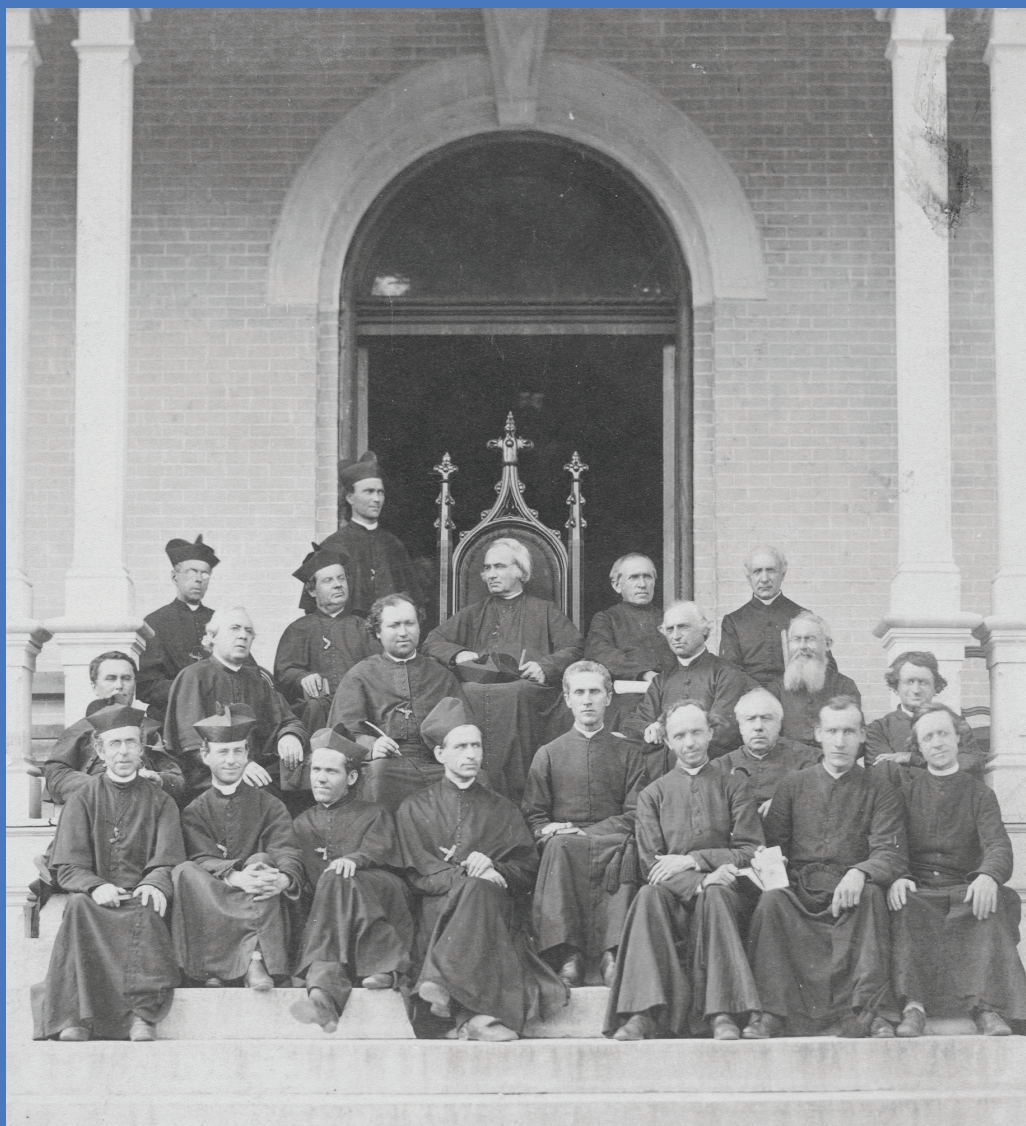


CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1



IN THIS ISSUE:

"In the Footsteps of a Great Band of Men"



Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C., (third from left) and Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C. (right), speak with several men about vocations in Holy Cross.

A Great Band of Men

The Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross speak of entrance into our community as falling in step with a great band of men who have gone before us. It is indeed an impressive group of men who have been a part of this community. Learning their stories has helped form me into the Holy Cross priest that I am today.

For more than 175 years, men have consecrated themselves to the Lord as priests and brothers of Holy Cross. They have given their lives lovingly in parish work. They have trekked far from home to serve others in need and to proclaim the Gospel. They have walked with countless students guiding them in their growth in faith and knowledge. The more that I learn about these men who have gone before me and in whose company I walk, the more I am inspired by their efforts to save souls through making God known, loved, and served.

Of course, none of us in Holy Cross are perfect and we have our fair share of characters in our community. Yet it is just this reality that encourages me, knowing God can do amazing things with this limited life of ours, if only we are willing to give Him the chance.

