

# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

*Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross*

Spring, 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Dear Friend of Holy Cross,

Recently I was visiting with several of our elder brothers who live at Columba Hall, checking in with them on various aspects of their lives: health condition, ministry



involvement, community living experience and quality of their spiritual lives. Over the course of the interviews, several times I received the response: "You are only as old as you think you are." By the end of the week's visit at Columba Hall, it was clear that this adage very much summarizes these brothers' outlook on life. Given that many

of the men in the house are 80-plus years of age, it was uplifting to hear their enthusiasm for life.

A few days after my visit to Columba Hall as I read the stories of the three brothers highlighted in this edition of the BROTHERS newsletter, I realized that the saying "you are only as old as you think you are" applies as well to these three men. Each of the three articles describes a Holy Cross Brother who still is very much active and full of vitality, but more importantly is following the call, regardless of age, to live the Gospel message each day. These three Brothers are typical of our "retired" members who may no longer engage in a paid ministry,

but each finds a way to minister joyfully to others in a quiet but meaningful way. Each uses a lifetime of skills, knowledge, talents and interests to help others by their volunteering, being available, and caring for and about others.

The Congregation of Holy Cross Constitutions remind us:

*All of us are involved in the mission: those who go out to work and those whose labors sustain the community itself, those in the fullness of their strength and those held back by sickness or by age....All of us as a single brotherhood are joined in one communal response to the Lord's mission. (Constitution 2:18.)*

As you read the enclosed stories, I trust you will gain an appreciation, as I have been blessed to observe, as to how our brothers are responding to the summons to be Christ-like in their daily compassionate interaction with others, regardless of their age. Yes, these brothers are still young of heart!

May St. Joseph, Patron of the brothers, and his disciple, St. André Bessette, pray for us.

In Holy Cross,

*Br. Chester Freel, CSC*

Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

Provincial Superior

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# Brother Raymond Papenfuss—serving others at 84

Brother Raymond Papenfuss spent 28 years serving in Ghana, West Africa, until an attack of cerebral malaria in 1987 made it impossible for him to remain in the tropics.

He returned to the States and taught at St Mary's and Holy Cross College before becoming vocations director for the Midwest Province of Brothers. He was assistant provincial for 12 years.

Brother Ray's first love has always been Africa, and he has held the position of Mission Promoter for 30 years, raising capital and endowment funds for the brothers' apostolates in West Africa. He continues to be a mission



*Brother Raymond Papenfuss and his friend Matt, enjoy a day out together stopping at Bob Evans to get a bite to eat. Brother Ray and Matt have been friends for 30 years.*

promoter, striving to help the District of West Africa in its goal to become an independent province.

Funds for Ghana are raised in three ways:

- Brother Ray writes grants to various foundations for the education and training of Ghanaian Holy Cross Brothers and for the construction of the new St. Brother André High School in Kasoa, Ghana.
- Secondly, he sends out mission letters to over 700 patrons, requesting support for the work of Holy Cross in West Africa.
- And thirdly, every summer at mission appeal time, Brother Ray applies to various dioceses in the Midwest, asking to be included in their mission cooperation program. During the summer months he has between 12 and 20 parishes

throughout the Midwest that he can go to and make an appeal for funds for West Africa. Several other brothers help him in this work.

Thirty years ago Brother Ray became an advocate and friend for a developmentally disabled boy, Matt.

Matt is now 36 years old and lives in a group home in South Bend under the direction of Mosaic, an international organization dedicated to the care of developmentally disabled men and women.

Matt was born with his brain outside his skull. He is wheelchair bound, has cerebral palsy, and is partially paralyzed on the right side of his body.

Brother Ray sees Matt at least three times a week, twice to give him a range of motion exercise and on Saturday to visit the mall, go



*Brother Raymond has traveled around the Midwest for 30 years sharing stories of his long service in Ghana, West Africa raising funds for the brothers' apostolates in West Africa. Brother Raymond visited Archbishop Hoban High School in 2007 to share his life experiences with students on World Poverty/Solidarity Day.*





*Brother Ray helps Matt, a developmentally disabled man, do muscle exercises. Brother Ray became an advocate and more importantly Matt's friend when they met 30 years ago.*

to Mass and eat at Bob Evans, his favorite restaurant.

