



# Pillars

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRIESTS OF HOLY CROSS, INDIANA PROVINCE



In 1958, Holy Cross arrived in East Africa as missionaries “To” the people of Uganda. In the course of just 50 years, Holy Cross has grown to be “Of” and “From” East Africa. God Bless the work of Holy Cross!



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# 50 Years in East Africa

by Rev. Lucius Atwine, C.S.C.  
Development Director  
District of East Africa

Our Philanthropic Mission:  
*Uniting those who are called to be witnesses of Christ's love, and stewards of His gifts, with our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all.*

The first Holy Cross Religious to arrive in East Africa – Frs. Vincent McCauley, Robert Hesse, Francis Zargoc, and Burton Smith – landed at Entebbe in Uganda on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1958. On January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Congregation of Holy Cross in East Africa celebrated its Golden Jubilee of Presence and Ministry. The celebrations took place in Fort Portal, Uganda (the cradle of Holy Cross' Presence and Ministry in East Africa).

In its 50 years of Presence and Ministry in East Africa, the Congregation of Holy Cross has

touched the lives of many people in the:

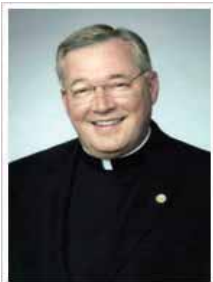
- Archdiocese of Nairobi – Kenya.
- Diocese of Jinja – Uganda.
- Diocese of Mbulu – Tanzania.
- Archdiocese of Kampala – Uganda.

We in East Africa have been blessed with the opportunity of serving in a vibrant, dynamic, young and growing Church. As we take stock of the several opportunities and blessings encountered over the past 50 years and look to the future with hope we do not forget

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# Our Community Celebrates

Rev. David T. Tyson, C.S.C., Provincial Superior



Greetings! It is hard to believe that summer is quickly coming to a close. For many, summer is a time for respite and recreation. For others it seems more like we must rush to find time to rest.

Much has happened in the Holy Cross Community in the past few months. But before we enter into that discussion, I thank all of you who have offered your prayers and support for our ministries, especially for our formation program in Mexico, which was featured in the last issue of Pillars.

April marked the Ordination of three new Holy Cross Priests. Please join me in thanking God for the blessings that come through these enthusiastic young men – Frs. Aaron Michka, C.S.C., Charles McCoy, C.S.C., and Vincent Kuna, C.S.C. In May we celebrated the Jubilees of 19 members of the Holy Cross community. Please take a few moments to read of these men and their work for the Lord. You may even recognize a few familiar faces.

As we reflect on the wonderful examples of service lived by the Jubilarians we can see how faith in God's Divine Providence, which helped form the Congregation from its inception, was and is integral to our ministerial growth in the world today. Besides trusting God to lead us to where we will best carry out His will, we trust we will have the necessary resources to do so. We could not succeed without the collaborative support of our benefactors.

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support of our benefactors.

We have come to a point, after prayerful consideration and study, that we need to expand our invitation of support for our ministries. In our last issue of PILLARS, we introduced the theme for

our upcoming campaign for Holy Cross - *Following in the Footsteps of a Great Band of Men*. It is our sincere hope that, through this effort, we will be provided the resources to strengthen our endeavors and in turn those of the Church.

In our next few issues of PILLARS, we will explore the three main components the *Footsteps Campaign*, namely: *Religious Formation, Education and Advanced Studies; Retirement and Long-Term Care; and International Missions*.

Featured in this issue is the District of East Africa. When I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Cross in East Africa this past January, I was overwhelmed by enthusiasm of the people there. Words cannot describe the pageantry, exuberance, holiness and utter joy present during the three day celebration. Truly the Holy Spirit was alive and moving among all of us. This is the same Holy Spirit which nurtured the seeds planted 50 years ago by four Indiana Province missionaries, which included Bishop Vincent McCauley and three newly ordained priests.

I invite you to read of this vital ministry of Holy Cross as told by members of the District of East Africa. Fr. Lucius Atwine, C.S.C., Bro. Jim Nichols, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Temba Leopold, C.S.C. will share their insights of Vocation, Formation and overall growth of Holy Cross in East Africa in the past 50 years.

One goal when venturing into missionary work is that the people being ministered to will eventually become those who minister. It is very exciting to be on verge of reaching this goal in East Africa, as the District of East Africa moves to becoming its own Province, independent from the Indiana Province.

You'll find a few other items of interest in this issue, including Fr. Herb Yost's answer to a question about "fear of the Lord", and important milestones realized through our Office of Vocations.

Enjoy reading, and remember, in all we do we are grateful for your investment in the life and work of Holy Cross.

God bless! ✠

# 50 Years

*continued from page 1*



*Fr. Lucius Atwine, C.S.C. was ordained in 1997 and has served as a parish priest in East Africa, and most recently as Development Director*

the great challenge of assisting those we minister to in their endeavors of attaining social emancipation, economic transformation and building just and peaceful societies amidst disease, poverty, hunger, illiteracy and fragile peace.

