



Pillars

A PUBLICATION OF THE PRIESTS OF HOLY CROSS, INDIANA PROVINCE



Old Collegians, Candidates, Temporarily Professed, and Formation Staff at the annual gathering in LaPorte, Indiana

A Culture of Vocations:

by Rev. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C.
Director
Office of Vocations

There is a good bit of talk in our Church and in the secular media about a “Vocations Crisis”. There are growing numbers of Catholics and shrinking numbers of brothers, sisters, and priests. The reality of these numbers is true and it is a cause for concern, yet the reality of the crisis is not always well represented.

The crisis is not that there are no vocations to the priesthood and religious life today, the crisis is that the vocations to the priesthood and religious life are not being nurtured and encouraged as well as they could be. The crisis is not just one of numbers; it is a crisis of culture. There are many who are being called, yet for a young person today it can be very daunting to acknowledge such a thing and pursue it.

The task of many who are working in the arena of vocation promotion is to help build up a “Culture of Vocations”. This is the work of encouraging all young Catholics to remain open to the possibility that they are called. It is also the work of encouraging all Catholics to invite and encourage those in whom they see a potential vocation to consider the religious life or priesthood. There are aspects of our popular culture that promote values and ideals that dissuade anyone who might consider getting actively involved in the Church, much less give their life to service of the Church.

Such forces create an environment that causes young people to think that the religious life will ask too much of them or will have them miss out on what



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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.*

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Helping People to Completeness

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



My dear friends,

Many of you may have seen articles in your diocesan newspapers, notices in your church bulletins or banners announcing the “Year for Priests”. This designation was made by Pope Benedict XVI in March, calling all

the faithful “to support each priest’s struggle towards spiritual perfection, ‘upon which the effectiveness of his ministry particularly depends’, and to help priests, and with them the entire People of God, to rediscover and revive an awareness of the extraordinary and indispensable gift of Grace which the ordained ministry represents, for the person who receives it, for the entire Church, and for the world which would be lost without the real presence of Christ.”

This Year for Priests presents an opportune time to reflect on our efforts in Holy Cross to foster an environment conducive to not only *keeping* a religious community vital and relevant to the worldwide community, but one which *attracts* men who have heard the call to serve as priests. We in Holy Cross strive to have a culture, a mission and a community which allows those called to use their unique gifts to spread Christ’s message of hope through our diverse ministries around the globe.

Blessed Basil Moreau believed that education was the “art of helping people to completeness.”

Blessed Basil Moreau believed that education was “the art of helping people to completeness.” This echoes Pope Benedict’s words above, that we need “to support each priest’s struggle toward spiritual perfection.” I believe that the “completeness and

perfection” spoken of do not hold worldly definitions, but a higher meaning in that completeness and perfection actually come from an **emptying of one’s self in order to live the Gospel in total service to others**. As Pope Benedict says “a priest cannot consider himself as ‘master’ of the Word, but as its servant”.

In this issue of *Pillars*, we look at the question of Vocations to religious life, and review two significant stages of our Formation programs: the Old College Undergraduate program, contributed by Fr. Kevin Russeau, C.S.C., and our Novitiate, shared by Fr. Tom Lemos, C.S.C.

Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., Director of Vocations, addresses the frequently asked question “Is there a vocation crisis?” with a unique cultural perspective I think you’ll find enlightening.

In addition to Fr. Jim’s article, interspersed in this issue, you’ll find vocation reflections by Frs. LeRoy Clementich, C.S.C. and Eric Schimmel, C.S.C., and by Deacon Kevin Grove, C.S.C. As a follow-up from the Vocation Statistics we presented last issue, we continue explore through an interview with Bro. Paul Bednarzyk, C.S.C., the outcome of the CARA report on Religious Vocations.

Lastly, Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C., answers a question we in Holy Cross hear often, “What’s the relationship between the communities of Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters?”

In this *Year for Priests*, I ask for your prayers for all Holy Cross priests you have so heartily supported in so many ways. Your prayers and support for Holy Cross propel our work forward. On behalf of my brothers in Holy Cross, I deeply appreciate your partnership in our work. Our family remembers you and yours daily in our worship. ✠

Vocations

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normal people should experience. This then leads young people who have thought about the religious life or the priesthood to hesitate or avoid the reality that they may be called.

...the transcendent and profound good that comes to the individual and the world when an individual embraces his/her vocation.

The good news is that much work has been done to begin to create a culture of vocations to point to the transcendent and profound good that comes to the individual and the world when an individual embraces his/her vocation. Some parishes and colleges are developing vocation programs or youth programs to encourage young people in their faith, helping them to realize that a relationship with Christ is a beautiful and powerful thing that is worth developing despite what the popular culture may say. Parents and peers are opening up to the reality that their child or friend may have a vocation and support them in it. There is a growing sense that when an individual is called, it is not something strange or oddly different, but quite natural and fulfilling for that individual. This growing culture that is open to religious and priestly vocations is helping to create an environment in which young people can feel comfortable in acknowledging that they may have a vocation and will support them in their desire to find out if Christ is truly calling them to follow Him.

