



# News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

March-April 2001

## General Administration Meeting with Provincials and Province Finance Personnel

Brother Donald Gibbs attended a meeting of provincials and province finance personnel with the general administration of the congregation held in Rome at the Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Christian Brothers) from March 16 to March 18, 2001. Please see the letter from Fr. Hugh Cleary, Superior General, that accompanies this newsletter.

Commenting on the meeting, Br. Donald states: "The Zielinski Companies of St. Louis, Missouri served as resource personnel and facilitators for the meeting. Several months prior to the meeting, the provinces submitted financial statements to the company. These statements were analyzed and formed the basis for the major part of the discussions.

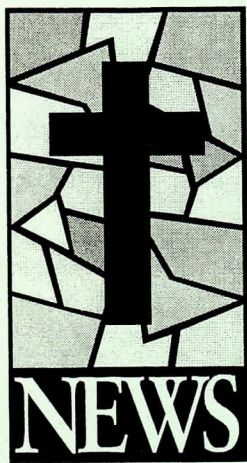
"In brief, the objectives of the Rome gathering were to implement the 1998 General Chapter recommendations on congregational financial needs (cf. Proceedings, pgs 51 - 53) and to share information concerning the wider financial situation of the congregation. Due to the strong leadership and direction in the past on the part of the provincials and the provincial stewards, the larger financial picture shows that the congregation for its size is on a solid footing. However, there are both long and short term needs that must be faced and dealt with when looking to the future. A part of the meeting focused on the short term and more urgent needs the congregation is facing. The remainder of the meeting dealt with questions of long term planning, and, keeping in mind congregational lines of authority and our structures of decentralization, the need for more accurate accountability and uniformity in reporting information to the general administration and to the council of the congregation.

"It was decided that in the light of the short term and urgent needs, the superior general is to compile a list and bring it to the council of the congregation for consideration at the November 2001 meeting in East Africa. A congregational finance committee will be established to work on long range planning. The committee will establish criteria for needs and will prioritize the needs keeping in mind that requests should be addressed first to the lower levels of congregational structures thus assuring the principles of subsidiarity. The committee will work towards creating greater uniformity in financial reporting and building a case for the establishment of a congregational office for development and mission.

"The overall spirit of the meeting was positive and there was a great deal of openness and sharing of financial information. There was also an awareness that business can no longer be conducted as in the past; it is imperative that we seek new ways to collaborate in order to meet the future needs of the congregation which include the rapid growth of vocations and formation and mission needs in the developing provinces and districts of the congregation.

"Did we go far enough? The answer is no. I wish we had been a bit bolder in our decision-making but as was pointed out we probably chose the safer course for the moment. I ask your prayers at this time for Father Cleary, our superior general and for the finance committee he is forming. May they be bold in the decisions they are to take and may they have the competence to see and the courage to act (C2, 14).

Following this meeting, the provincials of English-speaking North America gathered to discuss common interests and possible directions to take together. Fr. Cleary was invited to attend the meeting. Again, I ask you prayers for this leadership group."



The general administration has created a **Congregational Commission on Education** in response to Recommendation 13 of the 1998 General Chapter. The goals of the commission are to strengthen the Holy Cross identity of the congregation's educational institutions, to encourage research and reflection on the Holy Cross educational tradition, to provide support for Holy Cross educational

institutions worldwide, and to facilitate a congregation-wide conversation among Holy Cross religious and our partners on the vocation of *the educator in the faith* and on the mission of Christian education. The members of the commission are: Brs. Stephen Walsh (SW), John Britto, District of India, Gerard Dionne (CF), Thomas Dziekan (EB), Stephen LaMendola (EB), Subal Rozario (SJ), Revs. Benjamin Costa (SH), Emmanuel Kallarackel (IN), Vernet Luxana, District of Haiti, Thomas O'Hara (EP), Timothy Scully (IP) and Jorge Urtubia, District of Chile. The commission coordinator is Fr. James Mulligan, general assistant.

