



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Living the mission of Jesus.

A roof over our heads and gratitude in our hearts

BY BROTHER CHESTER FREEL, C.S.C., PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

November, 2013

Dear Friend,

Almost everyone who loves the University of Notre Dame knows the story of how a 28-year-old Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C., came to the south bend of the St. Joseph River with six Brothers of St. Joseph, later to be known as the Brothers of Holy Cross.

The men walked all the way from southern Indiana alongside an ox cart that carried tools, books and their meager possessions. They arrived on Nov. 26th in 1842 in the midst of one of the coldest winters on record. Father Sorin recalled that it was bitterly

cold and the snow was deep. The only structure at their new home was Father Stephen Badin's old log chapel. The seven men slept in the chapel's loft. Each morning they awoke to the tasks at hand to clear land, split logs and build the future.



The log cabin chapel at Notre Dame was established by Father Stephen Badin and subsequently it, and 500 acres of land, was donated to the Diocese of Vincennes, Indiana, and then to Holy Cross in 1842, for what would become the University of Notre Dame.

During that cold winter, with the heavy snows, the brothers must have taken special care to reinforce the roof.

Few of you know this, but Columba Hall, the current home of the Brothers of Holy Cross, is located only a few hundred feet from where the chapel stood. And the old wing of Columba Hall is one of the oldest structures at the University of Notre Dame. It was constructed by the brothers who accompanied Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C. They cut the trees, made the bricks, built the walls, and enclosed the roof.

Nearly everything they constructed has stood the test of time.

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However, as it always goes in old buildings, you fix one thing and something else needs repair. After completing our largest renovation project ever this past summer---actually raising the road to the front door to allow handicap access---during this last month we found rain leaking into our recreation area. Upon investigation of the leak, we have learned it is time to replace the roof, gutters and downspouts in order to keep the house dry for the next 25 years.

We are the stewards of the mission and legacy of those pioneering brothers. They came to build, teach and serve this South Bend community, and in time to serve throughout the United States. My brothers and I are proud to be a part of this history. Since you are also a steward of this great tradition, I hope you will join us to raise the funds to replace the old roofing shingles with new ones. This new roof will protect the home of our brothers who have served this Holy Cross mission most of their lives. As brothers, we strive to make a difference in the world by being present and available to the people and communities we serve. Brothers have returned to Columba Hall from missions across the globe.

Similar to the great blessing your family experiences when returning home for the holidays, imagine how much satisfaction our brothers find when returning to Columba Hall.

Thanks to friends like you, we have had a very successful year. We have completed raising the road

in front of Columba Hall to accommodate brothers with mobility difficulties and we have invited two more brothers to spend their retirement here. With 48 men living in the hall, we are only two shy of capacity.



Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

With the proceeds of this appeal, we hope to replace the old roof and to renovate two more rooms with a handicap accessible bathroom and shower.

Columba Hall has been our home for well over a century, and these grounds have been our home since the first six brothers arrived with Father Sorin. If you visit the campus of the University of Notre Dame, I hope you will knock on our front door. You are always welcome!

Please continue to join us in support of Columba Hall and the needs of our aging brothers. This is a great and joyful place to live as the brothers continue to serve in every way they can. Thank you for helping us to continue our work.

Sincerely,

Brother Chester Freel, CSC

Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

Provincial Superior

Donor Recognition Levels of Giving

Donors will be recognized as they have been in all of our recent appeals.

Brother Columba O'Neill Club Members

Gifts of \$5,000 and above will have their names on the Columba Hall Fund plaque in the main entrance of Columba Hall.

Columba Hall Society Members

Gifts from \$200 to \$4,999 will have their names on a plaque in the lobby

Cross & Anchors Members

Gifts up to \$199 will have their names recorded in a memory book in Columba Hall.

From the 'raised road' to the 'replaced roof'

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, C.S.C., DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Our focus for this year's annual appeal is to replace the roof of Columba Hall.

Last year lightning struck the cross on our roof. While removing, repairing and replacing the cross, the workers assured us of two things. The first was that the roof, for now, where they fixed the fire damaged area, was complete. The second point they shared with us is that we would need to do something about the whole roof soon.

Now is the moment. We invite you to assist us again. Our goal for the Annual Brothers' Appeal is \$200,000. In addition to the roof, we will continue updating the private rooms, the common rooms, that is the dining room and recreation rooms and supporting brothers in volunteer ministries.

On the enclosed envelope suggested levels are listed, along with how your gift may be used in our efforts to repair the roof and remodel Columba Hall. We are asking you to support Brothers Donard Steffes and George Klawitter (see page four) and others who recently arrived to the Columba Hall community. Columba Hall is home to many gifted and talented brothers who continue to impact the lives of many people.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your very welcome gift, or contact:

Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.
Director of Development
P.O. Box 460
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.2928
rsmith@brothersofholycross.com

'Bless This House' a song by Helen Taylor and May H. Morgan was often sung by Perry Como. Yes we ask God to bless Columba Hall from 'Raised Road to Roof Top' as well as all who visit there, support it and live therein.

On behalf of all the Brothers of Holy Cross, thank you for your generosity.

Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.
Director of Development



While repairing roof damage to the Columba Hall tower and cross caused by lightning in 2010, workers discovered that the roof was in need of repairs.

Brothers bring unique talents to Columba Hall community

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, C.S.C.,
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

One of our most recent residents at Columba Hall is Brother George Klawitter, C.S.C., who after 15 years teaching in Catholic high schools, earned his Ph.D. and began teaching at St. Edward's University. He taught for another 30 years and chaired the English department. Today he teaches two classes each semester at Holy Cross College. He has time to help older brothers, and has



Brother Donard Steffes, C.S.C., uses one of the barrier-free doors at the entrance to Columba Hall which was part of last year's 'Raise the Road' project of the Annual Appeal.

time for himself to walk, pray and think.

Brother George has served and continues to serve by inspiring legions of young people and by being one of the best English professors to have ever assigned *Hamlet* to undergraduate students.

Another brother who also recently returned to Columba Hall is Brother Donard Steffes, C.S.C. He is proud and quick to share with anyone that he turns 99 on Dec. 10, 2013. For Brother Donard, coming to Columba Hall is coming home, moving into a Holy Cross community, not unlike the one he left, St. Joseph Hall on the campus of St. Edward's University, in Austin, Texas. He said he knows many of the brothers who live here and he knows the campus.

Brother Donard has served in Liberia, West Africa; Austin, Texas; Akron, Ohio, and other places in the capacity of a science teacher and water safety instructor on the high school and college levels. He is proud to be one of the founders of the Notre Dame International School in Rome, Italy, once staffed by the brothers.

Currently his ministry is maintaining a presence and staying connected, via the computer, with former students,



Brother George Klawitter, C.S.C., a professor of English at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, returns corrected student papers at the beginning of his class.

parents, coworkers, family, friends and men he met while giving retreats on two occasions at a prison in Maine.

Brother Donard is grateful to his elementary school teachers, the Adrian Dominican Sisters, who encouraged him to join the Brothers of Holy Cross. Brother Donard said he never had a job he didn't like. He senses the family spirit of Holy Cross in Columba and says, "Holy Cross people live with their feet on the ground."