



News from the Province

Congregation of Holy Cross

Midwest Province of Brothers

September-October 2001

Regional Gatherings for the Fall of 2001

Three regional gatherings have been scheduled for the autumn months. The first gathering, to be hosted by the Le Mans community for Brothers in the Notre Dame area, will be held on Saturday, September 29th. The Bonaventure House community will host Brothers living in the Northern Ohio area on Saturday, October 13th and the River Grove community will host Brothers in the Chicago area on Saturday, November 17th. Brothers living in Michigan are invited to attend either of the Notre Dame gathering or the one in Akron. Regional meetings for Brothers in California, Florida and Texas will be announced later.

The plan for the community gatherings is to begin at 9:30 a.m. and to end at 4:30 p.m. Father Tony Gittins, who preached our province retreat this summer, will animate the sessions at Le Mans Academy, Akron and River Grove.

These gatherings will be an opportunity for us to speak about the things most important to us as religious. The focus will be the theme of mission and what this means for us today. The gatherings will help us reflect on the most essential aspects of our life and work as Brothers of Holy Cross and serve as a basis for preparing for the Provincial Chapter of 2003.

Three goals have been identified for these gatherings: to articulate our hopes for the mission to which we have been called to live in Holy Cross; to identify the challenges we as a province face in living out our mission in Holy Cross and for each participant to choose a personal course of action that he will undertake to help the province realize its hopes for mission.

Put the date for the meeting in your area on your calendar and plan to be with your brothers.

Two Reitz Memorial Graduates Enter Old College Program

Robert Davidson and **Charles Riffert**, members of the Reitz Memorial High School graduating class of 2001, Evansville, Indiana, entered the Old College vocation discernment program as Midwest Province candidates. While living with Holy Cross seminarians on the Notre Dame campus, Robert and Charles will attend classes at Holy Cross College. Fr. Charles Gordon (I) directs the Old College program and he is assisted by Br. Edward Luther (I), Br. Jerome Meyer (M) and Mr. Neil Wack (I).

This program is designed for college undergraduates who want to discover whether the religious life, as lived within the traditions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, is the way of life for them. While the men pursue their college education, they are introduced to religious life in Holy Cross through daily Eucharist, community prayer, spiritual direction, and ministry placement. The goals of the program

include the development of the human person, deepening of the spiritual life, academic preparation, growth in the skills for living community life and discovering personal gifts for service.

Both Robert and Charles have strong academic backgrounds and gifts for service. Robert was a national debate representative this summer where he placed in the top 20%; he has been a summer camp volunteer for Muscular Dystrophy, a recipient of the Eagle Scout award, and a peer member in the Promise to Keep Program which encourages young students to remain chaste. Throughout high school he was elected to class officer positions, was chosen as a member of the National Honor Society and has served on the school newspaper staff.

For Charles, baseball, track and soccer were natural ways for him to keep physically active. His election as senior class president capped four years of serving in a variety of class offices. Two significant organizations Charles enjoys working for are Teens for Life and Promise to Keep. He is also a Eucharistic Minister in his home parish of St. Benedict and has worked as a leader on retreat teams.

Both Charles and Robert credit their parents and their family life for providing the nurturing environment that enabled them to consider a religious vocation. They also pay special tribute to Brothers John Stout and Eugene Phillip who not only taught them but who by their example helped them discover what they were looking for as they put things together for the future.

The Columba Hall community hosted a liturgy and dinner on Thursday, August 30 to welcome the Holy Cross students in the Old College Program.

The province members welcome Charles and Robert. We assure them of our prayers as they begin this important stage in their lives.

THREE NOVICES RECEIVED INTO THE CONGREGATION IN GHANA

Brs. Paul Anabil Bukari, Kenneth Goode and Vincent Ntsiful received the habit of the congregation in special ceremonies at the Holy Cross District Center, Brafuyaw on Saturday afternoon, August 18. Brother Michael Amakyi, district superior, received the novices into the congregation at a liturgy celebrated by Fr. Robert Gilmour in the presence of the Holy Cross Family in Ghana. The novices will now begin their journey towards full incorporation into the congregation at Blessed Brother Andre Novitiate under the direction of Br. Nee Wayoe, novice director, and his assistant, Br. Anthony Dadzie.