In this issue of CHOICES, we present a handful of reflections on some of the men who have offered up their lives to the Lord. They are a part of this great band of men who have helped make our community what it is and have served the people of God in many wonderful ways. Hopefully their lives and the example they have set for those who follow after them can help in your own consideration of how you will follow after the Lord.

If you feel God might be calling you to fall in step with this great band of men, please get in touch with our office. We would be happy to help you take a deeper look at that possibility.

In Christ and His Holy Cross,
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Cover photo: Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C. (seated in chair), is surrounded by Holy Cross priests and brothers in front of Notre Dame's second main building during the 1872 Chapter. (Photo courtesy of University of Notre Dame Archives)

Fr. Tom Blantz: Priest-Professor

By Fr. Bill Miscamble, C.S.C.

While the Congregation of Holy Cross has been blessed to count a number of fine priest-professors in its ranks over the years, few can match Fr. Thomas Blantz, C.S.C., for his selfless devotion and dedication to ministry.

This extraordinary priest joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1968 and taught here full time until 2012. Fortunately, he will continue to offer his popular courses in American history as an emeritus professor for many years to come.

Fr. Blantz epitomizes and enfleshes what Holy Cross refers to as an “educator in the faith.” I know this firsthand from close observation over the last 35 or so years. When I arrived as a graduate student from Australia, I was assigned to work with him as a teaching assistant. Right from the outset I noted what a fine teacher he was. His lectures were always well organized and filled with strong and sensible content. He never bothered with frivolous fads, but gave his students a thorough and well-grounded presentation of 20th-century American history that equipped them well as citizens of the country.

Rather quickly, however, I came to see that he was much more than a capable professor of history. He was and is a marvelous priest-professor. I once heard him describe teaching as a profound act of charity and he certainly has given generously of himself and his knowledge to literally generations of Notre Dame students. When he received the prestigious Charles Sheedy Award for excellence in teaching in 1979, Fr. Blantz notably outlined his educational philosophy in words that had a deep impact on all his listeners, including me. He explained that teaching “is helping someone grow in knowledge and understanding and wisdom, helping someone else develop a faculty God has given them, helping someone else grasp and attain the knowledge needed to live full and productive lives in civil society and in the Church, helping others sharpen their

intellects so they become more perceptive and accurate in their judgments, helping others perfect their intellects in the image and likeness of God.”

Fr. Blantz’s presentation of teaching as “something deeply spiritual and sacred and priestly” and his daily living out of this calling had a deep impact upon me. So too did his profound commitment to the Holy Cross Community at Notre Dame, where he long has been a sustaining presence who is truly faithful to common prayer and common life. His pastoral care for thousands of Notre Dame students in the residence halls over the years and his deep devotion to the Eucharist stand out for all who know him. His willingness on occasion to step aside from his treasured teaching ministry and his scholarly labors so as to serve as an administrator – as vice president for Student Affairs from 1970-72 and subsequently as director of the Notre Dame Archives – only revealed further his great generosity in serving Holy Cross and Notre Dame.

Fr. Blantz proved a crucial guide in leading me to Holy Cross. He modeled for me a way of being a priest – that of priest/scholar/teacher – that with God’s grace brought me to the enter the Congregation in 1982, six years after I first met him. He has been a guide and model for me over all the years I have known him. No doubt I would be a better priest, teacher and man if I had followed his example a bit more closely. His generosity in supporting my various apostolic endeavors, even when we have disagreed over matters



Fr. Tom Blantz, C.S.C., gives a presentation on Notre Dame history during the 2013 Reunion.



“We asked how we might follow, and we found many footprints on the road.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 1:5

of real substance, testifies to his brotherhood in Holy Cross. In all he does, he manifests a grace-filled willingness to serve the Lord faithfully. One can only hope and pray that a new generation of educators in the faith will rise to follow in his footsteps by serving God and neighbor with such devotion.



Fr. Bill Miscamble, C.S.C., is director of advanced studies for the United States Province and a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame.

Br. Fulgence Dougherty: Perfect Gentleman

By Fr. Charles Gordon, C.S.C.

Before coming to the University of Portland, Br. Fulgence Dougherty, C.S.C., had a distinguished 25-year career as a Holy Cross educator in East Bengal (now Bangladesh).

