

Pillars

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRIESTS OF HOLY CROSS, INDIANA PROVINCE



Fr. Tom McNally, C.S.C., Indiana State Prison chaplain, with an inmate on death row.

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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.

But for the Grace of God... Holy Cross as Chaplains

Lead Story by Rev. Tom McNally, C.S.C.

When I celebrate Mass at the Indiana State Prison I occasionally look up at the back wall of the chapel and see a sign that has been there for many years. It reads "But For The Grace Of God." It's a reminder to me that if I had faced the same challenges as the men in front of me I might be occupying a cell next to theirs.

Most of them come from home lives shattered by poverty, addiction and broken promises. By contrast my home life was serene and my parents never had to wonder where the next meal was coming from. How blest I have been!

Furthermore I consider myself blest to be a volunteer chaplain at this maximum security prison in Michigan City, IN. I've been chaplain at ISP for the past six years, shortly after "retiring" in 2001. Up to that point my ministry had included many years at Notre Dame in the halls and in campus ministry, plus work in parishes as pastor and associate, a couple years in vocational work, and an eight-year term as editor and publisher of two youth magazines. I also served briefly in Chile but had to return after 1-1/2 years because of respiratory problems.

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And the Survey Said...

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



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I extend warm greetings and offer deep gratitude for your partnership in our work around the globe! We pray each and every day that the

light of Christ's hope shines through all we do in His name.

Recently, we asked you for some different kind of support in the form of feedback on a planning and fundraising initiative, and the response was wonderful. Over 750 individuals answered the call by completing an on-line survey posted on our website. Many others called our offices to request a paper survey, and still others graciously shared their reactions in personal interviews.

As the Indiana Province looks ahead and plans for the allocation of its human, spiritual, and financial resources, the information gathered through this survey process will be of tremendous help. If you are interested in the results, a summary is posted on our website (www.cscip.org/development).

There were many responses to the survey that indicated we have not done a sufficient job in providing relevant information about different facets of our operations, such as how the Indiana Province is funded, or of the different development or fund raising offices within the Indiana Province. In future issues of Pillars I will try to address the most common of these areas. However, if you find a more immediate clarification is needed,

please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Development using the contact information on page 12.

You've noticed this issue of Pillars is dedicated to chaplaincy and profiles just four Holy Cross priests serving in this role. The role of a chaplain is as diverse as that of a parish priest. A chaplain is called to be counselor, spiritual director, friend, consoler, and a spiritual rock in times of turmoil. A chaplain must be resourceful, quick-thinking, open-minded, and spiritually centered to meet the needs of those to whom he ministers at any given moment.

I think you will enjoy reading of Fr. Bob Roetzel, C.S.C. and his assignment as a military chaplain, serving in Iraq and at an Army base in Virginia. Fr. Dave Porterfield, C.S.C. has been a chaplain to the South Bend Police and Fire Departments for 10 years and answers questions about his ministry. Fr. Tom McNally, C.S.C., whose picture and story begin on page 1, shares his insights of working at the Indiana State Prison. Lastly, Fr. Steve Gibson, C.S.C. writes of the Notre Dame Alumni Association and the spiritual resources it offers, of which, as its chaplain, he is a part.

In the recurring feature, Plane Speaking, Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C. answers a question about discerning God's will and accepting change with faith and openness.

In closing, I ask that you continue to pray for us as we discern our direction as a Province so we may best carry out God's will to bring about His Kingdom. ✠

Grace of God *continued from page 1*

No-one really “retires” in Holy Cross! There’s always ministry to be done in one way or another. When the opportunity came to work as a prison chaplain I jumped at the chance. I had some background in the field. In fact my first experience in prison work came before I ever entered Holy Cross. I was a United Press reporter in Sioux Falls, SD and covered a prison riot there in 1955. The prisoners even used me as a middle-man to get their demands to the warden and governor!

Much later, as a Holy Cross priest in California, I helped out many times at famous San Quentin prison in the San Francisco Bay area because a priest friend was chaplain there. (On several occasions seminar-ians came with me—including John Jenkins, now Notre Dame President and Austin Collins, a professor in Notre Dame’s art department.)

There’s no question in my mind about the value of this ministry. Look at the 25th chapter of Matthew’s Gospel where Jesus identifies himself with the marginalized and needy: “I was in prison,” he says, “and you came to visit me.” (Mt. 25, v36.) Or consider the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross: “Christ was anointed to bring good news to the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, restoration for every broken victim. Our efforts, which are his, reach out to the afflicted and in a preferential way to the poor and oppressed.” (Constitutions of Holy Cross: 2, 13).

