

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

March 18, 2015

Brother Donard (Louis) William Steffes, C.S.C.

December 10, 1914 – March 12, 2015

Brother Donard (Louis) Steffes, C.S.C., age *100 years and 3 months*, died on March 12, 2015, at Dujarie House, in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, IN. He was born in Carleton, MI, on December 10, 1914, the son of Daniel and Clara (Eby) Steffes. He attended St. Joseph's Parochial School in Maybee. He was influenced by the Sisters to become a Holy Cross Brother and went to Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, WI, in the fall of 1932 for his high school years. In 1936 he went to St. Joseph's Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, IN, and pronounced his first vows as a Holy Cross Brother on August 16, 1937.



Donard majored in the physical sciences at the University of Notre Dame and gained a B.S. degree in 1941. He did his senior thesis under Brother Columba Curran and designed a glassware apparatus that is still in use. His first assignment was to teach the science and math classes at Holy Cross High School in New Orleans for 6 years and was the athletic director. He taught for a year at Holy Trinity High in Chicago and in 1948, went to Gilmour Academy to teach chemistry and physics and was their first athletic director.

In 1952 he was one of the four founders of the new school in Rome. He taught all the science subjects, handled the maintenance duties, drove the bus to transport students and was the athletic director. Donard suggested the name Notre Dame International School since students came from 37 nations. He taught them American touch football, basketball and organized the Notre Dame International basketball tournament, a first-ever event in

Europe. His Photography Club at Hoban was very popular and resulted in many students becoming professional photographers because of Donard's inspiration. He developed his hobby into a very popular Photography Club for students. After 8 years in Rome he was assigned to join the faculty of Archbishop Hoban High School in 1960 where he spent the next 20 years. This was during the "Sputnik era" and Donard found himself out of touch with the new developments in science. He attended seven National Science Foundation summer workshops to update his science teaching methods. He taught physics and chemistry, developed a new "electronics" course and built his own special equipment for use in chemistry and physics laboratory investigations. With his experience in electronics, Donard set up a shortwave ham radio station complete with all the necessary equipment. He loved camping and the outdoors. With his good friend Brother Edwin Mattingly, he organized summer camping and wilderness week-long trips for many years (a total of 54 trips) to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota for groups of students and adults. Donard was an avid swimmer and became involved with the American Red Cross in the 1960s to teach swimming and water safety courses to hundreds.

In 1980, Donard was asked by a former student (David Naples) to come to Liberia, West Africa, to teach physics and chemistry for 5 fruitful years. He returned in 1985 and was invited, by a former colleague at Hoban High, to come to St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, where he taught all the water safety, swimming, life-saving and Red Cross courses in the Physical Education Department, for nearly 30 years. He was honored by the Red Cross with plaques and awards for the 40+ years of work in teaching water safety to children and adults.

When he retired from teaching in Austin, he kept busy with his early morning meditation periods, daily swims, fishing trips, visiting friends on shortwave radio and doing a variety of maintenance chores. When he moved to Columba Hall at Notre Dame, a severe foot infection prevented him from daily swims. He maintained his favorite hobby, touring the Notre Dame campus on his motorized wheelchair and taking photographs to email to friends.

Donard's long life of generous work in teaching, his creative ingenuity, mechanical talents, and prayerful example were witnessed by those who

lived and worked with him. A good friend remarked, *“I’ve admired the man for years, what a wonderful example he is!”*

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 17th, at Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel.

From 9:00 to 11:00 am on the grounds of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. The Mass of Resurrection will then follow with interment afterward in St. Joseph’s Cemetery of the Village. Kaniewski Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Memorial contributions, in honor of Brother Donard (Louis) Steffes, C.S.C., to support the mission and ministries of the Brothers may be sent to: Brothers of Holy Cross, Office of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN, 46556.



In Memory of Brother Donard Steffes, CSC

March 2015 – by Brother Edward Foken, CSC

Br. Donard was born December 10, 1914, near Carleton, Michigan. He died March 12, 2015, at Dujarie House in Holy Cross Village. Donard entered the Postulancy in November 1932. He came to the Brothers just out of grade school on the advise of an Adrian Dominican sister who told him “you should be a Brother of Holy Cross.” He went to Sacred Heart Postulancy in Watertown, Wisconsin, on a Greyhound Bus, over snow and ice, in an all night drive in November, 1932.