The **Holy Cross International Justice and Peace Office** has established its headquarters in the Bertrand Hall Annex at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. This is an inter-congregational effort on the part of the four congregations making up the Holy Cross family to collaborate in the area of justice and peace. The executive committee members are Sr. Rolland Bastien, C.S.C. (Sisters of Holy Cross), Sr. Gretchen Dysart, M.S.C. (Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross), Sr. Joan Marie Steadman, C.S.C. (Sisters of the Holy Cross) and Br. George Schmitz, C.S.C. (Congregation of Holy Cross). Sr. Mary Turgi, C.S.C. (Sisters of the Holy Cross) is the executive director. Rev. Allison Mahoney, C.S.C., of the English Canadian Province of Holy Cross, assists her. Fr. Mahoney is also the assistant coordinator of the Holy Cross men's justice and peace ministry. Br. Robert Fillmore, C.S.C., assistant provincial, is the contact person for the Midwest Province.

The Holy Cross International Justice and Office serves as a clearinghouse for information and action opportunities for the entire Holy Cross family. Activities include publicizing educational resources, providing analyses of issues and facilitating unified action for justice both among congregational members and with other justice-related groups.

The South-West Province reports that in the February 26, 2001 issue of ***Crux of the News***, the Congregation of Holy Cross is singled out as an example of growth in religious institutes. The article says, "Statistics from the international Congregation of Holy Cross shows 44 novices in various novitiates of the congregation and 263 young men in formation last year: India - 108; Bangladesh 40; North America - 40; Africa - 33; Haiti - 24; South America - 14; France - 1."

## **Second Holy Cross Educational Ministries Conference**

A blinding snowstorm welcomed the 44 participants to the second annual Holy Cross Educational Ministries Conference, *Building Community, Sustaining the Legacy*, at Saint Edmond's Academy of Wilmington, Delaware from February 22 to 24, 2001.

The Presidents, Headmasters, Principals, Board chairs, and Board members from the fourteen institutions that comprise Holy Cross Educational Ministries along with Brother Raymond Lamontagne, CSC, and Brother Gerard Dionne, CSC, Headmaster and Board Chair respectively of College Notre-Dame in Montreal, participated in this conference. Also participating were Brother Donald Gibbs, CSC, Provincial of the Midwest Province of Brothers, Rev. Ken Molinaro, CSC, Second Assistant Provincial of the Indiana Province, and Rev. Arthur Colgan, CSC, Provincial of the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers. Brother George Schmitz, CSC, Provincial of the Eastern Province of Brothers, was unable to attend because of the flu.

The Conference opened Thursday evening with prayer and a reception in the Great Hall of the Rollins Center for the Performing Arts. Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC, Director of Mission Effectiveness of Holy Cross Educational Ministries, opened the proceedings on Friday morning with a presentation on the *Educational Mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross*. In spite of the snowstorm and the cancellation of classes, the Saint Edmond's Liturgical Ensemble – students and faculty—made a special effort to be at the school for the Liturgy. Unfortunately, the Bishop McNamara (Forestville, MD) Gospel choir was unable to participate because of the weather.

Michael Marinelli, Associate Headmaster, presented his research on characteristics of administrators in a Holy Cross school during the first afternoon session. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in discussion about the ministry of administration and board service in a

Holy Cross school and ways to be mindful of and faithful to the mission in all aspects of the school's operation. The day concluded with a banquet at the Wilmington DoubleTree Hotel.

Saturday morning, reports from the discussion groups were given, followed by an open discussion about ways to enhance the mission at the various institutions. The conference concluded with a liturgy and bright sunshine and dry roads! Each participant was presented with a replica of a school bell engraved with the original seal of the Congregation of Holy Cross as a symbol of the deep roots educational ministry has in Holy Cross and of each participant's call to be a Holy Cross educator.

Appreciation was expressed to Brother Michael A. Smith, C.S.C., Headmaster, for hosting the conference, and to Mr. Michael Marinelli, Associate Headmaster, for the conference website design, music and looking after many of the details.

### **Meeting of Campus Ministers of Holy Cross Schools**

Campus Ministers from Holy Cross schools in the East and Midwest met at Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Indiana from March 23 through 25, 2001. It was the first meeting of this kind. Eighteen individual representing Holy Cross educational institutions from Chicago to Washington, DC, participated.

