

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 11, 2023

## Brother James Newberry, C.S.C. (1929-2022)



**Brother James Peter  
Newberry. C.S.C.**

Good morning, I am Brother Philip Smith, the province archivist. In the name of all province members, I offer our condolences and prayers to Brother James' nieces Betsy, Janet, Laura, and Mary and to his nephew, Tom, and to his family members who are in their homes watching the service today.

Although I have never lived with Brother James, I met him on scores of occasions over the last 50 plus years. As archivist, I also have had the opportunity to reflect on James' life by reading and reviewing whatever documents he felt were important enough to send to the archives for preservation.

Soon after James' death, Brother Chris Torrijas brought me ten or twelve albums of photos and other memorabilia that James spent hours assembling into categories that clearly testified to those aspects of his life that he found specifically representative of that which was formative for him: his personal history before 1960, and his personal history after 1960 upon entering the Brothers of Holy Cross.

It is clearly obvious that he was proud of and devoted to his family because of the formation they provided for him for his entire 93 years. Likewise, he was proud of his 63 years of formation and growth with the brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross. And he was especially proud of his time spent in each of his ministries: specifically, for his life with the Native American students on the Cherry Creek reservation in South Dakota; his life with the people and students of St. Patrick High School in Monrovia, Liberia; and his two years as director of André House of Hospitality in Oakland, California. Indeed, four of the albums he left behind chronicle in photo and word his devotion to and love for persons who often found themselves in predicaments leading to disenfranchisement. As a man of quiet missionary spirit, he was willing to "cross borders of every sort" as Holy Cross

religious men and women are asked to do, and he boldly went to places that stretched the borders of his enormous heart to include just a few more of God's blessed poor.

Brother James took Blessed Basile Moreau's educational mandate – to education the heart as well as the mind – seriously. His businesslike demeanor in the classroom, graphically displayed for his students that he was the leader – but not one who would lead only from the front of the class, but as one among them: as a confidant and guide through and over many of their personal, seemingly formidable borders.

Once he assessed a student's potential, he would assist each of them to discover what he, the educator, had come to know about them; and then assist them to capitalize upon this information so they, too, might cross borders of every kind and become guides for others.

Yet Brother James also knew that this was only one aspect of a true Holy Cross education: that for the whole person to be formed, the heart must also be touched, must be expanded to include compassion for others. Once the mind and the heart were in the process of connection, James knew that these young people could be transformed to build up the Body of Christ, not diminish it.

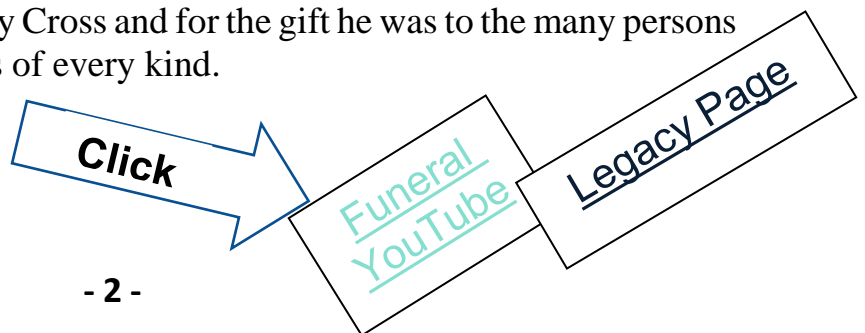
Brother George Schmitz, once a provincial of the former Eastern Province of Brothers recalled: "I have very fond memories of James. During his time as superior at Columba Hall and after, he was my eyes and ears for our Eastern Province Brothers at Dujarié House infirmary. He would go there often and send me reports. In particular, he watched over one brother who suffered from depression, and James was always sensitive to his plight."

This sensitivity to the plight of others is a lasting hallmark of Brother James Newberry: he forged relationships with folks of every age, every rank, every hue, and every need.