Visitors who take part in Sunday worship at ISP and meet the inmates usually are surprised at what they find. Contrary to Hollywood stereotypes, the men are low-key, friendly and pretty much like the men in any parish in town. No guards are present even though some of the men belong to rival gangs and

Our efforts, which are his, reach out to the afflicted and in a preferential way to the poor and oppressed.

factions. There is an unwritten rule—No fights or other disturbances in the chapel, and the men adhere to that rule. Fr. Don Guertin C.S.C. and I alternate weekly as celebrants for a congregation which varies from 60 to 100, depending on many factors. Married deacons from the Gary Diocese join us as well as volunteers from parishes in that diocese and from South Bend’s Little Flower parish. Before and after Mass there is time for visiting the men and strong friendships are frequently formed. It’s easy to forget that these men have committed serious crimes—not excluding murder.

Not all the inmates at Mass are Catholics. Some are interested in becoming Catholics, others are curious about our faith, still others are there because their friends are there. What binds most of us together, I think, is a common need to worship the God who created us and to allow him to enter our lives in some way.

For instance, one of my good friends is Fred (not his real name) who has experienced a real conversion in his life. Three years ago he came to me and said that he hoped some day to enter a monastery as a monk. Lots of luck, I thought to myself. Not only was Fred serving a long sentence for murder—he was not even a Catholic! But he entered the RCIA program (run by the deacons) and I was privileged to baptize him. More recently he has entered a plea for sentence modification. If successful he may indeed some day knock on a monastery door!

It is men like Fred that make my ministry both exciting and fulfilling!

On Mondays and Thursdays I return to the prison and visit men in the disciplinary units. Here are men who are locked up in their cells 23 hours a day because they have committed some infraction within the prison. Obviously the Catholics among them cannot attend Mass so I will bring them Communion and occasionally hear their confessions. I walk the ranges, speaking to anyone who wants to talk to me, Catholic or not, and praying with those who wish to do so. I wear a “stab vest” which is required attire for anyone

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Plane Speaking

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



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

Discovering God's Will, a question from Ellen in Indiana

"I am a retiree who a few years ago suffered a traumatic change in my life. As a result of a long recovery, I am not at all the woman I'd planned to be as I approached my 70's. How can I know how to conduct myself, now that I am well again? How does a 70-year old woman – lacking youthful energy and idealism – discover God's will for her?"

Ellen from Indiana

Rarely does a life turn out the way it's planned, Ellen. I've been ordained 33 years now, and never would I have scripted my life the way it's gone. And yet, when folks ask me what I would change about it, I end up saying "Nothing, for everything that's happened has made me the person I am today." I can't even use the word "bad" for some of the major events anymore. True, they were extremely unpleasant at the time, but with help, they turned out to be enormous blessings.

The first thing I would suggest you do is to check your language. Are you saying or thinking such things as "When I return to normal?... "When things get back to normal?" If you are, it's time to change the tune. Because of the changes you've gone through, you are not the same person as before. It's impossible for you to "return". The present is your new normal; you can only stand on the present and use it as a springboard to the future.

In terms of future possibilities for life and sharing with others, what do you daydream about? What have you always wanted to do if you had the time and health and money? Is that still possible for you to do, even if it be in a slightly altered form? God can speak through those yearnings, so take some steps

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visiting these units. As the name indicates the vest is designed to ward off an attack from someone wielding a make-shift knife, or "shiv." I'd rather not wear it but I have no choice.

"You don't need to wear one of those things, Father," my friend Cory said to me one day. "You're one of the good guys!"

Good guy or not, I trudge up and down the ranges carrying a satchel filled with Catholic magazines, bibles, rosaries, greeting cards, and calendars (a favorite item around the first of the year). At age 81 I've lost a step or two and I imagine that I must look like Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman."

Every other Thursday I celebrate Mass for the Catholics on Death Row. The six Catholics gather in one large cell and I push a food tray against the bars as my altar. At Communion time I serve them the consecrated host through the bars. (I alone receive the consecrated wine!) Afterwards I stop by their cells for a private talk and also visit the non-Catholics. On alternate Thursdays a deacon brings Communion to the Catholics. On one or two nights a week other visitors stop by from the Catholic group.

