

# News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

November-December, 2000

## Provincial Council Meeting.

The provincial council meeting of Saturday, November 18, began with a half hour of quiet prayer in St. Joseph Chapel after which the council moved to the Province Administrative Center. Opening the meeting, Brother Donald Gibbs welcomed the council members to the first council meeting to be held in the newly remodeled Administrative Center. He then invited Mr. Jerome Kearns, province director of development, to give an overview of the development plan for the coming years.

Brother Donald Gibbs reported on two recent meetings: the meeting of local superiors held at Notre Dame on October 14 and the Council of the Congregation held in Chile from November 6 to November 12. The superiors' meeting was an occasion for the provincial administration to support the local superiors in the province in their ministry and to share their common concerns. The meeting of the Council of the Congregation focused on vocations and formation in the congregation and examined questions of restructuring. During the course of the meeting, each of the general assistants gave progress reports on different areas. (See highlights of these reports on page 2.)

Following upon discussions during the previous council meeting to structure province institutional boards along the same lines, Brother Donald informed the council that the board of Holy Cross Village will be restructured according to a two-tier plan with the Brothers of Holy Cross as the corporate members, and a separate board to be organized to oversee the operations of the Village. Brother John May and Brother Joseph Fox are the elected members of the operational board. Additional members will be appointed at a later date.

In his report to the council, Brother William Dygert, provincial steward, commented on the recently completed audit of the province finances and the management letter submitted by the auditors. Once the Province Stewardship Committee meets to review the audit report, they will present recommendations to the provincial council for consideration.

Brother Robert Fillmore, assistant provincial, updated the council on efforts in vocation recruitment. Both he and Brother Donald Gibbs have spoken on vocations to the students and local communities of schools in the province. There is an increased interest on the part of high school students in the religious life. (See CMSM article on page 3.) A number of young men will be ready to begin the collegiate vocation discernment program in the fall of 2001. This program, modeled on the Old College program, will be housed in one of the annexes of Columba Hall. The province will fund the room and board of the candidates, but the young men will be responsible for their own educational expenses. Efforts will be made to help students in their tuition by seeking grants for them. No student will be turned away for lack of funds. There are also plans to place advertisements in the Notre Dame campus newspaper, the Holy Cross College newspaper and in other school papers in the area.

## International Session for Young Holy Cross Religious

Following upon the success of the first International Session for Young Holy Cross Religious held in Rome in 1997, the general chapter recommended similar sessions in the

future for the young religious in the congregation. In its implementation of this recommendation, the congregational general administration has announced a second session to be held in Le Mans, France, from July 9 to August 1, 2001. The stated goals for

## Highlights from the reports of the general assistants to the council of the congregation

- An office for the promotion of the cause of Father Moreau will be established in Rome. No one has yet been appointed to assume the position.
- A member of the French Canadian Brothers' province is writing the *positio*, a preliminary document for advancing the cause of Fr. Dujarie for beatification.
- The cause for the beatification of Fr. Patrick Peyton is to be presented to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. The Family Prayer Ministry is supervising this effort.
- Medical authorities have rejected the much hoped for miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Brother Andre.
- Work is under way to create a congregational web page on the Internet.
- The US provincials and the general administration have approved the continued planning for the combined Holy Cross Archives and Moreau Spirituality Center. Discussions are under way concerning the location of the center and its design.
- The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of the Apostolic Life has not accepted Holy Cross' request that a brother be eligible for election to the office of superior general. Father Hugh Cleary and Brother John Gleason will continue the dialogue with the Congregation on this matter.
- The proposal for an inter-congregational justice and peace office was accepted. The office will be located at Saint Mary's College.
- The Committee on Consecrated Life will meet in March in Rome to review the draft of its presentation to the congregation.
- There are 263 young men in formation in the congregation at this time

Africa 33

Bangladesh 40

India 108

North America 40

South America 14

Haiti 24

France 4

the session are to experience congregational heritage and the internationality of Holy Cross; to reflect on one's religious commitment and issues affecting the Church and religious life in the new millennium; to reflect on the life of apostolic service and to deepen an awareness of one's affective/emotional life. The session, to be coordinated by Fr. Arul Raj Gali of the general administration, is open to a limited number of young religious from the provinces and districts who have been under perpetual vows between four and six years.

### Day of Fast and Prayer

The Province has sent to the general administration the sum of \$1,000 in response to the congregation-wide day of fast and prayer for justice and peace on September 13. This amount represents donations received from individuals and province houses plus a donation from the provincial administration. This amount, along with the money received

from the other provinces and districts in the congregation, was given by the superior general to the District of North East India during the course of the Council of the Congregation meeting held in Santiago, Chile, in November. Sincere thanks to all who took part in this special day.

### Annual Appeal

The Province Development Office, under the direction of Mr. Jerome Kearns, launched the first Annual Appeal campaign on November 20 under the title, "Don't Forget to Write Your Brothers." Letters focusing on the need for vocations and the works of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province, were sent to over 60,000 persons. These persons are friends and families of brothers, former members of the province, alumni of province schools, residents of Holy Cross Village and those who regularly attend Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Chapel. The appeal invites the friends of the Brothers of Holy Cross to

become partners in the mission of the brothers through prayer, speaking out on the need for vocations to the religious life, in particular to the Brothers of Holy Cross, and through financial contributions.

