

Pillars

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRIESTS OF HOLY CROSS, INDIANA PROVINCE



“As disciples of Jesus we stand side by side with all people.” Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Mission: 12

Side by Side Rev. Peter A. Jarret, C.S.C.

Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, C.S.C. affirmed and encouraged participation of the faithful in the work of Holy Cross, a hallmark of the Holy Cross community exemplified in the present.

This past week the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Notre Dame held its annual opening of the year dinner for all its department directors, rectors and University administrators. As a group, these directors from Housing and Residence Life, Security, the Health Center, Alcohol and Drug Education, the Counseling Center, the band and glee club, along with dorm rectors and a host of others probably have the most day to day contact with the students.

As I looked around the room at the more than 150 people present, some of them Holy Cross

religious but most lay women and men, I found myself once again inspired by how seriously these people have embraced Holy Cross’s vision of “educating the mind and the heart” and by their zealously as we began a new year. Together they, along with a dedicated faculty and staff, bring alive Fr. Basil Moreau’s vision of religious and lay collaboration in the building of the kingdom of God.

The truth of this first hit me six years ago when I became rector of Keough Hall, one of the men’s undergraduate residence halls.

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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.

Lay Collaboration is Building the Kingdom

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



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I extend greetings, and thanks for the support you give Holy Cross through your time, talent and treasure! You are an integral part, not only of the work of Holy Cross, but of the mission of Jesus

Christ fulfilled through your lives everyday.

When you hear the word “stewardship”, what comes to mind? An annual diocesan appeal? How money is handled? Taking care of things? Stewardship is more than how we direct our finances - it is how we choose to use all the gifts and talents God has given us. As scripture tells us, we all have different gifts and we are called to share these gifts with others. By doing this, we will help to build up the Kingdom of God.

In this issue of **Pillars**, we look at different examples of how some lay partners utilize the unique gifts God has bestowed on them, how they have answered the call and, why. For those of us in religious life, we are so blessed to have an environment where we can focus on the gift of our vocation as priests and brothers that God has granted us. Certainly, the challenge of balancing a family, work and multiple other demands with the call to discipleship is great.

One of our Constitutions calls us to “...assist others not only to recognize and develop their own gifts but also to discover the deepest longing in their lives.” Two of our stories in this issue highlight this point. Through her relationship with her church and Holy Cross priests, Mrs. Mary Nucciarone heard and answered the call to help in ways she never envisioned. The priests saw in her very special gifts and called upon her to use them in advancing the mission of the Church.

Dr. David Moss, working in Student Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, answered the call after

participating in a Holy Cross sponsored trip to our district in East Africa. Upon his return, David started a program to provide vocational and business training to poor and impoverished women in Kenya, helping them recognize their own gifts, and rise above their oppressive life circumstances.

Wherever we work we assist others not only to recognize and develop their own gifts but also to discover the deepest longing of their lives. Constitutions of Holy Cross: 16

Their stories, along with the other features and vignettes in this issue, exemplify what I see each day through Holy Cross, regardless of where I travel in the world. I’m confident that in your experience with Holy Cross, you’ve heard a call and in your way, have answered.

As you read this issue of **Pillars**, remember that discipleship is realized not just in serving the poor in East Africa, or assuming great responsibility in your parish. I pray that you recognize that it is how you raise your family; how you conduct yourself in the workplace; in your daily decision making that you are stewarding God’s gifts.

May the Holy Spirit open our hearts to the gifts God has intilled in us. May our stewardship reflect Christ’s love, bringing light and hope to all! ✠

Side by Side

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Charged with caring for the academic, spiritual, emotional, social and physical well-being of 285 undergraduates, I quickly realized I could not begin to do it alone. I needn't have worried. Starting with the dedicated staff of resident assistants and assistant rectors, to compassionate and well-trained people in the Counseling Center, the Office of Residence Life and a dozen other departments, I was supported by a host of colleagues whose care for the students has allowed Notre Dame's residential mission to remain firmly rooted in the wisdom and charism of Fr. Moreau and Fr. Sorin. Concern for the whole person, the cultivation of virtue and a sense of community, the ardent desire that both the mind and heart of each and every student be tended to – these are the values that come from Holy Cross and animate the work of so many who collaborate in the mission of education at this institution and so many other Holy Cross parishes and schools throughout the world.