God continues to work in amazing ways and we

are thankful to him for having enabled us in the District of East Africa to celebrate 50 years of presence and service. We are also thankful to the Indiana Province that continues to support us in mission and to all you dear friends for your continued love, friendship and support. God bless you all. ✠

## Holy Cross Ministries and Apostolates in East Africa

The Congregation of Holy Cross in East Africa is committed to Ministry in five Parishes namely:

- Holy Cross Parish Dandora (founded in 1978) – Archdiocese of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Holy Cross Parish Bugembe (founded in 1990) – Diocese of Jinja, Uganda.
- St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Kyarusozzi (founded in 1994) – Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda.
- St. Brendan's Parish Kitete (founded in 2000) – Diocese of Mbulu, Tanzania.
- St. Lazarus Parish Kambi Ya Simba (founded in 2008) – Diocese of Mbulu, Tanzania.

Other than the Sacramental and Spiritual Apostolates, these Parishes are also engaged in Education, Social and Health Care Apostolates.

### Holy Cross Parish Dandora.

- Nursery School.
- St. James Primary School.
- Tailoring and Dress making school.
- Blessed Brother Andre Dispensary.
- HIV / AIDS Voluntary Counseling and Testing Clinic.
- Boma Rescue Center (Drug rehabilitation Center).

### Holy Cross Parish Bugembe.

- St. Andrews Primary School.
- St. Jude Primary School.
- Holy Cross Primary School.
- Bugembe Catholic HIV / AIDS Ministries (BUCHAM).
- Natural Family Planning (Cana Family Ministries).
- St. Monica Women's group.

### St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Kyarusozzi

- St. Joseph's Hill Secondary School Kyembogo.
- Kyarusozzi Vocational Training School.

### St. Brendan's Parish Kitete.

- Audrey Veldman Vocational Training Center.
- Lostete Dispensary.

### Other commitments of Holy Cross in East Africa include:

- Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School in Jinja.
- Holy Cross Family Ministries.
- Contributing staff to the Queen of Apostles Philosophy center in Jinja, Uganda and Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya. ✠

## Plane Speaking

Your questions answered by Rev. Herbert C. Yost, C.S.C.



Priest and furniture-maker, Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C.

### **“What does ‘Fear of the Lord’ mean?”**

*Recently someone asked me this question: “What does ‘fear of the Lord’ mean?” My first reaction is the feeling I had as a child. Fear of God meant fear of committing a mortal sin and going to hell. I certainly don’t feel that way anymore. Fear of being separated from God would probably be more accurate...like being separated from a loved one. What’s your input on this?*

*K from Granger, IN*

“Fear of the Lord” is a strange concept. It’s kind of like breaking the word “butterfly” down into two parts. If we take the definition of “butter” and take the definition of “fly” and put them both together, we’ll have a completely wrong answer or concept. Human that we are, we focus only on the first word: “Fear.” And then we hear things like “God is love” and cannot reconcile the two.

Like you, I grew up in an era when people were taught to be afraid of God. After all, God knew everything I did and everything I thought, and was keeping a close tally of it. The presumption was that you and I were guilty; it seemed like everything was a mortal sin. We had to do everything in our power to placate this harsh God: frequent confession, novenas, indulgences, penitential practices, etc. Lots of cold showers too!! It was basically a fear of getting in trouble.

Others have said that this fear is a fear of offending God, that if we do such and such a thing then God will be offended, disappointed, angry, etc. It’s as though we were a child offending our Mom or Dad. I have trouble with this because God

see *Plane Speaking*, pg.12

## Like a Tree Planted Near Running Water - Vocations in East Africa

by Br. Jim Nichols, C.S.C.

The Book of Psalms begins with the words: “Happy are those who take joy in the law of the Lord ... they are like trees planted near running water, that yield fruit in due season.” *Ps 1.1-3.*

### *The First Stage of Formation*

Young men called to join Holy Cross in East Africa begin their first stage of religious formation in Jinja, Uganda: the source of River Nile. This is a three year program that consists of a community living experience at our André Candidate House, where presently we have 39 men from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Their educational component is done at the Philosophy School Jinja (PCJ) where our men study along with candidates to six other religious and missionary congregations.

André House has recently been enlarged to accommodate the growing number of young men who express interest and joy in following the way of the Lord. Our candidate program allows the individual to become more aware of Holy Cross and its mission as well as an opportunity for the community to help the candidate to grow in self-awareness and God’s personal call to him.



André House of Formation, dedicated in January 2007

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# Like a Tree ...

*continued from page 4*

## *The Second Stage of Formation*

The second stage of religious formation in Holy Cross is done in Fort Portal, Uganda, our first mission in East Africa. Holy Cross Novitiate at Saaka is situated in front of the legendary Mountains of the Moon. This was our first joint program for seminarians and brothers in Holy Cross. It began 25 years ago, appropriately on June 3, 1984: the Feast of the Ugandan Martyrs. It is here at Saaka, surrounded by the beauty of God's creation: mountains, lake, volcanic hills and forest that the novices have their spiritual year: the beginning of their life in the Congregation.

