

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

November 5, 2014

Words of Remembrance at the Funeral of  
Brother Albert Kern, C.S.C.  
Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel  
October 28, 1014

by **Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.**

Good morning. I am Brother Chester Freel, Provincial Superior of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province.

On behalf of the Brothers, I wish to express our condolences to the family and friends of Brother Albert Kern who are in attendance today. With us are Albert's sister Rita, and her children Rita, Dianne, and Larry. A second sister, Rosemary, is unable to attend due to health difficulties; however her daughter, Nancy, and her husband Barry are present. In addition to two sisters, Albert also had a brother, Leo, who preceded him in death. Also, joining us for this celebration of Brother Albert's life is Leo's daughter Debbie, and her husband Ross.

Please know that we share in your sorrow at the passing of Brother Albert. Albert loved you, his family, very much, and looked forward to your visits, calls, and cards. We thank you for being with us this morning.

In line with this celebration of Brother Albert's life, I would like to share with you a short passage that comes from the writings of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau. This is the Quote of the Day which was posted on the Brothers of Holy Cross website for October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date of Albert's passing on to new life.

*Ask for the grace of using the gifts of God so well that you will always be ready to render a faithful account of them. (Exercises)*

How appropriate these words from Father Moreau. They summarize well how Brother Albert lived. Albert was born and raised in Highland Park, MI., a small



city in Wayne County, surrounded by the City of Detroit. Highland Park is best known as the site of Henry Ford's first assembly line for producing the Model T automobile. When Al was growing up, Highland Park was the quintessential "working class" city, and between his family and his neighborhood, each surely influenced Al's formative years.

Like most men who reached adulthood in the early 40's, Albert joined the US Military, and served in the Navy during World War II. He was a Quartermaster, first stationed at Great Lakes, IL and then later on a ship in the Pacific. His letter of Honorable Discharge indicates that Al served for 3 years, 1 month and 17 days. Also listed is that Al received several commendations, including the Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Shortly after discharge from the Navy, Al decided to follow the Lord's invitation to join the Congregation of Holy Cross, and arrived at Watertown, WI, in September of 1946. The Postulant Director at the time, Brother Donatus, characterized Al in his notes as "humble, good appearance, and very genial. Has a most pleasing personality. Mature judgment. Model postulant."

These qualities personified Brother Albert for the balance of his life. Various brothers who lived with and/or worked with Brother Albert had similar observations. Let me share a few with you:

- Very pleasant to be with; always with a warm smile and a friendly greeting
- A faithful religious, and very community minded
- Extremely kind and helpful to others, especially when first learning various book keeping tasks or the intricacies of office work
- A quiet, kind, and friendly person who always looked out for others
- And, even to his last days at Dujarie House, the staff there described Brother Albert as a "True Gentleman."

Brother Albert spent a total of 25 years working in the Province Business Office. Al was detail orientated, and performed his assignments carefully and completely. In such a position, Al was often aware of privileged communication and at this time lived at Columba Hall. You can only imagine the number of times Brothers tried gathering confidential or not yet public information from him, and Al politely changing the topic of discussion at the table.

Perhaps it was the stress of Al's work at the Business Office that led him to take up jogging. Everyday upon arrival back at Columba Hall, Al would set off for long

runs around the campus lakes. Al was serious about these runs, and was one of the pioneers to understand the relationship between physical exercise, a healthy life-style, and good mental health.

There is a story about Al going out for one of his after-work runs with another brother, a novice to such exercise. They completed the agreed upon number of laps around the lake and then returned to Columba for rest, Al's running partner felling pretty good about keeping up with him. However later that day, Al was seen out running again, and when asked by a curious brother, why two runs in a single day, Al sheepishly replied, 'the first time was too slow, I needed some real exercise.'