The Development Office also plans to publish a quarterly newsletter to replace the former BROTHERS publication. The goal of this newsletter is to report on happenings wherever brothers are present and ministering and to remind readers of the many good works of the brothers and how they have positively influenced their lives and the lives of others. It is hoped that the newsletter will generate an increased awareness of the brothers' vocation in the Church and of the variety of ministries brothers are involved in. At the same time, it is hoped that the publication will be an encouragement to greater participation and support on the part of readers in future annual appeals.

### **Justice and Peace**

The "Justice Watch" topic for next two issues this newsletter will focus on the death penalty. Accompanying this issue is a statement from the United States Catholic Conference that clearly states the underlying principles for opposing the death penalty. A video produced by the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese that was used in place of the homily in all the parishes is being circulated in your area. The viewing time is fifteen minutes. Everyone is encouraged to discuss the content of the video and to exchange ideas on the MWNet. Arrangements can be made to borrow the video from the following province houses: Holy Cross High School, River Grove, IL, St. Edward High School, Lakewood, OH, Notre Dame High School, Sherman Oaks, CA. and the Provincial Office.

### **Bulletin of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, October 2000**

As the CMSM Board gathered for its meeting that preceded this year's Assembly, they invited four young religious to discuss their experiences. In particular, these young members of four different communities were asked to react to articles about the attitudes of those in Generation X.

They told Board members that for *Generation X, categories of liberal and*

conservative don't have much meaning. "It's about being open minded rather than fitting into a category," one said.

Wearing a habit for clerics for Generation X religious, they said, is a sign of commitment or identity as a member of a religious community, not a statement about their status. As well, they don't carry the "pre-Vatican II baggage" about rituals of Catholic devotion, such as praying the rosary or adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. For these young members, pious rituals are a way to connect with the beauty of Catholic ritual, not a "reactionary conservative" statement.

Community, they all said, was a key reason they chose to enter a religious community. They defined community as a sense of brotherhood, a family with which they can share ministerial or personal struggles, and as taking part in building something together. Communication within the community, they said, was essential, from casual bantering to more formal interactions with superiors or in chapter.

The Generation X religious described their sense of fidelity to the church as a reflective acceptance. While they have some ambivalence toward institutions, including their communities' institutions, they also have a "ravenous spiritual hunger." They spoke of the great desire to "join something bigger than themselves." In some cases that means they want to "be bolder," to "make changes so that we can get on with the work we need to do." They feel more willing to close traditional ministries and "dream about the 'new' thing" that needs to be done.

These young religious advised leaders to pay attention to the importance of communications, to allow for expression of various cultures, to let Generation X members "sell" the community to other young people, to take action to help catechize this uncatechized generation, to invite young people into their houses, and to find ways to allow Generation X members find peer communities outside the community.

### **Province Administrative Center**

The renovations in the Administrative Center are just about complete. Brothers Donald Gibbs and Robert Fillmore now occupy their *offices on the first floor of the building. On*

December 15, Father William Dorwart, provincial of the Indiana Province, and his assistant, Father Robert Epping, will move their offices into the same area. The business office of the Indiana Province will move sometime after the first of the year.

### Here and There

The province extends a special word of gratitude and appreciation to **Brother Donald Blauvelt** and **Father Robert Morin** for their dedication and service to the Congregation during their tenure as members of the general council.

Congratulations to **Fr. Thampi Kayala** upon his election as provincial of the Indian Province of Priests.

**Brother John Harris** sent word that he and **Brother Robert Ludwig** keep busy these days as volunteers at the Community Services Agency in Mountain View, CA, where they bag groceries for needy families. In addition, they donate their time at a Hispanic parish in nearby Aviso, California.

In its Religion and Spirituality Section, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on November 15 printed an extensive article on **Brother William Geenen's** ministry in Florida. Entitled "The Energizer Angel," the article described Brother William's Center for Healthy Aging Project. This is a new building to be constructed next to the Senior Friendship Center and it will expand the existing health clinic currently staffed by volunteer retired physicians, nurses, dentists and other medical personnel. In addition to the services the Senior Friendship Center offers, the new center will emphasize health education and prevention of illness.

Over the past few months, **Brother Thomas Henning** has coordinated efforts in recycling used soft drink cans and donating the money received to various charities in the South Bend area as well as to the missions in Bangladesh. To date nearly \$900.00 has been donated to these groups. Brother Thomas is very quick to point out that this is not his effort, but the combined efforts of many people in Dujarie House, Schubert Villa, Holy Cross

College and friends at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center.

**Brother Joseph McTaggart** recently received a Fifteen Year Service Excellence Award from Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills, CA. He was also a finalist for the health system's annual Core Value Awards in three categories: compassion, respect and stewardship. The medical and professional staffs of the system made nominations for this award.

