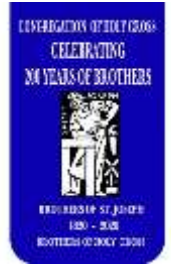


MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 27, 2021

Weekly Spiritual Reflections from the Early Brothers of St. Joseph



Week 4

Don't be surprised that I don't wish you a Happy New Year. That's of little value. I believe they are like all the past ones—beautiful and good. You really know how to align piety and knowledge with cheerfulness. (Brother Hilarion Ferton 1/17/1847)

[Biographies of the Earlier Pioneer Brothers // Congregation of Holy Cross \(holycrosscongregation.org\)](http://holycrosscongregation.org)



Creative drawing
by Br. James
Kane, of
Br. Hilarion Ferton

Brother Robert Arndt Kelly, C.S.C.
December 22, 1925 – January 21, 2021



Brother Robert Kelly was a grand old man for whom much in his life was “quite grand” as he so often told anyone who would visit him at Dujarié House during the last years of his life. He was gregarious, much loved and admired by his many friends and colleagues, and a man who relished fine dining and fine Scotch.



He was born in Lima, OH, to Arthur and Agnes Mary (Arndt) Kelly, the second of three children. Robert frequently commented that he was blessed with a good family. His first knowledge of the Holy Cross Brothers occurred during his sophomore year at St. Gerard High School when an Ursuline sister handed him a brochure on the Brothers of Holy Cross. He never forgot her kindness and, after graduating from the University of Dayton with degrees in English and Social Studies in 1949, he entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1951. He said about his vocation that “It came from God and was nurtured by my family and sustained by my religious colleagues.” After a few years of teaching, in 1971 he earned an M.A. in guidance and counseling from John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH. After a few more years, in 1980, he also received a Certificate of Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA.



Throughout his more than sixty-seven years as a brother, Robert served in a variety of ministries. He was a director of guidance, a teacher, a retreat director, a religious superior, a vocations director, and he worked in development. No matter where he worked, he always brought a clean, crisp professionalism, a cheerful enthusiasm and the optimistic assessment: “I think that’s great. Isn’t that just great?” which he often followed with a very hearty and spirited laugh to reinforce his convictions.



He spent twenty-one years at St. Edward High School and thirty years at Gilmour Academy. Both assignments speak volumes about his dedication. He stated at his 60th jubilee, “Working at St. Edward and Gilmour have been the two biggest blessings of my religious life.” Upon Robert’s second departure from Gilmour, Brother Robert Lavelle, headmaster emeritus of the academy remarked that “Bro. Robert is adept at being light-hearted, and yet serious at appropriate times with students one-on-one and in large groups. We will miss his presence and his great sense of humor at many varied campus activities. His dedication and his spiritual depth are evident. Brother touches lives in significant ways.” From 2014 until the end of his life, Robert lived for one year at Columba Hall and then moved to Schubert Villa and eventually to Dujarié House. As his physical health progressively diminished, his lust for living each moment to its fullest remained bright, including his desire to look his best. He loved the times when visitors would drop by and engage him in reminiscing about his family and friends and his years at Gilmour--especially during a meal at a fine dining establishment that offered a variety of fine Scottish libations.



The funeral will be held on Thursday, January 28, for members of the Congregation and his family members at Saint Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village, with visitation

beginning at 10:00 AM, and the Mass of Resurrection being celebrated by Rev. John Blazek, C.S.C. at 11:00 AM followed by burial in Saint Joseph Cemetery. The funeral will be live-streamed and can be accessed through Kaniewski Funeral Home's website.

Memorial contributions, in honor of Brother Robert Kelly, 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.



Brother Philip Smith

The **Thursday** funeral Mass will be live-streamed at 11:00 AM EST and can be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42RLmpu1rzj-KgFX6JrDfw>

On **Saturday**, Brother John's Schuszler's Funeral Mass will be live-streamed at the same time, 11:00 AM EST, and link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42RLmpu1rzj-KgFX6JrDfw>



Brother Edward Foken, C.S.C. - Funeral Mass Homily

We have heard these beatitudes, just read to us, over and over again down through the years. Jesus gives us these beatitudes at the beginning of his own public ministry. This is a blueprint of his ministry, of where he is going to ground himself. The remaining chapters in Matthew's gospel tells us how Jesus lived these beatitudes. In our everyday vocabulary, we do not use or hear the word "blessed" used too many times.

So what if we used another word for blessed to help us understand what Jesus was saying to us: Let us substitute the word "congratulations" for the word blessed. Now we would hear: Congratulations to those of you who are poor in spirit, for yours is the kingdom of God. Congratulations to those of you who are hunger and thirst for righteousness, for you will be satisfied; Congratulations to those of you are peacemakers, for you will be called the children of God. Congratulations when you are insulted and persecuted and utter every kind of evil against you because of me. May changing the word blessed, to congratulations, shed a new meaning for all of us.

