



News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

January 2003

Regional Meetings

The second round of regional meetings in preparation for the June provincial chapter began with a gathering of Brothers on the West Coast at Notre Dame High School, Sherman Oaks, California on Saturday, January 25th. The schedule for the remaining area meetings and the hosts for these meetings are:

February 1	South Bend	Holy Cross College Notre Dame, IN	Brother Richard Gilman
February 15	Chicago	Holy Cross HS River Grove, IL	Brother James Van Dyke
March 1	Ohio	Archbishop Hoban HS Akron, OH	Brother Kenneth Haders
March 1	Texas/ Florida	St. Edwards University Austin, TX	Brother George Klawitter

The meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Brothers are asked to confirm with the host in their area the meeting they will attend.

A mailing has been sent to all province members containing the reports of the four chapter committees. The questions and issues raised in these reports will form the basis for the discussions at the regional meetings. In his letter to the province outlining the format of the meetings, Brother Robert Fillmore reminds all chapter members *that the privilege of participating in the chapter requires involvement in both the regional meetings and the work of the committees.*

Budget Calendar for 2003-2004

For those who like to plan ahead, budget forms for the 2003-2004 fiscal year will be mailed to members of the province and community houses with the monthly statements on March 21, 2003. Budget requests will be due back at the Provincial Steward's Office by Friday, April 11, 2003. Members of the province and houses will be notified concerning approval by mid-June.

After June 30, 2003, the Provincial Steward's Office will no longer issue gas cards. Originally there was a tax advantage to this practice, but this is no longer the case, and since most members of the province utilize VISA or Master Cards, there is no advantage to having the Steward's Office maintain a gas credit card system. If this change will be problematic for any one, please contact Brother William Dygert, Steward, or Curtis Coffer, Controller.

Golden Jubilee Celebration at St. John's School



Jubilee Gate at the entrance to St. John's School

On Saturday, November 30, St. John's School, Sekondi Ghana, celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a grand durbar held on the school football field. Hundreds of visitors, including "old boys" (past students) of St. John's came from all over the country to participate in this gala celebration. This durbar, or grand reception, was the highlight of several weeks of events celebrating the school's impressive history and contribution to Christian education of youth in the country. Prior to the durbar, the school cadets performed on the school parking lot with the Ghana Navy Band in attendance. Later, a bust of the school founder, Archbishop William Porter, was unveiled.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Dr. Kofi Blay, head of the Department of Sociology at Delaware State University and former student of St. John's School. Guests included Odeneho Gyapong Ababio, president of the Ghana House of Chiefs, the Minister of Education, Professor Christopher Ameyaw-Ekumfi, Brother Eduardo Michalik, one of the first Brothers of Holy Cross to go to Ghana, Brother William Gates, a long time member of the District of West Africa, and Brother Raymond Papenfuss, mission promoter for the Midwest Province and former faculty member of St. John's School.

The headmaster of St. John's School, Brother Joseph Annan, summarized the school's accomplishments over the past 50 years and encouraged the old boys to become more involved in the restoration of the school. He said that over the past two years great improvements have been made but that there is still more to be accomplished. A top priority is the construction of a computer center for the school.

A verse from the school song highlighted the sentiments of the day: *In our studies give us wisdom, in sports good health and joy. In daily life give us discipline and respect for all life.*

The following day, Sunday, December 1, the Most Reverend John Martin Darko, bishop of



Brother Joseph Annan, Headmaster

Sekondi-Takoradi, was the celebrant and homilist at a Mass of Thanksgiving in the school assembly hall for the students and old boys of St. John's School.

District Chapter

Shortly after the Jubilee Celebrations the district chapter opened on the December 16th. The chapter was held at the Blessed Brother André Novitiate at Brafuyaw -- at the District Center. Sr. Helene Sharp C.S.C., a Sister of the Holy Cross who ministers in Kasoa, in the Central Region of Ghana, moderated the chapter. Brother Michael Amakyi was elected to a third term as District Superior during the course of the meetings. On Christmas Day the Holy Cross community reassembled at the District Center for the Christmas Day liturgy presided by Rev. Robert Gilmour. During the liturgy, Brother Robert Fillmore, in a closing and sending forth ceremony titled *Go Forth, Living the Dream* gave everyone the results of the week long deliberations and decisions in a bound booklet. The gathering ended with a Christmas dinner on the rooftop area of the District Center.

