

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

December 3, 2014

Brother Donard Steffes, C.S.C. Turns 100 on Wednesday, December 10



Anyone who meets the vibrant **Brother Donard Steffes, C.S.C.** is amazed that he is 99 years young and will turn 100 on Wednesday, December 10. The man is a model Holy Cross religious. He is up early each morning, a routine he's led the past 70+ years, spending time before the altar in the chapel of Columba Hall, the residence of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province, at the University of Notre Dame.

Donard (Louis) Steffes was born in Carleton, Michigan, and grew up on the family farm. He attended a parochial school in nearby Maybee, Michigan, where, the good sisters convinced him that he should be a Holy Cross Brother. He went to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin for his high school years. He attended the Brothers of Holy Cross Novitiate in Rolling Prairie and then studied at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a B.S. degree in physical sciences in 1941. He taught math and sciences at high schools in New Orleans, Holy Trinity in Chicago, and at Gilmour Academy and was the athletic director at each school. Growing up on the family farm honed his mechanical skills so that he enjoyed doing maintenance chores. In 1952 he was one of the original four Brothers who founded a high school in Rome, Italy. Brother Donard was the person who coined the name, Notre Dame International School.

He returned to the U.S. in the 1960s when the 'Sputnik era' began and found that he was out of touch with new trends in science. He attended many workshops sponsored by the National Science Foundation to improve his teaching skills. He spent 20 wonderful years teaching at Archbishop Hoban High in Akron, Ohio. He and



Brother Edwin Mattingly, C.S.C. were famous for their many survival camping trips for students to the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota. Brother Donard was an avid photographer and organized photography clubs at each school in addition to maintaining his shortwave radio hobby. He influenced many students into careers in science and engineering as well as professional photography. In 1980 one of his former students (David Naples) asked him to come to Liberia to teach physics and chemistry at St. Patrick's High School where Brother Donard spent five fascinating years teaching.

When he returned, a close friend invited him to come to Austin, Texas, to teach swimming and life-saving courses at St. Edward's University, where he spent more than 30 enjoyable years. He was extremely proud of the 40-year Service Award he received from the Red Cross for water safety instruction. Brother Donard still has a trim, muscular physique and bearing that belies his age. While he was in Austin, his early morning meditation periods, daily swims, fishing trips, communication sessions on shortwave radio, maintenance work for students or the community, and bicycle rides were legendary.

He moved to Columba Hall at Notre Dame a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, a foot infection prevents him from daily swims and does slow his gait. But he maintains a vigorous pastime using his motorized wheelchair to tour the University of Notre Dame campus and take photographs with his trusty Nikon camera. He communicates and shares the photos with numerous friends via email.

Brother Donard's generous work in teaching, his creative ingenuity, mechanical talents and example are inspirations to all who associate with this marvelous man. A close friend of his once said, *"I've admired this man for years, he's the best example of an exemplar I've ever seen."*



Community Night Change to Wednesday December 10

On **Wednesday**, December 10, beginning at 4:45 p.m. the Holy Cross Community will gather for Mass, a social and dinner. This is a one-time change.



Come and See Vocation Program

On November 16, St. Joseph House at Pulte Hall, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN. held a “come and see” in which 6 young men from the college accepted an invitation to join the Holy Cross Brothers community for a week. The young men followed the same schedule as the aspirants, and joined the house in community prayer, Mass, meals, and even house work obediences.



During the week, **Fr. Rob Moss, C.S.C.**, joined the house for dinner and discussed the importance and role spiritual direction plays in one’s life. The young men also joined us for regularly scheduled community nights with the Brother’s at Andre Place on Tuesdays & at Columba Hall on Thursdays.

Sprinkled throughout the week were late night conversations, cups of tea, TV watching, and a lot of laughter. A spirited game of Pictionary broke the winning streak of the Brothers in which the guests took home bragging rights by beating both the Brothers and aspirants. Our time together concluded on Friday with morning prayer and reflecting on the past week together. Each guest was presented with a medal of St. Joseph on one side and Br. Andre on the other as a remembrance of their time at St. Joseph House.

In response to the year of consecrated life proclaimed by Pope Francis St. Joseph House will be hosting another “come and see” in February. An integral part of our religious life as Holy Cross Brothers is inviting others to share in our common life. St. Joseph House was established to give young men an opportunity to regularly affiliate with the Brothers so they can better understand religious life which in turn begins the process of contemplating a commitment to pursuing a religious vocation.

Br. Chris Torrijas, CSC



A Prayer for the Homeless

**Bless the homeless, this day and everyday,
keep them from physical and emotional harm,
fill their hearts with hope for the future and for today,
comfort the homeless as they walk their difficult paths.
May I know that anyone, even me, can be homeless.**

**Bless the homeless with enough food to sustain them,
with enough warmth to shield them from the elements,
with the power to wrestle personal demons and win,
with the will to go on, and build their lives again.**

**May hope touch each homeless heart, spirit and life,
let the kindness of others bring lasting benefits,
bring freedom from addiction, illness and misery,
open their humanity to include & embrace themselves.**

**Bless the homeless with self acceptance and love,
spark their imaginations with belief in the future,
bringing the possibility of a better life,
a safer life and a more secure life.**

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Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner Held at Columba Hall

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner for 70 Brothers and staff was hosted by **Brother Thomas Moser, C.S.C.** religious superior, and the Brothers at Columba Hall for all Holy Cross religious living in the South Bend area.