Ministry experiences are done each week at a government prison, Catholic hospital, an AIDS clinic and a youth detention center. At the completion of this special year the men make their first profession of the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

## *The Third Stage of Formation*

McCauley Formation House in the capital city of Nairobi, Kenya will be the home of our newly professed for the next four years. While living in community the seminarians travel to attend classes at Tangaza College, a joint Theological Institute founded by Holy Cross and a number of other international religious congregations. The brothers study at CUEA (the Catholic University of Eastern Africa) where they prepare for future full time ministry. Mid way through this four year program the men have a "year off": a pastoral year experience, where they have the opportunity to experience first hand what ministry in Holy Cross requires, as well as its rewards. At the end of this stage the men will make their final profession of vows, and the seminarians will be ordained: the Psalmist said in due time ... formation is a long process, but the fruits do come.



*Temporarily Professed Seminarians with formation staff outside of McCauley House, Nairobi.*

Before any of this formation begins, it is the work of our Vocation Director to respond to inquiries and to go out to the various parts of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania making the ministry and charism of Holy Cross known.

Each of these three phases of formation (Candidacy, Novitiate, Post-Novitiate) are headed by East African members of Holy Cross: men who have been through this very same program themselves. Holy Cross has taken root in East Africa, that stream of running water has been yielding its fruit. ☩

# The Stories of Formation

By Deacon Temba Leopold, CSC  
Director - Office of Vocations  
District of East Africa



Deacon Temba  
Leopold, CSC

For the past three months and a half I have been assigned to work as the Director of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross in the District of East Africa. For the few months I have been in this assignment, I have been enriched with the stories of how young men feel called to serve the Lord as religious from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The work of vocations and formation in the District of East Africa has what I would call 'designated' directors. Nonetheless every member in the District does vocation and formation work, to attract and help one deepen his and our call to

serve God in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Sure enough 'each story is unique' when listened to and offers an awareness of how God calls each one differently to make God served. On sharing with one community member as to how he felt called to serve God, he states recalling how it all started in primary school. He attended elementary education in school where religious sisters were teaching. *"It was a must for all pupils and staff to attend Mass on Wednesday and Sunday morning every week at school. Some of those hours for morning prayers were cold, very cold. I admired and wished to be in those vestments to keep me warm. When I shared with the vocations director, he told me let us continue praying together, for what God is preparing to 'warm' you with, His Word. Through my years of formation, I have shared the Word of God in peer formation. My peers, spiritual and formation directors have helped me feel and understand God's love expressed in His Word, sacraments, and experiences shared in community."*

In the post novitiate formation, each year members share again and again their stories how they felt called, and how and what attracted them to Holy Cross, besides their likes and dislikes. These are stories that strengthen those who hear them in formation. These are formation stories. There is a saying in most of East African cultures that "a story is never old but the story teller makes it old". These stories told and re-told are inspiringly new every time one tells and re-tells them with experiences of faith. One member in temporary vows shared how he had grown up and studied in his home place. The internationality experienced when he joined Holy Cross formation helped him appreciate each other's differences in listening to what God's word is telling each one of us through a variety

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## Around the Province

### NOTRE DAME/SOUTH BEND

✚ In April, over two hundred people (including many Holy Cross priests and seminarians) participated in the fifth annual Eucharistic Procession at the University of Notre Dame. The procession began down the main aisle of Sacred Heart Basilica following Mass and continued outside with a prayerful walk through campus and stops at four altars. The procession ended at the steps in front of the Golden Dome, with prayers and benediction.

✚ Four men will be entering the Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado in early August. These include Adam Booth, Christopher Ochoa, Patrick Reidy, and Nicholas Senz.

✚ In late August, two men will be making final vows and be ordained to the Diaconate. Kevin Grove, C.S.C. will be serving as a deacon at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Indiana. Gerry Olinger, C.S.C. will be serving at the University of Portland, working in both Campus Ministry and as an Assistant Director of a residence hall.

✚ This is the fifth year that Fr. Michael Mathews, C.S.C., pastor of Holy Cross/St. Stanislaus Parishes in South Bend, is participating in the "Sunburst Marathon" to help raise money for Holy Cross Grade School. Over the last 5 years, nearly \$80,000 has been raised for the school. Fr. Michael and Associate Pastor Fr. Brad Metz, C.S.C. (who is also taking part in the marathon) are

# Formation Stories

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## Around the Province

hoping to gather enough pledges this year to surpass the \$100,000 mark!

The success of Fr. Michael's and Fr. Brad's efforts have inspired Fr. John DeRiso and Fr. Nate Wills, of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, to chart a similar path. Fr. John and Fr. Nate are **On the Go for St. Joe** with Fr. John participating in the Sunburst Marathon, and Fr. Nate cycling 100 miles through America's heartland in **Trek 100**. **On the Go for St. Joe** will raise money for St. Joseph Parish school, with 10% of the proceeds being donated to the Christ Child Society.

