

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

July 21, 2021



200th Year Anniversary of The Brothers of Saint Joseph

The Celebration Ends



At Columba Hall we celebrated with Mass followed by a patio-social and inside surf and turf dinner.



Two hundred and one years since the founding of the Brothers of St. Joseph

Brother George Klawitter, CSC
July 15, 2021, Columba Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana



First of all, we should remind ourselves why we are celebrating today. It is because on July 15, 1820, the first young man to answer Jacques Dujarie's call for male religious arrived at Ruille to become a Brother of St. Joseph—Pierre Hureau, the first Brother of St. Joseph. So today marks the two hundred and first anniversary of the founding of the Brothers of St. Joseph. At Columba Hall, however, we actually anticipated the anniversary by beginning our celebration six months before the Congregation's official celebration. We began on January 1, 2020.

We celebrated at the beginning of each month by dedicating a floor of the building or a common room to one of the early heroes among our Brothers. The great Brother Andre Mottais received the January honors because he was the first Brother to persevere to death as a Brother of St. Joseph and guided the Brothers in their studies and teaching duties for fifteen years. The second floor was dedicated to the wonderful Brother Vincent Pieau, who came to America at the age of 44 and died here at Notre Dame in 1893, just three years before our own Brother Bernard Gervais showed up here to become a novice. Our third floor is dedicated to Brother Leonard Guittoger who, were he alive today, would be very vocal about the imminent merger of our American provinces. Our top floor is dedicated to the heroic Brother Hilarion Ferton, who led the Brothers back into Africa in 1844, two years

after the first mission to Algeria had collapsed in failure. On each floor and in each common room is a beautiful plaque put up by Brother Chris Dreyer. Those plaques will remain, I hope, a permanent reminder of our celebrated roots: I hope each member of the house, and visitors too, will continue to read these plaques. And I hope visitors will continue to admire in the dining room the pictures that Brother James Kane created for five of our early heroes.

And the banner. We can't forget the banner. It is here in our chapel. This banner was also on the front of our building, and at the Moreau House of Formation, and at the novitiate in Cascade, Colorado. The banner is a tribute to our forerunners. It shows St. Joseph making a table. Joseph knows that the table will not last forever, but he makes it anyway just as we know that our work will not last forever, but we do it and have done it anyway.

Why is 1820 so special at Columba Hall? Because we know the difference between a Community and a Congregation. Our Community started in 1820 under James Dujarie, and our Congregation started under Basil Moreau, either in 1837 when he created the Fundamental Pact between his community of brothers and his community of priests, or our Congregation began in 1857, when Rome approved our Constitutions.

We must continue to prize our Community roots from 1820 because the 54 Brothers who signed the Fundamental Pact in 1837 continued being called the "Brothers of St. Joseph" even as they morphed into a Congregation of brothers and priests. Our roots are our roots. We accept them, and we celebrate them. We celebrate James Dujarie, who had an unfulfilled dream of joining priests with brothers. We celebrate Andre Mottais who confided to the local bishop his own dream of joining priests with brothers. And we celebrate Basil Moreau who actually accomplished the dreams of both Dujarie and Andre Mottais. Our Community thrives with unbroken roots from Ruille to Columba Hall, and if we slowly fade away in America, we know that we continue to burgeon in Ghana and Bangladesh. The Brothers of St. Joseph are here to stay.

But not us here today. As we shrink in numbers in our province, we should remember the title of the autobiography of the French writer Andre Gide: *Si le grain ne meurt*, "unless the grain die, there can be no new life." When most of us came to

be Brothers in the 1950's there were one thousand Holy Cross Brothers in the United States. Today there are 150. As the ideals we embraced evolve, we should not obsess with death, but rather look to new life and new numbers for Holy Cross Brothers in Africa and Asia. And if we are tired of the good fight, we should remember what Matthew tells us today in the gospel: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). There is rest for the weary. If all we have is one another, even if that promise may prove evanescent, we can always count on, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." And where will that rest be found? From Moses we heard in the first reading today: "I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into a land flowing with milk and honey."