The reception ceremony marked the conclusion of a two-week Holy Cross Heritage Course conducted by Br. Philip Armstrong. The first week of the course was for the Brother candidates and Holy Cross Sisters' candidates in Ghana. The second week was for Brothers in the district in temporary vows.

Five men have joined the pre-novitiate program under the direction of Fr. Robert Gilmour (S) and Br. Jerome Kroetsch at the Moreau Candidate House, Butumagyebu. They are Pius Bart-Plange, Robert Koomson, Francis Agyevi, Godfried Ashun and Nicholas Arthur.

A warm welcome accompanied by our prayers is extended to Brs. Paul, Kenneth and Vincent and the pre-novice candidates.

A **Come and See Program** was held from August 22 to August 27 for young men and women interested in joining Holy Cross. Twenty-three participants (19 men and 4 women) gathered at the District Center in Brafuyaw to meet Holy Cross men and women and to learn about the life and ministry of the Holy Cross family in Ghana. The program was presented by Br. Michael Amakyi,

MD, Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, IL, Notre Dame High School for Boys, Niles, IL, and Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, OH. Holy Cross vocation directors sponsored the pilgrimage. The goals of the pilgrimage were to bring together young people from Holy Cross schools to deepen their awareness of our heritage and education in a broader context beyond their own school.

Secondly, the pilgrimage introduced students to Holy Cross religious in a prayerful environment and encouraged them to consider the possibility of a religious vocation. The time together included a walking pilgrimage to the four basilicas of Montreal, a tour of the Oratory, a presentation on Blessed Brother Andre, prayers and Masses at the Oratory, student presentations on what makes their school a Holy Cross school, faith sharing, and a commitment panel addressing religious life and ministry. There was also time for recreation and visits to the city of Montreal. Eric Taveres, a senior at Holy Cross High School, Flushing, made the pilgrimage a second time this year. Sharing his reflections, he wrote: "throughout the course of this four-day pilgrimage, we took part in a number of liturgies, faith and witness talks, shows and prayer services. These activities were centered on showing us how each other's Christian faith is active and flowing in our lives. We saw and heard about the paths that each of us, students and faculty, took, and how our faith was active in our choices. One of the lasting visions that I have of St. Joseph's Oratory is a father visiting with his sons – one was a teen and the other a small boy. All three were literally making a pilgrimage to the top of the Basilica by kneeling and praying on each concrete step that led up to the Basilica. There were at least 300 steps leading to the top. Some of us followed their example. Many good times were experienced throughout this pilgrimage. We even had a chance to visit Old Montreal. Friendships were formed, and new, unfamiliar things were discovered. However, above all, these experiences helped to strengthen the Christian faith of all the participants."

Ground Blessed for New Addition to Dujarie House

Ground was blessed on Tuesday afternoon, September 4, to begin construction on a new wing for Dujarie House. An anonymous benefactor has made a generous gift of \$1.4 million dollars that will enable the construction of a 14 room addition. At the same time, parts of the central core of the original wing will be renovated to provide new space for the nurses' station, a personal laundry center, linen storage, a bathing area and a nourishment storage area.

This addition new state-of-the-art nursing wing captures a design reflecting a wholistic spirit and vision in health care and will create an environment that will nourish the body and spirit of each individual living at Dujarie House. The addition will also enable the province to serve not only our Brothers, but also to assist persons associated with us.