Where this subtle shift in culture is happening there is a discernable growth in young people stepping forward to acknowledge their sense of call and pursue it. Part of the work to be done then is to continue to build up this culture of vocations, this culture that encourages all people to pursue their relationship with Christ and encourages individuals to remain open to the call to the religious life and priesthood. There is also work to be done on the part of religious communities and dioceses to encourage this cultural shift, share the joy and fulfillment that is to be found in the consecrated

life, and to provide solid and inviting programs for discernment and formation. As the Director of the Office of Vocations, I can assure you that Holy Cross is well engaged in all of this work.

It has long been a part of the Holy Cross culture to share our lives with those with whom and for whom we minister. In the school Blessed Basil Moreau established in France he created an environment in which the religious who served there were involved in aspects of the lives of the students who studied there that went beyond their time in the classroom. This sense of active engagement has stayed with Holy Cross through the years. It has also been the understanding in Holy Cross that the work of promoting vocations is not merely the work of the Office of Vocations, but the work of all Holy Cross religious. In this Holy Cross has worked hard to share freely the joy we have found in this life and to encourage others to join us in it.

Much work has also been done over the years to develop welcoming and sturdy programs for formation. Today we have two programs that are successful in helping men to consider if they are called and in turn preparing them for ministry.

The Old College program provides a wonderful opportunity to undergraduate men who are considering a call to the religious life and the priesthood. They are able to live with peers who are asking similar questions to the ones that they are asking. The structure of the environment supports them as they seek to grow in their relationship with the Lord and in their understanding of the religious life and priesthood. Also due to the fact that the Old College building is located at the heart of the University of Notre Dame campus and that the young men are students at either Notre Dame or Holy Cross College, they are mixed in with the rest of the student population and are not isolated from their peers who are not discerning a vocation. It provides a structured but open environment for them to do the work of discerning how God may be calling them without feeling like they are being sent away to do so.

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Plane Speaking

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



Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross

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

*A friend asked me if the Holy
Cross Brothers are under
the same jurisdiction as the*

*Notre Dame priests. What about the Holy Cross
nuns at St. Mary's? I told her I would pose these
questions to you.*

Fran from Ohio

In order to fully answer your question, Fran, we have to go back to the time after the French Revolution!

The Revolution decimated the Catholic Church in France. In 1820, responding to a need for catechists to teach children in the villages around Paris, Fr. Jacques Dujarie gathered together a number of young men and prepared them to become religion teachers. He gave the name "Brothers of St. Joseph" to his little group.

In 1835, in the village of LeMans, a French priest by the name of Basil Moreau gathered together several diocesan priests whose original mission was to serve as auxiliary priests, going to surrounding parishes to help out as needed with liturgy, sacraments, teaching, and preaching retreats. Fr. Moreau called his group the "Auxiliary Priests of LeMans."

That same year (1835) the Bishop of LeMans asked Fr. Dujarie to place his Brothers under the guidance of Fr. Moreau. It took two years to fully merge the two small communities, and thus was born the Congregation of Holy Cross. The new community took its name not from the Cross of Jesus, but from the district of LeMans known as Sainte-Croix. It would be like saying "The Congregation of South Bend."

see Plane Speaking, pg.12

Vocations

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The Candidate program is situated at Moreau Seminary at the edge of the University of Notre Dame campus and becomes the environment for the men of Old College to take their discernment to the next level or as an entry point for men who already have a bachelor's degree. Again this program provides a structured environment for men to do the work of discerning how God is calling them. The level of commitment increases each year but starts at a level where they can do the work of discerning how God is calling them without feeling as though they must sign their life away in order to begin. The Candidate Year provides those discerning a vocation to Holy Cross the opportunity to learn more about Holy Cross, to develop their life of prayer, and to decide with the guidance of the formation staff whether God is calling them to proceed to the next year.

The decision to enter the seminary is an intimidating one but more men seem to be willing to make this jump, especially into the Congregation of Holy Cross. This is due in part to our Church which is seeking to create a greater culture of vocations as well and two solid formation programs in Holy Cross which seek to make that move a little less intimidating and more

*It is encouraging to see more young
people opening themselves up to the
possibility ...*

natural as they seek to follow God's call. It is encouraging to see more young people opening themselves up to the possibility that they are being called to the religious life and priesthood. Yet there is still much work to do in building up a culture in our Church and in our world that encourages all people to actively engage in their faith and remain open to how God may be calling. This work needs active participation on all levels and by all of the faithful. As this work is done, it will go a long way in addressing the crisis of vocations as well as many of the other troubles in our world. ✠

Old College: An Extended Family Experience

by Rev. Kevin Rousseau, C.S.C., Director, Old College

Though it was many moons ago when my parents dropped me off as a freshman at Old College, they recall that they did not feel so much like they were losing one of their children that weekend, but that they were being invited into part of a larger family of Holy Cross. Their inclusion into the Holy Cross family began my freshman year and it has developed significantly since that time. Today when I visit home and when I talk with my parents or siblings on the phone I am always asked questions inquiring about the Holy Cross family: “How is Fr. Jenkins?” (my first Old College director). “Did Mike Mathews (junior Collegian my freshman year) finish that last marathon for his school?” “How is Brad Metz (classmate) and his family doing since his dad’s death?” “Is Sean McGraw (classmate) teaching now that he’s back to Notre Dame?” “Tell Tony Szakaly (frequent destination when I am on the phone) we say hi.”