He was present during the grisly revolution of 1971 and during the earlier civil unrest in which a number of Holy Cross religious were killed. I’m going to write about how he is remembered in Portland. Br. Fulgence has the reputation around here of being a “perfect gentleman.” That might seem like a trivial thing to say about a vowed religious, but when people use the phrase to describe Br. Fulgence, they are trying to express something quite profound. What it boils down to is that he has an extraordinary capacity to do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

During his years with us, Br. Fulgence was highly esteemed for his faithfulness to the rule of life that should characterize a Holy Cross religious. He went to Mass every day, was present for community prayer, did his daily meditation and so forth. This might



Br. Fulgence Dougherty, C.S.C., served as director of International Studies at the University of Portland. This photo is from 1983.

seem unremarkable – like something that should be taken for granted, but in the midst of a busy professional life, this spiritual regimen can be surprisingly difficult to maintain. Nevertheless, our tradition finds these practices essential to forming and sustaining a Holy Cross religious. Apart from the explicitly spiritual elements of our life, he was also present whenever the community gathered in chapter, for meals or to socialize. He was diligent in his role as sacristan in the chapel of our community residence. For exercise, he regularly took long walks, often inspiring others to join him. In all these ways, he was an inspiration to the rest of us. He helped make us a living brotherhood rather than simply a crowd of harried, distracted men. When I say he was “present” in the community, I mean more than that he was always there. Rather, centered in a life of disciplined spiritual observance, he was unfailingly gracious in his interactions with his Holy Cross brothers. He was kind, witty and supportive of what is best in each of us.

The same qualities that characterized his religious and community life animated his work as director of International Studies at the University. He was renowned for his assiduous care of a large number of students, many of them from the Middle East, as well as for his outreach to faculty and staff. His work with students began before they arrived at the University. He exploited new technologies like the Internet to evaluate



“A great band of men had passed this way, men who had made and lived by their vows, men who had walked side by side in their following of the Lord. They beckoned us to fall in step with them. We wanted to be part of the family they formed in order to share in their life and work.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 1:5

college applications from all over the world. He became so adept at this challenging work that he developed a reputation for the rapid, incisive evaluation of applications from virtually anywhere. He continued in this role long after he retired as director.

I believe that in being a “perfect gentleman,” Br. Fulgence exemplified what it means to be a Holy Cross brother. Like their patron St. Joseph, their most striking characteristic is the quiet faith that sustains their life and work. Seeped in the distinct traditions of Holy Cross, they determine what they ought to be doing – and do it. They aren’t concerned about recognition or self-fulfillment or “self” anything else. They are concerned about being faithful and useful. When Joseph discovered that his betrothed was expecting a child, he could have exposed her to the law, but an angel told him to marry the girl. Joseph didn’t protest or laugh or ask for signs. He simply did what God asked of him. That’s what Br. Fulgence did in Portland. No doubt he’s doing it now at Notre Dame.



Fr. Charles B. Gordon, C.S.C., is an assistant professor of theology at the University of Portland.

Fr. Robert Hesse: Simple Missionary

By Fr. Fulgens Katende, C.S.C.

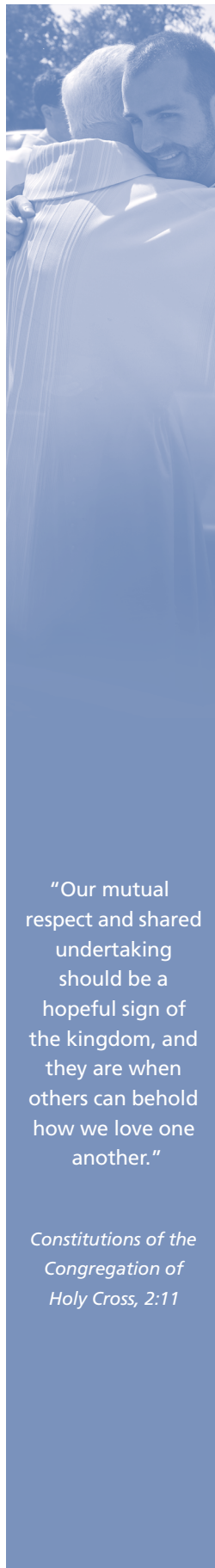
Fr. Bob Hesse, C.S.C., was a person of such great magnanimity that words themselves cannot do justice to his life spent in missionary work in Uganda for half a century.

I first met Fr. Bob in 1985 when I was a candidate for the Congregation in Nairobi; later I would do two summers of pastoral experience under his direction in the Kitagwenda parish. Little did I know then

that he would usher me into priesthood by being my mentor as a newly ordained priest for four years and later my associate in the Bugembe parish. He is one of the first four Holy Cross priests who came to start missionary work in Uganda in 1958. "Simple and ordinary" are the two words that describe who Fr. Bob was for the natives of Uganda.