Final Profession

Saturday, December 28, in Adiembra, **Brother Kenneth Kunditani** made his perpetual commitment as a Brother of Holy Cross. St. John Baptist Church experienced a joyous celebration as the crowd of nearly 1,000 sang continuously throughout the three and one half hour celebration. Hymns were heard in English, Fanti and Dagarti. The Bishop of Sekondi-Takoradi, Most Reverend John Martin Darko, led the liturgy and preached the homily. Brother Robert Fillmore, provincial, received Brother Kenneth's vows. The Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was Brother Joseph Annan, Headmaster of St. John's Secondary School, Sekondi. The celebration was opened with a welcome from the District Superior, Brother Michael Amakyi.



Brother Kenneth
Kunditani

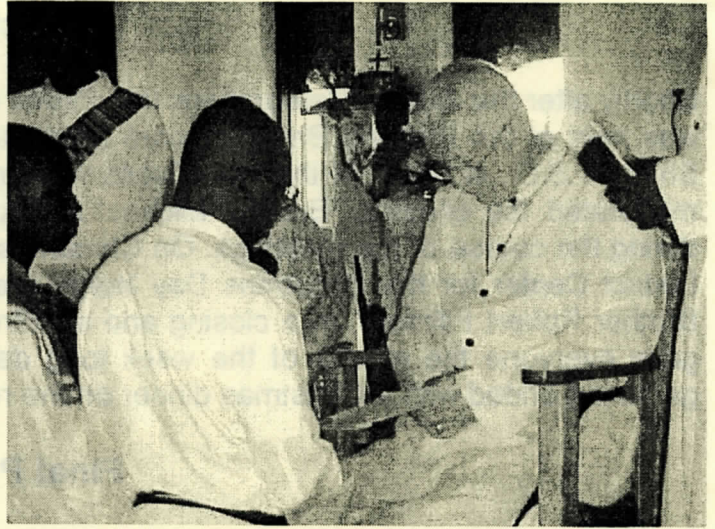
After the liturgy at St. John Baptist Church, everyone went to the Holy Cross Skills Project at Anaji where Brother Kenneth is the director to dedicate the new buildings and enjoy the reception in Brother Kenneth's honor. During the reception drumming and dancing was provided by a large group of Dagarti men and women from Wa, a city in Northern Ghana, Brother Kenneth's home area.

Provincial Visit to Ghana

Commenting on his recent visit to the Holy Cross community in Ghana, Brother Robert Fillmore writes: "My visit with the Holy Cross community in Ghana filled me with feelings of gratitude and hope. The twelve men in temporary vows and the four novices carry within them such a healthy sense of the religious life and the brother's vocation that you know Holy Cross is there to stay. It was clear the "elders" of the community laid a good foundation for these men and the ministry in the country. The direction of the community under the leadership of Brother Michael Amakyi created a very positive attitude among the members and in the villages and dioceses where the Holy Cross ministers. Through interviews and informal conversations the Brothers revealed a deep conviction in

their vision for the future and a firm belief that it will become a reality. They also manifest a willingness to make the necessary sacrifices to ensure this reality.

Brother Kenneth Kunditani's perpetual profession of vows on December 29th was memorable event. The church was filled with brothers, priests and sisters of Holy Cross, parishioners and friends of the community. The parish choir combined with the dancing and drumming provided by the younger members of Holy Cross filled the air with faith and joy.



During the district chapter the positive morale was evident in the open discussion on key issues. Members clearly understood the priorities and chose realistic strategies to achieve the goals. Senior members were comfortable with the presence and participation of the temporary professed who exhibited a keen interest in the proceedings while communicating a sense of belonging and commitment.

There is a growing sense in the district concerning limited funds and assistance from the province. Chapter legislation regarding finances will provide guidelines and timelines that will enable the community in Ghana to face these challenges.