### PORTLAND

✚ Rev. Richard Rutherford, C.S.C., was recently given the Scholarship Award by the University of Portland. The citation reads, "In recognition of the vigor and creativity of his scholarly work; with admiration for the manner in which his historical research and archaeological energy has elevated the University's scholarly reputation internationally; with delight at the accomplishment of a man seventy years old earning a Fulbright grant; and with particular regard for the way he carries the meticulous care and exuberant joy of his work into the classroom and into the hearts of his students, the 2009 Outstanding Scholarship Award is hereby presented to Rev. Richard Rutherford, C.S.C., Department of Theology, with gratitude from his colleagues, friends, and with great respect from the University Community."

of cultures, experiences and reflections. *"Holy Cross formation helps me relate with myself as well as others with a variety of experiences and exposure. Besides expressing myself in English, I can communicate in some languages spoken in East Africa like Kiswahili, Rutooro, Lusoga."*

As a 'designated' vocation's director, I ask and am asked a lot of questions. What is the difference between "religious priests" and "diocesan priests"? One aspirant informed me how he felt called by God to be a priest. He feels called to do sacramental ministry. He did not know the difference between the work of the vocation director and Holy Cross members has been to help aspirants understand what religious life is. Later on I asked the aspirant what he understands by the vows of celibacy, poverty and obedience. He explained that the vows are about sharing my life, talents, presence with others in community. A vowed life means sharing ones'

faith experiences. I am aspiring to share that vowed life in Holy Cross.



There is more to be told, re-told about stories by any member of Holy Cross in the District. All are vocation's formation directors in one way or another as they

continue to relate with aspirants, those in formation and those in active ministry. The shared faith experiences among our aspirants, seminarians and brother candidates in formation as well those of our older brothers and priests help us deepen God to each one of us daily. Reading and re-reading this verse from scripture as well as from our constitutions *"Come follow me, it is the Lord calling us"* we have promising signs for more vocations from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya. For instance, next year June 2010, we hope to have a novitiate class of 18. This is a blessing for us. It is an answer to the prayer for more vocations we make everyday. At the same it is our challenge as a community to think about the expansion of the Novitiate and even the post novitiate house. And this is the reason why we need each other's prayers to keep us warm, share our life and be witnesses to God's love among all people of God. It was the LORD CALLING US, COME FOLLOW ME. ✚



# Portraits of Our Jubilarians



The sixty years have passed quickly, but not always easily. Were I asked: "if you had the chance to start over,

would you choose the same commitment"? My answer would be: DEFINITELY. I am eternally grateful to God for leading me to the religious life and the priesthood and for all the graces God has given me along the way.

Rev. George C. Bernard, C.S.C.



It is a great joy to have the opportunity to celebrate sixty

happy years of my priesthood. It is a celebration of thanksgiving for so many graces and for so many persons in my past sixty years." I want to thank God for my health, for my internal peace...and I ask for your prayers so that I may

grow in faith, hope and love and that I may continue to serve my brothers and sisters.

Rev. Charles A. Delaney, C.S.C.



Missionary in Bangladesh, educator, pastor and chaplain, Fr. Bride has served the Church faithful to his vows for sixty years.

Rev. Harold L. Bride, C.S.C.



"Priest, rector, scientist, and administrator, this award-winner has worn many hats

with distinction... He is a man whose devotion to this University, its mission and its traditions, merits special honor..." comments from Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. upon presenting Fr. Murphy the Special Presidential Award on behalf of Notre Dame.

Rev. Michael J. Murphy, C.S.C.



"...in the words of Mary, 'MY SOUL CANNOT BUT MAGNIFY THE LORD FOR HE WHO IS MIGHTY HAS DONE SO MANY

MIGHTY GOOD THINGS UNTO ME "IN THESE PAST FIFTY YEARS" AND HOLY IS HIS NAME..." "And He continues to bless me."

Rev. Edwin J. Kadzielawski, C.S.C.



In his sixty years as a priest, Fr. O'Connor has covered 3/4 of the country. For decades he has served as a parish priest and has faithfully administered the Sacraments from California to Ohio.

Rev. William C. O'Connor, C.S.C.



I currently serve as Professor of Theology, Departmental Fellow of the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, congregational Chaplain for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Director of Latin American Church Concerns (LANACC), which I founded, and coordinator of the Romero Days observations at Notre Dame, an annual series of lectures, symposia, and workshops that study Archbishop Oscar Romero's role as a model for bishops who strive to advance the Church's mission in this world.

Rev. Robert S. Pelton, C.S.C.

## Around the Province

✚ As noted above, Fr. Rutherford has also been named a Fulbright Scholar. The study will focus on "Early Byzantine Baptismal Churches of Cyprus in Regional Comparison."

✚ The Downtown Chapel will be hosting volunteers from Notre Dame's Summer Service Learning Project and Master of Divinity Program. They will work in the hospitality center with the growing numbers of people in need that are served by the Downtown Chapel.

✚ Andrew Noethe, Pastoral Associate, will graduate from Notre Dame's Master of Nonprofit Administration program this summer. Associate Pastor, Rev. Ron Raab, CSC, will be teaching at St. Mark's College in Vancouver, British Columbia during July. And Pastor Rev. Robert Loughery, CSC, is coordinating a renovation of the chapel interior and new signage and updates to the exterior building to be completed this summer.