Hollywood has done a super-job of depicting any Death Row as super-sinister. I certainly have not found it so, and I know I speak for the deacons and the other men (and even women) who visit prisoners on the "row." Granted the 20 or so men there have generally committed terrible crimes but most have long since repented and begged God for forgiveness. Many have been on the "row" for at least 10-15 years, awaiting their destiny as their appeals inch their way through the courts.

What happens if the appeals fail? I have been with several men during their last hours and have been present on two occasions when the executions by lethal injection took place. It is a scene I'd just as soon forget and has made me more strident than ever in favor of a moratorium on the death penalty. What strikes me about the final scene is how strange and unreal it is. From behind a few yards away you give a last blessing

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and wave goodbye to someone on a gurney. He waves back, the poison is injected, and a few minutes later a voice announces that he is dead. Everything is very neat and antiseptic. Then you and the other witnesses are escorted from the building into a waiting van and driven to the lot where you have parked your car.

At times like that I wonder what we have come to as a nation.

I wonder about the death penalty. I wonder about my own complicity in a procedure which seems so terribly flawed. My only choice, I think, is to work actively to overthrow this barbarism while continuing to administer as well as I can to any inmate who asks me to be with him in his last hours.

For that matter, I not only wonder about the death penalty but about the entire prison system, which is chock full of problems. But one thing I don't wonder about is my role as a prison chaplain. It is good ministry and I am grateful to God for allowing me to do it. ✠

An Interview with Fr. Dave Porterfield, C.S.C.

Chaplain to the South Bend Police Department and South Bend Fire Department.

Editor: Father Dave, what made you decide to become a police chaplain?

Father Dave: About 10 years ago, the Chief of Chaplains for the South Bend Police Department invited me to replace the Catholic Chaplain who was retiring. I called my brother Jon who is a policeman in Columbus, Ohio. Jon said that if I had the opportunity to help

the local police, I ought to do something since police departments currently do not receive much public support. Soon after beginning to work with the South Bend Police, I also agreed to be Chaplain to the South Bend Fire Department.



Fr. Dave Porterfield, C.S.C. blesses South Bend Police Officers at the annual "Blue Mass".

(photo courtesy of the South Bend Tribune)

Editor: What prior experience(s) prepared you for your role as a chaplain?

Father Dave: Mostly, a chaplain is a resource person: listening, recommending, referring. My years as pastor, high school teacher, and academic counselor developed these skills.

Editor: How does being a chaplain fit in the charism of Holy Cross?

Father Dave: "To make God known, loved, and served" is all that Holy Cross is about. Whether I'm riding in a cruiser or visiting a fire station my conversations with police officers and firefighters include topics about God, life, death, love, pain, and suffering. For example, recently the Police Department celebrated the memorial of a South Bend Policeman killed in the line of duty in April 2007. After the memo-

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An Interview with Fr. Dave Porterfield, C.S.C.

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rial, several officers and I spent two or three hours discussing what God thinks when a police officer shoots or kills someone.

Editor: What is most challenging/rewarding about being a chaplain?

Father Dave: Stress. The job of a police officer or firefighter involves more stress than most other jobs. My challenge is to see that the officers/firefighters do not take this stress home to their families. Most rewarding is the trust that the officers and firefighters place in me to assist them in difficult situations.

Editor: Can you describe an “average” week as a chaplain?

Father Dave: I try to ride along with an officer in a cruiser once a week; additionally I stay over night two or three times a month at a fire station. On average, I receive six to ten calls or emails from officers or firefighters every week, often, emergency calls. These calls coming to me, a priest/chaplain, mean that the officer or firefighter wants God involved. My role is to recognize God’s Grace present in each situation and to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. ✠

Fr. Steve Gibson, C.S.C., Chaplain Notre Dame Alumni Association

There was a time when the Notre Dame Alumni Association was known mostly for its football weekend tail gate parties and the hospitality tent at the summer reunions. But it is so much more!

What a privilege to work with this group of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals. The Notre Dame Alumni Association is one of the largest organizations of its type in the world. And the network of hospitality and assistance is something that literally reaches to the far ends of the earth.

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Around the Province

Austin, Texas

✠ During Holy Week 10 students and two adult chaperones from Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio came to Dolores Parish in Austin for an immersion experience. The men stayed with the Holy Cross Brothers at the South-West Province Center, and the women stayed at Dolores Parish in the convent. They worked on plumbing repairs and cleaning in the church and hall at Dolores’ mission church of San Juan Diego. They also repaired and cleaned homes nearby. San Juan Diego is located in a rural area that is very poor and looks like a small rancho in Mexico. Almost all of the people there are immigrants from Mexico.

