

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

August 21

Ghana News

REPORT ON HOLY CROSS CHARISM AND RENEWAL PROGRAM

On 3rd August, 2019, Brothers of the Holy Cross Community in the District of West Africa participated in a two-day Renewal Program.

The Religious Renewal Program was organized purposely to renew members of the district, to retool and revitalize each Brother for effective mission and to strengthen the gifts and values that they have as well as readiness to embrace their new future together.

The theme for this year's renewal program was "Owning our Present and Shaping our Future." This theme was inspired by the 2017 District Chapter and in the light of the ongoing spirit of renewal in the Congregation of Holy Cross at large. Five sessions were given with intermittent breaks as well as an open forum.

The facilitator for this year's renewal program was Br. Joseph Tsiquaye, csc, who made the program lively with his 50 years of exemplary life and experience. In his presentation Br. Joseph, touched on areas of importance to Holy Cross Spirituality. He also emphasized the Mission as an important aspect of our life as well as Community being the very essence of our life.

At the end of the renewal program, one could



feel a sense of serenity. Members of the District are resolved to embrace their new beginning and to take a leap of faith, guided by Divine Providence.

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR DISTRICT MEMBERS

The members of the District of West Africa ended their renewal program with their annual retreat.

Spanning from August 4 to August 9, members of the District took time off their places of ministry to submit themselves to prayer.

The annual retreat was a moment for the District to gather together in union with Christ.

The theme for this year's retreat was "Rebuilding a Broken World." In his presentation, Fr. Andrew Obeng, SVD, reminded the Brothers of their own brokenness and the impact of their brokenness on ministry and the world if it is not mended.

Fr. Andy cautioned the Brothers to go back to their fundamental life as religious, making prayer an integral part of their lives, seeking God in times of difficulties and making right choices.

The retreat was characterized by sober reflection and enriched by communal spirit and the abundance of talent that each member brings to serve the District and the church.

MEMORIAL MASS

The gathering was climaxed with a Remembrance Day. Members of the district celebrated a memorial mass in honor of their hero and heroine missionaries who strode the part and left footprints for young ones to follow.



Br. John Affum Badu, csc, the District Superior in his tribute to the departed missionaries encouraged the members of the district to take inspiration from the lives of the missionaries and endeavor to contribute their talents to the world by leaving it better than they met it.



Fresh Corn for Columba Hall Members

The Brothers at Columba Hall enjoyed some fantastic sweet corn this past week thanks to Brother Larry Stewart. He followed up a lead from Robyn, one of the house nurses. Larry traced the great corn out west of South Bend heading toward our old novitiate.

Near the old Studebaker testing grounds, there is a road heading toward New Carlisle and on that road a sign alerting travelers “Sweet Corn for Sale.” At five dollars a dozen, it was a bargain.

Brother Larry bought 85 ears and shucked them back at Columba Hall. That evening the house enjoyed the corn, especially Brother Daniel Kane, who could not get enough of it! (See photo.)

Sweet corn in the area is hard to find this year because of farm problems with heavy rainfall that jeopardized the planting season. Thanks, Brother Larry!



Reflection for the Columba Hall Celebration of its 2019 Jubilarians



The following homily was delivered at an 11:15 Columba Hall Mass by Brother Robert Mosher. It was part of a celebration for this year's house members having a jubilee. An excellent meal followed Mass with a social in the evening.

In this reflection for today, it is my intention to honor not only the 2019 jubilarians but also all other Holy Cross members.

“Before my birth the Lord called me, from my mother’s womb he gave me my name. He said to me ‘You are my servant that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth’”

These words which I have just quoted from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah Chapter 49, verses 1,3, and 6, confirm, I believe, why I and my fellow jubilarians are here today.

In Chapter 1 verses 35-39 of his Gospel, St. John the Evangelist tells us that, “John [the Baptist] was . . . with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God.’ The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned to them following him and said, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come, and you will see.’ So they went and they stayed with him that day.”

