

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

September 20, 2023, 2023

For the Family of Holy Cross

Lord God,

You inspired our founder, Basil 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 is 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 Basil 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

Directory of Devotional Prayer, #5.3, page 124

Sudanese Home

A sharpened pencil stub against the sky,
a lighted entry, shelter from the night,
you rise. From earth you beckoned humankind—
before the Pharaohs ruled or Jesus' foot
trod on the spring-warm Galilean soil.
Before the monks at Canterbury sang,
your shade by day, your evening's rest from toil,
gave order in an unforgiving land.
Will you, the igloo and the nipa hut
soon disappear? Will boxes made of brick
replace your symmetry and lovely curve?
The Dinka still within you sleep and cook.
Will children only know you from a book?

“If I say, ‘Surely darkness will steal over me, night will close
around me’ ...” (Psalm 139, verse 11)

—Francis C. Gray, Holy Cross Village

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Campbell_Gray



Dramatic Experiences of a Young Teacher

As an English teacher, I was supposed to know literature and grammar, but also speech and drama. The presumption was that we were qualified. What a false presumption! My older brother Don was the thespian of the family — he had the lead in the Reitz Memorial plays his junior and senior year with Brother Leonardo (Bebetú). Leonardo also worked with the Catholic Theater Guild when he was teaching at Memorial in Evansville.

I played in the band, third clarinet. When we enrolled at Memorial, the band director, Brother John Hanon, sent out the word — "Do you want to join the band?" Of course I volunteered and played third clarinet for four years. I became familiar with band music and played some great music (Paul Trueblood on piano performed with the band "Rhapsody in Blue" our senior year) and enjoyed the comradery and involvement with a school group.

As a student Brother I always sang in the choir — Church music but it kept my vocal chords in shape. I never participated in speech or drama — in high school. When Jim Keller was sick and possibly not being able to do his part for the opening of the school play our senior year, they called on me to practice with them as a possible sub. I couldn't remember my lines — flubbed my emergency audition; fortunately Jim Keller regained his health and played his part in the annual school play.

It's a given that the high school "arts" activities are usually directed by English teachers, especially if they're young or beginners. When I began teaching my second year at Cathedral, I was assigned the school play as my extra-curricular. Principal Brother Pedro Hearing was very helpful — he probably led half of the practices. The play, "Stardust," was a success — certainly not a flop. As a result of this experience, whether I asked or not, I had the opportunity to get my MA in six Notre Dame summer schools and the opportunity to be in the chorus of Bill Cole's summer musical "Carousel" and watch Arthur Harvey, CSC (founder and director of the theater program at Notre Dame) direct. It was a great learning experience and enabled me to become a confident director of a number of successful high school plays. Mary Shank, a parent and former speech teacher, helped with costumes and directing at Cathedral; the Mothers Club ("Ma" Averill and Brother Raymond Kelly) helped with costumes at Hoban. Both offered invaluable assistance.

At Cathedral and Hoban, I directed "Life with Father" and "Our Town." The five boys in LWF at Cathedral dyed their hair red and certainly created a lot of interest and talk about the upcoming show when they came to school. In the afternoon of our scheduled Friday opening of "Life with Father" in Akron, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas and we had to cancel our scheduled opening night. Mrs. Kucler had to remind her distraught son, Dennis, that the calamity in Dallas was more important than our opening night.

We did the play on Saturday night. While preparing for the Sunday matinee performance, Glen Stalcup came running into the make-up room hollering, "They shot him"! (Lee Harvey Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby in the Dallas Jail.) While the rest of the world was watching the President's funeral on Monday, Brother Jerome Meyer and I were returning the borrowed furniture we used for the set.

I also directed a one-act play at Cathedral; Marian College hosted an Archdiocesan One-Act Play Festival. With seven eager, veteran Cathedral thespians, we rehearsed and presented "The Valiant" — "Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant taste of death but once." We won best play. These boys were really great to be with. Actually, all play groups were (are) highly motivated; these are public performances and all are dependent on each other to make the endeavor successful — "you get your cue, I get mine, and we both look good." These thespian groups were by far the best experiences of my high school teaching.