✠ Over 800 people gathered at St. Ignatius Martyr Church for Austin Interfaith’s accountability session. Candidates for the Austin Community College Board, the Austin Independent School District Board, and the Austin City Council were asked to state if they support Austin Interfaith’s agenda, which included wages that support families, medical insurance for the workers’ families, and financial support for Capital IDEA (an adult job training program).

New Orleans, Louisiana

✠ With deep regret the Indiana Province withdrew its pastoral role at Sacred Heart Parish, founded by Holy Cross in 1879.

The decision was based on the significantly reduced population in the New Orleans neighborhood where Sacred

Heart is located, the damage to the parish after Hurricane Katrina, the proximity of other Catholic parishes, and reduced personnel.

Mexico

✠ From Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday seminarians Alfredo, Carlos, German, Miguel Angel and Trinidad, together with Frs. Dan Pan-
chot, CSC, and Tom Zurcher, C.S.C., went on mission to rural Mexican villages that don't have priests. Fr. Dan and Fr. Tom visited homes to anoint the sick, hear confessions for hours on end, celebrated daily Mass and the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

The seminarians went door to door in the morning inviting children, teens, and adults to afternoon workshops on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. They distributed over 500 rosaries and pamphlets during the daily rosary they organized and encouraged people to pray the rosary at home as a family. The Good Friday stations of the cross was another one of their major projects.

✠ In April, May and June two seminarians, Alfredo and Carlos, will organize a summer mission to other rural communities that don't have priests. This service to Catholic communities is intended to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the people. The hope is the seminarians learn about life and ministry as Holy Cross priests and religious.

Fr. Steve Gibson, C.S.C.

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Students working on Summer Service Projects for the Center for Social Concerns are welcomed to stay in the homes of the Alumni. Prospective students are enthusiastically recruited by local Alumni Clubs, not just with the promise of financial aid, but with the pride of celebrating with them so many of the other good things that go on here at the University. Alumni who find themselves in an emergency situation while travelling far from home can call on local chapters for assistance. Stories of employment opportunities that were made available through the Alumni Network are innumerable.

As Chaplain, I often have the opportunity to be with a local club for a Communion breakfast or for a talk or presentation.

The Notre Dame Alumni Association tries to meet the spiritual needs of its members as well. Alumni Reunion Weekend always includes time for prayer and reflection. Classes and seminars are offered on many aspects of our spiritual life and development of our inner self. As Chaplain, I often have the opportunity

to be with a local club for a Communion breakfast or for a talk or presentation. Recently, I was present at a retreat that centered around the loss of a spouse. The care and concern of the presenters and the openness of the participants to share their own stories and heartaches made for a most meaningful weekend for all of us.

Pray@ND is part of the Notre Dame website and has a daily reflection upon the gospel given by Kathy Sullivan, the head of Spirituality at the Alumni Association, and a daily prayer usually written by a Holy Cross priest. There is also a short video meditation on the sacred spaces at Notre Dame which is produced by Holy Cross Media Ministry, another venture in which I am involved.

The spirit of the Alumni Association is infectious, and as the Alumni Association Chaplain, I am privileged to play an active role in sustaining this determined effort to provide spiritual resources to members.

May Notre Dame Our Mother continue to bless all of us. May we all continue to find the risen Lord in our homes and in our families. And may the peace of Christ be with us always.✠

Military Chaplaincy: An Apostolate Like No Other

Lieutenant Colonel Fr. Robert E. Roetzel, C.S.C., ordained April 25, 1987, serves as a Chaplain for the United States Army at the Fort Myer Military Community in Virginia. Fort Myer is located adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, across from the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

There, Fr. Roetzel feels privileged to serve the soldiers and the families living and working at Fort Myer.

Fr. Roetzel is pastor of the Fort Myer Catholic Parish, as well as the Deputy Installation Chaplain “which supports all religious worship and activities on this Army post,” he says. In addition to performing traditional Catholic rites, Fr. Roetzel is involved in mainstream Protestant worship and non-traditional Gospel services.

In his work as parish priest and pastor of Fort Myer Catholic Parish, he performs the familiar duties and responsibilities that are common to the “parish priest”. However, Fr. Roetzel’s vocation in chaplaincy work has taken him across extreme borders in God’s “world parish”, as he calls it.