Frs. Kenneth Grabner, chaplain, and Kenneth Molinaro, assistant provincial of the Indiana Province, blessed the site in the presence of Brothers living in the area, members of the Dujarie Board, residents of Holy Cross Village and invited guests. Following the blessing, Brother Donald Gibbs and others representing the architects, contractors and the staff at Dujarie House turned the first shovels full of earth to mark the beginning of the construction. A light supper was served to the guests at the Schubert Villa at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Senior Friendship Centers Receive Grant

Br. William Geenen, founder of the Senior Friendship Centers, received a \$250,000 grant from the Selby Foundation for the new Center for Health Aging. The Center located next to the Friendship Center in Sarasota, will continue efforts in the delivery of health and dental care to seniors, using the talents of retired physicians, dentists, nurses and other personnel. When complete the facility will

Our efforts to get agencies to work together in fund development gave me a number of lumps on the head, and the early work in trying to get the Church to pull together on disaster relief was, at times, trying. But the Charities Congress attempt to get individuals in Charities involved in developing social policy is still one of the most exciting tasks I have had over the years.

"It is my hope and prayer that my health will allow me to work ... and be of service to the Catholic Charities movement for years to come, as a part-timer or volunteer."

News in Brief

Br. Donald Gibbs attended the annual joint meeting of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors Men held in Baltimore August 24-26. The theme of this year's meeting was *Multiculturalism in Religious Life: Deepening the Dialogue*. Two resolutions in the area of justice and Peace were passed during this assembly. The CMSM passed a resolution of solidarity and advocacy for Middle East Peace and support for the people of the Holy Land. The joint assembly (CMSM/LCWR) passed a resolution supporting opposition to trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Br. Donald is currently the vice chair of Region 5 of the CMSM.

The **Holy Cross English-speaking provincials** of North America met recently in New Rochelle, NY. Hosted by Br. George Schmitz, provincial of the Eastern Brothers' Province, the provincials continued their ongoing dialogue on issues of religious life as lived in Holy Cross.

In the past the University of Notre Dame provided water and sewage service to the property of the Brothers of Holy Cross. Due to a growing concern regarding the university's own expansion and its capacity to continue providing water for the residential expansion on property owned by the Brothers, a project to connect with the **South Bend Water Department** is now being completed. A 12" water main has been connected to the main on the south side of Angela Blvd. This water main proceeds across St. Joseph High School frontage and then along the Brother's property on SR 933 N. One connection is near the entrance drive to the property and a second connection is near the construction entrance at the East Village section of Holy Cross Village. The city of South Bend will then install at their expense a second 12" water main from the north property line and connect it with a water main at the Inn of St. Mary's. These two connections will effectively loop the connection with the city water supply and provide the necessary pressure for the various buildings on the Holy Cross College campus and Holy Cross Village.

The July/August 2001 issue of *Spirituality*, published in Ireland, has printed an article by **Br. Thomas Maddix** entitled "Parasites and Spirituality: A Sabbatical Journey." *Health Progress*, the official publication of the Catholic Health Association of the USA, published in its May/June 2001 issue another article, "Mentors and Mentoring."

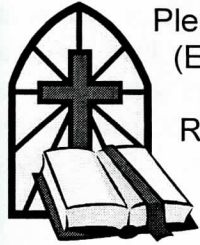
Br. Raymond Papenfuss was featured in Today's Catholic, the newspaper of the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese. The article described Br. Raymond's ministry to Matt Cook, a multiply handicapped teenager.

The South Bend Tribune published an article entitled: *Retired Brother Sees Himself as Laborer in God's Big Garden*. It describes **Br. Vincentius Balog's** landscaping project and the gardens he has created on the grounds of Columba Hall.

Congratulations to **Br. James Sullivan** on being awarded a Master of Divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Congratulations also to **Br. Ronald Whelan** (I) on being selected one of three brothers to receive the Religious Brothers Conference annual Call to Brotherhood Award. Brother Ronald is the founder of the *St. Joseph the Worker Program* in Portland, OR, a job service program for the homeless.

Two Brothers have been appointed directors of local communities. **Br. James Van Dyke** is the director of the community in River Grove, IL, and **Br. David Martin** is the director of the St. Edward Community in Lakewood, Oh.



Please remember in your prayers those who are ill: Br. Ronald LaLonde, Br. Paul Burns (EB), Br. Marvin Sawner (EB), and Mrs. Louise Maddix, mother of Br. Thomas Maddix.