Br. Donard remembers planting trees and lawn at the new novitiate at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, 1937, under the watchful eye of the Novice Master, Father Kernt Healey, CSC. Brother Donard made his first vows on August 16, 1937 and graduated from Notre Dame in 1941. At Notre Dame Donard took science and math classes & did his thesis in chemistry under Br. Columba Curran. Donard said “I needed a 78 grade point average to graduate from Notre Dame.” He reported his average was 78.5. He said his graduation was a miracle of Divine Providence.

Upon his graduation in 1941 he was sent to New Orleans, to Holy Cross College there. He was given a full schedule of classes. In those days there was no practice teaching. He taught general science, then chemistry and finally physics. Holy Cross was a very fine school. “We had just one layman, Lou Brownson, on the faculty. He was the athletic coach and handled all the sports. They were at the championship level in basketball, football and track.”

Donard became the Athletic Director and bought the first bus, a Chevy with a rebuilt engine. For some years Br. Donard and Br. Vincent took care of the boarding students during the summer months at Waveland Camp in Mississippi.

In 1947 Br. Donard was sent to Chicago to teach physics at Holy Trinity. While there in addition to his teaching duties he served as Athletic Director and drove the school bus.

After six months at Holy Trinity he was transferred to Gilmour to work under Br. Theophane, one of the great Holy Cross Brothers. While there

Donard taught physics and chemistry. He also helped design their first classroom building and established the athletic program.

In 1951 Br. Donard was sent to Evansville to direct the athletic program and teach biology.

In 1952 Br. Donard, along with Br. Loyola, were transferred to Rome to establish a new school. Later, they were joined by Brs. Ellis Greene and Edmund Hunt and the four of them had the new school up and running by the fall. Br. Donard said that Br. Loyola was the true workhorse and should be given the major credit for getting the school established.

Br. Donard taught all of the math and science courses as well as handling maintenance, the athletic program, and student transportation. He bought and drove the first bus, a square front diesel commercial bus. At that time school buses were unknown in Italy. The school was truly international in its make up. They had 37 nations represented in the student body from grade through high school. During his time there Br. Donard was active in the sports program as well. He taught American football, basketball, and ran a full intramural program.

In 1960 Br. Donard was sent to Archbishop Hoban School in Akron, Ohio. This was the Sputnik era when all the math and science courses changed dramatically. He felt he was not prepared to teach the new math so he took seven NSF courses to better prepare himself. He ended up teaching four classes of physics and under the direction of Br. William Fitch, he was given the job of setting up an electronics "hands on" program for weaker students in the school.

In 1980 Brs. David Naples and Ed Foken were at St. Patrick's High School in Liberia, West Africa, and asked Br. Donard to come and teach physics and chemistry. He spent the next five years there. Donard noted that the students in that school were most respectful, clean and very well dressed. Each student owned one white shirt and one pair of army green trousers. He thinks they washed them everyday.

When they ran a social event, the whole faculty had the day off. They were not needed. The students cooked and served their own meal, did their own supervision, and everything ran like clockwork.

In 1984 Donard returned from Liberia and Bill Penn got Br. Donard a job at St. Edward's University. For 15 years he taught Water Safety, Swimming, Life Guarding, Aqua Robics, which were all Red Cross certified. When he got so he could no longer teach courses that required lecturing, he still taught swimming.

In the early sixties, Br. Richard Foley got him involved with the American Red Cross. He taught Swimming, Life Guarding, Water Safety Instruction, Instruction Training, First Aid and CPR. He was awarded the 35 Year Service Pin for all his work.

While at Hoban High School, Br. Donard took six canoe trips. He would drive straight through from Akron to Ely, Minnesota — a 15-hour trip. The kids when arriving would eat breakfast early in the morning and head out with canoes and back packs. Donard and Edward Mattingly would drive to the starting point and get the first campsite setup. Each day they would go to a new campsite and set up. Many a student became lovers of nature as a result of these trips.

Many students were also introduced to photography and challenged to advance in photographic and darkroom techniques under Br. Donard's guidance. Indeed several of his students are professional photographers today.

In 1984 when Donard and I came back from Liberia, we camped for 68 days traveling to Bryce, Zion, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Pondersa Canyon Jasper, Lake Tahoe, and many other great places. One evening we were camping and many bison were around. While Donard was cooking supper, one large Bison got close and Donard whacked him with a frying pan. Thank God the Bison left peacefully. Our camping trip was very enjoyable. This was the day before credit cards. When we arrived home we had \$10 dollars.

Donard was a prayerful and dedicated man who did many great things. May he rest in the hands of God.