The Cathedral production of "Our Town" is most memorable; I was confident and knew what I was doing and had a talented group to work with. Tom Connor, who was in my soph English class, and maybe because I watched him grow-up at CHS, was the best - so relaxed and natural as the stage manager as a senior. When I got to Akron after six years in Indianapolis, I inherited a small group of boys who were also interested in speech and theater. One year we performed "Teahouse of the August Moon" as the annual play. It was set on a Pacific island during the time of the US occupation (had a jeep from the National Guard on the stage). The lead in the play was an islander, Sakini, in the Pacific after the war, who would introduce the scenes (interlocuter). Because I knew of the thespian abilities of Tom Spalding, he was, as I surmised, a perfect Sakini. After we had performed the play, I suggested he do a "cutting"- an 8-10-minute monologue for the "dramatic interpretation" speech category for Brother Charles Blavat's speech team. Tom prepared an eight-minute cutting for the dramatic speech category and won first in State.

Perhaps my best group presented Moliere's satire "Tartuffe" in the round at Hoban. A drama teacher from the University of Akron came to view and critique our presentation of this sophisticated satire. This was probably the most talented group I'd ever met in my theater experience. Tom Gradisar, Denny Jacobs, and Eileen Slattery are memorable.

"A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" was an entertaining offering. Costuming and set made the show. When the photographer from the *Akron Beacon Journal* came to our gym, converted to a theater for the weekend, he raved about the set. Brother Joe Tobin, in our usual humble Brother's way, said it really wasn't so special. The photographer really perked up and said, "I see a lot of these high school sets; there aren't many that are half this good."

The sets and costuming are a big part of a play's appeal — no need for great actors/actresses. I suppose I did this play because there were no really challenging parts or super talented players. It was fun and flashy. My best memory is meeting the Smith brothers — Joe a frosh and Bill a senior. (Their older sister and her husband, a Hoban grad, live here, now in Holy Cross village.) Many years later Joe was a regular at Saint Mary's when Barb worked there. How could I forget Nick Kryah; Barb met him years later at a workshop in St. Louis.

Perhaps my greatest contribution made to high school theater was influencing — maybe encouraging Brother Tom Friel to study Communication Arts with me at Notre Dame. When he left the community, I encouraged him to apply to School District 214, where I was working. He applied, was offered a contract, and had to decide from about three (of their eight) high schools; he chose to teach at Arlington because he could be responsible for the stage and sets for their theater productions. I also introduced him to his wife, a regular at St. Sebastian's Sunday service and at the Kaltsas "party house." Tom died very suddenly at his desk at Prospect HS during an open house for parents.

Being in charge of cheerleaders was another extra I was assigned at Cathedral. CHS of course was a boys school (700) students; when girls were essential, Cathedral would send invitations to St. Agnes, across the street, St. Mary's, downtown, and Ladywood on the north side - three all-girl schools in the area. At cheerleader try-outs we would be inundated with "seemingly hundreds." Of course, I didn't know the girls but was responsible for the final decisions. I consulted senior Mike McGinley. "Is this the kind of girl we want to represent Cathedral High School"? He would gesture thumbs up or thumbs down. (Mike was an outstanding halfback and later was head coach and principal at Cathedral.) I attended all of the cheerleader practices, learned a lot about their schools and some gossip too.

Jim Muller, the most famous student I ever taught, was in my second semester freshman class at Cathedral — his Dad was a medical doctor and a CHS grad. After getting his undergrad degree at ND, Jim earned a doctor's degree, and was on the staff at Harvard. Later he started the international group "Physicians Against Nuclear War" and won the Nobel Peace Prize. The companion he chose to accompany him to Copenhagen was Brother Raphael Wilson, CSC. I was in Raphael's required frosh biology class at St. Eds, and visited him when he was president of Holy Cross College. Later as director of the germ free lab (Lobund) at Notre Dame, he guided my Notre Dame visitors, the Kucler's from Akron, on a tour of the research facility. As a result of his Lab experience, he was on the national news as the "Father" of the Bubble Boy, who could only live in a germ-free environment. Raphael later became a priest in Pennsylvania after working at Kings College. After retiring he returned to this area; I did visit him as he was convalescing and did a reading at his funeral mass at Dujarie.

James J. Ziljak

Labor Day in Akron

On Labor Day the Northeast Ohio Holy Cross Community gathered at Br. Dennis' apartment in Akron for an indoor picnic due to the hot weather. The meal included some traditional Akron menu items: broasted chicken, jo-jo potatoes, and sauerkraut balls.