Remember also the repose of the souls of Br. Valerian McEwen (SW), Br. Euclide Cormier (CP), Mr. Gerald Stabrowski, brother of Br. Donald Stabrowski, and Mrs. Eleanor Mangini, mother of Brother Louis Mangini



BOOK REVIEW

WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED?

Freedom from Judgment, Guilt and Fear of Punishment by John Jacob Raub, O.C.S.O.

(Crossroad, NY, 1992, paperback 153 pages, no index or bibliography, but adequately footnoted)

In this short book the Trappist John Jacob Raub (a 1956 graduate of Notre Dame) hopes to shunt our theological train onto a slower parallel track, and by generous repetition of a simple theme, provide both safety and opportunity to leisurely rethink our perception of "salvation" and how we're moving toward our ultimate destination. Br. Patrick Hart of Gethsemani says of the book, "A healing balm. It deserves a wide readership."

The subtitle reveals what the book is about. Though written nearly ten years ago, the content remains current. Fr. Dave Burrell, C.S.C., says of it, "His sources are impeccably classical; his interpretation startlingly radical; yet to the reader uncannily accurate. Profound." It ranks today among similar but more aggressive works whose boldness we take for granted.

Raub knows most of us were influenced by the theology that formed the undergirding of the Baltimore Catechism. This ubiquitous *vade mecum* of the catechetical trade was interpreted for many of us by religious of unimpeachable sincerity but sometimes inadequate training, sent out early and with little coaching to staff burgeoning schools. Thus, the sight impaired were leading the profoundly blind, resulting often, at best, in a vague and dim perception of fundamental concepts regarding our relationship with God as Catholics. Raub, having experienced a convincing and enlightening revelation beyond Baltimore, and feeling compelled to share his insights with others struggling with unfounded fears about their capacity to cooperate with God in the work of their own salvation, reflected on the gospels, corraling dozens of citations that formed a potent treasury of concepts that logically progress toward a wholly new appreciation of sin and one's part in God's saving influence.

In his *Introduction* Raub writes, "Then God asked Adam: 'Who told you that you were naked? (Gn. 3:11). That is, 'Who *told* you that you were bad? ...that you were not what you should be? ...that you were separated from me? ...that you were guilty?' In asking Adam, 'Who told you that you were

naked,' God was asking a fundamental question.... We will discuss judging, guilt and fear of punishment and how this leads to self-punishment which is the essence of sins." It is clear Raub intends to create an alternative paradigm, and from his persistent reiteration in short, clear sentences, we are moved to consider the fresh, positive view he offers.

Raub takes great pains to show where we have jumped the track in our perception of the moral mechanics of judgment, guilt, and the resulting fear of punishment, a fear that warps our idea of who God is for us and, just as important, who we are for God.

He says, "To fear God would be a denial of God's love for us which, in effect, would be a denial of God, as 'God is love.' When we fear God we turn the true God into an idol; we turn our loving Abba into one of 'the gods' whose function we feel is to judge and punish us." Raub helps the reader come to a new sense of personal worth by hammering not on spikes, ties and rails, but on the reluctance humans harbor to allow themselves to be fully human and God to be fully God, the One who accepts and loves each of us just as we are, not as we mistakenly believe we appear.

Raub comes at the reader much as our early catechism teachers did—by repetitive emphasis—and does so, I can vouch, just as effectively. I had read the book shortly after it first appeared and found it a revelation. A recent second reading did nothing to derail that impression. If you have fought through Morwood's *Tomorrow's Catholic* and have emerged somewhat battered by a broadside blast of thorny questions with few clear answers, read *Who Told You That You Were Naked?* and find that you can pick up speed and confidence, switch back onto a fast track situated on solid bedrock, and highball it onward toward your final destination.

Br. Philip Armstrong, C.S.C.



There stood by the cross of Jesus his mother Mary, who knew grief and was a Lady of Sorrows. She is our special patroness, a woman who bore much she could not understand and who stood fast. To her many sons and daughters, whose devotions ought to bring them to her side, she tells much of this daily cross and its daily hope. (Const. 120)