

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 20, 2021

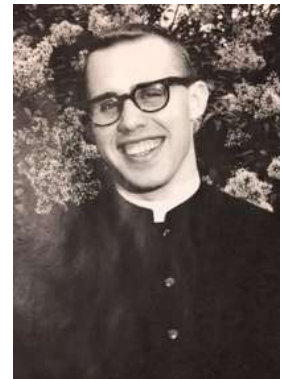


## Brother Edward Raymond Foken, C.S.C. February 15, 1941-January 12, 2021

**“The Lord will reply, ‘Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,  
you did for me.’” (Mt 25:40)**



As a scholastic and living at Dujarié Hall, now Carroll Hall, at the University of Notre Dame, his roommate described him as a “kind, gentle, soft-spoken giant” who enjoyed sports and practical jokes. Having the physique of a pro football player, Brother Ed Foken was a missionary at heart who credited his vocation to Holy Cross to have come from his uncle, Brother Walter (Vincent de Paul) Foken, and some of his aunts who were nuns. During his 60 years as a brother in the Congregation of Holy Cross, he served as a



teacher and an administrator in schools in the States and in Monrovia, Liberia. While teaching at St. Joseph High School for twenty-eight years in South Bend, IN, he began volunteering at Dismas House, a faith-based hostel for men and women released from prison, and at the St. Vincent de Paul Society. No matter where he

worked or the tasks to be fulfilled, Brother Ed enjoyed all of it. He told many that he learned a lot wherever he served and enjoyed all of his years of active ministry.

After his final profession of vows in 1964 and graduation from the University of Notre Dame with a BA, he was on the faculty at Holy Cross High School in River Grove, IL. During the next four years, he taught five social studies classes each year and was one of the brother bus drivers and the athletic director. In 1968 he moved to Monroe Catholic Central High School in Monroe, MI. Through 1971, he again taught social studies and added one or two English classes and was the dean of discipline and earned a master of science degree from Indiana State University in 1970. Once again, he found the four years filled with great experiences. He particularly enjoyed being the ticket manager for the athletic department at football and basketball games as it gave him ample opportunity to interact with many students from both Catholic Central and St. Mary's Academy.



In 1971 he became a true missionary when he joined the faculty of St. Patrick High School in Monrovia, Liberia. He was on the faculty for one year when he became the principal for the next seven years. Ed loved everything about this African nation from its tropical rain forests, the annual 200 inches of rain, and especially the friendly and appreciative people. He returned to the States for two years in 1979 only to return to Liberia in 1981 as the superintendent of Liberia's 48 Catholic schools receiving the appointment from Bishop Michael Francis.

As principal of St. Patrick High School with a student body of 400 of Liberia's brightest boys and girls, he worked to find the most qualified teachers, raised the operating funds, and had his students admitted to the best colleges in Europe and the United States. St. Patrick's students consistently scored some of the highest grades on the rigorous national examinations. Many of Liberia's finest students left the country due to the first civil war that ended in 1997 only to have a second war break out in 1999.



For Brother Ed the most difficult task during his principalship at St. Pat's was informing many parents that the school would not be able to admit their children. He wrote to his mother that "I posted the list of who was accepted two weeks before school started and left town." Only one in seven students was accepted to St. Pat's. In the same letter to his mother, he continued: "It is very hard to say 'no' to a mother who sells fish all day, and then pounds on my door at 2:00 AM to plead for her son to be admitted." Ed maintained contact with over 200 Liberians over some 40 years. He and his family helped to sponsor 14 Liberians to come to the States. His brother Vincent housed them and helped to make the transition into college as stress-free as possible.

Brother Ed also assisted a number of orphans at Virginia Catholic Orphanage. He was honored to give four girls away at their weddings and helped them to get to the States. In 1984, he had to leave Liberia permanently because of the civil war. On one day his car was stopped 21 times, and that evening the car was filled with bullet holes.