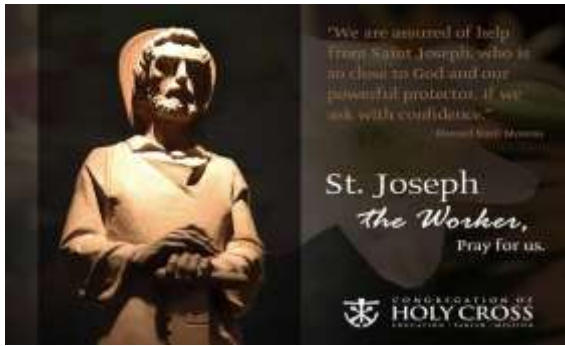
These are not empty promises. We will enter that land flowing with milk and honey, and there we will be united with Andre Mottais and Vincent Pieau and Leonard Guittoger and Anselm Caillot and Francis Xavier Patois—all the great Brothers of St. Joseph who have gone before us. They are waiting. We may be ending one year of celebration today, but we look forward to an eternity of celebration.

July
Week 2 and 3

Weekly Spiritual Reflection from the Early Brothers of St. Joseph

Week 2 Let's pray to God unceasingly for the conversion of these poor people. I wish I could beg all of France to unite behind us with their prayers and to thus come to the help of Africa. Our holy bishop never stops recommending this holy salvo of frequent and fervent prayers that will give birth and will make the African church faithful. (Brother Andre Mottais 7/11/1840)

Week 3 No good works are comparable to that of founding and maintaining Christian schools to instruct poor children. (Brother Andre Mottais 2/4/1833)



NEWS FROM ST. JOSEPH

HALL CANDIDACY

PROGRAM

BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS, DISTRICT
OF WEST AFRICA

Reflection by Mr. Benjamin Prah (Candidate)



The Lord offers me a share in his divine life, a life that is more powerful and enduring. Even when I sin, He is ready to forgive me. He is always there for us. For even in the midst of the desert, we shall not die of thirst.

I paused to reflect on my life and made a decision to join the Brothers of this joyous and great family and also to resolve to live as a religious Brother. At secondary school, my dream was to study medicine to become a medical doctor. I wanted to be in the healing ministry. The God who knows what is best for his children directed me to join the Brothers by pausing all my dreams, particularly that of becoming the medical doctor I had dreamt of.

One day after I had finished taking my lunch, my aunty called and informed me that there was going to be a “Come and See” program at Brafoyaw, Cape Coast and asked if I would like to attend. I had long ago informed her of becoming a religious but changed my mind when I entered high school. I became speechless after she ended the call. She gave me a few days to think about whether or not I would want to attend the “come and see” program. I called my aunty two days later and informed her that I would go for the program. I approached one of the Brothers and asked questions concerning the “Come and See” program. What really touched me on all that he shared was “we educate the hearts and minds of everyone who comes into contact with us.” Hearing what the Brother said, I decided to join the family of Holy Cross to continue the

mission of educating the hearts and minds of those with whom I come into contact. I am only a candidate. I hope to be a novice next year to deepen my zeal and respond to my call by professing vows.

Easter Monday Celebration with the Sisters of the Holy Cross



On 5th April this year, Holy Cross Brothers, Sisters, and Associates gathered on Easter Monday to celebrate at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Convent in Kasoa. The program started with Mass concelebrated by seven priests belonging to the archdiocese of Cape Coast. We had refreshments after the celebration of the Eucharist. The candidates were so happy to be a part of this great celebration which brought together the men, women, and associates of the Congregation of Holy Cross in West Africa.