### Directory Information

**Brother William Schu, C.S.C.**, 1635 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Sarasota, FL 34236-5007, Tel. 941-365-0722. Volunteer, Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. 1888 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota, FL 34236-7119, Tel. 941-957-3949.

**Brother Ronald LaLonde, C.S.C.**, Helen D. Schubert Villa, 54515 State Road 933 North, P.O. Box 1020, Notre Dame, IN 46556-1020 Tel. 219-251-2209.

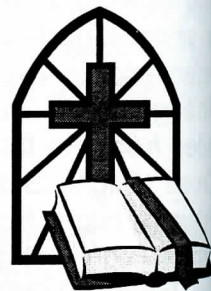
**Brother Peter Nault, C.S.C.**, 2402 Scenic Drive, Venice, FL 34293, Tel.: 941-493-3890, e-mail: pnault5@home.com.

**Brother Ronald Drahozal's** e-mail address is apon@citechco.net.

**Brother Roland Driscoll's** area code is 865.

**Brother Douglas Roach's** e-mail address is dougroach76@hotmail.com.

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of Sister Martha Louise Foken, S.C., sister of **Brother Walter Foken** and aunt of **Brother Edward Foken**; Mr. Peter L. Rotsaert, father of **Brother Francis Rotsaert**; the brother of **Brother Leonard Siverika**; Mr. John S. Donahoe, father of **Brother Bernard Donahoe**, Brother Remy Aydt and Rev. Edward Buenger, both of the Indiana Province.



Please continue to keep in your prayers **Brother Richard Gilson**, who has cancer. He is presently living at Dujarie House.

## Book Review

### SING A NEW SONG: The Christian Vocation

Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. (Templegate Publishers, Springfield, IL, 1999)

For all the clichéd simplicity of its title and the informality of its structure, this is a remarkable book. Timothy Radcliffe, Master General of the Dominican Order, has gathered at the urging of others a collection of his letters to the worldwide Dominican family along with presentations he made at synods and conferences and published articles addressing the major aspects of religious life today.

Originally directed to his Dominican confreres and sisters, the content is astonishingly appropriate for all religious. Radcliffe's style is refreshing, informal and personally engaging, contributing to the ease of reading. He brings into play his native British wit and humor throughout, joining them to his currently informed and experiential appreciation of vowed life from the perspective of mission, community life, prayer, the vows, identity, formation and authority.

Radcliffe's letters on the three vows (not to be missed!) and formation, plus his two presentations on identity to conferences of major superiors, deserve greater attention and a wider response than they are likely to command sequestered within the confines of a book with such a vague title as "The Christian Vocation."

Acknowledging how difficult it is to write fittingly to an audience consisting of both genders of the youth and the elders in a variety of cultures that exhibit differing traditions of interpretation of the Dominican charism of preaching, Radcliffe makes a determined effort to challenge all his readers and listeners by experiential and anecdotal references that have a broad application and relevance to their situation. And, curiously, the Dominican emphasis on preaching that might dissuade readers from other congregations is in fact quite appropriate, taken in the context of the principal charism of any community of religious as reflective of the mandate all have been given to witness to the presence of God in the world. In one sense, we all preach by how we live the religious life.

I was particularly taken by Radcliffe's rather unusual approaches to the prevailing notion of *identity* and *prophecy* as priorities in religious life today. Rather than search for an acceptable definition of religious identity, Radcliffe contends that religious have, by nature of their vowed commitment, given up the very criteria by which people calculate their identity, and thus, he feels, the identity of a religious is *not* to have an identity. He does not abandon readers there, however.

As for prophecy, Radcliffe reminds readers that biblical prophets were reluctant players, generally silent and retiring individuals whose pronouncements were often only later found prophetic in the scriptural sense. While they lived, they were frequently dismissed as irrelevant or as threats to the established order. It was the patience of their lives more than their voices that eventually drew others to conversion. The prophetic role of religious is "to sing in the darkness with hope," somewhat as Rabindranath Tagore's bird in the night is heard as a precursor of the dawn.

Generous spacing between lines as well as the author's refreshing style and approach (despite some evident editorial weaknesses) make for rapid but profitable reading. If Sandra Schneider's latest work on religious life (*Finding the Treasure*) is a "must read" from a more academic standpoint, Radcliffe's bears the same urgency from a popular perspective. The Dominican Master's seemingly endless journeys to the eighty-some countries in which the Dominican's minister have given him a world view arising out of the lived experience of religious life among his brothers and sisters. He has adroitly synthesized that vast and exhausting experience, whether he found the joyful celebration of success and progress or the disquieting uncertainty of those facing physical danger, apparent rejection or failure, and has rendered it meaningful to all religious as a challenge to their ongoing effort to respond to the call of God in their time and place.

I enthusiastically recommend this book. I am tempted to promise you that you cannot finish it without having grown in your appreciation of your membership in Holy Cross and been stimulated to find ways and means toward even greater fidelity.

Brother Philip Armstrong, C.S.C.