On his return to the States, he began teaching at St. Joseph High School, South Bend, IN, and remained there for the next 28 years, teaching sociology, world history and government. He often reported that his students were very bright and articulate. During the early years, he found the adjustment to stateside teaching tough, yet he loved every year at St. Joe and maintained long relationships with many of the graduates.



In the summer of 1985, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to travel throughout India with a group of 25 other educators during the months of June through August. He and the others were able to experience many major cities of India as they emerged into the twentieth century and began to prosper. Meeting Mother Teresa and visiting with the Little Sisters of the Poor were the high points of this "memorable dream trip."



After a 100-day renewal program at Sangre de Cristo in Santa Fe, NM, he began to volunteer at Dismas House in South Bend. The uniqueness of this hostel is that former law offenders live side by side with college students from around South Bend. Ed first began cooking at Dismas House twice a month taking St. Joe students and many brothers with him. Eventually, he was taken onto the Board and assisted the Dismas program for ten years. Toward the end of active ministry, he sorted books for the Vincent de Paul Society.

When Brother Ed moved to Columba Hall, for a while, he was physically able to assist brothers with transport to doctors and recreational activities. The walls of his room were plastered with many photos of Ed and some of his Liberian students, now citizens of the US and either doctors, nurses, airline pilots or prominent business persons. He had twelve fat photo albums filled with pictures from the early 1950s through the six decades leading to the end of his life. Many pictures were taken of the legendary Foken-family vacations around the United States' national parks. There are many nephews and one niece, each of whom considered Uncle Ed the greatest.

Brother John Ignatius Schuszler, C.S.C.  
June 8, 1939 – January 7, 2021

“Your profession is not what brings home your weekly paycheck;  
your profession is what you’re put on earth to do  
with such passion and such intensity  
that it becomes spiritual in calling.” Vincent Van Gogh



Before Brother John spent 21 years at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago from 1986-2007, he spent his first ten years at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, OH, from 1962 to 1972. Between those decades, he spent no more than one or two years at any of his six other assignments with the exception of five years at Father Gibault School for Boys in Terra Haute, IN. Such frequent assignment changes might suggest that at the beginning of his religious life, John was stable for a short while and then became progressively restless.

John Schuszler was not the restless type. Rather, he was conscientious--a man of predictable patterns—a prayerful man by whose patterns of a “regular life” other brothers might set their clocks. He was frequently moved because he was just the man to be sent where things were, quite literally, falling apart. Utterly resourceful, he was one of the legendary Holy Cross brother maintenance directors who saved and scavenged for useable parts and tools to be used later on. These men knew how to recycle and how to repair things because they frequented Army-Navy stores and auto graveyards. John was a master of analyzing the needs of a building so there were no unanticipated disasters. He was utterly capable and could tackle almost any task no matter the time commitment, the expertise needed, or the sweat and grime involved.



Brother John had a marvelous sense of humor about himself, and he always could be relied upon to tell the truth about what he could and could not repair. He was

genuinely cordial to everyone in the school house from the young custodian who had only a high school education to secretaries and, most definitely, business managers, as well as principals and a president.

He began his career at Archbishop Hoban High School as a teacher of industrial arts and made steady progress as an informed instructor who was concerned that his students could operate a lathe or overhaul an automobile engine. His students, all boys in those days, appreciated his patience and his causal approach to classroom decorum whether in the woodshop, garage, or in the mechanical drawing lab.

In 1977, he went to Monrovia, Liberia for three years. He became the “coordinator” of the Antoinette Tubman Child Welfare Center’s elementary school with 70 boys and girls—orphans, who were regarded by the Liberians as vagabonds. John did some teaching there, but his primary responsibility was student in-take and assisting teachers with classroom student



behavior issues. When the students arrived, most were illiterate and many abused both physically and spiritually. Brother John let the teachers know that truly effective behavioral changes took place both inside and outside the formal classroom: “It’s example. If teachers have any values, those will rub off on the kids.” The first brother president of Holy Trinity High School rarely went to Brother John’s maintenance office to inform him of this or that problem. It was Brother John who would stop by the president’s office once a week and inform him of what needed either immediate attention or could be put on hold because of the shortage of money. One Holy Trinity business manager recalled that when John was given a budget of \$50,000, at the end of the fiscal year he normally had spent only a fraction of it. It was the rare occasion when John had to report an issue he had not anticipated weeks or even months prior.