Thanks go to long-time Columba Hall chef Rick Landsberg and his staff who gave up their Thanksgiving to provide the Brothers with a feast to remember. Festivities began with at 10:30 Mass by concelebrated by **Rev. James Ferguson, C.S.C.** and **Rev. Joseph Wilson** followed by a social and dinner.

Brother Thomas reminds all the religious that the Christmas Day celebration will begin at the same time and place. No need to respond, just come and enjoy the community celebration.





1.

Upcoming Events in Holy Cross Village

Memorial Service – All are welcome to attend this Memorial Service on Wednesday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. in Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel. We will remember loved ones and friends who have passed away in the past six months.

Holiday Shopping – Come and shop at Brother William Geenen Hall in Andre Place on Thursday, December 4, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Staff and residents will have a variety of vendors including: Dismas House, Holy Cross Associates, St. Margaret House scarves and notecards, Penwright Pens and much more. There will be refreshments and door prizes. This is a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping right here at the Village.

Christmas in the Village Jazz Concert – Brother Lew Brazil and the Village Jazz Ensemble and Singers will entertain residents with the sounds of Christmas. Featured guest artists will be Paul Maich and Jessica Brock. The concert will be on Sunday, December 7 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Brother William Geenen Hall of Andre Place. Refreshments will be served at intermission.



Indianapolis Cathedral Wins 5th Consecutive State Football Championship With a 56-7 Win over LaPorte

Cathedral wide receiver James Schulz breaks a tackle and sprints to the end zone for a touchdown against LaPorte in the IHSAA Class 5A State Football Finals at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, November 29, 2014.



A former Cathedral football player tweeted recently: “Other teams’ dreams are Cathedral’s expectations.”

Coach Rick Streiff adopted that saying, posting it on the board in the Cathedral locker room. It’s hard to argue with the results, especially after the Irish wrapped up a fifth consecutive state championship on Saturday night at Lucas Oil Stadium with a 56-7 win over LaPorte.

“We’re told each and every year that the class before us set the stage for future years,” said senior offensive lineman Jared Thomas. “We want to play to the Cathedral standard and hopefully cap it off with a state championship. My class was able to do that.”

Cathedral (9-5) won its 30th consecutive tournament game (an all-time record) and its fifth consecutive title is also a record. For Streiff, it was his 10th title, making him the all-time leader in that category as he broke a tie with Bud Wright (Sheridan) and Matt Lindsay (Fort Wayne Luers).

Streiff, in his second tenure at Cathedral and 20th season overall at the school, deflected the personal achievement. He instead pointed to the coaches that came before him and players like the 6-4, 257-pound Thomas, a Northwestern recruit.

Thomas, named the winner of the Eskew Mental Attitude Award, led an offensive line that improved dramatically from the season opener.

“He’s not only a kid that is well respected on our team but the school respects him,” Streiff said. “He’s in a lot of school-related issues where we need a student leader and he’s on it. The kids listen to him. That’s pretty hard to do for an 18-year-old young man.”

Thomas helped protect junior quarterback Max Bortenschlager for two first-quarter touchdown passes — a 27-yarder to John Preston and a 66-yarder to James Schulz — and the Irish were off to the races.

Charles Salary, whose 2,989 rushing yards placed him ninth on the state’s all-time single-season list, raced for a 46-yard touchdown to make it 14-7 late in the first quarter. But that would be it. Cathedral’s Malcolm Dotson took a reverse 24 yards for a touchdown on the next drive and LaPorte never threatened again.

“We had receivers open early and we didn’t get them the ball,” said LaPorte coach Bob Schellinger, who led the program to its first state finals appearance. “There were times we didn’t get very good protection and things broke down. It was a combination of a lot of things.”

Cathedral piled up 418 yards of total offense as Bortenschlager was 11-for-16 for 195 yards passing and three touchdowns. Caleb Cross rushed for 108 yards and Evan Christopher had 62 rushing yards and three TDs. The Irish also scored on special teams as Ben Stewart returned a punt 57 yards for a TD.

It was complete Cathedral domination, as it was last year (a 42-18 win over Westfield), in 2012 (a 56-29 win over Mishawaka) and in 2011 (a 42-7 win over South Bend Washington). Only the first of the five-game streak was close, a 31-20 win over Fort Wayne Dwenger in 2010.

Cathedral High School is under the sponsorship of the Brothers of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN. Cathedral is the only Brothers of Holy Cross high school in the state of Indiana.

Courtesy of the Indianapolis Star



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