

Your favorite page...

Deep thoughts to ponder in your spare time:

I have kelpomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

Follow Your Dreams (except for that one where you're naked in Church).

Sometimes too much to drink isn't enough.

Heaven is Where:
The Police are British,
The Chefs are Italian,
The Mechanics are German,
The Lovers are French
and
It's all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is Where:
The Police are German,
The Chefs are British,
The Mechanics are French,
The Lovers are Swiss
and
It's all organized by the Italians.

My short-term memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my short-term memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

In just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday.

The statement below is true.
The statement above is false.

I may be schizophrenic, but at least I have each other.

I am a nobody.
Nobody is perfect.
Therefore I am perfect.

In Memoriam

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week. Larry La-Prise, the man who wrote "*The Hokey Pokey*", died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started.

Dyslexics have more nuf.

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

A bartender is just a pharmacist with a limited inventory.

Reality is only an illusion that occurs due to a lack of alcohol.

Corduroy pillows are making headlines!

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Amount you wish to give: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

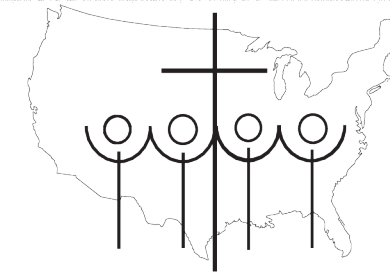
3-Digit Security code _____

Signature: _____

If you wish us to keep this credit card info on file, check the box.

CROSS

Phone: (574) 631-6022
Personal E-Mail: frherb@earthlink.net
Business E-mail: cscassn@nd.edu



LINKS

HOLY CROSS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 771
NOTRE DAME, IN 46556-0771

August 27, 2010

Greetings, my friend!

I hope you have had a good summer, despite the heat waves and rains that have afflicted most of the country. Ay-yi-yi...it was truly beastly at times!! This herb wilted from the heat.

There's a lot of CSC news to report, so let me get right to it without further ado.

The beginning of the school year always brings a new class of seminarians. Six men are entering the collegiate Old College program, five will be entering the Candidate Program at Moreau, and five from last year's Old College class will continue their formation at Moreau.

In late July, 4 novices made their First Vows in Holy Cross.

On Saturday August 28, **Paul Ybarra, CSC** will make his Perpetual Profession in Holy Cross, followed by ordination to the diaconate the next day.

Moving from the youngest members to the oldest, four men graduated from earthly life into eternal life: on April 27th, **Rev. Harry B. Eichorn CSC**; on May 2nd, **Rev. Joseph H. Fey, CSC**; on July 11th **Rev. Michael J. Murphy CSC**; and on August 8th, **Rev. Harold L. Bride, CSC**.

MOREAU SEMINARY APPEAL

As always, the August newsletter appeals for your assistance with the needs of Moreau Seminary.

In addition to the usual daily requirements of food, tuition, transportation, etc, the building is also undergoing some structural renovation. Moreau is 50+ years old, and is showing it!

Any help you can give will be deeply appreciated.

In return, I promise you daily remembrances in the Masses and prayers of all who live at Moreau.

The General Chapter took place in the month of July, and we have a new Superior General: **Rev. Richard V. Warner, CSC**. I'm not sure yet what all transpired in the Chapter itself – the narrative has to await official approval. It is assumed that one of the big items dealt with was mergers: of the Southwest Brothers Province with the Eastern Brothers Province, and of the Indiana Province of Priests with the Eastern Province of Priests. This latter merger will create the United States Province of Priests...it will be interesting to see how it all works out.

Big doings on October 16th, 2010. On that day in Rome, **Bro. André Besette CSC** will be canonized as Holy Cross's first saint. Celebrations will follow at St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. We still have a ways to catch up to the Jesuits – they have fifty canonized saints!

You'll find lots more information about all the above in the next issues of *Pillars* and other publications ... that's why I didn't go into much detail.

The reflection inside brings to a close the series of reflections on the Year of the Priest. It arises from my conviction that we are a community of

believers, each with a specific role, no one greater than the other. Ours is a common priesthood, given to us by the Holy Spirit at our Baptism.

Please be sure to read the last paragraph...I really would like feedback on the proposal to reflect on some hot-button issues. And if you have any questions for the "Plain Speaking" column in *Pillars*, please ask away!!

Pray faithfully, laugh often, love deeply!

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

The month of June brought to an end the Year For Priests. Unfortunately, the image of the priesthood suffered yet another battering as a flood of pedophilia reports surfaced in Europe. One wonders how soon Africa and Central/South America will come to dominate the news.

In the last few newsletters, I offered my own personal perspectives on 35 years as a priest. It's been a little more challenging in the last six or seven years because a different model of the priesthood is developing with which I'm not comfortable. Much effort is being expended to markedly distinguish between the ministerial priesthood and the priesthood of the faithful. Yes, they are different...very much so. But I often feel these efforts seem to have as their goal the building up of the first at the expense of the latter.

Many of the younger generation of priests now being ordained are very much into the signs and symbols of the priesthood and religious life. There is a definite notion of being set apart from others in the Church. Even Master of Divinity programs are reflecting this, for Rome has requested that separate M. Div. programs be set up for seminarians and for lay men and women who desire to be of service to the Church as non-ordained lay ministers.