The meeting presented an opportunity to discuss the role and scope of campus ministry in a Holy Cross school. Participants shared the details of various programs. Brother Thomas A. Dziekan, C.S.C., Director of Mission Effectiveness of Holy Cross Educational Ministries, gave a reflection on mission and the role of campus ministry in a Holy Cross school. Mr. Michael Genovese, Director of Service Programs at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, NY, reflected on the role of service in a Holy Cross school, and Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C., Vicar Provincial of the Midwest Province, led a group reflection on the role of campus ministers and vocations to Holy Cross. Rev. William A. Wack, C.S.C., Vocation Director for the Indiana Province, gave the details of the planned Holy Cross schools pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal set for August 3 to 6, 2001 and the planned meeting of students from Holy Cross schools world-wide at World Youth Day 2002 to be held in Toronto. At the conclusion of the meeting, some goals were set, including the celebration of Moreau Day, the remembrance of each other in prayer, and regional meetings for implementation during the next school year. Participants received

a number of resources, including copies of *Educating Hearts and Minds: A Holy Cross Source Book*, to help them in their ministry.

### **Vocations Office**

**Br. Carlos Parrilla** has been appointed Vocation Director for the province. The province is grateful to Carlos for his generous acceptance of this position and assures him of our support in this new area of ministry. Carlos' teaching and pastoral experience, coupled with his enthusiastic attitude, will serve him well in this new ministry. He will work closely with Br. Robert Fillmore, Director of Vocation Awareness and Formation.

The **Vocation Discernment Retreat** originally planned for the end of February was postponed because of schedule conflicts of the young men interested in attending. The new date for the retreat is April 20 - 23. Please keep this retreat in your prayers. For further information about the retreat weekend, please see the enclosed flyer. You are also asked to pass this information on to young men between the ages of 16 and 20 who may be interested in this discernment weekend.

### **Holy Cross High School, River Grove, IL**

**Br. Douglas Roach**, president of Holy Cross High School announced that Holy Cross High School has received a grant of 5.2 million dollars for the School Sound Abatement Program. This program, one of the most extensive of its kind in the United States, receives its funding mainly from the federal government but with some financial support from the city of Chicago. The source of the money is a surcharge levied on all passengers flying in and out of O'Hare Airport as well as a surcharge on all cargo. Since the early 1990's, 117 million dollars have been allotted to 75 schools surrounding Chicago's O'Hare Airport for insulation to reduce aircraft within the school building. The program requires the schools to follow strict criteria established by the Department of Aviation. Only four to seven schools are approved each year to receive these grants. Guerin High School received funding in 1998. This year Holy Cross High School was among the seven schools to be awarded grants. For Holy Cross High School, the sound insulation project will also involve the removal of over 62 individual heating units and the installation of two boilers and a chiller for air conditioning. The system will be throughout

the school and will include the gymnasium. Renovations will take about 65 weeks and will begin with the mechanical work on June 11. All the glass block windows will also be replaced. The school has been waiting for this grant since the latter part of 1997.

## Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN

**Br. Raymond Harrington**, English instructor at Holy Cross College, was named recipient of the College's first excellence in teaching award. In making the announcement, Dr. William Mangan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, remarked, "Students have noted in particular Brother's keen intellect, sense of humor, compassion and high standards."

Br. Raymond's teaching career spans 46 years and he has taught English, composition and American literature at a variety of Holy Cross sponsored schools throughout the Midwest. His strong commitment to youth is also evidenced by his volunteer service at Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, where he has taught remedial English in the summer for the past 29 years. Br. Raymond's philosophy is: "The longer you teach, the more you learn." He adds: "It is important not only to stress self-discipline with students, but self-confidence as well." Congratulations to Br. Raymond on this significant honor and recognition.

The Holy Cross Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa inducted **Br. Thomas Rock** as an honorary member during its induction ceremony on February 26. Also inducted as an honorary member was Dr. William Mangan, Holy Cross College Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Cisco Systems web page: Products and Platforms features Holy Cross College as a customer profile in the use of IP telephony. The web page includes an interview with **Br. Charles Drevon**, director of campus technology, in which he describes how through IP telephony the college has significantly expanded services available to the college faculty, staff and students.

## Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame

The Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend bestowed its annual mission commendation award on **Br. Thomas Henning** on Monday, March 19. The award was presented to Br. Thomas as a surprise by Robert Beyer, Chief Executive Officer for Saint Joseph's Regional

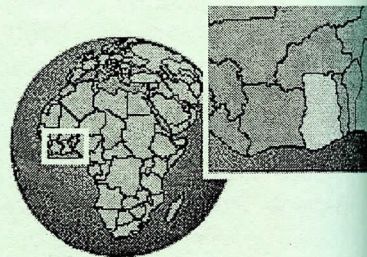
Medical Center at the annual volunteer recognition brunch held at the Windsor Park Conference Center in Edison Lakes, Mishawaka. The award, a specially designed statue of Saint Joseph, was presented to Br. Thomas in recognition of his outstanding dedication to volunteer work. Br. Thomas began volunteering his services in 1993 and continues carrying on his greatly valued ministry at Schubert Villa where he lives and at Saint Joseph Medical Center in South Bend. One of his activities is collecting used soft drink cans and donating the proceeds to various charities. Through his efforts \$1,480.07 was donated to charitable groups in the South Bend area. We congratulate Br. Thomas Henning on receiving this special award and for his concern and dedication to serving those in need.

The **Friends of the Holy Cross Brothers** sponsored the third annual Lenten series in the lounge of the Helen D. Schubert Villa during the Sundays of Lent after the 10:00 A.M. Mass at St. Joseph Chapel. The series consisted of a presentation on an aspect of personal spirituality followed by a short discussion period. Br. Raymond Papenfuss spoke on faith and disillusionment; Br. Edward Dailey gave a reflection focusing on God's unconditional love as revealed through the Scriptures; and Br. Robert Fillmore's theme was the mystery and response of the religious vocation. Br. Philip Armstrong gave the final presentation entitled: Repainting the Signs: a critical look at the sacramental system.

## District of West Africa

**Br. Joseph Annan**, a member of the District of West Africa, has been appointed assistant headmaster of St. John's School in Sekondi. Br. Joseph is currently a faculty member at St. John's. He is also the director of formation for the temporary professed Brothers in Ghana. The Brothers of Holy Cross have ministered at St. John's School as teachers and administrators since their arrival in Ghana in 1957.

**Br. Michael Amakyi**, the District Superior of West Africa, continues his work promoting the Brother's vocation in Ghana. He brought a group of 55 students from St. Augustine's College, Cape Coast, to visit the candidate program at St. Joseph Hall, Sekondi. The students met with the



candidates to learn about the program and interacted with them. The day concluded with lunch and a football game. Brother Michael has a similar program planned for the Catholic students studying at Ghana Secondary Technical School in Takoradi.



### Prayers Requested

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the souls of Brother Robert Woodward, Rosemary Feldman, sister of Br. Edward Courtney; Mabel Nettesheim, mother of Br. Gerald Nettesheim; Neil J. Stout, brother of Rev. Richard Stout (IP); Wilma Ewald, mother of Br. Robert Ewald (IP); Rev. Terence Daniel Kennerk (SH); Br. Bernardin Benoit (CP); Rev. Jacques Richier (CP); and Br. Roland-Philippe Delisle (CF).

Please remember also province members who are ill or recovering from illness, especially, Br. Bennet Nettleton, Br. Albert Rimlinger and Br. Carl Shonk.

### Directory Information

The P.O. Box number for the Brothers living in Riverside Place, Holy Cross Village (apartment building) is now P.O. Box 609. The zip code is 46556-0609.

Address change: Br. Flavius Ellison and Br. Bennett Nettleton, Dujarie House, P.O. Box 706, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0706, Tel. 219-287-1838.

E-Mail address: Br. James Everett: jamesaeverett\_csc@yahoo.com

### Blessed Brother Andre Statue

A bronze, life-size statue of **Blessed Brother Andre Besette**, commissioned by former provincial Brother William Geenen for the garden area between Schubert Villa and Riverside Place, has been completed and delivered ready for installation.

Both the statue and the landscaping of the garden were made possible by a gift from the patrimony of Br. Raymond Kelly in memory of his mother. The statue's sculptor is Jerry McKenna, a Texas artist and a graduate of St. Edward High School in Lakewood and Notre Dame. Jerry is known for his bronzes in many locations, including

the Frank Leahy and Moose Krause statues near the Notre Dame stadium. He is a close friend of Brs. David Fitzgerald and James Spooner.