### OTHER NEWS

✚ Superior General, Rev. Hugh Cleary, CSC, participated in celebrations commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Servant of God Patrick Peyton at the Father Patrick Peyton CSC Memorial Centre, Attymass, County Mayo, Ireland. Over 700 people participated in the event at Attymass parish, led by Cardinal Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. In conjunction with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr.



# Portraits of Our Jubilarians

## Around the Province

Peyton's birth, Family Theater Productions, a ministry of Holy Cross Family Ministries, continues the mission of Father Peyton with the release of a new film, *Rosary Stars: Praying the Gospel*. This is a multi-faceted video that brings viewers to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Rosary as prayer, particularly as daily family prayer. With a learning segment, historical timeline on the evolution of the Rosary and actual Rosary prayer with inspiring reflections by Rosary Stars, it will enrich the prayer lives of both individuals and families – fulfilling the vision that Father Peyton had – “The family that prays together, stays together.”

You may order *Rosary Stars* by calling 800-299-PRAY or by visiting the Holy Cross Family Ministries online store at [www.HCFMStore.org](http://www.HCFMStore.org).

✠ The Holy Cross Mission Center has received word Rev. Lawrence Subrato Howlader, CSC, currently the Novice Director for Holy Cross in Bangladesh, has been named as Auxiliary Bishop of Chittagong. Since his ordination in 1994, Fr. Subrato ministered at parishes in the Mymensingh Diocese and served as Rector of St. Paul's Minor before becoming Novice Master in 2005.

June 2, 2009 was heralded as **Fr. John Korcsmar, C.S.C.** day in

✠ Trolis County, Texas, to honor the exhaustive work of Fr. John, provincial of the former Southern Province and long-serving parish priest and community activist.



This is my Golden Jubilee Celebration but I must confess that over the years I had overlooked the blueprint.

It is a pattern designed to marvel and mystify. It is found everywhere in nature and is the aesthetic guide in art and architecture. It is the Golden Angle in rose petals and the Golden Spiral in our ear. It is discovered in the leaf patterns of plants, the pyramids, cathedrals and the spiral patterns of a hurricane. The list is endless. This Golden Jubilee is for me now a reminder to find Divine meaning and harmony hidden in all the parts of my Golden Years.

Rev. Robert J. Austgen, C.S.C.



While Fr. Blantz's experience as a Missionary priest in Uganda was cut short due to illness, he met a little girl named "Rosebud" who would change his vision for his vocation. She taught him a "magic trick" that he later used to

bridge the gap of the language barrier which existed between him and the African children he was to teach. While currently semi-retired, Fr. Blantz's extraordinary talent as a performing magician continues to make it possible for him to support the distinct efforts of Holy Cross Missionaries in Africa and Asia, in a most extraordinary way.

Rev. James R. Blantz, C.S.C.



In his fifty years as a Holy Cross priest, Fr. Ford has been an educator in and out of the classroom.

His teaching experience includes former faculty at the University of Notre Dame, and current professor at Catholic University of America. Outside of the classroom, Fr. Ford has been closely tied with Notre Dame alumni in the Washington, D.C. area.

Rev. John T. Ford, C.S.C.

My mother worried that I was too young. My father said little. My brother assured us all that "HC" stood for "Hell's Cave" and not for "Holy Cross". Nevertheless, at the age of fourteen, I was off to the "Little Sem.", Notre Dame in the fall of 1946. "Now I'm happy to spend more and more time with the God of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob and the God whom I have come to know through the cascade of the past 50 years. Of late, the adventure to live the life of a religious according to the tradition of Holy Cross has attracted me more and more (2009-?). Webale muno! Gracias a Dios! Thanks to all for all!"

Rev. John P. Keefe, C.S.C.



In his many years of priesthood, Fr. McGrath has reached out to others. Whether it was assisting his students or ministering to parishioners, he would befriend them, teach them and challenge them. He has 'Known, Loved and Served' the Lord, with and beyond

the Holy Cross Community. Celebrating this 50th Jubilee, as a Priest of Holy Cross, has led him through the garden of life, with many blooming flowers and an abundance of blessings.

Rev. James J. McGrath, C.S.C.

# Portraits of Our Jubilarians



Fr. Melody, a native of County Mayo, Ireland, is the seventh in a family of nine – six boys and three girls. He came to the United States in 1947 at the invitation of his cousin, Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. and entered the seminary at Notre Dame. He graduated from Notre Dame in 1955, having become a US citizen in 1954. After graduation he studied theology at Holy Cross College, Washington, D.C. and was ordained a priest on June 10, 1959, at Notre Dame.

Rev. William P. Melody, C.S.C.



A priest since October 19, 1958, Fr. Rink utilized his background in broadcasting by producing Catholic radio programs for overseas missions and homebound listeners. His tapes are still being heard around the world. He also loved hosting retreats, especially in the missions. Fr. Rink now resides at Holy Cross House. He thanks his family for the love and support they have given him throughout his years at Holy Cross. He believes that the combination of love from his family and the love of God, has given him a good life.

