

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

April 10, 2024

## Canticle of the Three Youths

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord;  
Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord;

You heavens, bless the Lord;

All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord;

All you hosts of the Lord; bless the Lord.

Sun and moon, bless the Lord;

Stars of heaven, bless the Lord.

Every shower and dew, bless the Lord;

All you winds, bless the Lord.

Fire and heat, bless the Lord;

Cold and chill, bless the Lord.

Dew and rain, bless the Lord;

Frost and cold, bless the Lord.

Ice and snow, bless the Lord;

Nights and days, bless the Lord.

Light and darkness bless the Lord;

Lightning and clouds, bless the Lord.

Let the earth bless the Lord;

Praise and exalt him above all forever....



## Environment and Sustainability Prayers

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, Founded on the covenant of your love.

## Our Poets, Past and Present

### God-Given Assignments

Let's take a few moments  
to ponder our assignments in life.  
For most of us there have been many,  
some of which brought happiness, I'm sure,  
but others perhaps grief and no small  
strife.

When we work at our daily task  
in accord within our Lord's Mission,  
of its worthiness, we need not fear to ask—  
we'll surely have his permission.

If we see in our work the Lord's reflection,  
for the good of others, not ourselves,  
we'll not see his rejection,  
but his grace for further projection.

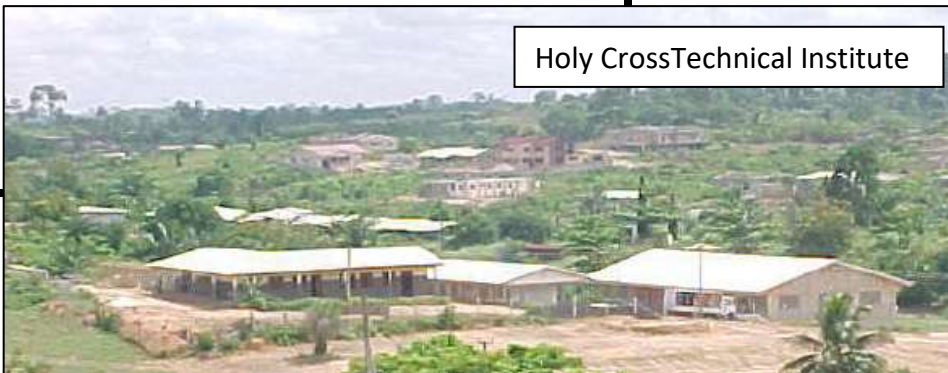
And the further in life we progress,  
with treasures of merit to our credit,  
we may find our strength waning,  
but our spirit won't die, if only we don't let  
it.

Of all missions the Lord might to us  
assign,  
indeed, the most important one  
of our entire lifetime  
might be the least in our thoughts,  
and not one of our own design.

Just as Jesus, being human, as we all  
are,  
felt abandoned in his last hour,  
yet he did not let his faith grow dim  
or his outlook become dour.

We too must keep faith in Christ's  
Mission,  
so our works can sprout and flower,  
that we may join our friends in heaven,  
by the grace of his redeeming power.

—**Brother Jerome Kroetsch, CSC**



## Young and Elderly Gather Socially



What do Notre Dame science majors and retired Brothers of Holy Cross have in common? Apparently quite a bit!

For the past several years a group of Notre Dame students has been meeting with the residents of Columba Hall, a retirement facility for the Brothers of Holy Cross, located just north of the Grotto. The students have been sharing a meal with the Brothers on a weekly

basis and attending a monthly game night.

Jin Rui Cai '24 organized the group of fellow science majors stating: "Both sides have much to gain, as students can learn a lot from the Brothers, and the Brothers can benefit from more social interaction." Cai states that "in the process of getting to know the Brothers, who have an entire lifetime of stories and a wealth of knowledge to share, I reflected a lot on what I value and how my actions impact others around me."