Over the past year and a half, St. John's Secondary School in Sekondi has made a remarkable comeback with the Brothers return to leadership in the school. The teachers and staff made a point in stressing the improvements in academics, discipline and in the physical plant that have come about under the leadership of Brother Joseph Annan, headmaster, and Brother Sylvester Quaye, assistant headmaster.

Province members can look with pride at what is happening in Ghana and to the bright future Holy Cross is creating."

News Briefs

During the St. Edward High School Martin Luther King Prayer Service held on January 14, **William and Wendy Sikora** received the 7th Annual Martin Luther King Award. This award honors a member of the St. Edward High School community who has helped spread Dr. King's message of non-violence, love and human dignity. William Sikora and his wife Wendy are the parents of ten adopted children ranging in age from 27 to 9 years. Many of these children have special needs. They proudly claim four St. Edward High School graduates, a current student and a son who will enter the class of 2007.

Brother Christopher Dreyer is one of five members of the Holy Cross College faculty who have been selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2002*, a listing of the nation's most respected teachers. These teachers, selected by former students, who have been cited in student publications for being the best and the brightest high school and college students, have been chosen for this honor by the community as highly influential educators within the college. Only 5% of the nation's top teachers are honored in the edition.

The South Bend Tribune of January 7, 2003, reported that **Dujarie House** was one of two nursing homes in St. Joseph County to receive a perfect score in annual surveys conducted by state health officials from July through September 2002. Only twenty-eight homes out of 143 nursing homes in the state of Indiana received this perfect score. For each annual survey of a long-term care facility, a team of three or four professional surveyors perform detailed inspections that last from four days to two weeks. The team members are registered nurses or social workers.

Brother Patrick Osei-Bonsu of the District of West Africa completed his studies at Holy Cross College and has moved to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, to begin the next phase in his academic studies. His address is Moreau House, St. Edward's University #1069, Austin, TX 78704-6489. The telephone number is 512-448-8595

Brother Brian Lyon returned to Columba Hall after a week's stay in St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka. Brother Brian underwent successful treatment for a heart condition.

Brother Francis Rotsaert is now in residence at Dujarie House after completing an intensive phase of therapy at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, South Bend. While at Dujarie House he continues therapy to overcome the effects of the stroke he suffered in the fall of last year.

At the District Chapter held in December 2002, **Father William Persia (EP)** was elected district superior of the Holy Cross Community in Peru. The two elected councilors are **Father Robert Baker (EP)** and **Father Fidel Ticona Arocutipá (EP)**.

Six novices made their first profession of vows at Holy Cross Novitiate, Lima, Peru, on January 6, 2003. On the same day, nine men were received into the congregation and began their period of novitiate formation. These fifteen men come from Chile, Peru, Mexico, Brazil and Columbia.

Father James Burasa (I) was elected superior of the District of East Africa at the chapter held in Entebbe, Uganda. **Brother James Nichols (EB)** and **Father Richard Potthast (I)** were elected district councilors.

On December 10, 2002, the Holy Father appointed **Father Simon St-Hillien (CP)**, permanent secretary of the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. Father St-Hillien was born in 1951 and was ordained a priest in 1980. Father St-Hillien's appointment marks him as the second Holy Cross religious to be appointed bishop in that country within the past year. Bishop Yves-Marie Pean (CP) was ordained earlier the bishop of Gonaives.

The District of Haiti became the newest province in Holy Cross on January 5, 2003. The province is the **Province Notre-Dame-du-Perpetuel-Secours** (Province of Our Lady of Perpetual Help). Established by the Canadian Province of Priests 59 years ago, the new province consists of over sixty Holy Cross religious. Father Rodolph Arty was elected the provincial superior on January 8 at the conclusion of the first provincial chapter in Haiti. In his comments on the occasion of the establishment of the province, Father Hugh Cleary, superior general, expressed the desire that the new province will become a sign of hope for the entire congregation.

From the Vocations Office...

*(Brother Carlos Parrilla, province vocations director, shares a summary of a section of the article, "Issues That Need To Be Explored," by Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM. The article appeared in the spring 2001 issue of **Horizon**, journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference, and is used with permission.)*

Discernment, the process by which a person decides whether one is called to the religious life, is an overused and often misused word. "Discernment" is sometimes used to justify doing or not doing something. Sometimes "discernment" is used even to avoid true discernment completely. Genuine *discernment*

is essential for one to arrive at a life choice of great importance.