A number of years ago Brother Ray became chairperson for a human rights committee that works to protect the rights of developmentally disabled people within the Mosaic system. There are over 120 clients being served in the Michiana area by Mosaic.

He also has served for 20 years on a committee called "Luvability,"

an organization that strives to find ways to help developmentally disabled men and women take a more active role in worship and their own spiritual development.

When Brother Ray returned to the United States years ago, he decided to take up an exercise that he would be able to do for the rest of his life. He chose Tai Chi.

He would frequently practice on the lawn behind Columba Hall,



*Brother Ray and Matt get out often to shop, eat and enjoy each others' company.*

the brothers' house at Notre Dame. Someone in the recreation and sports department at Notre Dame noticed this and asked if Brother Ray would like to teach Tai Chi in their program.

He is now in his 25th year of teaching Tai Chi at Notre Dame. He also teaches Tai Chi at Columba Hall, Holy Cross Village and at the River Bend Wellness Center, a cancer survivors' facility in South Bend.

Now, at age 84, with nearly 65 years as a Holy Cross Brother, he was asked what his life experiences have meant to him.

His response: "The experiences I have had have given me a deeper understanding of God, myself and human friendship—a way to experience the joy of life that God wants us to have and a way to keep everything in correct perspective."

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# Brother Joseph Fox—events planner extraordinaire

Most people who know Brother Joseph Fox are surprised to learn that he is well into his 80s.

For many years Brother Joe served as cook, facilities director, admissions director, youth minister, and campus minister, to name just a few of the many jobs he has had in service of the ministries of the brothers.

Today, Brother Joe is a very active member in the continuing care retirement community at Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame.

In the late 1990s, Brother Joe was director of the brothers' community at Holy Cross Brothers Center, a large property located across the highway from the University of Notre Dame.

During that time he was an active participant in planning sessions and discussions of a new idea: a retirement community later to be known as Holy Cross Village. He was 69 in 2004 when the first shovel hit the ground for the new André Place. His participation and vision have been vital in helping create a friendly atmosphere in Holy Cross Village.

Through his 70s and mid-80s, Brother Joe has been an energetic participant in the success of this new ministry of the brothers.

The residents of Holy Cross Village, who frequent St. Joseph's



*Brother Joseph Fox puts the finishing touches on a table in the main entrance of André Place complete with carefully arranged floral decorations and table coverings.*

Chapel, look forward to seeing Brother Joe's elaborate decorations highlighting each of the liturgical seasons of the year, especially Christmas and special community celebrations.

André Place also receives carefully arranged floral decorations in the main entrance and dining areas. Those change with the season and explode into a wonderland of lights each Christmas. All are the result of Brother Joe's creativity, time and talent.

Brother Joe is the sacristan and master of ceremonies for most of the major community celebrations for the brothers throughout the year.

Whether a family or brother's funeral, a major feast day or an important community event, Brother Joe is there helping direct each celebration with his careful attention to detail and protocol.

As the sacristan, he is there each day to set up for Mass and to pray with the local community.



*Brother Joseph was 69 in 2004 when the first shovel hit the ground for the new André Place. His participation and vision have been vital in helping to create a friendly atmosphere in the retirement community of Holy Cross Village.*



*At 80 years old, Brother Joseph thought zip lining would be a fun activity to participate in.*

The only thing he does not seem to know how to do is say no to someone who needs his help.

Brother Joseph is responsible in some way for planning, producing and serving for just about every celebration or event held by the brothers or the Village, making sure all happens in a professional and dignified manner.

Each June the brothers celebrate their anniversaries of religious profession. For the last few decades these jubilee celebrations have received his personal attention.

Under his supervision all the invitations are printed and sent, a formal liturgical celebration is organized at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, and an elegant reception is prepared for the jubilarians and their guests.

Brother Joseph Fox at 83 years is a very energetic and happy man. It has been said by

more than one person that when Brother Joe stops taking care of the things he does quietly, many of which no one realizes, it may take two or three people to replace him.

Beyond his work for events, he has his own ministry of kindness and presence.

