

Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

Vol. 11, No. 4

December 1977

On November 3 Brother Edward Olszowka died in Chicago at the home of his brother and sisters with whom he lived in the last month of his illness. Many persons who visited him in his last days remarked about the great courage and deep faith Edward reflected in spite of great suffering. In the eulogy at the wake service at Notre Dame, Br. Thomas Corcoran said, "If I were to summarize Br. Ed's life in a single expression, it would be the spirit of generosity. He was constantly going out to others. It was never for self-aggrandizement. He prayed with others; he consoled them, for their sake, not for his own. He was meticulously unselfish."

Brother Romanus Ringwelski died of a heart attack on November 30 at the Brothers Center, Notre Dame, where he lived in retirement since 1973. Br. Donald Stabrowski caught the spirit of Br. Romanus' life in his comments in the eulogy at the wake service: "Brother was so much a part of the life of the Center . . . always on the scene in his own inimitable way. . . . He was always just 'Romey,' a far more appropriate name than his religious name. . . . His contribution to the community was as a teacher, and especially as a librarian. . . . He often liked to remind us that if it were not for his state certification as a librarian at River Grove, that school could not have granted diplomas. . . . We will miss Romey. He has completed his earthly tasks and now goes on to enjoy those things which his inner self longed for through all the years."

The Archdiocese of Chicago made a grant of \$36,000 to Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, for half the cost of necessary building renovations. The provincial team approved a matching amount from the province. ** Once a week Br. Andrew Steffes, Brothers Center, tutors first to third graders at Primary Day School, South Bend. ** Brs. Peter Graham and Edward Grams, Le Mans Academy, were guests of the Benedictines and visited the school at Subiaco Academy, Arkansas. They also attended a workshop in Detroit on establishing lay boards in schools. Le Mans Academy has launched a \$200,000 campaign for program and plant improvement. ** In early November, twenty-two Maryknoll priests met at the Brothers Center to plan their community chapter. ** Br. Isaac Jogues Motz, chairman of the Cleveland Diocesan Pastoral Council, spoke at the first meeting of the Diocesan Brothers Senate, whose president is Br. Jerome Meyer.

Br. Thomas Henning, president of St. Edward High School, Lakewood, has been reelected president of the Cleveland Diocesan Secondary School Principal Association. ** Br. Walter Davenport has resigned as principal of Catholic Central High School, Monroe, effective at the close of the current school year. ** Br. Charles Krupp, provincial, left on November 28 for a month's visit with the communities in Liberia and Ghana. ** Br. John Kuhn is recuperating at the Hillcrest Hospital, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, after suffering a heart attack at Gilmour Academy on November 17. ** The Lakewood community had a renewal workshop on mutual support, conducted by Fr. Thomas Chambers, C.S.C., in November. The community honored Br. Theophilus, patriarch of the province, at a special celebration of his 86th birthday on October 20. He continues his graceful recuperation from surgery in September. ** *Correction for your Directory: Br. Paul Rosonke -- telephone 605/365-3696.*

DACCA DISTRICT Br. John Rozario has been appointed superior at St. Gregory's, Dacca, replaced Br. Donald Schmitz, who is returning to the United States on extended leave. ** Br. Joseph Berg, Associate Director for Special Programs, National Conference of Catholic Charities, visited the district from October 18 to 23. ** Br. John Emminger writes from Holy Cross High School, Hashnabad: "In January we will open a tiffen (lunch) stand at school. It will be operated by the Boy Scouts to make money for their camps. Soft drinks are too expensive and I would like to have Kool-aid sold. Could some of our mission clubs send pre-sweetened Kool-aid packages? We need tons of the stuff. Gift packages with a declared value under \$5 would help us tremendously."

Celebrating anniversaries of religious profession in 1978 are the following brothers: 60th: Br. Finbarr Buckley. 50th: Brs. Antoninus Schloemer, Jude Costello. 25th: Brs. Thomas R. Henning, Robert Kelly, Raymond Papenfuss, Bernard Platte, Robert Siegel, Leonard Siwierka, John Quigley.

The Commission on the Apostolate met at the Brothers Center on November 19 and identified the thrust of the commission's efforts for the next eighteen months. Three areas were noted: 1) help individual members of the province develop a sense of mission, 2) work for institutional renewal, 3) monitor and encourage apostolic development. To implement the first item, the commission has planned a workshop on communal discernment of God's will, to be conducted by Jules Toner, S.J., from the University of Detroit, on February 16-19. The place of the workshop will be announced later.

NEWS NOTES EXTRA

RECOMMENDED READING

ON BECOMING A MUSICAL, MYSTICAL BEAR: SPIRITUALITY AMERICAN STYLE, by Matthew Fox, O.P., Paulist Press, 1976, \$2.45.

The rather whimsical title may be misleading for this very serious reflection on adult spirituality. All adults, the author believes, are called to mysticism which, he says, is experienced as a deep enjoyment of life and to prophecy which is the fight to share life and criticize its enemies. The beginnings of prayer are rooted in the stuff of life and its mysteries.

HOLY THE FIRM, by Annie Dillard, Harper and Row, 1977, \$6.50. From the note by the publisher on the dust jacket:

In 1974 Annie Dillard published *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, a mystical excursion into the natural world that established her among the first rank of American writers. Her book received the Pulitzer Prize, and the critics compared her writing to the writing of Herman Melville.

In 1975 Dillard took up residence on an island in Puget Sound, in a wooden room furnished with "one enormous window, one cat, one spider and one person." For the next two years she asked herself questions about time, reality, sacrifice, death and the will of God.

In her new book, *Holy the Firm*, she bears witness to the violent incursions of the Absolute into the wreck of space. She writes about a moth consumed in a candle flame, about a seven-year-old girl burned in an airplane accident, about a baptism on a cold beach. But behind the moving curtain of what she calls "the hard things--rock mountain and salt sea," she sees, sometimes far off and sometimes as close by as a veil of air, the power play of holy fire.