In my conversations with other Holy Cross religious I know that my family’s experience is not unique. I know several parents who have planned trips to come visit “us religious” when really they’re making parallel plans to see our classmates’ parents that same weekend. Families are important in the Holy Cross family!

This past August, Old College was grateful to host our annual parent’s orientation. In a short day and a half, we provide some historical context about Blessed Basil Moreau and our Congregation, we tried to answer those frequently asked questions about college life and the seminary, and we got a chance to interact with each other and witness our family growing larger!

We count our blessings for the many men that we have in formation and we continue to pray that God bless us with more men to serve His Church. This year, due to our larger numbers, we moved out of the Log Chapel where we normally pray and into the Sacred Heart Parish Center for mass and our dinner together. Before the Parish Center served Sacred Heart Parish, it had been the location of the undergraduate seminary – it felt right that we began this new year, with our new expanded family, in such a familiar location.



Pictured in front of Sacred Heart Parish Center are our 22 Old College seminarians and our staff. We hail from Arizona, Minnesota, Colorado, New York, Indiana, Florida, Ohio, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Montana, Michigan, California, Texas, and Wisconsin. Know that many moons do not go by at Old College without sincere prayers for our Holy Cross Family, made up of Holy Cross religious, our extended families, lay collaborators, and our benefactors. We are grateful for our family and pray daily for God’s blessings upon it. ✠

The Novitiate: A Deeper Understanding

By Rev. Tom Lemos, C.S.C.
Holy Cross Novitiate

Holy Cross Novitiate/Marigreen Pines is located in Cascade, Colorado, about 8 miles up the Ute Pass, Highway 24, from Colorado Springs. We are across the highway from where the Pikes Peak Highway begins. The Indiana Province was gifted in 1978 with the beautiful Marigreen Pines Estate, which includes the 1885 Cottage and the 1922 Mansion and 150 acres of forested land that connects with the Pike National Forest. This is the perfect place for a novitiate, and that is why Holy Cross accepted this donation from the descendents of Thomas and Mary Green Cusack.

The Novitiate Year follows the Candidate Year, and we describe it in our handbook for the novices in this way:

“The Novitiate is a time and place to learn about
God more personally,
Ourselves more deeply,
Holy Cross more fully,

And from this.....to discern God’s call and train to live it well.”

I like to describe it in this folksy way: in the Candidate Year, the candidate is putting his toes into the water; in the Novitiate Year, the novice is jumping all the way into the water, it is full immersion in the vowed life of Holy Cross. It is a contemplative year for the novice, and an experience very intentionally of Holy Cross community life, common prayer, common table and common purse. It is a year of growing in self-awareness, in relationship with God in personal prayer and common prayer, in learning about the vows of generous poverty, celibate chastity, and willing obedience, as well



The Novitiate Chapel

as learning about the mission of Holy Cross and studying the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Through discernment and formation, with the assistance of spiritual directors and

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Around the Province

NOTRE DAME/SOUTH BEND

✚ The University of Notre Dame recently celebrated the opening of the newly constructed Geddes Hall. The building is home to the University’s Center for Social Concerns, directed by Fr. William Lies, C.S.C., as well as other units of the Institute for Church Life – the Center for Catechetical Initiatives, the Church Music Initiative, Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame Vision, and the Satellite Theological Education Program.

✚ Congratulations to Rev. David Burrell, C.S.C., on receiving the prestigious John Courtney Murray Award from the Catholic Theological Society of America. This is the highest theological award of the CTSA, the oldest and largest association of theologians in the world. In addition to being a renowned theologian and philosopher, Fr. Burrell is also an author. His most recent work is a book on Father Zahm, “*When Faith and Reason Meet: The Legacy of John Zahm, C.S.C.*”

✚ Rev. Herb Yost, C.S.C., has designed and built the liturgical furniture for the chapel of the new St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend. The spiritual center will include prayer rooms for those of the Muslim and Jewish faith traditions, with all the appropriate facilities for purification, etc. Since other faith expressions will be using the chapel, there were some design considerations that were taken into account. For instance, the main altar and the tabernacle altar are movable. The

The Novitiate

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processional cross is on a lazy-susan base, so that it can easily be turned around from a “corpus view” to a “cross only view.” The new Medical Center opens in December.

