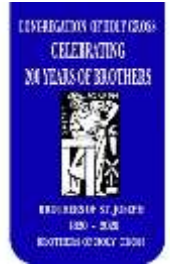


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

December 9, 2020



2nd Week of Advent



Emmanuel Care....With you on your journey toward health, healing and a better quality of life.

emmanuelcare.ca



This Week

Information on individual early Brothers of St. Joseph for posting week by week in 2020.

November 29 – December 5 In this week Brother Etienne Gauffre, the fourth man to become a Brother, opened a school at St. Denis d’Orques in 1821. In this same week Brother Louis Duchene opened a school at Larchamp, birthplace of the great Brother Andre Mottais.

December 6 – 12 On December 8, 1847, Brother Benedict wrote to Father Sorin about the sad conditions at his school in Washington, Indiana.

St. Brother Andre Community – Sarasota, Florida.



Brothers Larry Skitzki and Michael Brickman attended the Notre Dame Club of Greater Sarasota, 2020, Christmas Mass and Brunch on Sunday, December 6th.

The liturgy was celebrated at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Longboat Key followed by a buffet breakfast at the Sarasota Yacht Club.

Brother Michael was honored to offer the blessing before the meal.

As we have all become accustomed to, in public gatherings guest were required to wear mask and maintain a social distance. However, we were permitted to model for a mask-less snapshot of ourselves with the holiday display at the yacht club.



The Brothers of St. Joseph – Celebrating 200 Years



**Brother Basile (Michel) Gary, C.S.C.,
1812-1888
by Brother James Kane, C.S.C.,
December 1, 2020**



Brother Basil (Michel) Gary faced daunting challenges during his life as a Brother of Saint Joseph and then as a Brother of Holy Cross. Those challenges were not so different from the ones many of us have faced throughout our religious and professional careers, as well as those we face today. This is the challenge we accepted when we answered Jesus' call to "Come, follow me."

Br. Basil Gary courageously followed that same call of Jesus, the call to leave his family, home and country, the call to face unknown challenges in an uncertain time.

What we know about Br. Basil is found in the letters he wrote while serving in Algeria. Those letters are found in the book entitled "*Holy Cross in Algeria, The Early Years, 1840-1849*" by Br. George Klawitter, 2007.

In George's words, "Br. Basile (Michel) Gary, the son of Jacques-Mathurin Gary and Louise-Perrine Th reau, was born September 20, 1812. He came to Holy Cross in January, 1837, at age 24, two years after Fr. Moreau assumed leadership of the Brothers of St. Joseph, and received his teaching certificate in March, 1839, and was professed August 19, 1838."

In 1844 Br. Basil, at the age of 32, was sent by Fr. Moreau with five other brothers to open schools along the north coast of Algeria. This was the second group of religious sent to Algeria by Moreau. These six brothers were among the best qualified to be found in the young Congregation.

Br. Basil was educated and certified as a teacher. He was prepared for his role as an educator. He was not prepared for the tensions he faced at a fundamental

level – finding suitable living quarters for himself and other brothers, as well as a proper school facility with classrooms and books – all of this in a hostile political environment.

The French colony of Algeria was a dangerous place to live: the native people were not happy living under the harsh occupational rule that began in 1830. Travel in that region was often by military convoy, and posting letters to Fr. Moreau in France took weeks, and was unreliable at best.

Upon his arrival in Bône, Algeria (a town now known as *Annaba*, and originally, *Hippo*) Br. Basil showed his nurturing side by caring for a very ill fellow traveler, Br. Marcel Coupris, for several weeks until that man's health improved. Br. Basil did so while at the same time managing all of his other responsibilities.

One can visualize Br. Basil's character through his own written words: his sense of mission to the children – some of whom were orphans, requiring all-day care – as he persistently struggled to manage and improve their personal and educational well-being. Br. Basil was straightforward, honest, and without guile; he was “one who takes everything at face value,” as described by another brother, which meant that unscrupulous people could take advantage of his candid nature.

Br. Basil was meticulous, devoted, concerned, expressive, and very practical. He was patient with setbacks, including the lack of promised resources like housing, the lack of a salary, and the lack of school supplies, a situation that continued for months (from November 1844 until January 1845). Br. Basil also endured a personal hardship: a lingering fever.

