

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

December 13, 2023



Columba Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana





December 17: O Wisdom

*When Wisdom built a manor for her people
as to govern all creation caring,
tender, then she had to show the way
for our salvific dreams and hopes and prayers.*

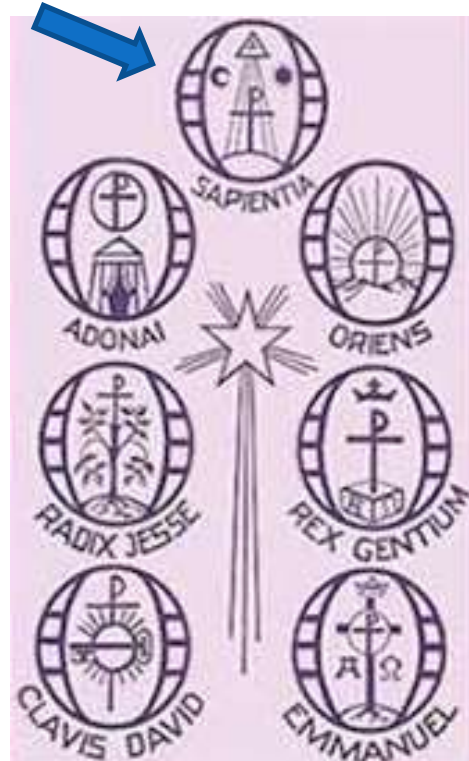
Fete her with the choir loft and steeple.
Construct it all with energy and daring,
higher, higher, splitting night from day.
Let the graces ruffle through her hair.

Wait to sanctify our sweat-hewn temple
until the majesty of morning sweeps
the darkness from our desiccated souls.

Then you'll enter heartened by example
of the patriarchs and matriarchs who keep
reminding you the part you play's a role.

—**Brother George Klawitter, CSC**

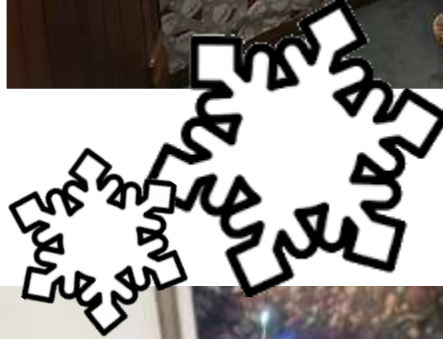

Antiphons



<https://blog.alexwaterhousehayward.com/2011/08/brother-george-klatwitter-csc-reverend.html>

Columba Hall Staff


House Keeping Staff Join Santa Elves in Decorating the house:



Escholastica and Lorenza

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

Special Mass Remembrance



On, December 7, Father Bill Blum, CSC, offered Mass in Columba Hall's Chapel, Our Lady of Sorrows, for the many women who have suffered and are suffering because of the wars covering the world. He used a paten and chalice he acquired during the time he was with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Tiberius.

ADVENT RECOLLECTION – West Africa, Ghana

THEME: Christ brings hope to the world filled with hunger

Once again, the advent season is here, and this is a perfect preparation for Christians towards Christmas.

Saint Brother Andre Senior High School in Ghana is not excluded from this special occasion. On Thursday, November 30, a gathering was held at the assembly hall to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

Through this event, students were exposed to the gospel and encouraged to practice the Christian way of life.

Message by Reverend Father Paul



Reverend Father Paul explained the meaning of Advent to the congregation as “a means of preparing for the coming of a King.”

The Reverend Father spoke about the physical and spiritual preparation towards the Christmas festivities. With the physical preparation, he spoke about material things which we acquire, and in regards to the spiritual preparation, he explained

the reason why this day is dedicated to a spiritual journey to prepare for the season of Christmas.

In addition, the Reverend Father drew students' attention on the theme saying "the one we are preparing for, the King who is coming is bringing hope to a world filled with hunger." He went on to question how we are going to prepare spiritually so that not only Christ but all of us created in the image and likeness of God can bring Hope to our world. The Reverend Father entreated students to serve as ambassadors of hope to go to the world and fill people with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Input by the Headmaster



Brother Anthony Dadzie, C.S.C., the Headmaster of BRANDHIGH Ghana reflected on the history of Holy Cross. In his narration, he revealed that following the French Revolution, there was no education for the youth and for that matter the Founder Blessed Father Anthony Basil Moreau started educating the young so as to bring Hope to themselves and to the world at large. He added that Father Moreau's vision was not only for academic purposes but more specifically to open the student mind and heart to broaden human and Christian values and furthermore train students to become competent

citizens who are not inferior to anybody.

Brother Anthony advised students to comport themselves as they undergo

Christian education in the traditions of Holy Cross. Speaking of the preparation for our Savior, he told students to make a difference in the world by avoiding discrimination, encourage togetherness, and stand up to defend Christian values.



Reflecting and Examining Ourselves by Reverend Father Emmanuel Incom

Reverend Father Emmanuel on this occasion preached on the best way to reconnect with God. He started by stating that the only way to get to God is to feel sorry for the sins we have committed. The preacher described our relationship with God

by saying “God as true vine, we humans are branches, but once we are cut off from God through sin, we die.”