Two brothers who lived and worked with Albert sent me some of their remembrances of him. These come from Brothers Paul Kelly and Larry Skitzki, both of whom now are in Sarasota, FL., and are unable to join us this morning,

Brother Larry, Al's long time supervisor in the Business Office writes:

Br. Albert came to Holy Cross after military service and loved all things nautical. You can have little trouble imaging him saying, "Ai, Ai", to the Captain and doing whatever he was asked. He continued that way in religious life. He was always ready to do what he was asked.

He worked in the Provincial Business Office as assistant treasurer for Brothers Kieran Ryan, Donald Bailer, and lastly me. Those were the days, over fifty years ago now, when things were still done by hand. He kept track not only of information for the Provincial Office, but for all the Midwest and South-West schools. This included tracking Insurance policies for properties, and the lay teacher's health and retirement plans which were centralized in the Provincial Business Office. All this data was recorded by Albert with the best of penmanship, and the information monthly sent to the Aetna Insurance Company.

If someone had a medical claim, it was processed by Albert and after funds were received from Aetna, the reimbursement was sent to the appropriate school. He did a lot of thankless work without complaint.

He also worked with the first computerized system of accounting for the schools. He monthly took the punched tapes received from the

schools to a downtown office in South Bend for processing and then sent the reports back to the schools. He was one busy man in those days.

Brother Paul Kelly's remembrances focus more on Albert after his time in the Business Office:

When he moved to the St. Joseph Farm, I replaced Br. Albert in the Business Office. It was great being his successor as everything was very organized and in its place. Never did I have a problem finding something needed from his records, and he kept everything.

At Saint Joseph Farm Br. Albert was a delight to live with. He and Brother Donald Dunleavy had a regular routine and all I needed to do was fall into it. When someone wanted Br. Albert and he was not in the house, I knew he would be in the lane between cornfields headed toward Bittersweet Road. He loved to get his exercise in.

About four in the afternoon when I would be starting supper, Brother Albert would come up to the living room. First he would fix his Manhattan and enjoy it while watching Little House on the Prairie. Often at dinner Albert would talk about his family, and how he was looking forward to his next vacation with his sisters. Many nights after supper we all went downstairs and watched a Wild West cowboy movie.

I loved living with Brother Albert as he was always very upbeat, gracious, and willing to assist with what one needed.

(Thank you Paul and Larry for sharing these remembrances of Albert with us.)

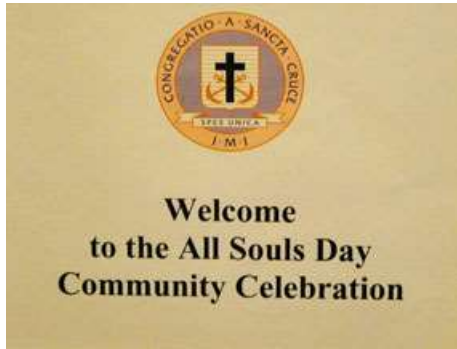
Returning to the previously cited passage from Blessed Basil Moreau:

*Ask for the grace of using the gifts of God so well that you will always be ready to render a faithful account of them*

This admonition from Fr. Moreau speaks to how Brother Albert lived his life. He utilized his skills, talents, and personality to form a perfect blend of holiness, wellness, and ministry. Al's final account shows that he lived life well, lived it in the service of others, and that he was a faithful religious.

Al, you heeded well the words of Blessed Basil Moreau. You used your gifts as intended. May you now enjoy the fruit of your labors.

## All Souls Day Community Celebration



Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters participated in the annual All Souls Day Community Celebration with a Mass to honor our departed members at Fatima House and the Community Cemetery at Notre Dame on Monday, November 3. Following Mass there was a procession to the Community Cemetery where a

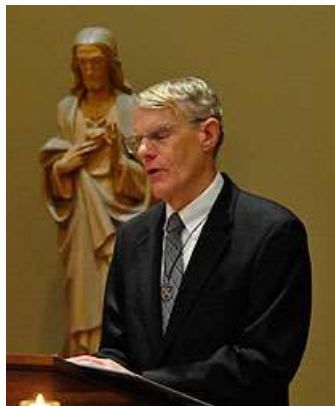
reading and final

blessing was given by **Rev. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C.**, Provincial of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers. **Rev. Peter A. Jarret, C.S.C.** Rector/Superior of Moreau Seminary hosted a magnificent dinner for Community members in the Seminary Dining Room to end the celebration.