We, the jubilarians, having much earlier in our lives discerned a vocation to the religious life as Brothers, also sought out Jesus as the Baptist’s disciples did. And Jesus likewise responded to us, “Come, and see,” and we indeed came and saw: the *Congregation of Holy Cross*, and we have stayed with Jesus ever since for these fifty, sixty, and seventy years.

And heeding Jesus’ counsel, we, once having put our hands to the plow, have not looked back.

Like the merchant in chapter 13 verses 45-46 of St. Matthew’s Gospel, we jubilarians, having found in our search a pearl of great price, by our vows, have sold all that we had to buy it.

Those same vows, together with our life in Community, and the exercise of our assigned ministries, have constituted for us these many years what Jesus in Chapter 10 verse 10 of St. John's Gospel promised his chosen disciples: "that they may have life, and have it more abundantly," a life full of love, detachment, and service.

Our vow of Poverty frees us from any material encumbrances upon our relationships with God, our Community, and those we serve.

Our poverty is evidenced in our simple, uncomplicated lives, devoid of the allurements of and preoccupation with material gain and worldly success. It is what motivates us to empathize more readily with the poor and the marginalized.

Our vow of Chastity transforms our choice of a committed love for one person to a desired love for all persons. Our emulating this love that God himself has for all of his creation enables us to recognize more easily who our brothers and sisters really are.

Our vow of obedience facilitates our willingness to listen to others, especially superiors, and accept their judgments and decisions in manifesting God's will for our participation in the life and work of the Congregation.

Our life in Community has been an example of the best that can be lived: with unity amidst diversity, sufficiency along with simplicity, fostering of a spiritual life, holiness as well as human frailty, youth together with age, the sharing of values, goals, and resources, and, above all, fraternity.

Our life in Holy Cross has been a taste of the salt of the earth which has *not* lost its savor.

We in Holy Cross are a ministerial people, committed to service summoned by Christ as in Chapter 13, verses 4-5 and 12-17, of St. John's Gospel account of Jesus' washing of the feet of his disciples, at which time, "Jesus said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you? . . . I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.'"

Ministerially, our lives in Holy Cross have been as on a journey along the road to Jericho, during which we have often paused to provide in many different ways a dressing and healing of the wounds of others who have been somehow waylaid by the vicissitudes of life.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has called us to tend his sheep, and we have done so faithfully, at times searching for the strayed and finding the lost.

Whatever the service and to whomever it was rendered, it has always been done

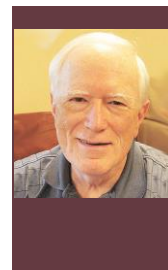
communally, with the prayers, sacrifices, and labors of every Holy Cross member contributing.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is a city built by the Lord and so we his workers with him have not labored in vain.

Holy Cross is the city of St. Matthew's Gospel, a city set on a mountain, the light of which cannot be hid; a light which dispels all the darkness; the light which is Christ.

On this occasion of the celebration of jubilees of profession of vows, let all of us in Holy Cross thank God for his loving call to our vocation as Brothers and rededicate ourselves as his very faithful servants.

Brother Robert Mosher



Jubilarians: Carl Richard Robert



Reception of Novices
 August 2019 – Colorado Springs



Back Row

Br Pierre-Evenn de Fremond (France)	Noah Junge	Ricky Bevington	Alex White
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Middle Row

David Murray	Aaron Morris	Hunter Ostapowicz
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Front row

Br Ben Rossi (Midwest)	Rémi de Saulieu (France)	Br Bobby McFadden	Br James Blaszak (Midwest- procurator)
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Young Professed Workshop - Ghana

As part of the program of the District of West Africa in enriching the Temporary Professed Brothers, a week-long workshop was organized from the 28th of July to the 2nd of August, 2019 at the District Center, Brafoyaw, Cape Coast. The topics handled were: **“Safeguarding and Child Protection”**;

and **“Thoughts on the Sexual Scandals in the Church.”**

The workshop was facilitated by *Sr. Benedicta Boakye Yiadom, SSL* and *Rev. Fr. Moses Arthur, OFM Conv.*



In her introduction, Sister Benedicta drew our attention to what the Scriptures say about child protection in Matthew 18:5. She emphasized that every child should be cherished because they are our greatest assets and are equally gifts from God. Sister made us aware that before we can safeguard children, we need to mingle with them, be interested in what they do, so that when they are wrong, we will be able to correct them. Without love for these little ones, we cannot safeguard them. We should follow them in order to guide and not just to bully or shout at them. We should create a safe environment and be extra careful for the children to whom we

minister and bear in mind that we are dealing with children and not adults.