As the current superior of the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame, I am asked from time to time if I worry about the diminishing number of Holy Cross religious at the University. I am concerned – not just about Notre Dame but for our apostolates everywhere. The Church needs young men to answer the call to religious life and priesthood.

Concern for the whole person, the cultivation of virtue and a sense of community, the ardent desire that both the mind and heart of each and every student be tended to - these are the values that come from Holy Cross...

But sometimes behind the question there is a sub-text: that our collaboration with lay men and women is a result of our diminished numbers and that in the best of all circumstances we wouldn't need to collaborate if we just had enough priests, brothers and sisters. Nothing could be further from the truth, both in our current day and also in Fr. Moreau's day. He founded Holy Cross as a family of priests, brothers and sisters, but also with the idea that part of that family would always include dedicated women and men from every profession and walk of life who would work side by side with Holy Cross to build God's kingdom and make known the Good News.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is by many standards a small religious community. We have always been, and in the earliest days after our founding there were never enough resources,

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daughter Read (2 months) in our Faith, we are incredibly grateful for the examples of love and selflessness that are replete within the Congregation.

"The presence of Holy Cross in the life of our family is a constant reminder of God's incredible love for us and the world. We first came to know Holy Cross through Joseph's time at Notre Dame and then as a seminarian at Moreau Seminary and later through the celebration of the sacraments of marriage and baptism and the friendships that have grown over the years. We are grateful to have been invited to accompany through prayer and modest monetary support both our close friends and those whom we only know through glimpses into their life's work as they work to make God known, loved and served in our world. As we set out to educate our sons, David and Jeb (22 months), and our

Joseph, Lisa, David, Jeb, and Read Blanco

Plane Speaking

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



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

“Lately I feel so confused about the subject of prayer.”
Joan from Illinois.

Dear Fr. Herb,

Lately I feel so confused about the subject of prayer. I prayed for years that my Dad would stop drinking and making my Mom miserable. He didn't and he died at

67 with cancer. I prayed for years that our grandson would speak. He'll be 13 in August and he still doesn't speak. I've prayed for the past year that my Mom would die and be at peace. She's in a nursing home and her dementia grows worse daily. A priest friend told me recently to stop arguing with God, yet last week at Mass we heard: "Ask and you shall receive. Knock and it shall be opened to you." Sounds like contradictory messages! -- Joan from Illinois

Well, I am certainly not going to tell you to stop arguing with God, Joan. Your prayer is perfect! It's very honest, you clearly tell God how you're feeling and what you need. Why fake it? Why cover up your true feelings with pious pieties? God knows what you're feeling and thinking and wanting... you need to hear yourself expressing your mind and heart. Once that stuff is cleared out, then it becomes possible to comprehend God's reply.

Your faith is shaky because of what you perceive to be unanswered prayer... it's been a universal plight of the human race from Day One. We always hope God will answer our prayer. If the prayer isn't answered as we hoped, then after the initial upset and anger we can eventually accept it.

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Side by Side

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either material or personnel. In fact we joke that one of Fr. Moreau's miracles should be that his Congregation survived! Survive we did, and in many areas we have thrived, due in large part to the generosity, hard work and faithfulness of those who work with us. This was true in Fr. Moreau's time, it is what enabled Fr. Sorin to build Notre Dame, and it is true in all of our works today.