Fr. Roetzel has served in Germany, the Pacific, and recently in the military mission in Iraq. One of his most profound memories from Iraq, he says, in order to “bring the sacraments to the faithful,” was celebrating Mass on the back of a military ration truck for soldiers in the field. What made this so memorable was the transformation he felt among the Catholic and non-Catholic soldiers in attendance. Surely, in the face of conflict, there was peace and comfort in Christ.

“Faith truly becomes the main anchor” in the lives of his fellow soldiers.

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Around the Province

East Africa - Kenya

✝ The post-election violence in Kenya has killed 1000 and forced more than 250,000 to flee their homes to seek safety among relatives or in special camps. The violence has subsided now, but the road to healing, restoration of trust, and genuine reconciliation will be a long one. Holy Cross priests Frs. Simon Mwangi and Willy Lukati who are there have told us how our Holy Cross religious in Nairobi experienced the violence up-close and found it both fearful and heart-breaking. Fr. Andrew Massawe, C.S.C., pastor of Holy Cross Parish Dandora (Nairobi) which for the last three months, thanks to the generosity of many, has been a distribution center for food to thousands of desperate people, now reports that the mood is one of guarded hope. We join in that hope, amazed once again at the faith and resilience of the poor.

East Africa - Uganda

✝ The District of East Africa is preparing a number of celebrations to commemorate its 50 year Jubilee in 2008. The “Year of Jubilee” officially commenced January 4, 2008. On January 5th, two Holy Cross deacons were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Daniel Jenky, C.S.C., and one deacon was ordained January 26th by Bishop Beatus Kinyaiya, OFM Cap, in Tanzania.

Military Chaplaincy:

An Apostolate Like No Other

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Around the Province

South Bend, Indiana

✠ Holy Cross staffed parishes in South Bend took up a special collection in March to support Holy Cross Parish in Dandora, Kenya, as an affirmation of solidarity in the wake of violence after the December 27th election there. The Holy Cross family in South Bend wired over \$5,000 to its family at Holy Cross Parish, Dandora.

Portland, Oregon

✠ The Downtown Chapel (St. Vincent DePaul Parish) begins its fourth year of offering Personal Poverty Retreats. On the first Friday of every month, retreatants gather for a thirteen-hour immersion in service to the poor, creating relationships in prayer and service. These retreats are so powerful that they have become required parts of formation for students and Mt. Angel Seminary and men preparing for permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Portland.

✠ Rev. Ron Raab, C.S.C., of The Downtown Chapel, writes a monthly column for *Ministry and Liturgy* magazine called "Bridge Work". He also has another column called "Connections" appearing every other month in *Celebrate!*, a Canadian liturgical magazine. This summer *CHURCH* magazine will include his article entitled "Oven-Baked Fears and Home-made Dreams" about his 25 years as a priest.

What makes the role of the chaplain unique from that of a parish priest? As a chaplain, Fr. Roetzel asserts that he "shares in the lives of his parishioners from birth to death." He adds, "there are significant times and experiences," which are specifically characteristic of his work as chaplain in the military that would not be encountered elsewhere. As an example, Fr. Roetzel reflects that "faith truly becomes the main anchor," in the lives of his fellow soldiers. For soldiers in active duty, the sacraments of reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and extreme unction (last rites) are most important because the roots of their faith, their families, are physically removed from them while deployed. Faith takes on new meaning and a new importance. "For soldiers, the sacraments are essential," states Fr. Roetzel, to the point they are sacrosanct.

Fr. Roetzel affirms that his training as a parish priest in earlier assignments has helped to form the foundation for his current work as the pastor of Fort Myer. However, military chaplaincy calls for greater flexibility and training to minister to the unique needs of the military community.

Along with his primary role of providing the Sacraments to the Fort Myer parish, Fr. Roetzel spends considerable time providing spiritual guidance for military personnel and their families. The depth and range of this intervention can consist of counseling surviving family members in the loss of their son or daughter, husband or wife, mother or father, while in combat, or helping a returning soldier who suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), which can be debilitating and cause stress on the individual, on a marriage, and all family members. Helping vulnerable teenagers adjust to the absence of a deployed parent is another focus of Fr. Roetzel's work.