Everyone who knows Brother Joe will testify to his creativity, kindness, compassion, generosity and organizational wizardry. He radiates an atmosphere of joy in all he does, and all who know Brother Joe feel blessed.



*Brother Joseph (right) serves as master of ceremonies at many of the major liturgical celebrations.*



*Brother Joseph Fox is known for his culinary skills and his enjoyment of baking beautiful cakes.*

# Brother Thomas Rock—a joyful and quiet gift-giver

Gifts that are joyfully given, without recognition or the expectation of return, seem to increase in value for the giver, the gift and the recipient. Joyful gift-giving is often seen in a quiet moment, without fanfare, and almost always without acknowledgment. It just seems to happen.

Brother Thomas Rock at 85 is a joyful gift-giver. His giving is done, almost always, without anybody noticing that anything has happened. Suddenly, that vacant corner in the Schubert Villa dining room has a 12-foot Christmas tree ablaze with 10,000 lights and festooned with ornaments and garland. A casual observer might

wonder “How did that happen?”

Or “How did that large meticulously manicured rose garden behind Riverside Place get planted and daily maintained for its beauty? Who did that?”

How does it happen that elder brothers or residents of Holy Cross

*Brother Thomas Rock at 85 is a joyful gift-giver. His giving is done, almost always, without anybody noticing that anything has happened. A casual observer might wonder “How did that happen?”*



Village who need a driver to get to an appointment or event suddenly have a driver who insists on no pay or tipping for his services? How were beautiful metal sculptures and significant artwork rescued from the basement and quietly placed in the library, halls and common rooms?

Who volunteers to wash employees' cars as a gesture of appreciation for their services? Who does these things? A very generous and cheerful giver does these things. And he does it unnoticed and with an ever-present smile.

Brother Tom is most widely acclaimed throughout the community as a GREAT cook. He learned from his mother and her mother as well as from some of the legendary masters of community cooking: Brother Amadeus, Brother Lambert, Brother Polycarp, and Brother Daniel -- to name



*Brother Tom helps Holy Cross Village resident Mrs. Cecilia O'Donnell adjust her hearing aid. He often drives the elder brothers or residents to an appointment or event.*





*Brother Tom rescued several metal sculptures created by Brother Bernard Klim from various points of storage. Now they grace many of the common areas at Holy Cross Village where they are appreciated by residents and guests. Holy Cross Village is a ministry of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Notre Dame, Ind.*



*John Mauch presents Brother Tom Rock (right) the service award from Holy Cross Village, a retirement community for brothers and lay persons at Notre Dame, Ind. Each year the HCV residents and administration honor several men and women who, by their service exemplify the mission of Holy Cross Village.*

but a few. The community never bought him a cookbook, and all of his recipes were written as they were performed decades ago: Brother Tom still has these treasured recipes that he copied out for small and large groups of community members.

His first assignment was to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wis., where he “worked 16 hours a day and seven days a week, with no day off.”

Brother Tom does not think of himself as a generous giver. He said, “If you see something that needs to be done, just do it.”

He points out that there are not enough hours in the day to do the things that need to be done. There is always more you can do to make things better.

“On big projects that require a lot of time and effort, I prefer to work alone through the night when others are sleeping—it gives me

the opportunity to work without interruption,” Brother Tom said.

That might explain how the extensive Christmas decorations just appear in the halls and common areas at Riverside Place at Holy Cross Village, where he lives.

The energy that Brother Tom brings to all he does is inspiring. He is always in good cheer and ready to help wherever he is needed. He is a living example of generosity.

## Remembering our Deceased Brother in Your Prayers



Brother Joseph John Chvala, C.S.C.

at the age of 93

died February 11, 2018

68 years of vowed religious life



## St. Joseph

*Patron saint of*

## The Brothers of Holy Cross

Feast Day is March 19

*Loving God, You gave us the example of St. Joseph  
to inspire our trust and faith in You.*

*As he loved and cared for his family, Jesus and Mary,  
help us to reach out in love to those whose lives  
we touch.*

*Help us to trust in Your loving Providence  
and to respond to Your call with faith.*

*We ask this in Jesus' name.*