As I reflect on my ministerial experiences to date, I feel blessed for the many opportunities for collaboration that have come my way. As an associate at Christ the King parish and pastor of St. Pius X, parish much of my training in what it meant to be a parish priest came from the staff, volunteers and parishioners who 'took me under their wings' and helped me grow in my identity as a Holy Cross priest. They in turn had been guided and shaped by Holy Cross priests and brothers who had served them in the past. This was part of Moreau's vision. His world, like our world today, was very complex. He realized that for Holy Cross to truly be "educators in the faith," we would need the expertise and knowledge of scientists, business professionals, lawyers, doctors, teachers and many others to assist Holy Cross in its mission. The same is true today. There are Holy Cross priests who serve the Church as scientists, lawyers, scholars, accountants and teachers. But our mission and ministry would not be as fruitful nor as far-reaching if not for the gifts and talents of so many lay men and women with whom we work side by side each day. They are a gift to us, and together we strive to "make God known, loved and served" in places large and small. ✠

“Will You Help?”

Answering a Call



Mary Nucciarone

“Will You Help...”

Three simple words Basil Moreau, C.S.C., founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, used not just to

solicit help or funds for his vision of creating a new religious community, but used on a more profound level to invite and encourage partnership from the laity in building the Kingdom of God.

Fr. Moreau’s personal commitment to opening Holy Cross for wider participation from the Church is a characteristic passed on through generations of Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters that is still very alive today. *Mary Nucciarone* can attest to this spirit of collaboration.

In 1984, Mary and her family moved to South Bend and became members of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Indiana. Not long after, she began to help at the parish school where her daughter was enrolled. The school was blessed with Mary’s contributions.

Content with her role at the school, Mary was surprised when, in the early 1990s, Associate Pastor, Fr. John Donato, C.S.C., asked her “Will you help ... set up for our Holy Thursday liturgy?” Although without formal liturgical training, Mary willingly accepted the invitation. What followed was an increasingly vested role in the life of the parish and in Holy Cross.

During the pastoral leadership of Fr. Tony Szakaly, C.S.C., a series of “Will you help” invitations were presented to Mary. Will you help by serving on the parish council? Will you help by chairing the Liturgy Commission, assisting

with the parish’s sesquicentennial celebration, chairing the Pastoral Planning Committee, and chairing the Pastoral Council?

Under current pastor, Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C., Mary’s role as Master of Ceremony was formalized, and the part-time position of Sacramental & Special Liturgy Assistant was presented to Mary. As with each “Will you help” invitation previously presented to Mary, she answered an enthusiastic “Yes”.

Mary’s assessment of her varied roles at St. Joseph Parish reflects a genuine humility characteristic of mature spirituality, one she says has grown through her involvement with Holy Cross at the parish. Growth in spirit, in faith, and in service are recurring themes for Mary.

Of the many Holy Cross religious with whom Mary has worked, commonality exists within each distinct personality, common elements emanating from the charism of Holy Cross. Mary describes an accessibility and receptivity of the priests; a feeling of hospitality that she describes as “a spark of love”; faith and trust to empower lay partners; a genuine commitment to invite others to join in proclaiming God’s Kingdom.

In 1984, Mary could not have envisioned the multiple contributions she has made, and continues to make, to her parish, nor could she have anticipated the personal growth she realized through her collaboration. The simple words once spoken by Fr. Basil Moreau and repeated countless times by the priests, brothers, and sisters of Holy Cross, opened a door into which Mary joyfully entered, thereby permanently touching her life, and through her, countless of others. ✚



“The men of Holy Cross have been a significant part of our lives since Joanie and I came to Notre Dame over 25 years ago. Their prayerful commitment to doing great things as educators, healers and men of faith have always been an inspiration to us. We know we are absolutely blessed to have the opportunity to support, in our own small way, the essential missions carried out every day by these humble and dedicated servants of God.”

Joe Bova and Family



2007 Seminarians and Formation Staff

At the annual summer camp at Holy Cross LaPorte Center, Holy Cross priests and brothers join with seminarians for renewal, instruction, and preparation before the new academic year begins.

In the light blue shirts are Old Collegians, undergraduate seminarians, who, from left to right, foreground to back, are: Tim Mouton, John Ahearn, Geoffery Barnes, Robert Dunsmuir, Jr., Christopher Ochoa, Michael Palmer, Matt Fase, David Riehm, Thomas Haan, Eric Surat, Matthew Hovde, Ryan

Pietrocarlo, Anthony Stachowski, Kevin Wack, and John Kyler.