Br. Basil had difficulty reconciling the contradictory demands of local officials, shipping agents, secular priests, and bishops, various religious orders of men and women, and lay teachers all competing for control of the same students.

Such conflicting interests led Br. Basil to write of his concern in differentiating the role of a lay brother in a clerical-minded church and society. His concern is a common topic even today.

There is a real dynamic tension between an orderly life, and the life to which Jesus is calling us.

In Matthew 4:22 we read “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee ... he saw two brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them ‘Come, follow me,’ and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.”

Matthew’s point is that those two brothers – James and John – were being static, fixing what they already knew about (their nets), what they already had in hand (a boat, an occupation, a family); they were not going anywhere. Jesus challenged them to leave the familiar, to leave the routine that provides emotional stability, to leave the known, the expected, the secure, to go into a life that was not orderly, not predictable, not the norm. And they went; they followed Jesus.

Br. Basil did not expect when he left France for Algeria in 1844 that he would find himself carrying a cross like Simon of Cyrene, nor did he expect that his actions – reflected in his letters – would inspire not only his Algerian students, but his confreres, indeed, a confrere like me 175 years later.

Br. Basil Gary died December 13, 1888, in Angers, France, at the age of 76. Br. Basil’s dedication, his sense of mission, lives on. His influence has been felt beyond his planning in an unexpected way, a grace-filled way.

I take courage today as I encounter difficulties in a world mortally threatened by the COVID-19 virus, and the limited capabilities brought on by my advancing age. Jesus is not asking me about my age or my limits. Jesus is asking me to follow him – just like his Apostles – to follow him not once, years ago, but now, every day.

Through the words of Br. Basil Gary, I have learned that Jesus has his own plan for me beyond my limited vision. Br. Basil’s letters have encouraged me to appreciate that I must get up from “mending my personal nets” every day and follow Jesus, right now, wherever that leads me.

The above paper was presented to Columba Hall residents on December 1, 2020, during a late afternoon prayer session by Brother James Kane, C.S.C. Brother James created the sketch shown of Brother Basil.



Vivid Memories Jerome (Jerry) Ziliak

"Manual Labor School taught boys trades to earn a living"

How appropriate Marion Casey's article about the Holy Cross Brothers (*ND Magazine*, Spring 2020) and their work with the Manual Labor School at ND. It is very timely because the Brothers are celebrating 200 years since their founding as the Brothers of St. Joseph by Rev. Jacques Dujarie in 1820. (In 1837, they joined with the Auxiliary Priests of Le Mans established by Rev. Basile Moreau to become the Congregation of Holy Cross.) Just as the Brothers work at the Manual Labor School left few records, also their **quiet work in their high schools has not always been** known or appreciated.

As a graduate of one of the high schools where they taught, I have vivid memories of many of the Brothers: Joel, rubbing his hands together and smiling, "today we're going to talk about mummies"; Leonardo's quoting the *New York Times* drama section and his spontaneous detour into aesthetics as he described his first view of Lake Michigan; Thomas' sardonic aside in his American History class about our attending school in "pig pants" (blue jeans); Jeffrey, English teacher, memorable class sponsor, who mopped the cafeteria floor for the evening Homecoming Dance as we attended the afternoon football game; biology teacher Ambrose who at quiz time always sent the least academic to the library with their text books and would often end his lesson and then with time at the end of class say, "What do you guys want to talk about now?"

The high school, which seemed to be always "open" and the Brothers ever present, was central to our adolescent years academically, socially and geographically. Our morning newspaper route was adjacent to the school. It was convenient to stop there on Saturday "collection" days (my brother and I both paid high school tuition **(\$40** a year from this AM work) to take a "break," buy a coke from the always open cafeteria machine, and/or "catch" a pick-up basketball game in the gym—always with a Brother participant. After evening sports events the cafeteria opened for "Howdy Hours"—i.e., dancing and socializing. Presence of the Brothers was always a part of evening musical practices. Campus side lawns were often occupied with students involved in "pick up" games in the fall.

Because of the ever present Brothers and their "neighborhood" school, we were involved in sports and music and always "on call" if an usher, singer or dancer were needed.

Many of us, just as the orphans at the Trade School, are benefactors of the quiet and seldom publicized work of the Holy Cross Brothers.

