

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

November 19, 2014

Record 12.3 Inches of Snow Sets Michiana Record



Meteorologists are usually wrong in their weather predictions at least 50% of the time. On Thursday, November 13, what was predicted the night before was a dusting to an accumulation of up to 2 inches. From 3 a.m. until 12 Midnight we ended up with a record 12.3 inches of the white stuff. The previous record snowfall for November was a little over 4 inches. There were some 125 automobile accidents in the South Bend area with white out conditions and traffic delays lasting hours. Few salt trucks or plows could be seen (except of Notre Dame) until late in the day...South Bend and Michiana was caught off guard. Pictured is a back porch of one of the Brothers living in the Maple Lane Community on Bendix drive.

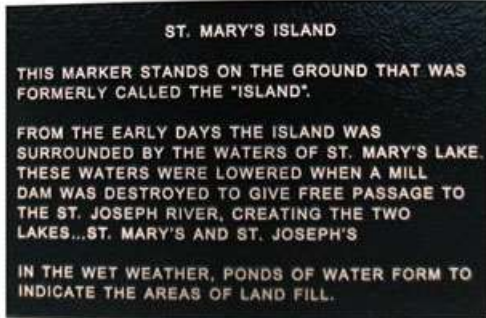
Low temperatures are predicted for the area for the next 10 days to two weeks.



St. Mary's Island Marker Placed by Columba Hall

Recently **Brother Thomas Moser, C.S.C.**, Religious Superior of Columba Hall, the residence of the Brothers of Holy Cross, placed a marker and plaque at the south end of the driveway to Columba Hall, indicating that location was once referred to as St. Mary's Island. The article below is from the 2004 **Notre Dame Magazine** indicates that at one time, there was just one lake, not two. Bessette House (seen in the foreground of the picture with the present Columba Hall in the background, was one of the first buildings built on campus, beginning in 1844, and added on

to over the years. The area around St. Mary's Island was filled in with the remnants of the Main Building when it burned. The area became the Community Cemetery until remains of the religious were moved to the present Community Cemetery on St. Mary's Drive. Looking southwest from the marker can be seen the Old College, the first building to be constructed on the Notre Dame campus. Beside the Old College stands the log cabin Father Sorin and six Brothers of St. Joseph spent the winter of 1842.



One lake or two?

Published in Notre Dame Magazine: Autumn 2004

Author: Ed Coen

People who know Notre Dame's full name is Notre Dame du Lac, know the layout of campus, and know a little French are often perplexed as to why the University's name translates to "Our Lady of the Lake." After all there are *two* lakes.

Many a smug Domer will explain that there used to be one lake. They'll tell you that sometime in the 19th century the State of Indiana decided to confiscate all lakes larger than a certain size. To keep from losing one of Notre Dame's lakes to secular authority, Father Sorin had the brothers fill in a shallow area between the lakes, turning Our Lady's one big, potentially public lake into two smaller private ones.

It's a good story and widely believed. It's also apparently a myth. Indiana has plenty of lakes in private possession that are larger than the two at Notre Dame combined. And a search of letters and maps and articles in the University's archives indicates that there have been two lakes here since at least the early 1800s. Only one drawing, an 1829 U.S. Survey, shows the two as one, and the most plausible explanation is that the surveyor had a lot of wilderness to cover and was in a hurry.

It's also possible that the surveyor visited at a time of year when the two lakes appeared to be one. That's what some believe is the reason Sorin used the singular in naming his hoped-for college "of the lake." Soon after arriving at the site in the dead of winter, the ambitious priest wrote to the founder of the Holy Cross order, Father Basil Moreau, describing the setting:

"Everything was frozen over. Yet it all seemed so beautiful. The lake, especially, with its broad carpet of dazzling white snow, quite naturally reminded us of the spotless purity of our August Lady whose name it bears, and also of the purity of soul that should mark the new inhabitants of this chosen spot."

Sorin told Moreau the location already was called Notre Dame du Lac because of its single lake. But that wasn't true, and Sorin knew it. The property was then known as *Sainte-Marie-des-Lacs* (Saint Mary of the Lakes) and had been called that since Father Stephen Badin, frontier

missionary priest, bought the property from the government in 1829. Badin later donated it to the bishop of Vincennes in southern Indiana on the condition that an orphanage or some other religious or charitable project be created on the property.