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Military Chaplaincy:

An Apostolate Like No Other

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Considering his role as a military officer and as a member of the Priests of Holy Cross, Fr. Roetzel believes his ministry as a chaplain fits well the charism of the Holy Cross community as “educators in the faith.” Consistent with the vision of founder Blessed Basil Moreau, Fr. Roetzel seeks to witness the loving message of Christ in the “broader range view”, almost as a modern missionary proclaiming God’s Kingdom where and how necessary to accommodate the faithful and to bring others into the faith.

Fr. Roetzel believes his vocation as a chaplain was his true calling, and fortunately for the Army and for the Church, he accepted the call. Recognizing a need for more Catholic Army chaplains, Fr. Roetzel expresses his hope and prayer for increased vocations to religious life, and that those who hear the call for chaplaincy, respond graciously in God’s love. ✠



Fr. Robert Roetzel, C.S.C., in military uniform, left, conducts a funeral for a soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Around the Province

Notre Dame, Indiana

✠ On Saturday, March 29th, the Indiana Province ordained to the priesthood Rev. Andrew “Drew” Gawrych, C.S.C. and Rev. Stephen Lacroix, C.S.C. Fr. Drew will serve at St. John Vianney Parish in Arizona, and Fr. Steve at Christ the King Parish in South Bend. Most Reverend John D’Arcy, D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Rome, Italy

✠ While the celebration of the beatification of Blessed Basil Moreau continues, the Congregation of Holy Cross continues to advance the Cause for Sainthood for four other members of the Holy Cross family. Included among the four are:

Blessed

Brother André Bessette,
C.S.C.

Servants of God

Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.,

Bishop Vincent McCauley,
C.S.C.

Bishop Theotimus Ganguly,
C.S.C.

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towards their fulfillment. If at any point the door seems to close on you, then perhaps the Spirit might be at work, steering you in a different direction. You'll never know until you take those first steps.

Another discernment practice I use is what I like to call "The Rule of Three." If someone, right out of the blue, says "Herb, you would make a fantastic popsicle vendor!", then that could just be idle chatter. If – at another time and in another place – a second person says, "Herb, you ought to think about selling popsicles!", then it might be idle chatter or it might be God speaking through that person. If in a third place and time, a third different person said that, then I find myself paying attention. Three unique people saying the same thing in three different times and places adds up to more than just a coincidence. I have to take it seriously (provided, of course, it's not sinful activity).

One of the life-tasks of the 70's and 80's is tying up loose ends. Is there any unfinished business from your past that leaves you ill at ease when you think of it? Any reconciliation needed? Any words that need to be spoken? God's will for you is freedom from slavery to the past (i.e., guilt).

God's will is also for you to be fully yourself. Do you find yourself still trying to meet other's expectations? Is your thinking marked by frequent "shoulds, oughts, and musts," mostly dictated by others? Does any work need to be done there to free yourself from that particular slavery?

But on an everyday, ordinary basis, I find that God's will is best discovered simply by being attentive as the day unfolds. It requires a combination of discipline and openness.

Discipline comes in the sense of making specific time in the day for prayer and time with family or dear friends...God and family are the crucial to your happiness and wholeness.

The openness comes in being receptive to whatever is happening at the moment and seeing it as something that God wants you to be doing. So if you're cooking dinner or doing laundry or Swiffering the floor, that's God's will for you at that moment. If someone calls and asks for your help, that's what God wants you to be doing (presuming you're able to do it). If you're tired and want to take a nap, or sit out in the sun and vegetate, that's what God desires for you.

You just have to be careful that you're not acting out of selfishness. Ask the question: "Is the activity I'm engaged in life-giving to myself and others?" Sometimes the answer is obvious. At other times, a hard choice might be required. If you planned to go shopping and get a call from an elderly neighbor who needs a ride, what then?

St. Vincent de Paul always told his followers: "Charity dictates." Sometimes you need to be charitable to yourself. Say you've just finished with a big parish festival, and you're tired. Someone calls and asks you to work at a pancake breakfast on Sunday. Here's where you might need to be life-giving to yourself. You don't have to do everything; give someone else a chance to live the Gospel. ✠

Send your questions to:

Plane Speaking
c/o Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province
P.O. Box 765
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765
indcscdv@nd.edu



OUR FIVE PILLARS:

- ◆ Appropriate Stewardship of the Gifts We Receive
- ◆ 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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- Please contact me about creating a legacy gift to the Priests of Holy Cross through my Estate Plan/Will.
- Please correct my contact information as listed below.
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

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Please mail this form to:

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 indcscdv@nd.edu

Thank You.



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