

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

December 31, 2008

A Happy and Blessed New Year to All!

Christmas Chapel Decorations

Here is a link to the Christmas, Notre Dame Area, chapel decorations.

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/ChapelsXMas08.htm>



Brother Thomas O'Malley's Obituary

Below is the link to Brother Thomas O'Malley's obituary in the South Bend Tribune. He was buried December 30th from Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel, Holy Cross Village.

<http://www.legacy.com/southbendtribune/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=121961437>

Brother Christopher to Take Final Vows This Week

*Notre Dame - Holy Cross **Brother Christopher Torrijas, C.S.C.**, 41, will make his final profession of the religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience on Friday, January 9 in St. Joseph Chapel of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana. **Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.**, Provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross will accept his vows. A dinner in the Great Room of Andre Place, Holy Cross Village, will be held in his honor for invited guests after Mass and final vows. The following is Brother Christopher's story in his own words.*



I was born and raised in Michigan City Indiana. I'm the seventh of eight children and was taught early on by the Sister of the Holy Cross. After graduating from Indiana University with a degree in Elementary Education, I taught fourth grade for one year at a public elementary school. I then accepted a position as a prefect and teacher at LeMans Academy in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, which was a boarding school for boys in grades 5-9 run by the Brothers of Holy Cross. I worked there for 12 years and during that time I was a prefect, religion teacher, Athletic Director, Activities Director, Assistant Residential Director and Director of Discipline. For my initial formation I was sent down to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, to study theology for one year before entering the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado. I entered the Brothers of Holy Cross on August 15, 2004 and made first vows on July 30, 2005. I will be making my final vows on Friday, January 9.

Why did you choose to become a Brother of Holy Cross?

Upon reflecting back I believe I always had a calling to serve, and help others. In college I volunteered at homeless shelters, and various other institutions, but it wasn't until after I graduated and began teaching and living alongside the Brothers at LeMans Academy that I felt the initial stirrings of being called to religious life as a Brother. Working and living alongside the Brothers allowed me the unique opportunity to be a part of their lives in a much more intimate and authentic way. I was able to not only see ministry in action, but how the Brothers interacted with each other on a personal level too. I saw them in good times and in difficult times, and through it all at the end of the day their ability to serve and love the Church and each other was most inspiring for me.

At what point did you feel that you had a vocation to be a religious?

While working and living alongside the Holy Cross Brothers at LeMans Academy every so often I would hear comments from lay and religious that “You should become a Brother.” For a long time I brushed their comments aside because for me that was an intimidating thought. It was never my intention to work with the Brothers for more than a couple of years. It wasn’t until I decided to move on that I began to take an honest look at my life and question what my reasons for leaving actually were. During this time I made a list of the pros and cons of me staying or leaving, and as the pro list became longer and longer I started to realize maybe God had bigger plans for me. Instead of making a hasty decision to leave I stayed and that has made all the difference.

Two Brothers in particular who were very influential and inspirational in my decision to join Holy Cross are **Br. Shaun Gray**, and **Br. Paul Kelly**. Long before I decided to join Holy Cross they treated me like a Brother and in their own ways invited me into a deeper relationship with God. Their genuine interest in my life allowed me to reflect more significantly on a possible vocation. It took serious spiritual and emotional development on my part to be able to make honest assessment of the direction I wanted my life to take, but once I came to the realization that joining Holy Cross was not taking anything away from my life, but adding to it did my decision and vocation become clear.

What are your hobbies, how do you spend your free time?

I am a member of the Children’s International Summer Village. CISV is a volunteer, non for profit organization that promotes peace education by developing cross-cultural understanding in children, youth and adults from around the world. It’s an organization that is founded on the belief that peace is possible through friendship. Through CISV I have been able to travel to different parts of the world, during my summer break, representing the United States as the adult leader of four eleven year olds, two boys and two girls.

What is a typical day like?

Working as the Director of Residence Life at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, I can honestly say there’s no such thing as a typical day when you’re dealing with college age students. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities. As the Director, I’m responsible for overseeing the implementation of all the school’s policies and regulations as they pertain to student life, and making sure the Residence Life staff has the necessary training and support in carrying out those policies. A lot of my time is spent handling disciplinary matters. Although this can be very challenging, even at

the best of times, I look forward to the opportunity to help young people grow and learn from their lapses in judgment. When I find myself dealing with any student conduct issue I always like to refer back to the words of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau to guide and inspire me. ***“We will always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.”***

Tell us about the community.

I live with other Brothers in Holy Cross Village, which is an interdependent community created to help fulfill our ministry to older and retired individuals especially seniors. The community is energized by Holy Cross spirituality and hospitality and provides a nurturing environment focused on dignity and respect. As a member of The Village, my interactions range from social gatherings to spiritual ones like praying the Office. I’m fortunate to be in a location where there are a number of different Brother’s communities in close proximity which allows for a variety of opportunities to engage in leisure or ministry pursuits.

What would you tell a person joining a religious order?

To pray for the grace of awareness of the mystery of God’s call in your own life. Reflect on the very beginnings of your own vocation and spend time recalling the people who have been part of your experience. Spend some time recalling the people that may have been part of your vocation story, and recall subsequent experiences and people where you felt your desire for religious life confirmed. Finally, pray in thanksgiving for these experiences, and most especially, the people who have brought you to where you are today. ***“Our thoughts are not easily God’s thoughts, nor our will His will. But as we listen to Him and converse with Him, our minds will be given to understand Him and His designs. The more we come through prayer to relish what is right, the better we shall work in our mission for the realization of the kingdom.”*** (Congregation of Holy Cross, Constitution 3:22)

What qualities are needed?

All the Brothers that have served as an inspiration to me had a sense of faith and integrity. They also had a healthy spiritual relationship with God and a capacity to serve a variety of people all while having the ability to share a common life.

Holy Cross Village Maintenance Building under Construction

On December 30th the trusses were placed on the new Holy Cross Village Maintenance Building. The 4,000 square foot building will include parking for village busses and vans along with storage space for maintenance.



View Website at:

www.brothersofholycross.com

View Midwest-Midweek at:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm>

Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published: cmcbride@hcc-nd.edu