that situates us quite realistically right where we are as unambiguously and undeniably human. The reader may be brought up short by the rather off-hand comments here and there, such as, "Few of us, I suspect, consider

Mother Teresa an erotic woman." Indeed! Yet eros for Rolheiser is the drive, the source, the fire energizing our being, helping us channel our choices creatively toward greater integration in the way we relate to God, others, and the cosmic world. From that perspective, who could deny Mother Teresa had channeled her eros effectively? We may not be Mother Teresa, but we have a healthy dose of eros prodding our lives.

Rolheiser lists four non-negotiable pillars of the spiritual life and of Christian discipleship: (1) private prayer and private morality; (2) social justice; (3) mellowness of heart and spirit; (4) community as a constitutive element of true worship. Only when these are present in our lives, he contends, are we healthy as Christians and as human beings. Of course, he elaborates on each element, not always in the direction we may anticipate.

For me, key chapters of the book are "Christ as the Basis for Christian Spirituality," and "Consequences of the Incarnation for Spirituality." Here Rolheiser focuses on the inestimable and indispensable nature and implications of the Incarnation, quoting a verse from John Shea as an illustration: "*Christ has no body but yours,/no hands but yours,/no feet but yours./Yours are the eyes through which/Christ's compassion must look out on the world./Yours are the feet with which/He is to go about doing good./Yours are the hands with which/He is to bless us now.*" In short, God's presence and redemptive action in the world are enacted through us disciples. He adds a pithy aphorism of St. Francis of Assisi, *Preach the word of God wherever you go, even use words, if necessary.* The communitarian essence of the Church derives from an incarnational theology, and Rolheiser elaborates in these two chapters as well as in the following one, "A Spirit or Ecclesiology."

We hate to have our pet ideas and presumptions challenged, our set ways disturbed, our comfortable positions ruffled. We do not normally purposely read to become unsettled. Yet it is in the plowing of fresh furrows in the earth of our minds and hearts that hope is engaged and we find renovating and refreshing confrontation with our God and in the meaning of life under the guise of seemingly ordinary daily experience. Rolheiser facilitates this opportunity for us. Don't miss it.