Rev. Louis W. Rink, C.S.C.



The support of family, friends, confreres and colleagues has been so important for me over these 25 short years.

God's mysterious providence guiding life's course, too, and making up for my weaknesses and failures. There have been challenges, unexpected pathways, hard work, un-dreamed-of graces and opportunities. In short, I have so much to be thankful for. 'May God who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion.' Amen.

Rev. Michael E. Connors, C.S.C.



These twenty-five years of priesthood have taught me so much about God's mercy and God's forgiveness,

God's faithfulness and God's unconditional love. I love being a priest and I will forever be grateful to God for this vocation to serve the People of God as a Holy Cross priest. Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Rev. Joseph V. Corpora, C.S.C.



In day to day contact with common people in our parishes as well as in our educational endeavors, theology is dialogue, with journeys of faith of ordinary people.

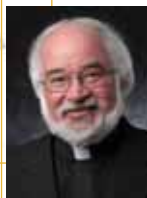
Rev. Diego Irarrazaval, C.S.C.



I will always be grateful to my parents, now deceased, who gave such good example and who made so many sacrifices for their six children. Both parents had severe health and family challenges in their youth, and both turned to God for support from an early age.

When my mother was near death, a nurse commented that she had never seen a couple so obviously devoted to one another as my parents. The longer I work with students, the more I appreciate what a blessing I had in my upbringing and the more I realize that my own vocational commitment has benefitted from faithfulness of others.

Rev. Arthur F. Wheeler, C.S.C.



I was born in Poughkeepsie, New York and grew up in the rural part of Hyde Park, New York, the northern corner of Dutchess County. It is in the mid-Hudson region of New York, along the Hudson River, a beautiful part of our state. I came to Notre Dame as a first-year student in 1974, reluctantly, because I wanted to be closer to home and friends. In fact, "reluctantly" is mild; I couldn't believe I was coming here. But, now it seems providential.

Rev. James E. McDonald, C.S.C.



# Ordinations to the Priesthood



On Saturday, April 18, 2009, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, in a most jubilant celebration, the international Holy Cross community welcomed three new priests to its body of members.

Conferring the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Charles F. McCoy, C.S.C., Aaron J. Michka, C.S.C. and Vincent A. Kuna, C.S.C., was Archbishop of Portland Oregon, the Most Reverend John G. Vlazny.



Rev. Vincent Kuna, C.S.C., left, will serve as Associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Rev. Charles F. McCoy, C.S.C., center, will teach at the University of Portland; and, Rev. Aaron J. Michka, C.S.C., right, will serve as Associate Pastor of Parroquia de la Luz Parish in Mexico, and continue to assist with the Holy Cross Formation program in Mexico





# Plane Speaking

continued from page 4

is God, and you cannot ascribe human emotions to God. On a human level, sure, it's natural to be afraid of offending someone you love and who loves you. You know s/he is going to react with anger, hurt, disappointment, lack of trust, etc. But that's not true of God. God is total unconditional love, period. That's God's only "emotion," if you will.

That leads to another way folks use "fear of God." We are not used to being loved so totally and completely, without judgment. So some people look for the catch: "This is too good to be true."

One more way in which I've seen people use this idea is when they have been through a period of time when everything seems to be going wrong. "What's he going to do next?", they wonder.

Now, it's important to realize that "Fear of the Lord" is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts (the other six are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence) are enhancements to our life; they deepen humanity and spirituality. Fear does not make anyone grow. Growth implies taking risks, and a fearful person will not risk. A fear that brings terror or despair is not from God – it is from the Evil One, or it may be due to a psychological condition (see end).

I prefer to see "Fear of God" as more akin to awe and reverence. It leads to deeper love and trust. If you look over a huge mountain vista and realize how puny you are and how mighty the mountains are, then you get an idea of what I mean. Amazement at God's blessings would be a sign that you are fearing the Lord: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all he has done for me?" If you've ever had a powerful experience of compassion and forgiveness, or an experience where you felt the Lord was very close to you, fear of the Lord is usually an aftermath. "If this experience is so overwhelming," we think, "and if God never graces us beyond our ability to endure it, what must it be like to experience the totality of God's love and compassion in heaven?" It's scary to say the least! That's why we cannot take our human bodies with us to heaven....only our souls (and after the General Resurrection, our glorified bodies) can handle

the full power of God's love.

True fear of the Lord is a deep awareness that God is God and I am but a puny human being, and that's OK. It acknowledges the "otherness" of God, which deserves recognition, respect, and reverent worship on our part. Yet God's infinite "otherness" does not subtract from the fact that he is our loving Abba Father, who desires only that we have a intimate relationship with him.

The healthiest "Fear" really comes only to those who have an abiding relationship with God. As we draw closer to the Father of Jesus, we'll see that there is no real contradiction between the utter "otherness" of God and God's desire for the deepest possible intimacy with us. The more we get to know the Father, through Jesus and with the help of the Spirit, the more we see how the two seeming opposites are reconciled.