When the construction of the pedestal for the statue is finished a decision will be made as to when to hold the official dedication ceremony. One current possibility is shortly before the province retreat in June.

### Midwest Province Website

The Midwest Province website ([www.nd.edu/mwp](http://www.nd.edu/mwp)) is to go on line on April 19. One feature of this site is a calendar of province events that will be continually updated. To post noteworthy events (school or institutional activities), please send information to Mr. Jerome Kearns, Director of Development, at P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0406 or at [jkearns@hcc-nd.edu](mailto:jkearns@hcc-nd.edu).

**Region Seven of the Religious Brothers Conference** (formerly NARB) will host a day of reflection on Saturday, September 22, 2001, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the theme: "Brotherliness in Mission." Father Anthony Gittens, C.S.Sp., is the speaker and he will approach brotherhood from deep within its origins in human society. (Fr. Gittens is the retreat master for our province retreat in June.) The day of reflection will be held at the Dominican Conference Center in River Grove, IL, and will include lunch and a Mass for Sunday, with a donation of \$20.00. Please watch for additional information in the future.

### Closing Message from the Provincial

*...our hope is that the common purse will be expressive of true reliance upon one another in Holy Cross and will free our hearts for possession by the Lord. (Constitution 49 - Poverty)*

Having a credit card and using it wisely is a good way of handling one's financial affairs. It also affords an opportunity for fiscal responsibility and accountability in light of our vow of poverty and our commitment to the common purse. Credit card balances should be easily paid off in full at the end of each month to avoid the exorbitant interest charges that accompany unpaid balances. I ask that if any province member finds himself in a difficult credit card situation to contact me so that the heavy burden of debt this situation causes can be addressed.

## JUSTICE WATCH

This issue of the newsletter marks the third time the death penalty has been highlighted. While there are other issues of injustice which we as a province need to be sensitive to, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men continues to strongly encourage congregational leaders to inform their members about courses of action that can be taken to abolish the death penalty.

This year, more states are considering legislation for a moratorium on executions. Last year, Illinois Governor George Ryan halted executions and imposed the country's first moratorium. He has also been a leading voice in this movement to abolish the death penalty. Currently, Maryland, Tennessee, Illinois, Nebraska, Arizona and North Carolina are proposing legislation to impose a moratorium on executions.

The United States bishops have stated, "Increasingly, our society looks to violent measures to deal with some of our most difficult social problems ... including increased reliance on the death penalty to deal with crime ... Violence is not the solution; it is the most clear sign of our failures ... We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing." (Confronting Culture and Violence)

People have come to oppose the death penalty for a variety of reasons:

- It does not effectively deter serious crime in our nation.
- It does not restore the social order breached by the offenders.
- It is often imposed unfairly, falling disproportionately on racial and ethnic minorities and the poor.
- It is not imposed in a way that prevents the execution of possibly innocent persons.
- It does not alleviate the fear of violent crime or better safeguard the people.

Humane and effective methods of defending society exist and should be used. Exacting the death penalty is not one of them. Our Church remains consistent in its support of the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person from the moment of conception until natural death.

A positive step in this direction you may want to take is to support the Innocence Protection Act that will soon come before Congress. You can use the sample letter below to send to your congressman and or senator stating your support for legislation to do away with the death penalty.

Dear . . .

Our nation is systematically executing innocent persons. To correct this injustice, I support the Innocence Protection Act which assures:

Every condemned prisoner the right to DNA testing of evidence. (Many people facing execution have been denied the chance to prove their innocence using DNA technology that did not exist when they were convicted.)

Every person accused of a capital crime will have access to a competent attorney. (A convicted person on Death Row has no constitutional right to a lawyer. Some do manage to get an attorney to handle their appeals.)

Judges would inform juries of all sentencing options, including, where applicable, an option of sentencing a defendant to life imprisonment without parole. (Many jurors have imposed the death sentence mistakenly believing that any other sentence would someday leave the defendant eligible for parole.)

I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that these safeguards, incorporated in the Innocence Protection Act, become the law of our nation.

Signature