In the white shirts are Candidates (college graduates discerning a vocation), temporarily professed seminarians, and formation staff. From left to right, foreground to back, are: Mr. Jerry Olinger, C.S.C., Mr. Jake Greiner, C.S.C., Mr. Jarrod Waugh, candidate, Mr. Rocco Galizio, candidate, Fr. Joe Sidera, C.S.C., Mr. B.J. Heckner, C.S.C., Mr. Vince Kuna, C.S.C., Deacon Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., Fr. Pat Neary, C.S.C., Fr. Jerry Knoll, C.S.C., Mr. Charles McCoy, C.S.C., Mr. Robbie Sullivan, C.S.C., Mr. Christopher Julien, C.S.C., Mr. Michael Lewis, C.S.C., Fr. Frank Cafarelli, C.S.C., Fr. J. Steele, C.S.C., Fr. Kevin Rousseau, C.S.C., Fr. Peter Rocca, C.S.C., Mr. Andy Sherwood, candidate, Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Mr. Aaron Michka, C.S.C., Deacon Stephen Lacroix, C.S.C., Mr. Paul Ybarra, C.S.C., Mr. Mark DeMott, candidate, Mr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., Mr. Walter Pruchnik, candidate, Bro. Ed Luther, C.S.C., Mr. Dusty VonHandorf, candidate, Fr. Tony Szakaly, C.S.C., and Fr. Peter Jarret, C.S.C.

We ask that you remember these men, and their continued vocational discernment, in your prayers.

"Common Vision"

A Brotherhood Beyond Borders

In 2001, David Moss, PhD, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Notre Dame, was presented a unique opportunity to visit Holy Cross ministries in the District of East Africa.

Little did David know that in accepting the invitation his passion and his future would change dramatically. It was at the McCauley Formation House, which overlooks the crowded slum of Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya, that he first met Fr. James Karaffa, C.S.C., who was ministering among the people living there. David toured the slum, witnessing the despair of poverty. Particularly troubling was the plight of the Kibera women. The poverty was horrific in itself, but the women living in this male-dominated culture had few legal rights and even fewer opportunities to rise above such constraints.

Touched by what he saw and inspired by the work of Fr. Karaffa, David was compelled to do more than just observe. He felt a call to act when he met social worker, Edel Quinn Odongo, who had developed a model program to teach business skills to women. In this model, David found the opportunity he was seeking to help these women realize their dreams of self-sufficiency.

He collaborated with Edel to create an academy where women entrepreneurs could learn and find support. Future development of the Academy would include an invitation to current Notre Dame students to help with the teaching of basic business skills and English as a second language.

In 2002, Fr. Karaffa died and David lost a colleague with whom he shared a spiritual kinship, as well as a passion for ministering to the people of Kibera.

"He had touched the hearts and minds of the women," says David. "He had a vision for the people that they might not be stifled by their current conditions." As a testament to his inspiration in their lives, the women of the school voted to dedicate the school to Fr. Jim, calling it the *James Karaffa Business Academy for Women*.



A student of the Karaffa Business Academy shows her merchandise.

The Academy continues today with Edel managing the day-to-day operations, Bro. Cleophas Kymuhendo, C.S.C. maintaining the financial records,

and David visiting the Academy annually to assess progress and offer academic and instructional guidance. The Holy Cross District of East Africa encourages and supports David's work, serving as hosts to David and his collaborators, and as an agent to assist with financial management of the Academy.

Holy Cross calls those who serve "to assist others not only in recognizing and developing their own gifts, but also in discovering the deepest longing of their lives." The spirit of Holy Cross has not only encouraged David in his zeal to help others, but has also led to a journey on which he continues with the prayers and companionship of the Holy Cross family. ✠



"In 30 years of walking together in the light of God's grace in the Holy Cross community, we continue to find renewed unity and strength of purpose in serving God and one another. Indeed, Holy Cross is alive in the Church, enriching, encouraging, and blessing. May it always be so."