In order to find where we fall short in our relationship with God, Reverend Father Emmanuel read the Ten Commandments and students asked themselves where they have wronged and need to ask for forgiveness.

Confession

Members of the congregation approached the priests to confess their sins and ask for forgiveness. The priests prayed for them and helped them through words of encouragement to resolve their issues and desist from going back to sin.

Mass Service



Richard Sewu
IT Director
BRANDHIGH GHANA



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

Legacy

Looking beyond our day to day activities and concerns, do we ever take time to look at the overall picture of our lives? As we look back to reflect on what has been the turning points that have brought us to this day, what stands out? I am thinking about the decisions we have made that had great effects not only on our lives but on others as well. What do we hope our legacy would be?

Probably our legacy will involve the beliefs and our values that have made a difference in our lives. Has God played a role in shaping who we are? We pray in the Lord's prayer, "Thy will be done on earth." Does our legacy depend on what we perceive as doing God's will, God's will really meaning God's desire to bring us to love? Were there special experiences in our lives when God entered to point out direction and encouragement for continuing our spiritual journey? This would require a trust and in many cases the grace to be willing to venture out into the unknown.

Jesus spent time in private prayer. During these moments he would rekindle the unconditional love of his Father and receive new insights of how he would continue his mission in bringing about the kingdom of God. This was to be his legacy.

- Do you ever think about your legacy?
- Have you felt God's hand in choosing the direction you have chosen for your life?
- What do you hope will be remembered as part of your legacy?

O God, help me recall and value the ways you have touched my life.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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



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

Animals Present At the Birth of Jesus

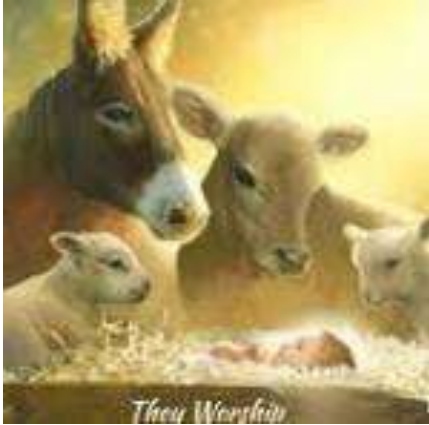
Were farm animals present at the birth of Jesus? Some scholars have debated this question for centuries only to be divided in the answer yes/no.

An historical study of worldwide cultures' beliefs and practices in the observance of Christmas seems to support the conclusion that there were domesticated animals at least nearby. Over time depictions in nativity creches, as well as various other artistic representations portray such animals near at hand with the newborn child and his parents; namely an ox and donkey, and sometimes a sheep, and occasionally camels, the latter suggested by their implication in the story of the Magi introduced in Chapter 2, beginning verse 8 of Matthew's Gospel.

Confirming the likelihood of the presence of these animals is the quote from Luke's observation in Chapter 1, verse 7: "and she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son [Jesus]. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger" – a trough or feedbox for farm animals.

A manger clearly indicates the location being some kind of structure for housing farm animals.

In Jesus' time houses in small towns usually included a room designated as a stable to shelter the donkey and/or cow belonging to the family. It was so much a part of almost everyone's daily life that the obvious odiousness of living within close proximity of these animals apparently was not a significant problem for the dwellers. Because, as Luke tells us, "there was no room in the inn" (2:7), Joseph and Mary, while offered the usual Mosaic hospitality in a private residence, might have had to be content with the only room available then, the stable, which, when taking into account the physical setup previously described, the parents of the newborn Jesus may well have considered the circumstances as nothing more than the usual back home.



The inclusion of sheep in the nativity story likely stems from Luke's reference to the visit of the shepherds, who might have brought along one or two out of some concern for the animals.

Folklore about the birth of Jesus and the presence or/and involvement of animals has accumulated over the years. One such story includes the incident of a desert viper having escorted Joseph and the pregnant Mary protectively across the wilderness on their journey to Bethlehem. Another tells of the ox and donkey consciously helping to keep the baby Jesus warm by the heat of their bodies and breaths. Very nice and imaginative, but not scriptural.





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



Advent

Hope Peace Joy Love

If you wish to experience peace,
Provide peace for another.

Dalai Lama

Emmanuel Health...A vital community of health, healing and hope
Compassion | Innovation | Commitment
emmanuelhealth.ca

We light candles in testament that faith makes miracles possible.

~ Nachum Braverman



Brothe
James
Kane,
CSC



Past Copies of *Midwest-Midweek*

Since February 2006

Past copies of *Midwest-Midweek* may be viewed by scanning the icon or by clicking on the link below.



<p>View Website at: www.brothersofholycross.com</p>	<p>View <i>Midwest-Midweek</i> at: http://brothersofholycross.com/publications/midwest-midweek-newsletter/</p>
<p>Webmaster Proofreader</p>	<p>Br. Richard Johnson Br. George Klawitter</p>

Save this link in a SHORTCUT

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

Midwest-Midweek@brothersofholycross.com