Sorin's biographer, Father Marvin O'Connell, CSC, says Sorin chose the singular *du lac* because of his first glimpse of the property in winter and because in the spring the marshy area that separated the lakes would have been flooded with melted snow and probably looked like one big lake. The two-lake reality eventually became obvious, of course, but O'Connell says Sorin was never one to reverse course.

That marshy middle ground later played a role in one of the most famous episodes in Notre Dame's early history. In the 19th century a stream flowed from the northwest corner of Saint Mary's Lake through the future Saint Mary's College campus and into the Saint Joseph River. The stream drained excess water from the lake (a task now handled by an underground pipe). A farmer who owned the adjoining property built a dam to power a mill, and this backed up water onto the land around and between the Notre Dame lakes. This created swampland, perfect for breeding flies and mosquitoes.

Though uneducated about disease vectors, Sorin became convinced that the swamp, into which sewage from the campus also flowed, was the source of malaria, cholera and typhus outbreaks that threatened the college's existence. In 1855, following another two disease fatalities, Sorin convinced his neighbor to sell him the land with the dammed stream.

However, as the transaction was nearing completion the farmer left town. Infuriated, Sorin had a half-dozen of his strongest religious brothers go over and demolish the dam.

Whether he was cowed by the CSC muscle or had an attack of conscience, the farmer quickly closed the deal under the original agreed-upon terms. The marsh was drained, the land dried up, and the diseases disappeared.

Notre Dame Archives

Help Deliver Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets to Local Families



Every Year, Holy Cross College teams up with St. Vincent de Paul and Martin's supermarket to provide a Thanksgiving meal to families in need in our South Bend community. The Social Concerns Committee and student volunteers pick up the food, assemble the baskets, and personally deliver them to the families' homes. Please support us in our endeavor. Donations are being accepted by Friday, November 21. Distribution will take place on Sunday, November 23.

The Social Concerns Committee at Holy Cross College sees as part of its mission the promotion and encouragement of social justice and other community service activities. As is our annual tradition, we partner with St. Vincent de Paul to raise money to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets for families in the Michiana area who are in need. The cost to provide one family with a food basket is \$60. Our annual goal is to provide baskets to 61 area families.

With your gift, we will be able to provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to area families. The baskets include not only Thanksgiving dinner, but also additional food items for the week.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:
Holy Cross College
Social Concerns Committee
54515 State Road 933 North
P.O. Box 308
Notre Dame, IN 46556

To make a gift online, [please follow this link](#) and make your donation **by November 21st**.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Alexis Nugent
Social Concerns Committee President



Council of the Congregation Meet

This past week the Council of the Congregation of Holy Cross met in Rome to discuss the restructuring process the congregation is presently involved in. Here are the guiding principles used in their evaluation and areas discussed. Results of these meeting will be shared with the membership during the evaluation and restructuring process.

Guiding principles and the intended blessings and benefits of the restructuring process:

- 1 - change our perspective on how we approach commitments
- 2 - provide congregational-level leadership with authority to coordinate and plan for the international mission of Holy Cross
- 3 - ensure that our unique charism of living and working together as religious priests and religious brothers is reflected and present in every jurisdiction
- 4 - foster an awareness that our identity as Holy Cross religious is lived locally but is mostly congregational
- 5 - give appropriate weight to decisions regarding the allocation of our financial resources

The intended blessings and benefits of restructuring include:

- 1 – a truly international vision of life and ministry in Holy Cross
- 2 – a renewal of our founding missionary spirit
- 3 – opportunities for renewal of our religious lives as apostolic religious
- 4 – a greater fidelity to our founding charism as religious priests and religious brothers
- 5 – a greater awareness of mutuality in appreciation for the cross-cultural richness we have
- 6 – a deeper sharing of communion of life as religious, including relationships rooted in a vision of God’s preferential love for the poor

Recommendations that emerged from the recent survey of members;

- 1 – Apostolic Priorities and Commitment
- 2 – Availability for International Mission
- 3 – Formation
- 4 – Health Care

- 5 – Parity and Proportionality
- 6 – Composition of the General Chapter
- 7 – Role and Responsibility of the Superior General and of the General Council
- 8 – Role and Responsibilities of the Council of the Congregation
- 9 – Selection of Major Superiors
- 10 – Provinces
- 11 – Vicariate
- 12 – District
- 13 – Role and Responsibilities of Local Superiors and Directors
- 14 – Communication
- 15 – Terms of Office
- 16 – Congregational language
- 17 – Other matters

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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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