As a Brother of Holy Cross, Brother John was devoted to prayer and daily Mass attendance. For his entire twenty-one years at Holy Trinity, he arrived at school each

morning at 4:00 AM--long before community Mass was celebrated back at the house. Each morning, he would walk across the parking lot to Holy Trinity Church for the 6:00 AM Mass, which was always recited in Polish. While retired at Columba Hall, he served Mass every other week until just a few weeks before his death. He could be depended upon to recite the Office with gusto as he had mastered “his” cadence of the psalms. He kept his side of the chapel marching forward with both morning and evening prayer recitation when many of the brothers could no longer hear or see well.

A “good and faithful servant” both to his God and to all who came to him with need, John responded to anyone who came to him for assistance. Although he rigorously lived his regular lifestyle, he was also adaptable as his many personal inventions for the long-lasting fix testify. He simply and consistently lived the words of St. Paul: “And whatsoever you do, do it heartily to the Lord” (Col 3:23).

Brother John is proceeded in death by his parents. His two sisters, Elaine (Schuszler) Lee and Mary Ann (Schuszler) McDonnel, live in Ohio.

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## Funeral Arrangements

**January 23, Saturday, will be Ed Foken's funeral**

10 am viewing; 11 am Mass, followed by procession to cemetery.

**January 30, Saturday, will be John Schuszler's funeral**

10 am viewing; 11 am Mass, followed by procession to cemetery.

Both funerals will be livestreamed.

Blessed Basilé Anthony Moreau. C.S.C.  
Freastday, January 20<sup>th</sup>



For the Family of Holy Cross

Lord God,  
you inspired our founder, Basilé Moreau, to establish the religious Family of Holy Cross and to call us to live and work together as "a visible imitation of the Holy Family." The common life and work of Holy Cross was to be "a visible imitation of the Holy Family." The common life and work of Holy Cross was to be "a powerful lever with which to move, direct, and sanctify the world." Enable in your Family of Holy Cross a deeper fidelity to the founding vision of Basilé Moreau so we might be a sign of God's love and tender mercy to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(53. Directory of Devotional Prayer III)





## Weekly Spiritual Reflections from the Early Brothers of St. Joseph

### Week 3

Strive to teach yourself by teaching others to become a good school teacher, a pious and fervent religious, having no other desire but to sanctify yourself and those that Divine Providence has entrusted to you. ([Brother Andre Mottais](#) 6/22/1826)



Creative drawing by Br. James Kane, of Brother André-Pierre Mottais

## Busy Kitchens During This Time of the Pandemic

Article from *NDWorks Weekly* – *Canpus news for faculty and staff.*



Click link below to read article:

[HERE to nourish Holy Cross religious community non-stop | Latest | NDWorks | University of Notre Dame](#)

## Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

### ***The Consequences of Love***

**Dear Associates and Friends,**

When we receive God's unconditional love, things can happen. The fear of God's powerful judgement on our actions subsides. Think of how Jesus felt when his Father said to him, "You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Led to the desert and then finally to be tempted, the strength of his Father's unreserved love enabled Jesus not to be seduced by the compulsion to seek power, wealth, or pleasure. He could simply be himself and become the way, the truth, and the life for us to follow in his footsteps.

What do we do when we experience God's unreserved love for us as we share in the Christ life within us? Are we empowered to give up the obsession for power, wealth, and pleasure? When we allow God's love to flow into our lives each day, we can attain the freedom to be the person that we were meant to be.

- How have I experienced God's unconditional love?
- Has my prayer life helped me to access God's unconditional love?
- Do I experience the freedom that comes with being a disciple of Jesus?