**Rev. E. William Beauchamp, C.S.C.** was the principal celebrant and **Rev. Mr. Christopher Rehagan** (deacon), **C.S.C.**, gave the homily. **Rev. Peter Rocca, C.S.C.**, Rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, was the choir director and liturgist for the Mass and cemetery ceremony.

Members of the Midwest Province who were involved in the liturgy were **Br. Charles Gregg, C.S.C.**, Director of the Maple Lane Community, reader, **Br. Chester Freel, C.S.C.**, Provincial Superior of the Midwest Province, reader of intercessions, and **Br. Lawrence Stewart, C.S.C.**, Archivist of the Midwest Province, reader, members of the Congregation of Holy Cross who have died in the past year.



Since last year's All Souls Day the Midwest Province of Brothers has had 10 of their members die, they are: **Brothers Thomas Minta, William Gates, Edward Wauchter, Richard Keller, James Sullivan, Thomas Shaughnessy, Philip Armstrong, Albin Kuzminski, Clement Berger and Albert Kern.** May their souls, and the souls of all Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters who have died this past year rest in God's eternal peace. Amen





## Holy Cross Brothers Vocation Program

Recently **Today's Catholic** of the Fort Wayne South Bend Diocese ran a story on the Holy Cross Brothers Vocation Discernment Program at Holy Cross College.

You may access that story through this link:

<http://www.todayscatholicnews.org/2014/10/holy-cross-college-offers-students-opportunity-to-live-and-discern-together-in-religious-community/>



### HCV Commissions their Associates at Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel

Holy Cross Village held their Annual Commissioning Ceremony for their Associates (employees) on Wednesday afternoon, October 29. Holy Cross staff members

and residents participated in the Commissioning Service where employees recommit to living more deeply the Mission of Holy Cross Village and the Brothers of Holy Cross.

**John Mauch**, Holy Cross Village CEO and **Jack Mueller**, HCV Director of Operations along with **Sister Marilyn Zugish, C.S.C.** conducted the brief ceremony. Four Holy Cross Village residents, **Anne Lyons**, **Mary Graham**, along with **Brothers Edward Foken** and **Raymond Papenfuss** spoke of what the presence of the Holy Cross religious means to the life of Holy Cross Village.





Members of the activities staff presented Holy Cross Village pins to those attending. After the ceremony refreshments were served in the Dujarie House Library.



*"If you want to travel fast, travel alone.  
If you want to travel far, travel together."*

*(N'gambai African Proverb)*



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## Columba Hall Donor Recognition Open House

Five years ago the Brothers of Holy Cross Chapter legislated making improvements to Columba Hall on the University of Notre Dame Campus. On Wednesday, October 29, Columba Hall held a Donor Recognition Open House to personally thank the many donors to the Annual Appeals which raised over a million dollars for Columba Hall improvements.

Major presenters at the beginning of the program were **Rev. Bill Blum, C.S.C.**, Chaplain of the Brothers at Columba Hall, **Brother Thomas Moser, C.S.C.**, Religious Superior of Columba Hall; **Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.**, Province Development Director; and **Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.**, Provincial Superior of the Midwest Province.

Brother Chester presented four plaques of appreciation to persons, who have recently become members of the Anchors of Hope Society. This group of donors made the decision to preserve their legacy through planned giving to the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province.

After the short introductory program, guests were given a tour of Columba Hall improvements followed by a social and dinner.