When Fr. Yost is not spending time in his woodworking shop, he spends much of his time writing. Since 1985 he has written spiritual reflections (*Cross Links*) as part of his work in Development, raising funds for the work of the ministries of Holy Cross. These reflections have been gathered together in a new book, *Waiting In Joyful Hope: Reflections on God-with-us In Everyday Life.* This is Fr. Yost’s first book, so congratulations to him! (You may also read Fr. Yost’s writings in the *Plane Speaking* column in this publication.)

PORTLAND

✚ In order to enhance hospitality to the poor and the marginalized, the St. Vincent de Paul Downtown Chapel has been undergoing renovations for the past several months. As part of the renovations, an icon of Christ the Healer has been added to the chapel. It is an icon that speaks to those on the margins and invites healing. A dedication Mass was held in September. “It was an important moment in the life of the parish,” says the pastor, Fr. Bob Loughery, C.S.C. “This is something we stand for and believe in: the healing presence of Christ in our neighborhood. We are agents of that.” In addition to indoor upgrades, the exterior of the former hotel is getting work to make it more identifiable as a

formation staff, a novice may come to the decision to petition the Provincial to make first Profession of Vows for one year.

Our novices live a schedule of silence from Night Prayer to Midday Prayer, a time for prayer, spiritual reading, journaling, spiritual direction; the afternoon for manual work and avocations (such as beer-brewing, bread-baking, learning to be artists, hiking, fitness workouts, voice lessons); and the evenings are for our classes. Each month we have two-day workshops with the Dominican novices whose novitiate is in Denver; we are able to bring excellent



Further up the mountain from Marigreen Pines Novitiate is this house of solitude, built by and routinely used by novices and Novitiate staff

outside presenters. Wednesdays are ministry day in the Spiritual Care Department at the local Catholic Hospital, and Sunday mornings are for ministry in our local Holy Cross Parishes. Sunday afternoons and Saturdays are free time, yes, so the novices can watch the Notre Dame football games!

This is a year for solitude, so the novices have to leave behind their connection to internet, cell phones and electronic games, except in their free time when they can check e-mails on the computers at the public library. And yes, they all take a turn each week cooking the dinner for the community, each trying out their favorite family recipes.

On August 1, 2009, two men made their First Profession of Vows as Holy Cross Religious, and then returned to Moreau Seminary to continue their formation. On August 11, four men were received into the Novitiate to begin their year of formation and discernment. ✚

A Vocation Profile: Providence

Well, it all seems sort of mysterious...

Looking back on it now, there seems to be no logical reason why I should be sitting here at this word processor on this autumn day, writing my brief history.

First of all, my personal story is not all that interesting or unique and secondly I don't think I had much to do with the link of events that brought me here. It's all a Divine Mystery which means that I don't understand very much of it. How did it happen, for instance, that I was born into a Catholic family? Pure accident? Why was my mother so insistent that I attend a Catholic high school rather than the public school that my friends chose to attend? Was it a pure accident that Father Joe Garvin, principal and football coach at St. Leo's high school in rural North Dakota, would invite several of us, "the guys," to go duck hunting on fall weekends? I wonder why it seemed so important to me in those days that I check in for the 7:00 o'clock Mass before my first class? Not many of my friends did.

Was it pure accident that I happened to be assigned as a postal clerk at a military base in Berlin, Germany in the late forties, indeed, to tend to my station where money orders were written? What brought a certain chaplain-Major, Father Maurice E. Powers, C.S.C., to my very window? "Any chance you might want to serve as a chaplain's assistant," he asked me? "Sounds better than what I'm doing now," I replied. "I'll cut the papers tomorrow," he said. And so it happened: A C.S.C. priest, a major, walked into my life and that made all the difference.

But what possessed him a couple years later to ask whether I might be interested in studying for the priesthood? "How does one do that?" I asked. "When you are discharged, go down to Notre Dame and check in with Father John Wilson, the vocation coordinator." And so I did and here I sit today writing about all that. Ordained in 1957, assigned to work for the Congregation of Holy Cross in a great Chicago high school, taught at several colleges, served as a pastor and "missioner" in Alaska for 15 years and now I sort of retire gently and slowly at Holy Cross House at Notre Dame with 45 of my confreres.

Is my vocation any different than millions of other folks, lay and religious? Probably not. Few of us would be able to say why our life happened as it did but there must be a Divine incentive in there somewhere. There are always more questions than answers in this process of becoming what we ultimately want to become in life. In the end, it's all Grace, everything is Grace, or mostly so.

Rev. LeRoy E. Clementich C.S.C., ordained June 1957
In residence, Holy Cross House, Notre Dame

Around the Province

church and ministry of hospitality.



Rev. Ron Raab, C.S.C., Associate Pastor of the Downtown Chapel, has received a first - place honor in the Catholic Press Association Awards for Best Essay in special interest and professional magazines. His article, "Trinity Blest," appeared in *Celebrate!* magazine. The following description of the article was given: "clever lead with wry humor and true-to-life recurrences prompt reader to continue reading... the reader is rewarded with adroit weaving of a couple's story with some of the essential foundations of Catholic faith."

