

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK



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

Dec 14, 2022

Our Poets, Past and Present



Basil at the Crib

When snowflakes settle on the college arch,
and books and backpacks shuffle in the dark
to bring the fall semester to an end,
then Basil needs a Christmas message to send.

He flops his ears and ruffles at his nose.
He drops his basketball and strikes a pose:
“Our Saints are heading home,” he cries,
“and I’ll be all alone.” He dabs his eyes.

“How will I pass my days with all them gone?
What can I do but sing a sad fight-song?”
He muffles on a scarf and heads outside,
not knowing if he should hibernate and hide.

He trudges through the snow, then sees a
light:
a beam of yellow-gold refracts his sight.
“It’s coming from the chapel, seems to me,”
he says and sets across the icy quad to see.



The gazebo watches quietly as he goes
kicking through the drifts of December snows.
He reaches for the chapel door—it seems
to open by itself. He walks in dreams!

Up the aisle he pads: the light still shines
right near the altar in parallel lines.
He stops before the crib, and then he kneels
because the light has hit his heart he feels.

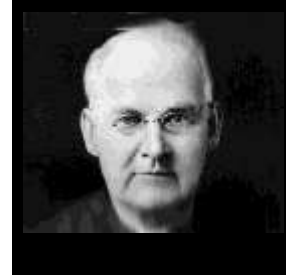
The warmth the baby in the straw sends out
makes Basil want to dance around and shout,
but he quiets his heart and in his mind he
paints
in prayer one by one all his Holy Cross Saints.

George Klawitter, CSC

(The mascot for Holy Cross College is Basil, a
St. Bernard.)



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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Donkey

When God created donkeys during that great primeval year,
He whispered a secret promise he'd meant only they should hear.

And after many eons had vanished in the past,
God's promise to the donkeys was realized at last:
'twas a donkey that was chosen as the only worthy one
To carry on his humble back God's only Son,
Of whom angelic voices were all heard to sing
and people's loud hosannas hailed Him as a king.



Brother Robert Mosher, C.S.C.

Andre Place
Christmas Preparations



Thanks, Brother Joseph Fox, for all your work and photos sent.



Notre Dame Folk Choir

Christmas Carols rang out in *Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel*, Columba Hall, on last Saturday, 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon. A group, newly formed, of students has regularly brought Christmas cheer to this house of elderly Holy Cross Brothers. Besides joining the Brothers for Sunday noon meals and parlor games on Thursdays, they arranged for the ND Folk Choir for caroling. We were encouraged to sing along if we wished.





Andrew, Santosh, Adison, Jin, Gavin
New Group
Bringer of Together Times, Happy Times





Student – Midwest Holy Cross Associates

Holy Cross Students Associates are men and women who meet twice a month to support one another in their quest to grow spiritually, create community, and serve others. Once a year they make promises in these three areas.

This past Thursday we celebrated in a short prayer service Ethan Garcia's renewal of his promises in the chapel at Columba Hall with Brothers and fellow students attending. Ethan will be spending the next semester of his Notre Dame junior year in England. He

received a special HCA pin to mark the occasion.



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

Christmas

Many are searching for the true meaning of Christmas. Is it all about Christmas lights and Christmas trees? Is it all about the coming together of families? Does it involve the baby Jesus with Mary, Joseph, and shepherds by his side?

Maybe it has to do with all of these things. We can belittle the “secularization” of Christmas trying to make it only something “holy.” But the fact that God chose to become human means that God took on the characteristics of being human. This should help Christians appreciate the Christmas gift of human life in all of its ups and downs and ins and outs.

Many people can feel sad at Christmas. Their expectations are not being met or they remember past Christmases and the joy of being with loved ones who are no longer present. When we contemplate the Christmas story, we realize that Mary and Joseph also did not expect to be giving birth in a stable with no family or friends nearby. Somehow it all worked out, however, and “the Word became flesh and dwells among us.”

- Do you experience sadness during the holidays?
- What helps you in getting beyond the sadness to experiencing Christmas joy?
- How does your belief in Christ’s coming add to your experience?

O God, help me experience Christmas joy that speaks to my searching heart.

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.



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Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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