

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

March 31, 2010

## Holy Week

### *The Festival of Falling Apart*

In some regions of the Middle East, Jewish women preparing for Passover call it not the “feast of unleavened bread,” but the “festival of falling apart.” The name-change reflects the exorbitant amount of time and energy consumed during spring housecleaning. Such a thorough scrubbing and polishing probably originated in the obligation to make certain all remaining leaven was eliminated as Passover drew near. In this way, too, every household, however humble, could become a “place of worship” where families might gather to praise God’s goodness and share creation’s bounty as it bursts forth fresh in spring. At the same time, these physical acts embodied spiritual wisdom – strength renewed, vision regained, hope revisited, and communities reunited.

Strange as it may seem, falling apart lies at the core of spiritual growth. Yet this may sound counterintuitive, for both religious and cultural reasons. Isn’t “perfection” the goal of spiritual growth? Isn’t the “American way” to reward success, getting ahead, and “having it all”? We have little love for deadbeats or “losers” and scant patience with people who “come unglued” in a crisis. And we hate the idea that large chunks of our lives may need to be spent in remediation, retooling, or “bottoming out.” The thought that we may need to start over – *more than once* – seems preposterous. Still, “starting over” is what this week is about. It’s about God’s audacious gamble: What if the world fell apart and I started it anew? What if a “new creation” begins in the bleeding body of a man executed among criminals? What if God’s other name is Servant? Could anything – or anyone – ever be the same?

*Falling in love with God may mean falling apart.*

*Nathan D. Mitchell*



## Happy Easter April 2 – 5, 2010

### *A Question Not an Answer*

*You awake abruptly in dim, pre-dawn light. Were you dreaming? Was it something you heard? A tree branch hitting the aluminum siding? Sleet hammering on the roof? A rattling car with a worn-out muffler? Your four-year-old's footsteps padding down the corridor? A dog's yelp? A cat's yeowl? Someone coughing? The almost subliminal sight of a human shadow? Whatever it was, it's left you feeling eerie and uncomfortable, your heart knocking inside your chest cavity, your mind racing with questions.*

*If you've ever had such an experience, you know something about the way the first Christians reacted to Easter. Nowhere does the New Testament describe the event of Jesus' rising from the dead. What we find instead are accounts of doubt and confusion; reports of sudden recognitions, disappearances, and changes of heart; stories about what happened to people who witnessed Easter's aftermath. Mary Magdalene meets a "stranger" in a garden and doesn't recognize him until he calls her by name (John 20:11 – 18). Two disciples trudging toward Emmaus meet a "stranger" who joins them for dinner, breaks bread, and – the moment they recognize him – promptly disappears (Luke 24:13-35).*

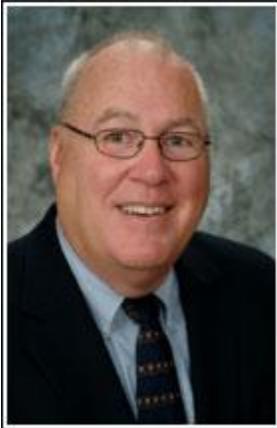
*Easter isn't a riddle resolved; it's a question posed. The answer is you, me, and anyone else willing to assume the cost of discipleship – willing to believe, against all odds, that suffering and death are not the final word about who we are or what we will be. The final word is gospel – the gospel that becomes your body, your heart, your feet, your hope turning back the world's despair, your joy beating back the world's sorrow.*

*Nathan D. Mitchell*

*"Look at my hands and my feet . . . touch me and see" (Luke 24:39).*

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PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA  
[www.providencehealthcare.org](http://www.providencehealthcare.org)

## Spirituality: The Invisible Ingredient in Health and Healing



On behalf of Providence Health Care, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, I am happy to invite you to participate in "**Spirituality: The Invisible Ingredient in Health and Healing**" scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Attached you will find the program as well as the registration form.

Early bird registrations closes on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2010.

Please feel free to share this information with people you believe would find the conference beneficial to their lives and work.

We encourage you to register early.