Fr. Raab also had an article on weddings published in the Summer 2009 issue of *Church* magazine.



The University of Portland christened its' new bell tower and redesigned Marian Garden with a dedication ceremony on September 18 in front of more than 300 attendees. Most Rev. John Vlazny, Archbishop of Portland, presided over the ceremony. The Bell Tower and the Marian Garden reconfiguration were completed in August. The tower is the realization of a longtime vision by University benefactors and administrators to showcase the University's Catholic character and serve as a landmark symbol for the campus community. The University gives thanks to benefactors Allan and Kathleen Lund whose generous gift financed the bell tower.

The Year for Priests

Around the Province

OTHER NEWS

✚ As reported by *U.S. News & World Report*, Holy Cross-sponsored institutions of higher education in the USA continue to place in Tier One levels for the best Colleges and Universities – 2010.

University of Notre Dame, ranked #20 among National Universities (total enrollment 11,731 students); St. Mary's College, ranked #97 among Liberal Arts Colleges (total enrollment 1,628 students); Stonehill College, ranked #112 among Liberal Arts Colleges (total enrollment 2,426 students); King's College, ranked #38 among Master's Universities (total enrollment 2,673 students); University of Portland, ranked #10 of Master's Universities (total enrollment 3,661 students); St. Edward's University, ranked #21 among Master Universities (total enrollment 5,348 students).

✚ Catholic News Service recently featured an interesting article about undergraduate seminarians. In particular, the Old College Program at Notre Dame was highlighted and an interview with Holy Cross seminarian Kevin Wack was included. You may access this article at: www.catholicnews.com

The Priests of Holy Cross embrace and celebrate Pope Benedict XVI's announcement of the **Year for Priests**. The Holy Cross community invites friends, family and the faithful to join this celebration of the consecrated life through prayers for those who have responded to God's call, and for continued vocations to the priesthood.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops encourage the faithful to offer the following prayer for priests:

Please Pray for Priests

Dear Lord,
We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

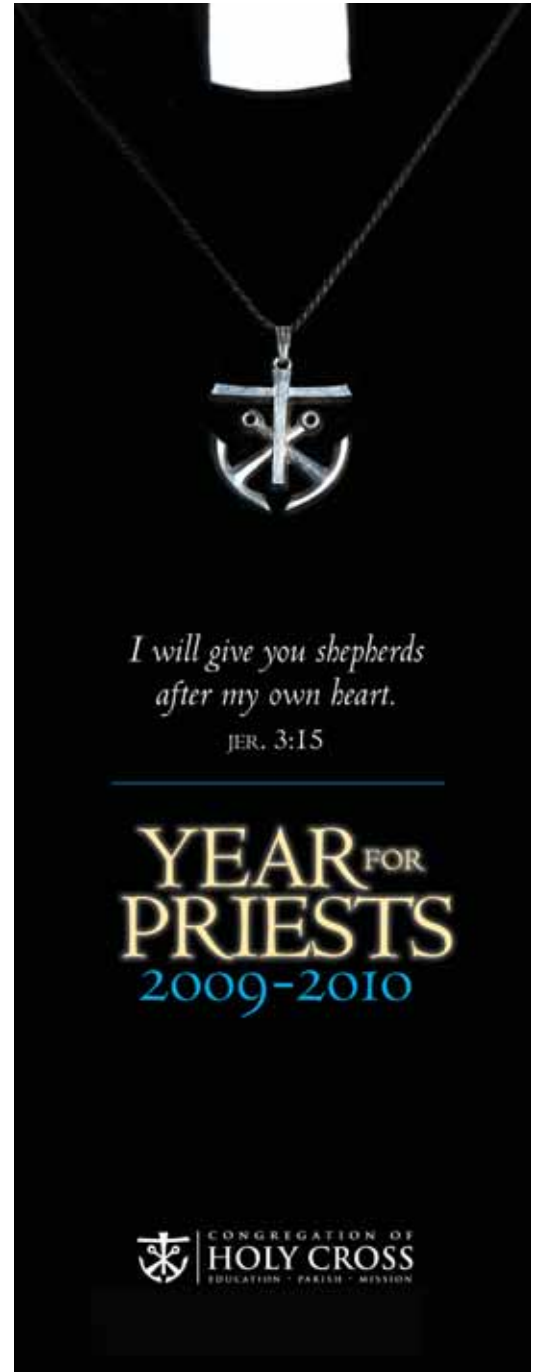
We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse.