Sister also highlighted some of the abuses we inflict on these children that really affect them throughout their lives. Sometimes we may let them do their own thing; we may emotionally abuse them; we may expose them to domestic violence; or above all, we may sexually abuse these innocent children. As religious, we need to be responsible for every child entrusted to our care, whether in the classroom or in the church, because these innocent children look up to us and they run to us for security. If we turn to abuse these children, to which place could they run?



In a nutshell, Sister made us aware that we should know ourselves so that we can protect ourselves and safeguard the little ones entrusted to us in our various fields of ministry.

Fr. Moses Arthur equally added his voice to the scandals and abuses that priests and religious inflict on innocent or vulnerable children, men and women that God has entrusted to our care. He said scandals do not come by accident and we should never ascribe scandals to the action of the devil. There are systematic activities that we allow ourselves to go through and by the time we realize, we have already committed an act. He took us through the process of scandals and made it known that before we commit scandal, we first of all conceive the idea, and when a concession is achieved we repeat the act, and then it may become our habit and then gradually we fall into scandal. He cautioned us that we should develop a sense



of responsibility. He again said that we should be mindful of how we try as much as possible to cover up for our confreres and that even bishops and religious superiors are facing the law because of cover ups. We should stop the rational insensibility where we channel all our satisfaction on things that do not matter, where we make the other person satisfy our needs. We should rather cultivate the habit of spiritual sensibility, where we transform our loneliness into solitude. We should become the lord of our lives, so that we would not move toward dependence on others which can lead us to addiction. The more we do what we like, the less we care.

He ended by saying that when a religious falls in love, it is normal. It reveals some energy in the religious. It can bring about some hidden capacity in him or her. It leads to a new birth but we should be moved by these five (5) sensibilities: Psychic sensibility, Intra-psychic sensibility, Moral sensibility, Spiritual sensibility and Decisional sensibility. He entreated us always to take the time to reflect on our actions to ascertain whether they are drawing us closer to or away from God.

Bro. Evans Akwasi Mensah, CSC

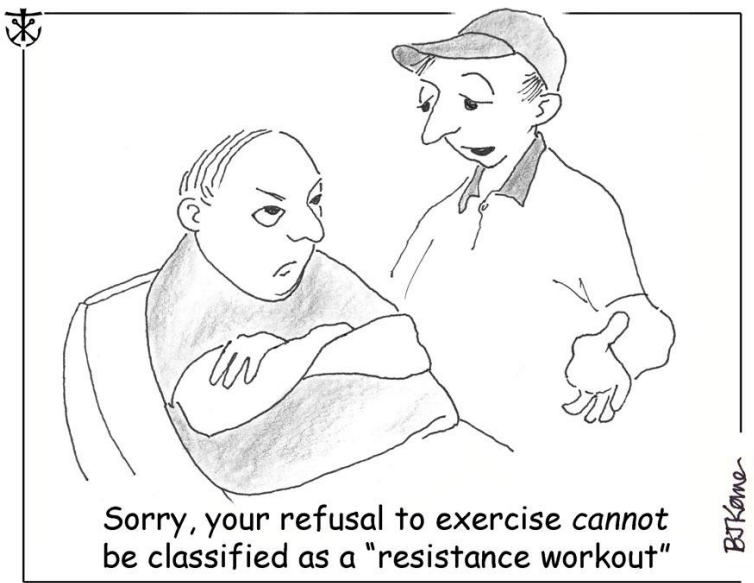
From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, and a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below. Midwest-Midweek will post links to these members as they become available.

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

Weekly Pick: <https://voiceofmoreau.org/2019/07/17/bro-isidore/>





Cartoon
by
Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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