I might add, by way of footnote, that there is actually a psychiatric condition known as *theophobia*. This afflicts individuals who are so fearful of God that they are constantly living in a mental state of disturbance, full of anxiety. There is a constant worry that God will judge them harshly for every thought and action they have. Along this same line, theophobics may also come to fear religion. They will suffer much stress in determining which religious beliefs are true and accurate, resulting in even greater fear and anxiety. This fear and anxiety will make many theophobics unable to attend church or any religious ceremony, which of course leads to even more fear and guilt. Mental health therapy is needed to resolve these conflicts. ✠

Question for Fr. Herb? Send it to:

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Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765  
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# Fire Damages Student Dormitory

Recently, Fr. Serapio Wamara, C.S.C., the pastor of Holy Cross, Bugembe, Uganda, wrote with some unfortunate, but thankfully not tragic, news. Fr. Wamara wrote:

“Greetings from Bugembe, I hope you are doing fine and thanks for all the services you offer to God’s people. I write to inform you of the sad news that one of our student dormitories at St. Andrew’s Primary School caught fire on 11th June 2009 around 8:00 pm.

The students were elsewhere on campus studying and we thank God that no students were in the building at that time. The fire caused a lot of damage to the building and all the personal property of the pupils was destroyed! The big issue at this moment is to replace the destroyed part of the dorm. When an engineer came, he recommended the removal of the whole roof and to pull down half of the dormitory walls because they are unsafe.

Due to the shock the kids got, we closed the school on Friday and we hope to reopen on June 15th.”

Fr. Serapio later wrote that by the Grace of God and deter-



*Inside the Boys Dormitory after the fire*

mined hard work, the school had reopened.

Repairing the building will cost approximately \$16,000 (USD) which doesn’t include replacement of the beds, or all the personal belongings of the students that were lost in the fire.

Outside of the fire, spirits are high and the school is thriving. Since opening,

the school has served well the needs of the students. Fr. Wamara and the administration in East Africa are encouraged by the growth of Holy Cross Parish, St. Andrew’s Primary School and all its associated ministries.

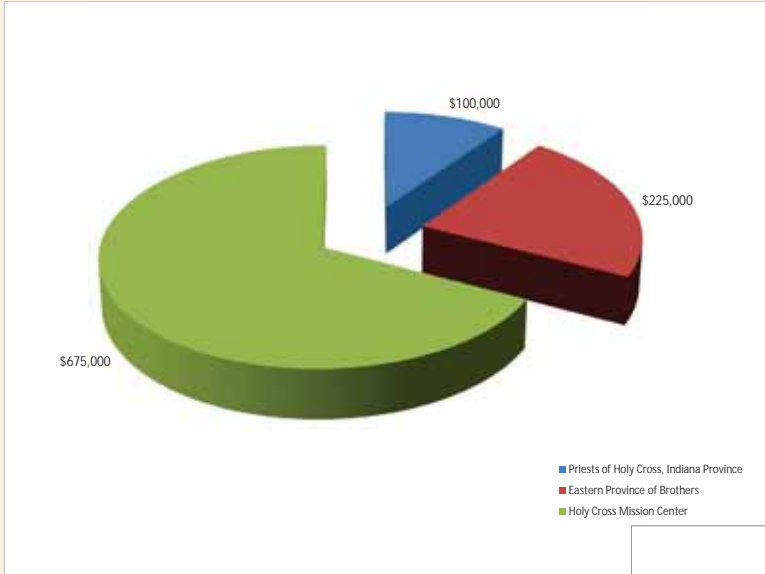
In addition, at nearby Holy Cross Lakeview Secondary School, Jinja, Uganda there is a need to add more classrooms. The government has changed regulations about the number of students allowed in a dormitory. As a result, some classrooms have been converted to girls dormitories. The school now has a need to add more classrooms. ✠