He further states: "I learned a lot about the history of Holy Cross and the role that the Brothers played in establishing Notre Dame and building it up to what it is today. It's also been interesting to learn about the international adventures that many of the Brothers at Columba Hall participated in when they were younger. The Brothers have been a witness to a history before I was born, and hearing these stories is fascinating, especially because I get to hear it from someone who lived it and not just from any old textbook."

Upon reflecting on the larger issues affecting the elderly, Cai states that "social isolation and accessing resources make it quite difficult for vulnerable populations like the elderly to socialize and get around for their necessities."

**Jin** will pursue graduate studies in medical school.

Thanks  
Jin

## Coloma Cottage

The Brothers' cottage in Coloma, Michigan, has undergone extensive interior renovations thanks to generous donations from Gary Koenig and Marie Dreyer Koenig, and an anonymous donor. The renovations include:

- DIRECTV satellite dish with premium channels
- Air conditioners in each room
- AT&T internet connection
- Freshly painted walls
- New carpeting and vinyl flooring
- New sliding door
- New living room furniture
- Upgraded appliances
- Upgraded electrical panel and lighting
- New vinyl windows and blinds in the bedrooms
- Upgraded mattresses, new bedspreads and curtains

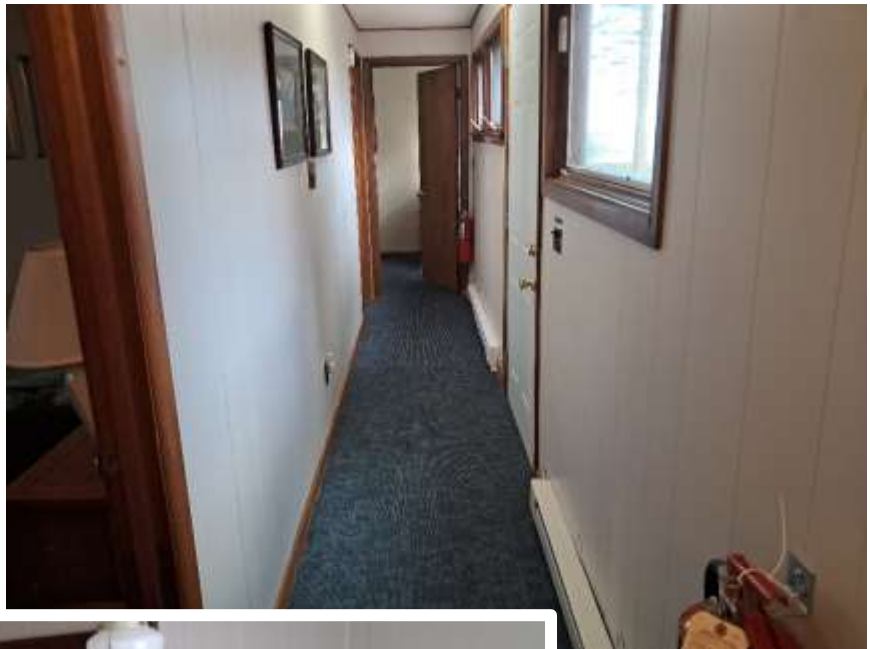
Tree branches surrounding the cottage have been trimmed, dead trees have been removed, and a new asphalt entrance off the road has been paved.

To reserve the cottage, please contact:

Br. Chris Torrijas at 317.285.8188 [ctorrijas@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:ctorrijas@brothersofholycross.com) or  
Br. Charles Drevon at 574.274.7919 [cdrevon@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:cdrevon@brothersofholycross.com).









## Bible Bites by Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.

### GAMALIEL



Gamaliel was the most prominent Pharisee in New Testament times. Repute to be more moderate in religious views than others of his sect, Gamaliel was considered the most distinguished teacher of the Torah. He had been Paul's teacher.