Before James entered the congregation in 1960, he reported that "I knew the Lord was calling me to something, but I was befuddled because I did not feel called to priesthood, and I knew no Brothers." Reflecting upon 50 years of being a brother, in 2000, Brother James wrote, "The Lord made no mistake when he asked me to be a Brother rather than a priest, and I thank God every day for the gift of my vocation."

Today each of us offers thanks to God too – for the gift of Brother James to his family, to the Congregation of Holy Cross and for the gift he was to the many persons whom he inspired to cross borders of every kind.

--**Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C.**



## Our Poets, Past and Present

### **Don't Bother to Knock**

I have a very close friend  
to whom in heaven my prayers I send  
saying "Come, Lord, for a few minutes of time  
that the bells of my heart may ring like a chime."

The door to my heart has no lock,  
and I tell him,  
"Come in, Lord, don't bother to knock"  
for it's with him that I find peace  
and through him do life's tensions release.

In life we all face problems from time to time,  
but don't feel alone, or tend then to despair.  
But rather a prayer will help your heart to unlock,  
then ask the Lord to come in—  
there is no need to knock.

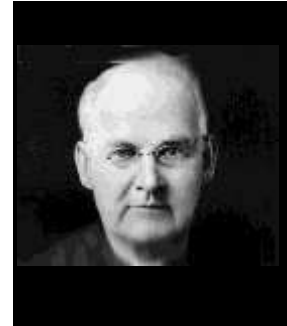
In everyone's life some rain does fall,  
which means flowers will bloom,  
according to God's Will—it's surely His call.

So in prayer be attentive  
without watching the clock  
and give the Lord time to enter  
without bothering to knock.

—**Brother Jerome Kroetsch, CSC**



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

Click  
Link

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## Phone Number Update

Phone number: 574-544-9587 is my new smartphone number. Please correct it for general use. Thanks! Br Ron Christenson

Brother Ronald resides at Dujarie House.



## Brothers' Newsletter

If you missed it, the latest newsletter appeal, *Brothers of Holy Cross*, may be viewed at:

<http://brothersofholycross.com/bhc/wp-content/uploads/Brother-appealNovember2022-spreads.pdf>

## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Praying “Hard”

Ideas about prayer can be tricky. Sometimes we might experience guilt for not having prayed enough for the people who have asked for prayers. Sometimes we might feel that our petitions to God are overwhelming. God knows our needs. God does not forget. Then there is a Scripture that says to “pray always.” How can this be possible given the busy lives that we lead?

Maybe this question about praying always would subside if it simply meant being open to God’s presence in everything that is happening in our world. Christ chose to be human so he could walk with us in our experiences in everyday life. He did go up the mountain to pray alone at times especially when things got hectic just as we might need to get away or spend some time alone to center ourselves and affirm what is essential in the way we are living.

We can look to the saints to know what prayer can mean in living a fulfilling life. Read the small book by Brother Lawrence, a Benedictine monk, titled “The Presence of God.” He talks about being in God’s presence while he is baking bread. We do not have to “pray hard.” When our intention is to spend our day in faith, hope and love, anything is possible.

- Do you want to nourish your prayer life?
- Is your prayer mainly in the words you say or in formal prayer?
- Is God’s presence with you in your everyday experiences?

**O God, teach me the way to pray.**

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



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



# Reflection

Sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.

A graphic with a pink and white striped background. It features a central image of a church on a hill reflected in a lake at sunset. Text includes the Providence Health Care logo, "Happy Orthodox Christmas", a quote by Tom Hanks, and footer information.

Providence Health Care  
How you want to be treated.

+ Happy Orthodox Christmas +

"May you live as long as you want,  
and not want as long as you live."  
- Tom Hanks

This reflection is courtesy of **Mission, Ethics & Spirituality** + Providence Health Care  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada [providencehealthcare.org](http://providencehealthcare.org)

January 6, 2023

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