Ellie and Ken Peters

Profession of Perpetual Vows

On Saturday, August 25th, 2007, Rev. Mr. Andrew M. Gawrych, C.S.C. and Rev. Mr. Stephen A. Lacroix, C.S.C. professed their final vows at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame. The following Sunday each was ordained to the Order of Deacon. Drew and Steve graciously shared their stories with us.



Deacon Andrew "Drew" Gawrych, C.S.C.

While I was growing up, we had a close family friend who was a Catholic priest. I called him "Uncle Dave" – partly because my dad had no brothers and sisters so we had no aunts and uncles on his side, but mostly because he was as close to my family as any blood relative. Every summer, Uncle Dave would either join us on vacation or visit us in Kansas. I

still remember him convincing me to go on my first rollercoaster.

From all the time I spent with Uncle Dave over those summers, I developed a deep respect for priests as good people, as holy people. Without fail, the easiest way to win any debate in our house was to invoke Uncle Dave's name. That is how much we all loved and respected him for the beautiful way in which he had given his life in service and love of others.

At the same time, I learned that priests, as holy as they might be, were still human. Even though my Uncle Dave seemed to win at cards more than the rest of my family, he lost his fair share too. Like my father, he also was easily frustrated by slow-moving traffic and stop lights.

As a result then of my Uncle Dave's influence in my life, I grew up seeing the religious life and priesthood as a holy life, yet still a very human life. It certainly was a calling from God, yet God made that call precisely to human beings – to people like me ... perhaps even to me.

My first contact with the Congregation of Holy Cross came in the fall of 1998 when I enrolled as a freshman at the University of Notre Dame. I was blessed

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Deacon Stephen Lacroix, C.S.C.

I was born in Framingham, MA to Andy and Mary Lou (Walther) Lacroix, the youngest of three children. We moved to Sugar Land, TX when I was seven, and my family has belonged to St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sugar Land since 1980. After my parents' divorce, my mother worked hard to keep our family afloat. She was also a

great model of faith for my sisters and me. She made sure we went to Mass every Sunday and to religious education every week, and she spent a great deal of time and energy volunteering in our parish and our diocese.

I majored in Business Administration at Trinity University in San Antonio and looked forward to a career in the corporate world. At the same time, though, I kept experiencing a call to religious life. It began like a quiet voice in the back of my head, but it gradually became stronger and stronger. I ignored it for a long time – I was certain that my future would consist of marriage, family and a career, not priesthood!

After a few years I finally worked up the nerve to talk to a priest from my home parish, Fr. Roy Oggero, CSB, about my vocation and the anxiety that accompanied it. Fr. Roy was terrific. He helped me strengthen my prayer life without ever pressuring me one way or the other. With his guidance, my discernment of a religious vocation became a time of peace that helped me grow closer to the Lord.

I wasn't quite ready to take that next step and enter a seminary, though, so I continued focusing on my career. During this time I moved to Arizona to earn my MBA, after which I worked as an Application Analyst for Intel in Phoenix.

Perpetual Vows - Continued

Deacon Andrew "Drew" Gawrych, C.S.C.

in that the first two Holy Cross priests I met were Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC, who was the rector of my residence hall, and Fr. Pat Neary, CSC, who was working in campus ministry. Both are amazing and inspiring priests.

They and the other Holy Cross priests I met at Notre Dame quickly reminded me of my Uncle Dave. They certainly were holy men, who joyfully and zealously spent themselves in service of the Notre Dame family and, not to mention, preached some of the best homilies I had heard. But they were human as well, especially when it came to dealing, like the rest of us, with a Notre Dame defeat on the football field.

Most importantly, however, they were a part of our lives – just as my uncle had been a part of mine growing up – living in the residence halls with us, teaching us in the classrooms, cheering with us on the sports fields, and leading us in prayer and worship in the dorm chapels.