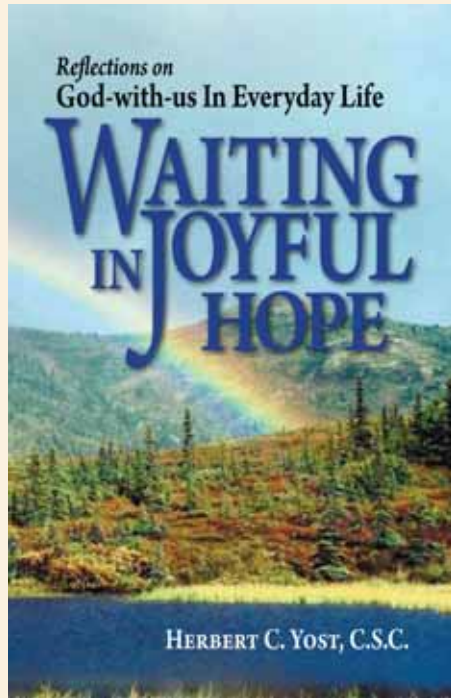
May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love, seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.
Amen

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



“Waiting in Joyful Hope” A New Book by Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C.



Fr. Herb Yost's first book, *Waiting in Joyful Hope*, is now available. This wonderful collection of reflections, timelessly relevant, offers comfort, insight, encouragement, and always, hope.

For your own faith journey, or for someone you know in need of Fr. Herb's wisdom, you can order the book through Corby Press, www.corbypublishing.com.

From the preface of *Waiting in Joyful Hope* by Fr. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C.

“The human story is the same for everyone. We are born unasked; we yearn for great love and happiness even if we do not know we do. We die, both sad to leave and glad to be gone. Only the details of each human life differ. The essays of Father Herb Yost, C.S.C., that follow this Preface are for the human being in every man and woman who lives here and now. We are part of a great band of pilgrims whirling through space on planet earth at breath-taking speeds, but all too often only going around in circles seemingly getting nowhere. Why did God make me? It is a question I remember from childhood catechism. And I recall the answer. ‘God made me to know him and to love him in this world, and to be happy with him forever in the next.’ Fr. Yost's essays are but commentary on that line, plain talk for simple folk, and earned wisdom for everyone about Christian living.”

A Vocation Profile: Shepherd Me, Oh God

Six miles on gravel roads outside of the tiny town of Hobson, Montana, my parents, Greg and Karen Grove, operate a family farm and ranch. In our wheat fields at harvest and tending our sheep and cattle, my family lived the biblical images of sowers and seeds, shepherds and flocks. And in that little place, surrounded by family and a supportive Catholic community, I first felt the call to the priesthood.

That said, I was not at all ready to answer it. As an undergraduate at Seattle University, I instead explored public service and academics as career options. But I realized in my own heart, after four years of prayer, that before—and different from—any “career,” I felt Christ calling me to the life of the priesthood. And the emotion of that first ‘yes’ is still fresh in my heart after my perpetual profession.

I first encountered Holy Cross as an undergraduate visiting prospective graduate schools. I met with professors but stopped in for a daily Mass and heard a great homily about Holy Cross and its mission. It was stirring in a way that prompted me to pick up a brochure on the way out of the Church. Providence indeed guides us along God's pathways!

Rev. Mr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., Deacon
Professed Final Vows August 2009

A Vocation Profile: Hear God's Call, and Answer

I was blessed to grow up in a Catholic family that supported vocations. My maternal grandma's brother was my pastor when I was little; he gave me my First Holy Communion. I did not know him as Fr. Ed or Msgr. Soxman. I just knew him as Uncle Ed, and that familiarity with a priest helped pave the way for the priesthood to be an option for me. At my ordination, I was blessed to receive his chalice to use as my own.

It was not until freshman year of High School that I started to think, reluctantly, about a vocation. I attended a Catholic High School staffed by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. I asked Br. Ed Sheehy, FSC, the question: "Brother, isn't that a lonely life?" Not the most tactful way to ask about vocations. Br. Ed had patience with me and responded that there is a difference between being lonely and being lonesome. If I was thinking about the priesthood, good, but he advised not to do anything until after college.

Priesthood was not # 1 on my wish list of things to do with my life. I had visions being married and having children. I loved the sciences and thought that I might work in a lab. So, every time the idea of being a priest would come to me, I did my best to squash the idea so that I could focus on the goals I had for myself. Attending an all male school not quite athletic enough for varsity sports, I chose extracurricular activities that were co-ed. Not the straight path to the priesthood.

When I entered college, the idea of possibly being a priest had not gone away. I assumed that it would not until I entered the seminary. Still, I did not want to admit to anyone that I had a vocation. Eventually, I opened up to my roommates at Notre Dame that this was something I was considering, and I was surprised by how supportive they were. That was a relief. Still, I was majoring in Chemistry, trying to achieve my own goals. I would talk to a vocation director from time to time, but kept him at a distance because I was still in denial.

It was not until I heard someone say that less than half the men who entered the seminary become priests that I had the courage to apply to the seminary after graduating with a BS in Chemistry/Theology. I figured that the only way to make the vocation idea go away was to enter the seminary and prove that the priesthood was not for me. Besides, the odds were in my favor, right?

Entering the seminary is one of the best decisions I have made in my life. I found joy, which is different than happiness. To me, happiness is fleeting and superficial. Joy and inner peace that come from knowing you are where God wants you to be is priceless. You can have joy and peace even in the midst of turbulent times.