We may ask ourselves what drives us human beings to seek goodness in everything we do and say. Why is it that stories of love, compassion, and understanding of each other are always more compelling than stories of hatred, violence, destruction. We are living through a period of upheaval in our own country. We long for a time when we can get along with each other. We human beings will always choose good over evil because all of us are created in the image and likeness of God, as we read in Genesis. All our moral behavior is simply "the imitation of God." First we observe what God is doing all the time and everywhere, and then we do the same thing. God does not love us if and when we change. God loves us so that we can change.

Spiritual writers tell us that hidden in the depths of each human being on this earth is a bright shining gem which we keep seeking all through our life. This gem is the most essential thing we have and that is called "love." The most powerful, most needed, and most essential teaching is always love. Love is our foundation and our destiny. It is where we come from and where we're headed. It is who we are. As St. Paul famously says, in *Corinthians*, "So faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love." Our love, our light does not shine very bright because we

often will not let it shine; we do things to ourselves that often hinder the brightness of that light, that love. We try to do everything ourselves according to our way. We often let our ego guide us rather than the light or love within. The light only comes to its fullness when we leave behind our body through death and begin to live a new complete life. At death we will see ourselves as God sees us; at our death, we will see the fullness of that light, that love which will remain with us for all eternity. Our deepest self, that gem within each of us, never dies. Death is the final completion of becoming fully alive and manifesting the triumph of the grace of God in us.



Ed Foken had that light, that love, in his life and he let that light shine as much as it could through his goodness and the interest he took in others. He was less focused on himself and more concerned about others. He often did this in a humorous way. There is a story told of Ed when he was a student brother living at Dujarie Hall located on the campus of ND. The hall was a house of studies for brothers attending ND. All the brothers had roommates. One evening around 8 pm, Ed went to his room and decided to spook out his roommate. He let cold water run over his hand; then he placed that cold hand over the light switch and waited for his roommate to return to the room. A few minutes later in comes the roommate and reaches to turn on the light only to feel that clammy cold hand. The roommate let out a yell that was heard on all four floors of the hall.

Another ray of Ed's light was when he was in Liberia and principal of St. Patrick's school. He was always on the look out for students who failed to show up for school as there was almost always some civil unrest in Liberia. Ed helped a number of students escape Liberia for fear of their lives. He helped other students to come to the United States while they were still students. Today some of the people he helped are now professional people who have married and started their own families.

Ed spent 28 years at St. Joseph High School. Oftentimes, he allowed extra test time for students who struggled with the taking of tests. Even after Ed retired, he kept in touch with many Liberian and American students. His focus was on others and not on himself.

So when Ed finally got to see himself as God sees him, I am sure God said: Congratulations, Ed, for showing mercy and now you will be shown mercy. May

you, Ed, rejoice in seeing your true self and may the fullness of your own light, your own gem, be with you throughout all eternity.



By Brother Douglas Roach, C.S.C.

Columba Hall Brothers Receive Virus Protection

Last week, after a long lockdown due to the virus, members took out their GPS to locate a place where they could receive a first antivirus shots. Br. Richard Johnson took a test run to Elkhart without a GPS the day before getting shots with Br. Carl Sternberg, but because of road blocks and a name change on one of the roads was not able to locate the distribution center. They were successful the next day when using a GPS. Our house went three and four to a car.



It went very quickly. While two member, Brs. Daniel Kane and Richard waited in the reception area for the third member of their group, the receptionist, who happened to be a vocalist in a band, brightened our trip with a song.



Thanks to John Guttman, from our accounting office, who arranged the trips and was our photographer and building guide. On our 2nd trip all will try and go in one bus.

Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

Darkness to Light

Dear Associates and Friends,

Is there room for Christ in our lives? So much is going on in our country, in our Church, in our world, and probably in our families as well. With so many crises up front and personal, do we still have room for Christ who is our savior, our guide, who brings us his care and love? Christ wants to be there for us in all that we are facing. But first we have to make room in our lives for him. We have to surrender to his will for us, knowing that we alone cannot suppress all of the fears and worries that can take away our peace and joy.

How do we make room for Christ? It requires carving out some time and space for prayer. We need to find time and space to put all that is bothering us into his hands. If we do this, we will find our fear and worry will give way to his love and assurance that all will be well. The clouds and darkness will lift revealing the morning sun and a new day. The birth of the baby Jesus we experienced at Christmas will bring new hope that our God has not forgotten us. Christ will fill up the spaces of our minds and hearts. The darkness will give way to light.

- What are the issues that bog you down bringing fear and worry?
- Are you able to empty your mind and heart to allow Christ to enter in?
- Does the experience of Christ's presence within you bring peace and hope?

O God, give me the grace to put everything into your hands.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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



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