From left: Br. Edward Libbers, Fr. John Blazek, Br. Charles Smith, and Fr. Alex



Fr. John welcomes the newest member to the NE Ohio community, Fr. Alex Susai. Fr. Alex will reside at Gilmour Academy for the next couple of years as he pursues his doctoral studies in counseling

Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

Being in the World

Scripture tells us to be in the world and not of it. What does that mean? Does it mean to isolate oneself from current events? Does it mean to refrain from helping to meet the challenges that the world faces today? What it could mean is that we should bolster ourselves with prayer when we take on the painstaking and arduous task of seeking and supporting solutions which sometimes achieve two steps forward and one step backwards.

We need to sustain our efforts by a prayer that leads us to follow what we are called to do whether we are successful or not. Jesus' life by the world's standards might seem to have been a failure, and yet in God's eyes he had profound results for the salvation of the world and its peoples.

We walk by faith and not by sight knowing that what we do, even giving a "cup of water in his name," will be significant.

- How does "being in the world and not of it" speak to you?
- How do you deal with discouragement when you achieve little "success?"
- Have you experienced how God has used your "unremarkable efforts" to achieve God's purpose?

O God, help me realize that "one small step" has eternal implications.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



An Immigrant Ancestor?



QUESTION: was one of the ancestors of Jesus an immigrant? Chapter 1 verse 5 of the genealogy in St. Matthew's Gospel seems to provide the evidence corroborating it as fact:

"... Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth."

Obed was the grandfather of King David, one of whose descendants was Joseph, the legal father of Jesus.

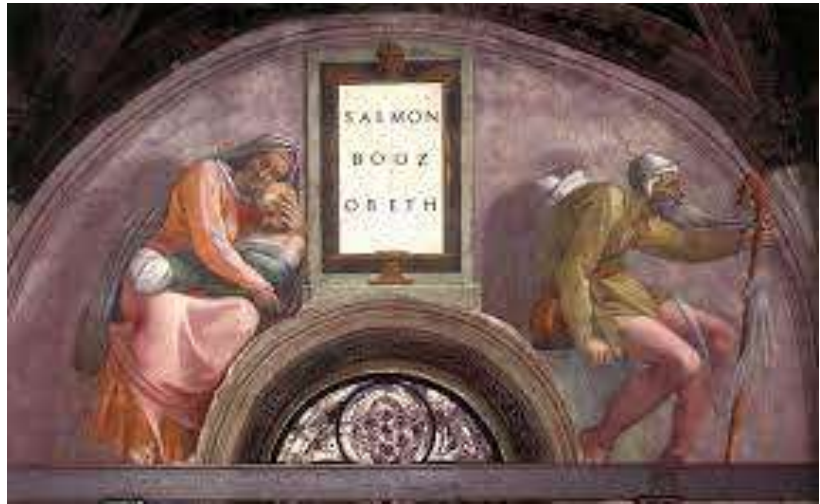
Ruth was a Moabite. During considerable Old Testament times the Israelites and the Moabites were enemies. Though obviously little or no love was lost between these two peoples, they were forced at times out of necessity to live together in each other's cities and, when permitted, even to marry.

The story of Ruth is told in the Old Testament Book of Ruth. Widowed by the death of her Jewish husband who, because of a famine in Bethlehem of Judah, had fled as a child with his parents to Moab, Ruth is desperately in need of support. With the assistance of her former mother-in-law Naomi, she immigrates to Bethlehem, where Naomi introduces her to a wealthy, magnanimous Jewish landowner relative by the name of Boaz. As Mosaic law required, God's people were obligated to help the poor, widows, and orphans. Boaz lived up to his responsibility by more than generously allowing Ruth to scavenge regularly for any food stuffs that were missed in his fields during harvesting time, even directing his harvesters to deliberately overlook gathering some of what was really there.

With perhaps more than just concern for helping the very charming Ruth, Boaz fell in love with Ruth and desired to marry her. With the city Council

of Elders' approval he did, and the story concludes with the following passage:

"Boaz took Ruth.
When they came
together as husband
and wife, the Lord
enabled her to
conceive and she
bore a son. They
named him Obed,
the father of Jesse,
the father of David."
(4:15)



And Jesus has always been identified as the Son of David.

Another QUESTION: whose ancestor will be crossing the southern border of the United States today?



Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



**As long as the candle is still burning,
it is still possible to accomplish and to mend.**
~Rabbi Yisrael Salanter



ABC

**Every person that you meet
Knows something you don't;
Learn from them.**

By Jack and Rosemary, 21

Emmanuel Health...A vital community of health, healing and hope
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Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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