What really deepened my own call to the priesthood and religious life was the semester I spent studying abroad in Santiago, Chile, during my sophomore year. The seven months I was in Chile I lived and helped out at the Hogar Santa Cruz, an orphanage run by Holy Cross.

And it was all their love that had opened and awakened me to the amazing love that God had for me. I had been so blessed because I had been blessed with love.

From living with those kids, I learned that the greatest wealth I had been given in my life was love. I had grown up in a family that loved me. I had teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends along the way who had loved me.

Deacon Stephen Lacroix, C.S.C.

Everything seemed to be going great – my life, career and relationships were all healthy and satisfying. But somehow, this idea of becoming a priest never went away. In fact, it grew even stronger, to the point where I could no longer ignore it. It was around this time that I met the Congregation of Holy Cross (CSC). My introduction to Holy Cross was truly providential – I first found them on the internet (www.nd.edu/~vocation)! When I moved to Phoenix, Holy Cross put me in touch with a local CSC religious who became my spiritual director. I became more involved with the CSC's in St. Gregory Parish and at André House, which provided services for the homeless in downtown Phoenix.

The more I got to know Holy Cross, the more comfortable I felt around them. There was a true family atmosphere that pervaded their common life. The priests, brothers and seminarians that I met were people that I could relate to, and I could see myself fitting in with them and becoming one of them. After a few years balancing my discernment with Holy Cross with my career at Intel, it became clear where my heart was being drawn. I quit my job and entered the Candidate Program at Moreau Seminary in 2002, and I haven't looked back.

Throughout my five years in religious formation I've experienced God's grace in countless ways, ways I would have never predicted. Religious life has stretched me, there's no doubt about that. During my time in the seminary I've had a wide range of experiences: teaching religious education to 7th-graders, counseling women in crisis pregnancies, serving as the chaplain for a locked psychiatric ward, preparing couples for the sacrament of matrimony, and working with undergraduate seminarians, to name a few. I would have never thought that I had the gifts to serve in any of these places, but somehow all things are possible with God. Formation has stretched me in other ways, too.

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Profession of Perpetual Vows

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Deacon Andrew “Drew” Gawrych, C.S.C.

And it was all their love that had opened me and awakened me to the amazing love that God had for me. I had been so blessed because I had been so blessed with love.

It was while I was at the orphanage then that I first truly heard the call of my heart to spend my life bringing, bearing, and being the love of God for others. That is exactly what I saw the Holy Cross priests and brothers in Chile, men like Fr. Pepe Ahumada, CSC, and Bro. Donald Kuchenmeister, CSC, doing. They were giving their lives so that others, especially those most in need, would know of God’s unfailing love for all of us.

It is that call to bring, bear, and be the love of God that eventually led me to enter the seminary with Holy Cross after I graduated from Notre Dame in 2002. And it is that same call, intensified and deepened over the years through prayer, that carried me through my years in initial formation to profess final vows in Holy Cross and be ordained to the diaconate this past August.

Right now, I have the amazing blessing of being able to live out my heart’s desire at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Arizona. I live and work at the parish along with Fr. John Herman, CSC, and Fr. Eric Schimmel, CSC – two more Holy Cross priests who have inspired and taught me by their human holiness. Together, as a community, we strive to serve the people here with the same “flame of burning desire to make God known, loved, and served” that characterized the life of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, and still characterizes the mission of Holy Cross today.

It is that mission, to make God known, loved, and served, that gives me great hope and joy as I look to the future. I do not know what God will call me to do through Holy Cross as my interests, just like our apostolates, are many and varied, yet I am excited and thankful to know that whatever I do will be a part of that mission – the mission of bringing, bearing, and being the love of God for others, just as Jesus brought, bore, and was that love for us. And just as our mission is Lord’s, so too will we in Holy Cross strive to carry it out as He did – in human holiness. ✠

Deacon Stephen Lacroix, C.S.C.

