

# Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

Vol. 9, No. 2

Special Edition

September 20, 1975

PRE-CHAPTER SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 13-14, 1975

At the opening of the first session of the pre-chapter meetings, Msgr. John Gorman, of the Chicago archdiocese, talked on the religious perspective for existence to the 47 capitulants and observers present for the meetings. He touched on such topics as shared life, interpersonal relationships, recognition of an individual's gifts, authority structures, the use of material goods, prayer and liturgy--all in the light of GROWTH FOR HUMANIZATION. He referred to current world problems, and he illustrated his ideas with a number of examples. "Theology," he said, "is a way of looking at life. Yesterday's formula was too rigid, and today we look for new ways to express faith." He said too that "vocation to the religious life is to be an individual," and that this inevitably confronts us with the challenge: "How do we live together?" He mentioned the prevalence of "neurotic resistance to authority, . . . the neurotic inability to live with authority both in and outside of the religious life." He ended with the thought: "The Kingdom is in the hearts of all men."

Discussion in small groups followed the talk, then a question-and-answer period with the speaker. There was agreement that the ideas discussed were but a prelude to further reflection during this chapter year by all in the province.

Just before the noon recess, Br. Charles Krupp addressed the group, including in his remarks mention of former provincial chapters, the uneasiness confronting many in these times, the ongoing theme of humanization. He encouraged the capitulants to continue their good work.

At the afternoon session Br. Edward Overstreet, chairman of the Pre-Chapter Organization Committee which has been meeting frequently since early this year, reported on the committee's work, then spoke briefly on goals and objectives, documentation, possible resource people, and the like. Small-group discussion followed. The theme, "Growth for Humanization" was debated. It was resolved that a province forum was needed to sensitize thinking and--it is hoped--to lead all to deeper insight into the many inroads of humanization.

Six chapter committees were established by vote: Prayer, Community, Apostolate, Government, Material Needs, and Social Justice. Chairmen for these committees were then elected. These chairmen, along with the provincial, now constitute the chapter Steering Committee (and replaces the pre-chapter organization committee). The Steering Committee, which met immediately after the close of this pre-chapter session, will prepare details for the chapter, plan and stage the province forum, to be held sometime before the chapter convenes.

A revised Code of Procedures was distributed, subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of capitulants. Also distributed, then discussed and approved, was a description of "The Responsibility of Capitulants":

I. Meeting responsibility through personal preparation.

A. Growing in ongoing awareness of the chapter theme. (Studying the recommended source materials; being alert to new materials.)

- B. Developing awareness of practical openness to which the chapter should respond.
- C. Preparation through prayer and openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

II. Meeting one's responsibility through contact with the members of the province

- A. Developing qualities of a good listener: patience, docility, respectfulness, openness, readiness to encounter others, willingness to embrace an element of truth.
- B. Listening to the concerns of fellow province members, whether by personal contact, local chapters, or regional meetings.
- C. Wherever possible, to provide feedback from opinions of others, ideas gathered from meetings, etc.
- D. Develop legislation to foster growth particularly for post-chapter time. (To provide for dynamic legislation in contrast to that which is limiting and static.)

III. A capitulant is bound to listen (as defined above) to his own constituency and, in speaking at a chapter assembly, he expresses both the opinions of his constituency and his own as well. In voting, however, he reflects his own conclusive opinion.

The pre-chapter meeting of capitulants ended at ten o'clock Sunday morning.

Note: The above indicates the wheels of the '76 provincial chapter are in motion. It is hoped that as the various issues and problems arise, they will be discussed at local chapters, and capitulants will pick up ideas, or you can refer such ideas to the Steering Committee directly. Feedback will be a tremendous help. And it goes without saying that chapter work is always a challenge, particularly so in these difficult times. Your continued prayers are solicited. The capitulants, to be sure, were mindful of their need for guidance of the Holy Spirit in their recent session.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CHAPTER COMMITTEES

PRAYER

Robert Fillmore,  
Chairman.  
Vincentius Balog  
Joseph Cernick  
Jude Costello  
Francis Englert  
Leo Geiger  
Pedro Haering  
Roy Smith

COMMUNITY

James Rottenbacher,  
Chairman.  
Chester Caster  
Joseph Chvala  
Robert Dailey (observer)  
Kenneth Haders (observer)  
George Klawitter  
Robert Lavelle  
James Moroney

APOSTOLATE

Barry Lambour,  
Chairman.  
James Bluma  
Columba Curran  
William Dygert  
William Fitch  
Eugene Hausmann  
Terence Muehlenkamp  
Francis Rotsaert  
Robert Siegel

GOVERNMENT

Donald Stabrowski,  
Chairman.  
John Benesh  
Bernard Donahoe  
Bonaventure Foley  
Edward Overstreet  
James May  
Donatus Schmitz

MATERIAL NEEDS

Thomas Balaz,  
Chairman.  
Donald Bailer  
Walter Davenport  
Walter Foken  
Just Paczesny  
Douglas Roach  
Kieran Ryan  
Carl Shonk

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bruce Lescher,  
Chairman.  
Paul Brown (observer)  
John Lavelle  
Louis Mangini  
Jerome Schwabe  
William Verstraete

Capitulants not at the September 13-14 meeting:

Donald Allen	Paul Kelly
Philip Armstrong	Gerald Kraeger (E)
Thomas More Beere	John May
Gonzaga Day	John Rozario
Raymond Dufresne	--and 2 delegates from the District of West Africa (to be elected at the district chapter), plus the District Superior

Delegates replaced by Alternates:

The following alternates are replacing delegates who have asked to be excused:

John Lavelle (replacing Andrew Sukenik)  
Leo Geiger (replacing James Linscott)  
John May (replacing James May.)

James May has become an ex-officio capitulant, now that he has become a member of the provincial council, replacing John Barrett, who asked to be excused from the council. James is now the councilor for the Southern Indiana/Kentucky region.

The Steering Committee:

Robert Fillmore  
Donald Stabrowski  
James Rottenbacher  
Thomas Balaz  
Barry Lambour  
Bruce Lescher  
Charles Krupp, prov.

The committee acts as an executive committee for the chapter. At its meeting on September 14, the Steering Committee made plans for its first business meeting, to be held September 26 at 7:00 p.m., with a second session the following morning.

At that meeting the committee will elect a chairman, formulate specific guidelines for itself, and carry forward plans for the province forum as approved by the capitulants.