Work and Happiness

St. Benedict always encouraged the Monks at Mount Casino to work hard and pray a lot. We, the Candidates at St. Joseph Hall, have the axiom that we need to build, protect, and work hard on what has already been done. At St. Joseph Hall, we build candidates for the future as Brothers in the Congregation of Holy

Cross. We are exposed to the realities of life. We have come to know and understand that we are not in formation to read about the Congregation of Holy Cross, but we are also to be equipped both physically and spiritually so that we can be well integrated into the Congregation and into society as a whole. Every afternoon, we have our usual grounds work to not only keep our environment tidy and conducive to healthy living, but also to make use of our hands and practical skills for the mission of Christ.

Socials and Birthday Celebration

Birthday celebrations come once a year in the life of every individual. We are so fortunate that every Saturday evening after our community prayers, we meet as candidates to have our social nights - special community gatherings.



We sometimes watch educative movies or just entertain ourselves depending on whoever is in charge for that particular week. We were fortunate to celebrate one of our Brothers, Benjamin Prah on 10th April, 2021. We had a lot of fun and we saw on our faces the joy that comes with celebrating ourselves. Benjamin expressed his appreciation to the community for organizing such an important event on the day of his birth.

The Saints Corner

As candidates of Holy Cross in West Africa, we are made aware that there have been great men and women who have walked on the path that we have just started. We shall be talking about them one after the other. We are privilege to present one great man this month, Brother Andre Mottais.



Brother Andre Pierre Mottais was born in Larchamp on February 20, 1800, Larchamp is fifty miles northwest of Le Mans. Andre Mottais is from a very solid farming community. His parents were Jean Mottais and Jeanne Blot. His parents got married seven years before Andre was born. The father was 24 years and the mother was 20 years at the time of their marriage in the bloodiest year of the French Revolution. Andre Mottais came from a family with deep roots in the area going back several hundred years. As a second son, he was not christened with the name of his father, grandfather, or great-grandfather nor would he have inherited the family farm. The school Andre attended in Larchamp has been torn down, but he didn't lose interest in learning the basics of reading, writing, and numbers just like the sons of other farm owners.

At the age of twenty, there resonated in him a call to leave his family and travel to the little town of Ruille where Father Dujarie was beginning to gather young men into his Brothers of St. Joseph. Three months after Andre arrived, Dujarie told him to start a school at Ruille. Later, Dujarie saw that the young man had no training as a teacher, so he was asked go and take classes with the Christian Brothers. Andre Mottais learned all he could to help him return to Ruille as a master-teacher. When Andre returned to Ruille, he was vested with a religious habit designed by the Bishop. Andre Mottais was the first to persevere in the Brothers of Saint Joseph and so is referred to as the "First Brother of Holy Cross." His piety, zeal and astuteness made him an effective collaborator with Father Dujarie in the development of the religious institute. Sent by Dujarie to Paris to be formed by the Christian Brothers in religious life and educational methods, Brother Andre Mottais was eventually made director of novices and inspector of schools. Under Dujarie and the invaluable assistance of the devoted and faithful Mottais, the institute grew and knew much success during the 1820's. At its peak, it counted just over 100 members serving in nearly 50 establishments throughout the region.

Honoring Mary the Blessed Mother

Students at St. John's School had the privilege to honor the Blessed Mother of God. Rosary recitation was done from May 1st to the 31st. The Brothers together with the school Chaplain taught the students, especially the first years, how to recite the holy Rosary and how to seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother of God. Enrolment has risen to thousands, and so the students were divided into three groups; some were at the Assembly Hall, some at the Holy Cross Chapel and the rest were at the giant steps. On 31st May some of the teaching staffs, the Brothers, the School Chaplain and



the entire student body were all present to climax the final day with recitation of the Holy Rosary. An award was given to the student who could recite the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary without looking into any book, and this time, it was a Muslim Student who became the winner.





The Drama and Debaters club singing the Magnificat in honor of the Blessed Mother.