*Some of the boys displaced by the fire*

# Funding for the District of East Africa

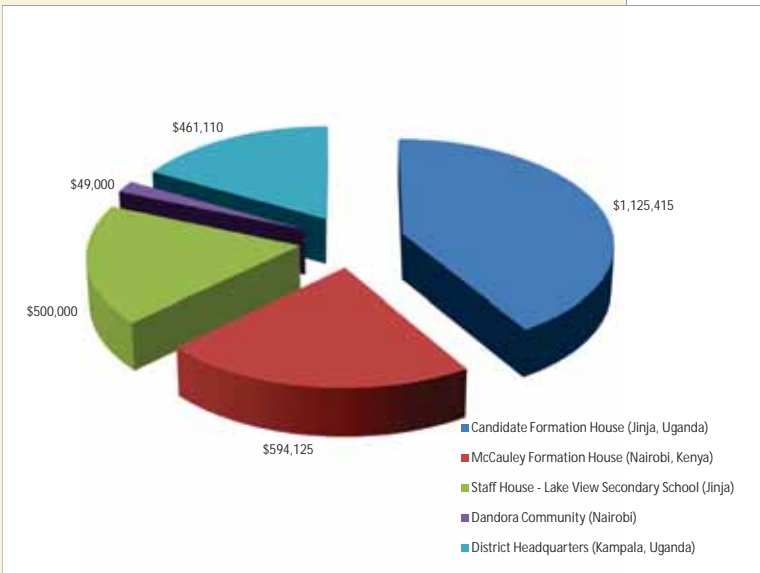
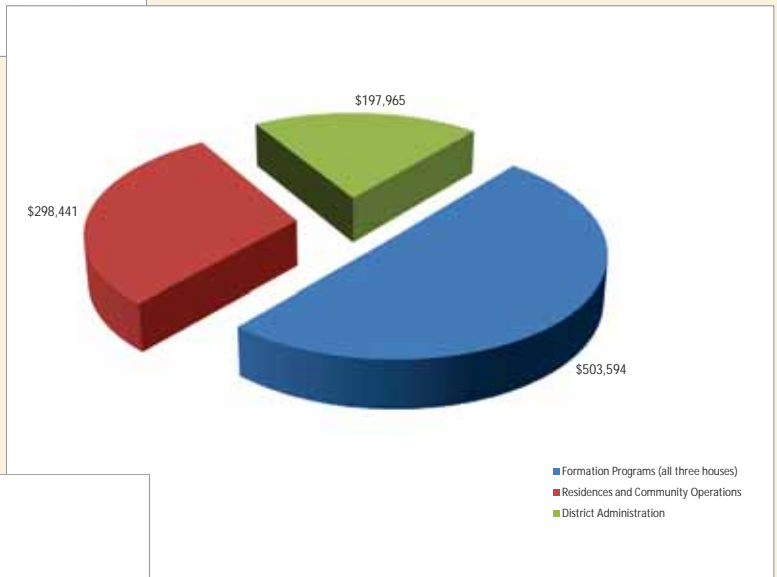
By Fr. Leonard Olobo, C.S.C.  
Steward, District of East Africa



**Sources of Revenue (left)**  
The figures to the left include charitable gifts made to the District through the Indiana Province, Holy Cross Mission Center, and Eastern Province of Brothers.

The annual operating budget for the District of East Africa is \$1,000,000. While parishes or ministries in the United States can generate sufficient revenue from parishioners, the economic situation in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, seriously limits financial support from the faithful.

**District Expenses (right)**  
Over half of the District’s expenses are committed to Vocations and Formation. More than 40 men are currently in the Formation program, and the District pays for room, board, and education. Other significant expenses include support for community members who work in ministries around the District, and administration of the District via travel, Ordinations, business functions, etc.



**Capital Projects (left)**  
The Indiana Province underwrites the cost of capital projects, from new building to renovation of District properties. In recent years, those expenses have exceeded \$2.5 million dollars. Again, no other viable sources are available to fund these projects from within the District.



# Vocation Statistics Worth Noting

In 2006, Fr. Ed Obermiller, C.S.C., assumed leadership for the Office of Vocations of the Indiana Province. Fr. Ed, along with his assistant directors, Fr. Pete McCormick and Fr. Jim Gallagher, created an unprecedented model of Vocation recruitment and mentoring not seen before by Holy Cross or any other religious community or diocesan office.

The extensive work by Fr. Ed and his team have produced multiple benefits and rewards, a number of which are reported here.

## **External Accolades**

- The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University recognized the Holy Cross Office of Vocations as one of the top three for best practices among 900 religious communities in the United States.
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invited Fr. Ed to present the Holy Cross model of Vocations to 70 Vocation Directors representing diocesan offices and those of religious communities.

## **Affects on Holy Cross Vocations**

- Holy Cross anticipates 22 men joining the Formation program this fall; 11 Old Collegians (undergraduate seminarians) and 11 Candidates (five college seniors and six post-college graduates).
- There were 589 vocation inquiries to Holy Cross in 2008. Of these:
  - Each received at least one hour of personal contact with Vocation staff.

*continued on next column*



*From left to right, Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., Fr. Ed Obermiller, C.S.C., and Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C.*

- More than 300 received at least three hours of personal contact.
- More than 80 prospects received at least five hours of personal contact before being assigned a Vocation mentor.
- Visits to Old College and Moreau Seminary by prospective seminarians increased from 34 to 71 in the academic year 2007/2008, and from 71 to 89 in 2008/2009.

## **Affects on Holy Cross**

- Increased involvement by members of Holy Cross in the Vocation process. There are 24 Holy Cross religious serving as Vocation Mentors throughout the United States.
- Greater networking among Holy Cross apostolates to encourage prayer and support for vocations to Holy Cross and to the religious life. ✠



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- ◆ Formation and Education of our Brothers
- ◆ Ministry to the Poor and Oppressed in the United States and Abroad
- ◆ Care for Our Elder and Infirm Brothers
- ◆ Ongoing Facility Requirements to Serve our Mission.



**OUR PHILANTHROPIC MISSION:**

*Uniting those who are called to be witnesses of Christ's love, and stewards of His gifts, with our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all.*

- I would like more information about the Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
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