Some notable graduates: Holy Cross priests **John Waldschmit**, President (University of Portland) and Bishop of Portland; **Henry Geuss and Charles Van Winkle**.

Some notable Brother graduates: **John Baptist Titzer**, first Provincial of Brothers' Southwest Province; **Pedro Haering**, Principal Cathedral HS (Indnpls); **Romard Barthel** (Science Dept, St Ed's Univ., Ausin); **John Kuhn**, former principal at Memorial.

These are some of the alums I've heard about: **Joe Eger** '48, Oil Company; **Joel Wells** '48, Thomas Moore Books; Judges: **Terry Dietsch, Wayne Kent, Robt Lensing**; Doctors and PhD's: **Joe Rusche, Robt McDonald, James Broerman ; Ted Ziemer**, city attorney; Scripps-Howard CEO **Bill Burleigh**.

Don Mattingly, Yankee great and still managing in Major League Baseball

Paul Trueblood, music grad of Northwestern, who accompanied many of the celebrated Broadway entertainers.

The name Memorial as a proper noun was the result of the dual gifts of Francis Joseph Reitz. His name was already attached to the west side public high school—Reitz Hilltoppers. When he donated money to the new high school on the east side, it was called Memorial.



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey



Thankfulness

Dear Associates and Friends,

What do we need to do to keep from getting depressed during this difficult time? Maybe we need thankfulness. Even in our worst situations there is always room for gratefulness. The first pilgrims knew this and needed to celebrate a meal, change a concept into something real.

At a more profound level, we reflect on the fact that everything we are and have is a gift. It is a myth to say that we are self-made men or women. Our humanity, where we were born, even our breath is not something we have control over. Then these and many other circumstances have brought us to where we are today. Yes, we can take them and develop them into something worthwhile like the servant in the Gospel who had taken the five talents and produced another five, but what he started with was a situation over which he had no control.

This understanding can lead us to pray to the God who has showered love upon us. To be grateful leads us to experience a joy that can transcend the reasons causing us to be depressed or anxious.

- What are you grateful for?
- Have you understood that your life is a gift?
- Has being thankful helped you to be less anxious?

O God, help me be grateful for my life.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>

From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, and a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below.

Website: <http://www.voiceofmoreau.org/>



Brother
Philip
Smith



Brother
Ben
Rossi

Reflection



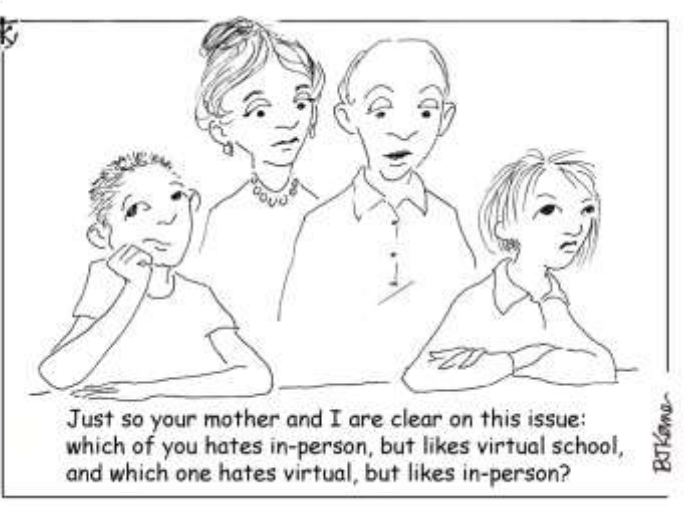
Reflection(s) sent in by
Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



A BLESSING

The world now is too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
that everything you touch is a sacrament.
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run
to those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.

Dr. Bertice Berry
From the Black Rock Prayer Book



Brother James Kane, CSC



Past Copies of *Midwest-Midweek*
Since February 2006

Past copies of *Midwest-Midweek* may be viewed by scanning the icon or clicking on the link below.
<http://brothersofholycross.com/publications/archived-publications/>



View Website at:
www.brothersofholycross.com

View *Midwest-Midweek* at:
<http://brothersofholycross.com/publications/midwest-midweek-newsletter/>

<p>Editor Webmaster Proofreader</p>	<p>Br. Kenneth Kane Br. Richard Johnson Br. George Klawitter</p>
---	---

Please send material to the link below by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

Send material to this address:
Midwest-Midweek@brothersofholycross.com