The vows of poverty, chastity and obedience have challenged me to try and live like Jesus lived. I must constantly examine my life so that my vows may serve as a countercultural witness to a world that places so much emphasis on power, pleasure and wealth. Living in community has helped me to deepen my life of prayer and to be a more open and loving brother to my confreres in Holy Cross. My theological studies have pushed me to understand God on a deeper level and to integrate this intellectual understanding with my prayer life and my apostolic work. None of this has come easy, but the rewards have been incredible.

Many people discern religious life and think about things that they'll have to give up, but I wasn't prepared for how much I would gain in return.

I feel so blessed that God has called me to this life and that He’s been so persistent in that call. Many people discern religious life and think about the things that they’ll have to give up, but I wasn’t prepared for how much I would gain in return.

My life in Holy Cross has been incredibly joyful, and I thank God for that every day. Please pray that I may be a good and holy priest for His Church and that He continues to call young people to serve Him as priests and consecrated religious. ✠

Plane Speaking *continued from page 4*

We are, after all, a people of faith, even if that faith does waver sometimes. With time's passage, we may even come to see that the answer we did receive was in fact the best one possible.

But what always gets to me is when someone else is praying for the same thing I am, and s/he gets the hoped-for answer when I don't. That's tough to handle. Why him, not me? Was it me? The way I prayed? A indication of my standing with God? God punishing me or the person I was praying for? A lack of faith on my part? Not saying the right prayers?

I truly cannot answer this, Joan. This is one of those times when you and I get smacked in the face with the reality that God is God and we are mere humans with very limited insight into the mind of God.

We do know for sure how God wants us to live, and how much God loves us – that was clearly revealed through Jesus. We know that God's deepest desire is that we be fully human, that we share completely in his divine life and mission, through weal and woe. But there are so many whys and wherefores and whatnots, and hence no clarity. Even Jesus was met with silence when he asked his "Why?" question on the cross. In the face of that enormous silence, all Jesus could finally do was make that great act of trust: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Ultimately, Joan, that's all we can do when faced with our powerlessness in prayer and action.

As far as that particular Gospel passage goes ("Ask... seek... knock"), notice that Jesus did not say what we would receive, find, or discover behind the door. He never specifically said that we would get what we were asking for.

What he did say was that in every case – every case – we would receive the Holy Spirit. So by extension would the person or the people we are praying for. The Holy Spirit will always give us exactly what we need (our daily bread) for that particular moment in time. So if you are praying at noon for your own needs, or for the needs of someone else, you will receive what the Spirit knows is needed at that moment for yourself or the other.

If you pray for the same needs in your Grace before supper, the Spirit will grant you what you need for that moment in time. Remember, change is a constant in earthly life. What you or someone else need at 6 PM may be very different than what you needed at 12 noon.

The way I've handled these things, Joan, is to keep my prayer as simple as possible, not telling God what to do, but simply asking him to do something, with faith that what God does will be exactly what is needed. So every time you think of your Mom, or of Chris, for example, you can couple the thought with a prayer: "Jesus, please help Mom/Chris. Please help me. Please help Chris's parents. Please help the nursing staff at Mom's facility." If you are upset or angry about something, invoke the Divine, name your feeling, ask for help. "Father, right now I am very lonely. Please help me." "Jesus, I'm angry at Sam. I need to forgive him. Please help me."

If you tell God how to do things, you may actually be asking God for less than he wants to do! It's like you asking God to give me a dollar when he wants to help me win the lottery (if only!!!!). If you give God the simple plea, then you know the answer is going to be perfectly in tune with God's immense love and care. And hopefully, you will eventually have that "Aha!" moment when you can see how it all worked out.

By the way, Joan, we in Holy Cross intertwine our prayers with yours for your family needs. Thank you for sharing. ✠

Send your questions to:

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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): _____
- I would like to Make a Gift (please make checks payable to the Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province).
- 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.

Comments:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Daytime Phone:

Please mail this form to:

Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province, Office of Development
 PO Box 765, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765
 Phone: 574/631-6731
 indcscdv@nd.edu

Thank You.



P.O. Box 765
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765

Address Service Requested