Seminary formation helped me to know more about myself, and how to be more compassionate towards others. My life in Holy Cross has also brought experiences that I would never have dreamed of: teaching Physics and Chemistry in East Africa, the joy and privilege of being invited into people's lives at very crucial and intimate moments (birth, marriage, death), the satisfaction of walking with people down on their luck as I do now as the Director of André House where we serve over 600 meals a night and offer other services to people who are homeless. My life as a priest is blessed indeed. I pray that everyone can find their vocation, what God calls them to do, so that everyone can feel the same joy and peace.

Rev. Eric Schimmel, C.S.C., ordained April 2002
Director, Andre House, Phoenix



*Fr. Eric, right of center, with students
in East Africa*

Plane Speaking

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From the very beginning, Fr. Moreau had a vision of basing his new religious community on the Holy Family. So in 1841, he established the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross. He gave St. Joseph as the patron to the Brothers, the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the patron to the Priests, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Sisters. The entire community would celebrate the Seven Sorrows of Mary as its patronal feast.

The mission and work of the little community thrived until the next step was to ask Rome to grant its approval to the new religious community. This was granted in 1957, but there was a catch. It seemed that the Holy See was not altogether comfortable with the idea of women and men living and working together as one community. So the Sisters had to break off, and over time they became three distinct religious communities, all revering Fr. Moreau as their Founder: the Marianites (France), the Sisters of Holy Cross (Canada) and the Sisters of the Holy Cross (United States).

So the first part of the answer to your question, Fran, is that the Holy Cross Brothers, the “Notre Dame priests”, and the “Holy Cross nuns at St. Mary’s” all have the same origin and the same Founder.

But when it comes to governance, or “jurisdiction”, to use your friend’s word, there *is* a difference.

Each of the three Sisters communities has their own General Administration, entirely independent of each other. So in terms of jurisdiction, there is no connection at all with the priests and brothers.

But for the Brothers and Priests of Holy Cross, it is different. Here it would be useful to use the analogy of the United States – a federal union of fifty states; a President and Congress, governors and legislatures.

At the very top we have the General Chapter, composed of Priest and Brother delegates from all over the world. They meet every six years to examine and evaluate the life and mission of the entire Congregation, and to make changes as necessary.

The General Chapter elects the Superior General, who is always a priest (though we are working to change that). There are four General Assistants – two brothers and two priests. The General Administration carries out the mandates of the General Chapter in addition to having very specific governing duties of its own. Decisions made at this level are binding on all Priests and Brothers.

The priests and brothers are regionally divided into Provinces, Districts, and Vicariates. Here in the United States we have two Priests Provinces: the Eastern and the Indiana (soon to merged into one United States Province). There are three Brother’s Provinces: Eastern, Southwest (both exploring a merger), and the Midwest. This is where the vision of Fr. Moreau is unique in all the Church, because in no other religious community or Order do we have priests and brothers exercising separate but equal governing bodies. The flow of authority is the same as at the General level: Provincial Chapter sets the policy and the Provincial Superior and Council carry it out.

I hope this helps answer your question, Fran. Just keep in mind the federal/state analogy. The brothers at Holy Cross College are members of the Midwest Province. Most of the priests at Notre Dame are members of the Indiana Province.

I mentioned at the beginning Fr. Moreau’s dream of sisters, brothers, and priests all working together for the honor and glory of God. For several years now, this dream has been nurtured by a group called “The Council of the Congregation”. The leadership of all the Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters from around the world meet frequently to discuss issues of importance to all of Holy Cross, with special emphasis on our international missions. ✠

This is a long answer to a short question, isn’t it??
Question for Fr. Herb? Send it to:

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

CARA Report on Vocations



There is encouraging news for all committed to the promotion of vocations to the priesthood as reported recently from National

Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), and Executive Director, Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. Among several religious orders and their members who are consecrated to the religious life, the **Congregation of Holy Cross was one of eight recognized for their “Best Practices for Vocation Promotion”** as cited in the study.

In August 2009, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) in the United States released the results of its study on vocations to the religious life which was funded by an anonymous grant.

Research for the study was begun in December of 2007, and ended just less than two years from its beginning. The goal of the research for the study done by The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), and under the direction of Sr. Mary Bendeyna, RSM, Ph.D., was to identify best practices for vocation promotion and religious formation.

Recently, Bro. Paul Bednarczk, CSC, took time to answer questions about the study and what outcomes were significant for Vocations of Congregation of Holy Cross.

Q: Can you describe/explain your role with the National Religious Vocation Conference?

A: I am the executive director. We also have an associate director, administrative assistant, a public relations director and a financial coordinator. Our offices are in Chicago at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) which is representative of several

different religious communities. Being located in the Central United States is important to us and to our members.