Br. Edward Foken

Happy 100th Birthday - Thomas Merton

Brother Carl Sternberg was the fourth presenter in our Wednesday *Lenten Lecture Series* at Andre Place. After his brief introduction on the life of Thomas Merton, Brother Carl invited **Sister Marilyn Zugish, Mary Ann Campbell, Brothers Roy Smith, James Kane and Richard Johnson** to read short reflections from a few of Thomas Merton's writings. Each reading and accompanying song was followed by a short period of quiet reflection. The Columba Hall brothers' choir sang songs centered on the theme of each prayerful presentation. For a few of the songs, the audience joined the choir in singing. The evening concluded with everyone in attendance singing "Love Changes Everything."





Office of Worship
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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March 4, 2015

Dear Brothers,

Greetings to you during this holy season of Lent. Bishop Rhoades invites you to attend one of the two Chrism Masses in our diocese. This year, they will be celebrated on Monday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m., at Saint Matthew Cathedral in South Bend; and on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

As you know, the Chrism Mass is a beautiful liturgy during which our priests renew their priestly promises and during which the sacred chrism is consecrated and the oil of the sick and oil of catechumens are blessed. It is an important moment in the spiritual and liturgical life of our diocese. Your presence, especially in prayerful support of our priests, or if you are unable to attend, your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Your faithful witness of the consecrated life in our diocese is greatly appreciated. And may our Lord bless you as we prepare for Easter.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian MacMichael".

Brian MacMichael
Director, Office of Worship

Lenten Lecture Series – 2015 – Reminder
Wednesday Evenings – 7-8 PM
Geenan Hall

March 18th
Sister M. Veronique, CSC



“Our Lady of Sorrows, Compassionate Mother”

Sister M. Veronique is presently ministering as President of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. She entered from San Diego, CA, where she grew to love the Sisters who taught her at the parish school. She witnessed their immersion with the families of the parochial school and parish and was drawn by their genuine care for each person. She received her bachelor’s degree from Saint Mary’s College in Music and her Masters in Theology (Liturgical Studies) from the University of Notre Dame.

March 25th
Father Nicholas Ayo, CSC



“How The Stages of Our Lifetime Parallel The Stages of The Lenten Season” Father Nicholas Ayo taught American Literature at the University of Portland and has taught in the Great Books Program at the University of Notre Dame for over 25 years. He has also ministered as the Director of Novices for the Congregation of Holy Cross

St. Edward High School Chapel shines with New Stained Glass



With its two new installments of stained glass artwork, the St. Edward Holy Family Chapel is newly enlivened to inspire and educate visitors in Holy Cross Spirituality. The artwork, designed in collaboration with artists from Henninger's stained glass studio in Brook Park, depicts the members of the Holy Family on the three windows surrounding the altar. (*St. Edward Magazine* V6, I1, P5)



[Click this link for *St. Edward Magazine* V6, I2, for Chapel Stories](#)

View Midwest Province Missions

If anyone uses a map program or Google Earth especially and would like to visit the locations of Holy Cross in Ghana, you will find them below — Holy Cross locations and their coordinates. Just enter (copy & paste) the coordinates in your map program or Google Earth and you can see where we are.

Cape Coast			
Cape Coast	St. Augustine's - Brothers' Residence	5 06 09.31 N, 1 15 48.60 W	62 ft.
Kasoa Land - Bro. Andre High School Project			
Kasoa	Site for Bro. Andre High School	5 33 55.71 N, 0 29 09.60 W	225 ft.



The above information has been gathered by **Fr. Robert Gilmour, C.S.C.** The coordinates listed above are for the District Center. From time to time other locations will be added.



Come and See Program

Pictures of a joint March *Come and See Program* sponsored by Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross living in Ghana, West Africa, may be viewed by clicking on the following line:

<https://plus.google.com/photos/118446232903385018825/albums/6124166893031149425?banner=pwa>

Columba Hall Retreat



The annual Columba Hall Retreat will take place between March 29 and March 31. The opening conference will begin on Sunday, 7:00 PM. The retreat will end Tuesday evening with the last conference at 7:00 PM.

All are welcome to attend some or all of the retreat – no reservation needed. For those who wish a room, contact Br. Frank Ellis at 574-631-2187 or use e-mail the address: francisellis502@yahoo.com.

Father Nick Ayo is retreat master.

Past Copies of Midwest-Midweek

Past copies of Midwest-Midweek may be viewed by scanning the icon or clicking on the link below.

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



View Website at: www.brothersofholycross.com	View Midwest-Midweek at: 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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