Br. Thomas  
Moser



Br. Chester  
Freel



Br. Roy  
Smith



Fr. William  
Blum

Pictured below from left to right are Anchors of Hope Society members: **Mr. Thomas Mydol**, **Mrs. Anne Lyons**, **Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.**, **Mrs. Barbara Saggau**, and **Mrs. Jacky Huber** and **Mr. David Huber**.



You may see a slide show of the Recognition Open House at:  
[www.brothersofholycross.com](http://www.brothersofholycross.com)



## Right to Life honors Br. Bill Mewes and Michelle Roy at Benefit Dinner

The St. Joseph County Right to Life group honored **Brother Bill Mewes, C.S.C.** of Columba Hall and **Michelle Roy**, a student at Holy Cross College at their 23<sup>rd</sup> Right to Life Dinner at the South Bend Century Center on Thursday evening, October 30.

Brother William received the Annette M. Macknick Courage Award given to encourage ordinary men and women to stand up publicly against all odds for the life of the unborn and elderly. Macknick ,

a resident of Florida, spent a lifetime establishing homes for unwed mothers, sidewalk counseling, contacting members of Congress and even spending time in jail for the pro-life movement.

Brother William, the chairman of the Brothers of Holy Cross Peace and Justice Commission, has had a commitment to the pro-life movement since the 1970's participating in activities around the country. Since 2003 he has been a praying at the South Bend abortion facility along with Notre Dame and St. Mary's College students. Brother William has coordinated the sidewalk outreach in the past and frequently mans the Right to Life fair booth. Brother William was presented with this major award because of his generous support of Right to Life by use of his talent, time and treasurer.

Michelle Roy, a junior at Holy Cross College was the recipient of the **Brother John Lavelle, C.S.C.** Scholarship. The perpetual scholarship trust fund has been established in the name of the late Brother John Lavelle, C.S.C. for his tireless efforts in the pro-life movement during his lifetime.

Michelle is majoring in Theology at Holy Cross College and from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She became active in the pro-life movement as a high school junior and had continued her activities at Holy Cross as a freshman, sophomore and junior. Holy Cross' Campus minister Michael Griffin said of Michelle, "She is a leader by example, praying each week and publicly witnessing to life at the South Bend

abortion facility...There is no student that has contributed more in a holistic way to the pro-life cause at Holy Cross over the last year, and without her leadership there would be a gap in pro-life efforts.”

## Vocation Directors Meet in Brazil for Evaluations and Future Plans

**Brothers Jonathan Beebe and Chris Torrijas** represented the Moreau and Midwest provinces of Holy Cross Brothers at an international meeting in October of vocation directors and formators in Campinas, Brazil. The focus of the gathering was to evaluate the initial experience of the international house of formation in Santiago, Chile, and to create policies and procedures to guide it in the future.

The meeting was chaired by **Father Jorge Izaguirre**, the Director of the formation program and a member of the General Council, **Brother Nilto Oliveira**, District Superior of Brazil, and **Father Dan Panchot**, Director of Postulancy in Chile. Other attendees included **Father Jorge Armando Morales Trejo**, Vocation Director for Mexico, and members from the District of Brazil: **Brother Ronald Hein**, Director of Formation, **Brother Ronnie Lenno**, Vocation Director, **Father José Paim**, Director of Postulancy, **Brother Edson Pereira**, local director of the postulancy community, and **Brother Sérgio Stolf**, a member of the vocation team.

The international house of formation in Santiago currently serves Holy Cross members in Latin America and Haiti. Other international houses of formation are located in Pune, India, Notre Dame, Indiana, and Nairobi, Kenya. A French-speaking community will be developed in the future.

## Council of the Congregation

I will be attending the annual meetings of the Council of the Congregation in Rome, which begins on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Departure for Rome is the afternoon of Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, and I plan to be back at Notre Dame late November 15<sup>th</sup>. In the event of an emergency during these days, please contact Brother Ray Papenfuss for assistance.

Thank you.

**Br. Chester Freel**  
**Provincial Superior**



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



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Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Thursday the week before *Midwest-Midweek* is published.

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