

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

February 28, 2024

## Our Poets, Past and Present

### Another Day

Another day of sharp anomalies,  
fans jamming stadiums to celebrate  
as gridiron teams pursue more victories.  
Then baseball seeks to learn the final fate

of Yanks or Diamondbacks as they begin  
the best of seven, first game in the West.  
While far away our soldiers sweat to win,  
at home a million fearful people test

for anthrax or for tiny tainted things,  
and services are held for victims still  
in proud New York. The nation sings  
“America the Beautiful” until

the seventh inning stretch, then baseball’s song.  
Do you, as I, suspect there’s something wrong?

— **Brother Philip Armstrong, CSC**  
**October 27, 2001**



## Unfortunate Error

When a young Notre Dame student last year wrote an article for the student newspaper (The Observer) about the founding of the University, he made an unfortunate error by attributing the founding to Father Edward Sorin and seven priests. The religious superior of Columba Hall, Brother Douglas Roach, caught the error and contacted the writer to let him know that Father Sorin's original band of religious was six Brothers of Holy Cross, not seven priests. It took a year for the young man to make his way to Columba Hall,



but he eventually did, after a year, come to supper in order to meet some modern day Brothers. During the meal, Jack took copious notes about the Brothers. The result?

A long article in The Observer last Monday, February 26, narrating his visit with the Brothers and the many things he learned about the early Brothers and their work in building Notre Dame. You can access the full article, *Dinner with Brother Doug*, at the following site:

<https://www.ndsmcobserver.com/article/2024/02/dinner-with-brother-doug>

## Random Winter Day

Winter days appeared off and on throughout the cold season this year. Today, February 24<sup>th</sup>, was a day the winter returned to Notre Dame. Again, it will exist only for a few days. The picture below was taken from a second floor window. Sorry, a screen was in front of the lens - it was an inside shot.



**Brother Victor's snow sculpture from last winter.**

# Notre Dame Institute for Advanced study

**Signature Course Teaching Demonstration afternoon event on April 30**, at the Decio Theatre in DPAC.

Greetings from the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced study and the [ND Ethics Initiative](#). We're reaching out with a save-the-date for our upcoming *Signature Course Teaching Demonstration* afternoon event on **April 30**, at the Decio Theatre in DPAC. This year, the NDIAS Teaching Lab has produced *two* new "signature courses"—courses that leverage innovative pedagogy and the distinctive research strengths of the lead instructors to transform students' understanding on a subject.

Please join us for an afternoon of experiencing a demo-lecture from each of these classes. After each demo, the lead professors will field audience Q&A about the content and strategy for these courses. **Free** and open to all. **If you're at all interested in either theology, history, music, American studies, innovative pedagogy, curricular design, or student formation, you will not be disappointed!** To RSVP, email: <mailto:mmancin1@nd.edu> (**Megan Mancini**)

*Descriptions and times* for the two demo classes are below (feel free to RSVP to only one of the demos):

## Global Catholicism

[Prof. Kathy Sprows Cummings](#) (American Studies, History), [Prof. Paul Kollman, CSC](#) (Theology)

**1:45pm-3:15pm:** "Mapping Global Catholicism"

Students in *Global Catholicism* will explore the global dimensions of the Catholic Church,

past and present, acquiring a nuanced appreciation of the opportunities and challenges the church has experienced over time. Guided by Cummings, a historian, and Kollman, a theologian, students will interpret a variety of primary and secondary sources as they explore the richness and diversity of the Catholic Church's pastoral, liturgical, and theological expressions around the world, as well as contemporary issues facing the church due to its growth and expansion.

## Rhythms of Faith

[Prof. Kim Belcher](#) (Theology), [Prof. J.J. Wright](#) (Folk Choir Director, Campus Ministry)

**3:30pm-5:00pm:** "Liturgical Upcycling: The Psalms, Taylor Swift, and Making New Stuff"

Students in *Rhythms of Faith* (RoF) will be trained to grapple with theology through the creative process, i.e., by working with classmates to produce new works of art: texts and songs designed to be sung in community. By drawing on the centuries-old tradition of singing Psalms and Canticles, RoF will equip students to bring their own experiences, ideas, and musical backgrounds into creative conversation with liturgy and prayer. This class is for anyone, regardless of their musical training or proclivity; singing and song-writing skills are taught throughout the course. Through the community-based projects of RoF, the class cohort grows into a community of trust as students learn to engage their faith with their whole selves for a lifetime ahead.

Refreshments served at 5pm!

Megan Mancini  
Program Administrator

Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study

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## Death of Thomas Nieb

This morning I received a phone call from Mrs. Laura Nieb, wife of Tom Nieb who was a former Holy Cross Brother, who entered in 1961. He was originally from Fort Wayne, IN. He and Laura had three children and a few grandchildren. Tom had cancer and was in stage four before he died.



She wanted to let us know and said “ I wanted to thank the Brothers of Holy Cross for preparing Tom for her to marry him.” (smile ) Their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary is this coming weekend.

All funeral arrangements are private.

**Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C.**

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## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Moving On

Sometimes it seems we run up against a brick wall when we try to solve a problem. It can be very discouraging. In any case, all of the known ways forward come with solutions that prove to be wanting. How can our spirituality help us here? In his classic book, "Love, Medicine and Miracles," Dr. Bernie Siegle, a famous oncologist, gives us one example after another of how those who have experienced or who are experiencing unconditional love in their lives are healed faster than those who were not. He gives example after example of this from his clinical practice. The mind and the body have a definite connection (the placebo effect). What Dr. Siegle is proving is that our spirituality has a similar effect on the mind and body which sometimes results in a miracle. In other words as Adele, a character in "Guys and Dolls," sings when you feel unworthy of being loved, "a 'poison' (sing it with a Brooklyn pronunciation) can come down with a cold."

We have a source of energy within us that complements our capacity to heal and to solve our problems that goes beyond our ego solutions. It is the love and wisdom that the Holy Spirit will give us if we find a time to listen. True spiritual wisdom becomes available not only from examining alternatives but by opening ourselves to a deeper wisdom that comes from God.

- Can you recall having a problem that seemed unsolvable?
- How did you deal with it?
- Have you been able to let go and let God?

**O God, help me to trust in your providence.**

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



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





## Almsgiving

Together with prayer and fasting, almsgiving is another obligation of the traditional observance of Lent.

For the biblical Israelites, almsgiving, the giving of material resources to alleviate the needs of the poor, was not only a religious duty but a civic one also. It is addressed in the *Book of Deuteronomy* (“Deuteronomic Code” 12-26) and the *Book of Leviticus* (“Holiness Code” 17-26).

During New Testament times, Jesus’ ministry to the poor was the perfect model of care for the poor.


As a virtuous practice, almsgiving is motivated by love: Evangelist John states: “Giving to the needy should be an expression of love; without love this giving should be suspect” (4:17). It is also an expression emulating God’s bountifulness to all his people.


Almsgiving merits rewards: “He who gives to the poor suffers no want” (Proverbs 28:27).





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



**Providence Health Care**  
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**Sunsets are proof that endings can often be beautiful, too.**  
~ Beau Taplin

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics & Spirituality + Providence Health Care  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada [providencehealthcare.org](http://providencehealthcare.org)

February 23, 2024



**You have not lived today  
Until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.**

*JOHN BUNYAN*

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