The NRVC, National Religious Vocation Conference, is a professional organization for religious vocation directors that support religious communities of sisters, brothers and priests. We provide training, education and resources for vocation directors from religious orders to support them in exercising their ministry competently and effectively. The NRVC has over 1100 members. And although we are a national organization we also have international membership representing 22 countries including Africa, South America and Europe, as well as serving the Church in over 40 U.S. Dioceses. Every two years about 200 hundred members meet to participate in a national convention to attend workshops and programs.

Q: What is CARA, and why a research project on vocations?

A: The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) through Georgetown University exists to engage in study and dialogue researching a number of factors influencing the Church today. The purpose of the report on vocations was to find the best practices for vocation promotion. The National Religious Vocation Conference commissioned CARA to do the study.

Q: To the extent that you can share, how did the vocation efforts of the Congregation of Holy Cross fare in the report?

A: Holy Cross was shown to be one of eight communities that proved to be reasonably successful in its vocation efforts. Before this research was begun vocation directors and others interested in religious communities had only anecdotal evidence of who was coming to the religious life. We wanted to determine fact from fiction. We wanted to find out more about who was interested in religious life and religious vocations.

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CARA Report

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This study of religious institutions was a compilation of surveys and focus groups consisting of recent vocations to religious life. The NRVC found that the Congregation of Holy Cross was one of eight religious orders that is successful in attracting and retaining new members to religious life.

Q. What does the CARA study tell us about the future of vocations to religious life?

A. First, amidst all the noise and distractions bombarding young people today, God's call is getting through. There's every reason for hope that vocations will continue in an upward trend.

Second, the CARA report reminds us that all the faithful have a role in fostering vocations. It's not solely the auspices of religious communities.

Young people are looking for models of holiness and commitment, and the community of the faithful, recognizing this desire, can help lead these young seekers in the right direction. In addition to this, we can all help create a culture which encourages and supports vocations in our homes and in our parishes. There's no better place for us to start than with our prayers for vocations. ✠

The complete results of the study on the trends of contemporary vocations which includes detailed reports, an executive summary and other information, including best practices for vocation promotion can be accessed at www.nrv.net.

Special Tributes

Earlier this year a special "construction" project occurred at Moreau Seminary - the installation of two benches located on the south lawn of the seminary. What made the construction special is not the pristine view of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and the Main Building afforded by the benches, but the impetus for the installation. Each bench was installed at the request of donors wishing to honor and pay tribute to people important in their lives.



To the left is the Chappell family, with Andrew, Martha, Chris, Abby, and Emily (left to right), standing behind the bench they had underwritten in thanksgiving for the Congregation of Holy Cross in their lives.



At right, standing second from right, is Niel Shank surrounded by close friends. Niel dedicated his bench to the memory of his beloved wife, Frankie Gibson-Shank, who passed in 2008.

Overlooking St. Joseph Lake, surrounded by the often quiet environment of the seminary, the bench is an appropriate reminder of Frankie's love of all God's creation. ✠

Holy Cross in Mexico Says “Thanks”

The generosity of many who responded to Fr. Tom Zurcher’s, C.S.C. invitation to support the multiple Formation needs in Mexico, and those who shared their gifts after reading of the work of Holy Cross in Mexico in the Spring issue of **PILLARS**, was nothing less than outstanding. Fr. Tom and the seminarians in formation express their sincere appreciation.

The cost of forming young men in Mexico, including transportation, room and board, and education, is extremely modest compared to similar expenses in the United States. As an example, the academic tuition for a seminarian is approximately \$500.00 (USD) per semester, and just \$25.00 (USD) provides monthly public transportation to and from the Formation House to school.

Just under \$15,000 was infused into the Mexico Formation Program as a result of the generosity of readers. Those gifts have had a tremendous impact in maintaining recurring formation expenses for the 10 young men discerning the priesthood in Holy Cross.

In their prayers the men of Holy Cross in Mexico remember the intentions of those graciously supporting their education.

Along with gifts from donors, the Formation Program in Mexico recently received a grant from the Congregation of Holy Cross *Solidarity Fund*. The grant is being used to remodel the library, including the addition of shelving, desks, air conditioning, and books.

What’s next for the Holy Cross Formation program in Mexico? Inspired by the generosity of so many, Fr. Tom, along with the Formation



Carlos Jacobo de los Santos, C.S.C. studies in the recently remodeled “theology” room

staff and seminarians, have envisioned the potential for the two formation houses currently in use.

Capital building needs, similar to typical home maintenance and repairs, have been identified, along with needed furnishings for both resident and common spaces, and the Chapel.

Education expenses, from tuition to mission trips to computers, remain a priority. But as Fr. Tom states, little by little will these needs be met.

With a 16 year history of forming young hearts and minds in Mexico, Holy Cross is committed to serving the faithful in Mexico. We welcome young men who are responding to God’s call with the same generosity and faith shown by so many donors.

For information on the needs of the Holy Cross Formation Program in Mexico, contact the Office of Development at 574/631-6731 or email at indcscdv@nd.edu; you can also email Fr. Tom Zurcher, C.S.C. at tkzcsc@yahoo.com. ✠



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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.



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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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Thank You.