[http://brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/Maddix31Mar2010/2010Program\\_4.pdf](http://brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/Maddix31Mar2010/2010Program_4.pdf)

Peace,  
Tom Maddix, CSC, D. Min  
VP, Mission, Ethics & Spirituality

## Saint Augustine's Soup Kitchen

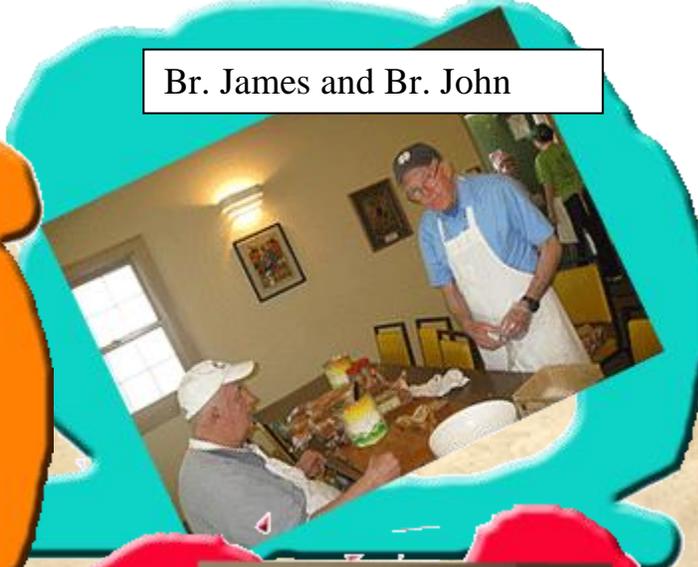
This is a shout-out to the St. Augustine's Wednesday soup kitchen staff made up of Holy Cross Associates, Holy Cross Brothers and members of the South Bend community. 50 to 100 people are served each Wednesday.

Vegetable beef soup is usually at the top of Wednesday's menu. Lunch packages include four one-pint containers of soup, with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit and donuts for takeout or eating at St. Augustine's.

Following are pictures of a number of the regular staff:



Pat  
HCA



Br. James and Br. John

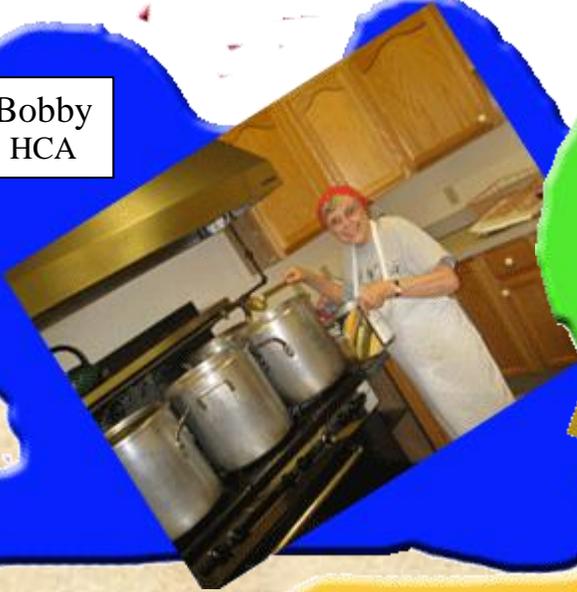


Mike and Sharryl



Bridget and Shirley

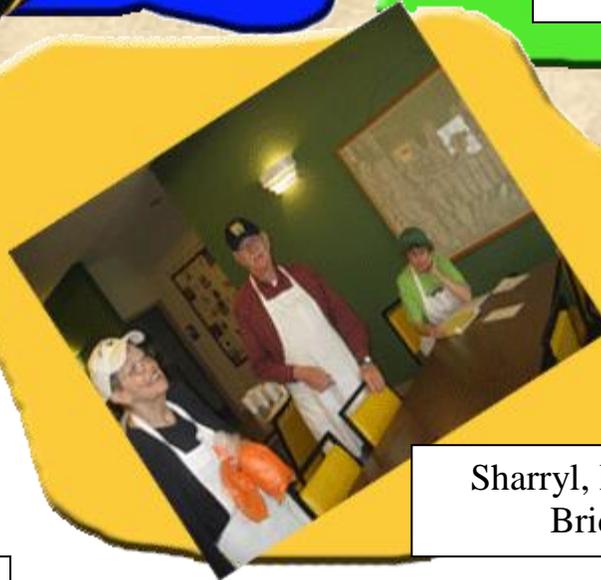
Bobby  
HCA



Carol and Sharryl



Sharryl, Mike and  
Bridget



Missing  
Joe Doherty  
Br. Roger Berg  
Br. James Newberry – taking  
pictures

Link to St. Augustine Parish:

<http://www.parishesonline.com/Scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=17889>

Note: E-mail address  
changes in yellow.

**View Website at:**

[www.brothersofholycross.com](http://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@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com)

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