**O God, help me bring your unconditional love for me into my daily life.**

**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.**



For more reflections to grow spiritually  
please visit our new blog

<https://weeklyphiritualinsights.org/>

From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, or a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Click the following link below.



Website: <http://www.voiceofmoreau.org/>



**Brother  
Philip  
Smith**



**Brother  
Ben  
Rossi**



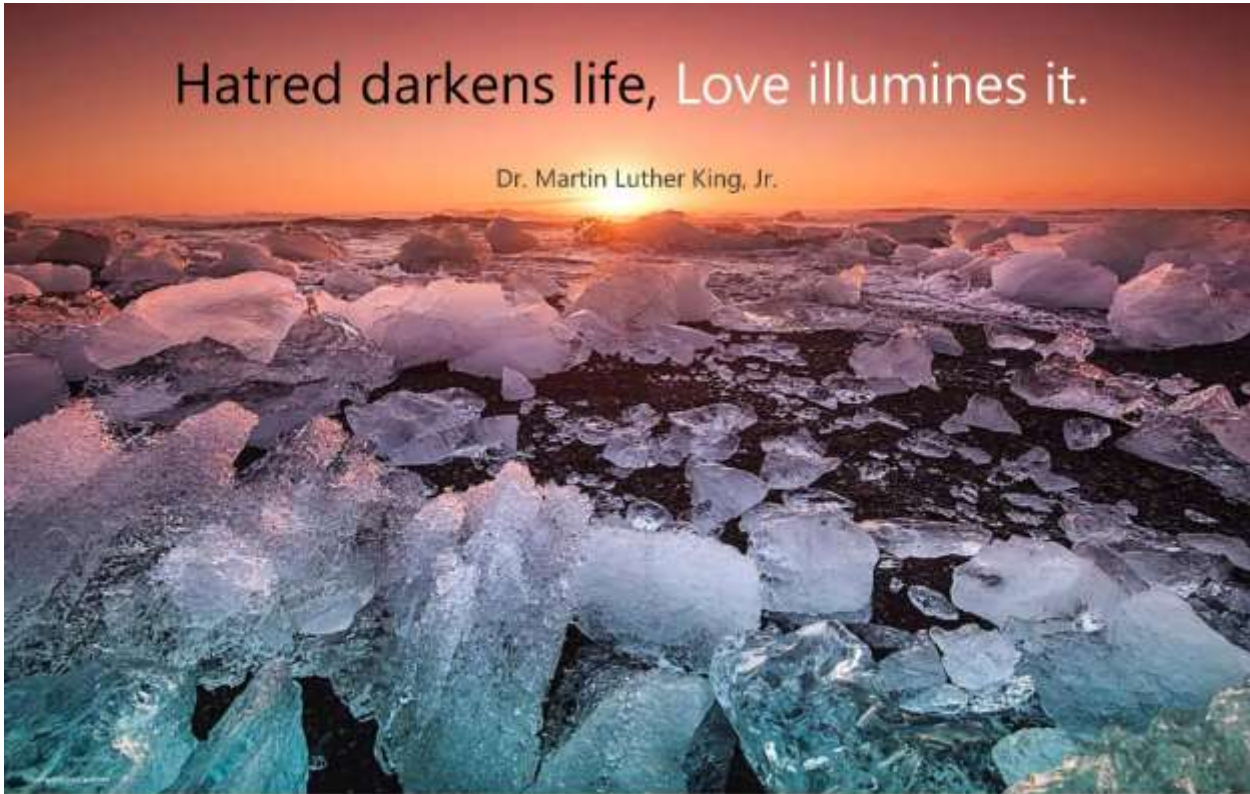
## Reflection

Reflection(s) sent in by  
Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



Hatred darkens life, Love illumines it.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Emmanuel Care....With you on your journey toward health, healing and a better quality of life.

[emmanuelcare.ca](http://emmanuelcare.ca)





Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



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