Pertinent to a vocation, *discernment* is the process of coming to an informed decision before God of what one should do here and now. First, it is a *process*, not an impulse, an infatuation, or a baseless conclusion. Because it must be a careful process, the church and religious congregations insist that the person spend many years before making a final commitment to the vocation. During this entire period, not only is the person discerning how he or she "fits" into the community, but the community is also discerning how the person fits into its ministry and lifestyle.

Second, discernment is a process of coming to an *informed decision* about whether or not one is called to this life. Being *informed* entails considering everything related to the decision that can be reasonably explored. This may include such areas as theology of church, Christ, sacraments, religious life; psychological assessment, community and ministry experiences; and study of community and its charism. Because they are often highly educated professionals used to managing their own affairs, older candidates may resist the notion of formation. They may resist seeing themselves as spiritually formless individuals to be molded. The reality is that one who is new to religious life, no matter what other lifestyles he or she may have experienced, has to become informed to realize that formation is not about molding, but about setting the stage for the inner freedom which permits intellectual, religious, spiritual, and experiential growth. This, in turn, aids in making an *informed decision* about one's vocation. Note that it is possible for one to "fall" into deciding without actually making a decision. Some congregations have members who never discerned their lives. They never decided to leave and kept on renewing their profession, hanging around while waiting for something better to come along their way and which never happened. Becoming a religious involves making a serious decision.

Third, the decision made through genuine discernment is made *before God*. It is not

simply a matter of liking the community and its ministry or that there seems to be nothing better ahead. It is a matter of looking into what God *really* is calling one to do.

For that reason, prayer is absolutely crucial for discernment. It is crucial for the period before one enters; it is most crucial throughout the period of one's formation. In prayer the person becomes intimately involved with the God with whom one is planning to spend one's life exclusively. With prayer comes that which gives support to everything having to do with one's life as a religious.

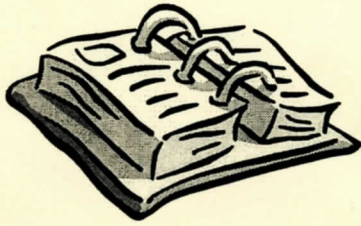
Finally, true discernment considers what *I* must do *here and now*. It is at this point that the process becomes personal and concrete. To be considered is whether *I* am being called *by God* to this life. This is not to decide that religious life is valid, good, or the best form of Christian life. This *here and now* decision is not about the future either simply because the future is unpredictable: Who knows how long one will live? Who knows the future of the congregation? Who knows the future of the church, our society, or the world in general? The choice one makes about religious life has to rest on all present realities of what one senses now through other people, within the present church, and within the confines of the current world. Only when oriented to the *here and now* will this discernment enable one to deal with what confronts the present. A discernment based on the *here and now* will also give faith and encouragement for one facing the future.



Your prayers are requested for the following members of the community who died recently:

Rev. Louis LeMeur (F), Rev. Maurice Dubé (CP), Rev. Gérard Jourdain (CP), Rev. Gaston Gladu (CP), Brother Bernard Platte, and Rev. Frederick Schmidt (S). Please remember also Edward Quigley, brother of Brother John Quigley.

Let us also keep in our prayers Brother Francis Rotsaert, Brother Donald Bailer and the other members of the community who are ill and suffering from poor health.



Calendar

January 29-31	Provincial Visit: Florida area community
February 1	Regional meeting: Notre Dame
February 2-6	Provincial Visit: River Grove community
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 community
March 1	Regional meeting: Cleveland/Akron Regional meeting: Florida/Texas
March 6-12	Provincial visit: Ohio area community
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: Holy Cross Village community
April 26	Provincial council meeting
May 31	Provincial council meeting
June 21	Province jubilee celebration
June 22- 28	Provincial chapter

Enclosures

Enclosed are two documents from the General Administration:

Report of the Superior General to the Council of the Congregation

Ethical Standards of Conduct in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The General Administration feels that the latter document, originally intended for superiors and directors, should be made known to all members of the congregation.