

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

August 17, 2022

## Our Poets, Past and Present

### WIND

Comes the wind a holy nun,  
Who wends her gentle way:  
Now warm in fervor' s ecstasy,  
Now cool in spirit's calm control;  
Her psalter sings in treble high,  
And hums and whispers of the soul:  
in holy fonts of lakes she dips  
A small white hand too sieved to see;  
Her silent feet ascend the steps  
Of mountains rocky hewn,  
Where in a heaven-chapel blue  
She wordless rests behind a grill  
Of silvering, shimmering votaries.

—Brother Robert Mosher, CSC



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## Personal Reflection by Brother George Klawitter, C.S.C.



**Brother James Bagans** was one of fifteen men who graduated from Monroe Catholic Central High School in Michigan and joined the Midwest Province over the years. He was, in fact, the third to join the Brothers. That line of vocations, includes John May, and James Blazek, and Thomas Sisung.

James was a worker. At St. Ed's in Lakewood he served as a guidance counselor in the school all day long and then would change clothes at 3 PM and jump on a lawn mower to cut grass for hours. He also served as house treasurer. On winter evenings he liked to build a fire in the rec room's fireplace where he would sit for hours with Brother Peter Nault, often saying little or nothing at all. Just sit watching the fire.

On weekends James liked to drive to the Brothers' cottage on Leesville Lake, an hour south of Cleveland. On the Saturday of those weekends, he liked to explore the region and find new places to enjoy. I remember visiting with him a settlement where a Mennonite sect had lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. And I remember going to Gnadenhutten also—the site where 90 Christian Native Americans were slaughtered by Pennsylvania militia men as reprisal for the death of some white settlers. The Native Americans, who were killed one by one with a cooper's hammer, were all innocent. James liked finding historic sites like these.

James took three of us once to visit West Virginia and found the Steubenville Franciscan College. Its beautiful chapel was memorable. On that trip he also stopped by an Amish farm where he spied a farmer trying to start a motor. James was intrigued because the Amish usually do not touch electric equipment. James started a conversation with the elderly man and chatted away for half an hour. The old man was in no hurry and neither was James.

Sometimes his patience could be maddening. Once he took four of us to a German beer festival in Berea, Ohio. There he sat in a tent for four hours eating sausage, drinking beer, watching the German dancers, and enjoying the music. Four hours! I was bored after half an hour and ready to go home, but James and Bennet and Peter loved the place and all the entertainment. Four hours!

When James left his St. Edward High School ministry, he went into a totally different field—pastoral counseling at Lourdes Hospital in Johnson City, New York. I can imagine that he was as fine a listener with sick people as he was with high school boys. He had a genuine way of being interested in people and their problems.

James was a fine cook. On the occasions when he went from Cleveland back to Monroe to look in on his aging parents, he would leave their freezer filled with his home-cooked meals. He was a caring person.

Florida was James' final home. Such a change from the winters in Cleveland and New York City I can only imagine. But I believe that James probably adapted himself nicely to the heat and the humidity and the cockroaches and the alligators. He was that kind of person—accepting and always there with a ready smile and a gentle laugh.

Requiescat in pace, James.



## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Listen for the Blessing

As we struggle with the many things that are happening in our world and perceive their effect on us, how important it is to listen for the blessing. What can that mean for us? Henri Nouwen believes that when we receive a blessing, it is God's way of showing his special love for us, and when we give a blessing, it is our way of showing our love for the person who is being blessed.

In our prayers we pray for others and ourselves. What we are sure of is God's love for us because God is love. It also is true that is where there is love, there is God. By love we mean God's unconditional love which sees the beauty and loveliness of God's creation because we were created out of love.

As we pray the prayers of the faithful, sometimes we can think only of what is wrong or out of control in what is happening. We feel helpless in our ability to do something about it. In faith we can believe that in all of these situations we are sending our love and blessing. That love comes with grace, energy and power. We can reach the people and situations we are praying for. Our prayer can also be the means of calling us to some further action with God's grace, energy and power. Jesus received a blessing from his father. That unconditional love powered his life's work. Receiving God's blessing as his disciples we too can be and do great things for God.

- Do you believe that the most accurate statement about God is: God is love?
- Have you found a way of receiving God's love for you each day?
- Do you send your blessing to the important people in your life?

**O God, let the love you have for me motivate my blessing others.**

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



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<https://weekllyspiritualinsights.org/>



# Reflection

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



Rest and peace should not be left until you're deceased. They are two vital life ingredients everybody needs and seeks.



Emmanuel Health... A vital community of health, healing and hope  
Compassion | Innovation | Commitment  
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Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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