Gamaliel earned his place in the New Testament in Luke's *Acts, Chapter 5*. He successfully persuades the Sanhedren from ordering Peter and the other Apostles being put to death; He arugues, ". . . have

nothing to do with these men [Apostles], let them go; for if this activity [speaking of Jesus] is of human action, it will destroy itself; but if it comes from God, you will not be able tp destroy them, you may even yourselves be fighting against God" (vss 37-39).

Gamaliel's praiseworthy defense earned him a legendary place in the early Christian Church.

Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.

Servant of God

Website

<https://brothercolumba.com/>



Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C.

Postulator of the cause for Brother Columba

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## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### The Truth about Myself

Given the state of affairs, many are all too happy to criticize us which can leave us feeling unworthy, and even rejected. Being human we will never reach that kind of perfection when we translate Scripture telling us “Be perfect like your heavenly Father is perfect.” Who could attain that standard? To appear “perfect” we can put on a persona or wear a mask of always doing the right thing or projecting the blame on others taking the focus off of ourselves. We pride ourselves in “keeping up with appearances.”

When there is another way of looking at this passage in the context in which this statement about being perfect is made, it makes more sense. The Scriptural passage can mean “Be compassionate like your heavenly Father is compassionate” because God lets the rain come down on the just and the unjust alike. The truth about myself is: I am a part of God’s creation. God wants a relationship with me with my warts and all. Hopefully my religious faith will be a catalyst in helping me discover this truth. Humility is the virtue most needed as I set out on my spiritual journey.

- Do you have a positive image of yourself?
- If so, where does it come from?
- Is it more helpful to think about your mistakes or about how much God loves you no matter what?

**O God, help me come to the real truth about myself.**

**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.**

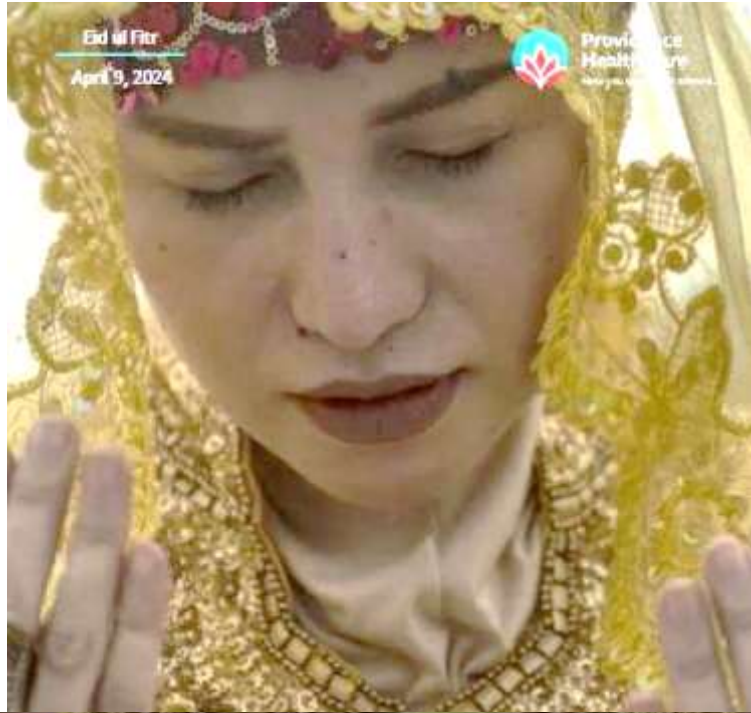


For more reflections to grow spiritually  
please visit our new blog  
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>





**Reflection** sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



**"Do good deeds properly, sincerely and moderately and know that the most beloved deed is the most regular and constant even though it is little"**  
- Prophet Muhammad

This reflection is courtesy of Muslim, Ethics & Spirituality + Providence Health Care  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. providencehealthcare.org April 9, 2024

All acts of service are meaningless unless they are given with love.

- SHIRDI SAI BABA -



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