These distinctions really get to me. For one thing, I deeply believe in and cherish the value of communion: "We're all in this together...we need each other and depend on each other." Anything that distinctly or implicitly speaks of distinction or separation between members of the Body of Christ is, I believe, a violation of what Jesus intended.

Y see, every one of us, clergy and lay alike, share one common vocation: we are Christians. That is our call from God; that is our vocation. Not everyone receives this call. Some are called by God to be Buddhist, others Jews, still others Muslim (in the best sense of that religion), Baha'i, Sufi, Hindu, etc. I might be stretching it a little to say that some are called by God to be athe-

ists, but they do keep us on our toes by helping us defend our faith and beliefs.

Even within Christianity, there are different vocations. Some are called to Roman Catholicism, some to Eastern Catholicism. We have expressions of Christian Faith called Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican/Episcopalian, Unitarian, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, Amish, Mennonite, Greater Church of God in Jesus Christ, Russian and Armenian Orthodoxy, Quakers, Lutheran, Reformed, Congregational, etc .

As Christians we have been set apart by God to follow the Gospel of Jesus as best as we can, in communion with like-minded believers. The genius of Christianity is precisely its emphasis on community...no other world religion has quite the same emphasis. We work out our salvation in company with others; our human journey to wholeness depends on interaction with others. "Communion" is a major defining trait of Christianity.

It is Baptism that incorporates us into that communion of believers. All Christian denominations have some form of Baptism. Part of the Catholic Rite of Baptism is the Anointing with Sacred Chrism, through which we are sealed by God to take on the role of priest, prophet, and king. The gift of the Spirit given to us at Baptism, and later at Confirmation, is given not for personal use or personal power or private sanctification, but to build up the Body of Christ.

Now there are some distinctions that have to be made. We have the ordained ministry (bishops, priests, deacons). Then we have non-ordained lay ministry. These are the folks who are called by God to a vocation of full-time church service. They have received special education and have special skills, and exercise their ministry in a public and recognized way. These lay ministers serve in such capacities as pastoral associates, parish business managers, directors of religious ed, catechists, directors of the RCIA program, youth

ministers, or coordinators of parish liturgy. Also in this area of non-ordained lay ministry we would find Brothers and Sisters who are members of apostolic or contemplative religious orders. It is the Holy Spirit who calls people to the ordained and non-ordained ministry, and it is the People of God who affirm the call. In ordinations, religious profession, and Commissioning ceremonies, there is always a place in the ritual where the assembly gives its affirmation (usually by applause).

But I feel it's very important to realize that the notion of priesthood has to extend beyond what a priest or lay minister does to the kind of person s/he is. I know priests who can do all the priest things, but whose personalities and ways of relating to others are spirit-killers. Priesthood has to do with a specific way of relating to other people.

Now this is where your baptismal priesthood comes into play. If priesthood is a specific way of relating to folks, then your Spirit-given personal qualities and gifts are a tremendous asset to the Body of Christ. These gifts and qualities include specific talents and skills, but they also include such things as goodness, love, friendship, kindness, fidelity, hope, peace-making, courage, prayer, honesty, love of beauty, practical sanity, and humor. To repeat, it's not what you do that makes you a priest; it's who you are.

Let me go at this another way. There are certain qualities that should be present in a prospective candidate for the ordained ministry. He should have a personal life with God nourished by prayer. He (and maybe someday "she") should have a willingness to talk about his faith and have some involvement in his parish. He needs a desire to serve and make a difference in peoples' lives. He needs to be approachable, and his leadership style is marked by the ability to collaborate and empathize with others. He takes initiative and assumes responsibility for his actions. He needs to have healthy relationships with men, women, and children, as well as average intelligence, and com-

mon sense. The sacraments are important to him, and he also has a good sense of the worldwide Church. He is open to and respectful of all people, and has the ability to nurture another person's growth.

Well now, don't these apply to you also? Don't you use these qualities in your everyday life with family, with friends, at school and work and social circles? Oh sure, you're not perfect...neither is padre! But if you exercise these qualities on a consistent basis, then you are in fact exercising your baptismal priesthood...and you may be exercising it better than some who are called to ordained or lay ministry!!

Yes, clergy, non-ordained ministers, and laity each have specific functions and roles in the church, but all are part of the same royal priesthood. The ordained and non-ordained ministers help build up the People of God; the People of God help build up the world.

Just close with the words of St. Augustine: "To you I am the bishop (or priest), with you I am a Christian. The first is an office, the second a grace; the first a danger, the second salvation."

A couple days after writing the first draft of this reflection, it struck me that it might be worthwhile to reflect on some pressing national issues in upcoming Cross Links. Despite all the negative press, the leadership of the Church has some really good material on such things as immigration, political gridlock, corporate bullying, etc. These teachings never make the news, and it is stuff that Catholics should be aware of as an aid to their mission of building up the world. What do you think? Any issues you'd like to see discussed? Yeah, it's politically charged stuff, and I know there will be some vehement reaction, but part of coming to an informed conscience is looking at all sides of an issue.