(Holy Cross Chapel, Saint John's Secondary School. Sekondi, Ghana)

Thanks to Brother Evans who forwarded the above pieces of news from St. Joseph Hall, Ghana, West Africa, to Midwest-Midweek.

MWP Chapter Time Pictures



A Columba Hall welcome by Brother Douglas Roach to Brother Paul Bednarczyk



Columba Hall members enjoy a pre-chapter lunch with chapter members on the patio.



We begin with Prayer,



Brother Kenneth Haders, Provincial, addresses the Chapter.



Reflection by Brother Paul Bednarczyk



Tuesday Morning Prayer
Barb Ziliack, Brothers Chris Torrijas & Ben Rossi



Father Paul Doyle with the Opening Liturgy





Brother Roy Smith



Brother James
Spooner



Fr. David Tyson

**Thursday, June 17
Liturgy**

Columba Hall Bingo



As part of a visit by our Brothers from Ghana, an evening of BINGO was offered by the Columba Hall Brothers. Brother Paul Bukari receives his reward from house superior Brother Douglas Roach. He has just won his third straight win in a row. How did he do that!?



Do We Have Another Saint?
Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.
(1848-1923)



Around 1890 Brother Columba begins to make nearly 10,000 images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. There is only one original known to exist pasted upon the cover of Brother Columba's journal in which he records donations to the Sacred Heart Shrine. This shrine was housed in the Old Log Chapel.

In 1891 Brother Columba was assigned to care for Father Sorin who died 10/31/1893.

Late in 1893 Brother Columba was reassigned to the cobbler shop by Fr. William Corby, Provincial.



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

A Faith that Moves Mountains

Dear Associates and Friends,

When we believe in Jesus and the kingdom or reign that he wanted to establish, Jesus was calling for a dynamic process that would begin to change the world. But his unifying vision needed the hands and feet of the people of God to help make this process become a reality. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

As we celebrate the coming of the Spirit, we see in Scripture that the apostles were able to break through their feelings of inadequacy to begin Christ’s process that continues over more than 2000 years. They were able to share a faith to people with many different languages and cultures to “move mountains.”

This same Spirit enables us to recognize that we are but one race - “earthlings” – the human race. The Spirit enables us to not only see our common humanity but to celebrate it. We are brothers and sisters walking hand in hand in touch with the God who created us and now calls us to be members of that kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

- What are the causes of racism?
- Am I ready to believe that all of the peoples on earth are of the same “race?”
- How is Christ calling me to bring about his kingdom here on earth?

O God, help me to realize my common bond with all of humanity.



Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.

For more reflections to grow
spiritually please visit our new blog
<https://weekllyspiritualinsights.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. Check the following link below.



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



**Brother
Philip Smith**



**Brother
Ben Rossi**



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



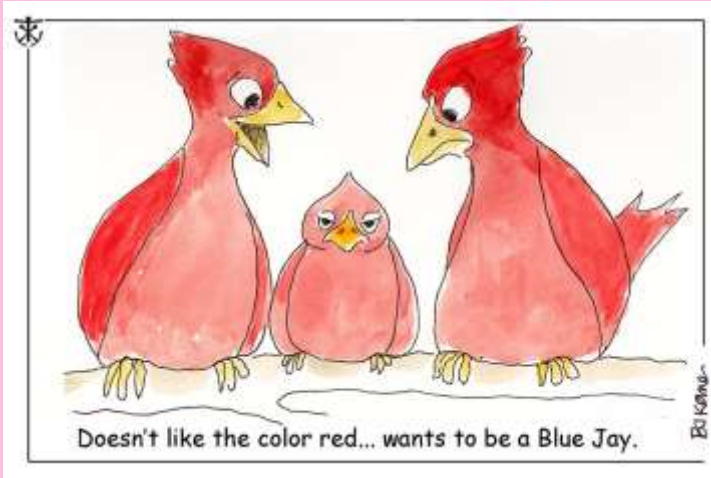
The true meaning of life is to plant trees ,
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Neil Henderson

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Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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