Simple can mean many things to many people. As a missionary, Fr. Bob was driven by the desire to serve the Lord through his openness and willingness to commit his life's work in areas located in the middle of nowhere, with bad roads and poor communication at the time. During the many years he spent in the Kitagwenda parish (Fort Portal diocese), he did not live as an American, but as a native fully inserted in the life of the poor people. Working with simple, mostly unschooled people, he transformed their lives through establishing primary schools and medical facilities and introducing many to religious life. He is noted for being adaptable and flexible in moments when there was a scarcity of only the basic necessities. He walked for miles to distant churches to minister to the people, sharing in whatever hospitality accorded him. He was not a spiritual guru, but his faith was simple with such great depth that it moved many people from their malpractices to embracing the faith. Fr. Bob was a tall man physically, but short enough for all to reach him and connect to his benevolence and sensitivity and love for the faith. He was not looking for an ascetical life, but his entire life was about self-sacrifice and deep commitment, sharing the mission of Holy Cross. His love for the Holy Cross Congregation is insurmountable, but it is also equally true in both the Kitagwenda and Bugembe parishes that Holy Cross is equated with Fr. Bob. He is noted for shaping and molding many vocations to religious life in the dioceses of both Fort Portal and Jinja. What drew most people to religious life is his great love and zeal for ministry.

Fr. Bob was an ordinary missionary who went about his work in ordinary ways. There was no pretense in him; he was what he appeared to be. He worried about working with little



"Our mutual respect and shared undertaking should be a hopeful sign of the kingdom, and they are when others can behold how we love one another."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 2:11

resources in the midst of insurmountable needs, both material and spiritual. He had to grapple with forces within the local society that worked against the work of God, surviving robberies, struggling in courts to rescue church land from land grabbers and fighting with corrupt leaders who were cutting down all the trees. (One time he had to lie next to a tree they were cutting down. They stopped, but later the next day he found it down already.) He would not hesitate to sit in the District's education office for the whole day until a license for one of Holy Cross' primary schools was granted. He tried to give every ounce of his effort and energy to make sure that people recognized and acknowledged the importance of nurturing faith in their lives. He did not escape the wear and tear that come with hard work; sometimes he would bang doors or throw files in the air. In a few minutes, he would be seeking forgiveness and making sure to take care of his fatigue. In meetings, he was very enthusiastic with anything that Holy Cross set out to do in order to strengthen and nourish people's faith. Fr. Bob was recalled from retirement in 1990 to start a new parish in Bugembe, which is one of the most vibrant parishes in the entire diocese.

His desire for a better Uganda sometimes led him to encourage Christians to take center stage in politics in order to change the lives of people. Fr. Bob was an ordinary and simple person; his intention was to create a strong Catholic leadership among the people. It is this deep commitment that continues to inspire and motivate us as Holy Cross in East Africa.



Fr. Bob Hesse in Africa.

When I picked him up from the airport at Entebbe in 2000, the first thing he said to me was, “Fulgens, I will now die here; I’m not returning to the USA.” And that is what happened. In Fr. Bob Hesse, we celebrate simplicity, commitment and zeal in carrying out the mission of Jesus as the Congregation of Holy Cross.



Fr. Fulgens Katende, C.S.C., is in advanced studies in the United States studying spirituality.

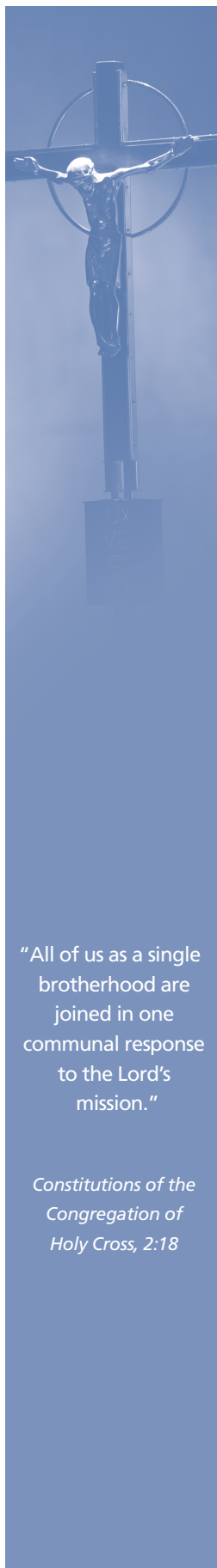
Fr. Jerome Lawyer: Man for All Seasons

By Fr. Mark Cregan, C.S.C.

Picture the following scene: A young seminarian arrives from the Novitiate for a summer experience in the South Bronx in 1979 and is greeted by Fr. Jerry Lawyer, C.S.C. – at that time an energetic, 67-year-old priest who had been serving in the South Bronx for 10 years during the time when “the Bronx burned.”

His greeting was “Come on, I have to drive down to the Missionaries of Charity house on 147th Street.” Imagine then that he drives from Christ the King rectory to the convent, taking the route showing the most burnt-out buildings, drug houses and extreme poverty, all the while speaking so enthusiastically about his ministry and his life in the Bronx. When we return to the rectory, he asked, “So what did you think?” And when the seminarian (who was brought up in Newark, N.J., during the aftermath of the riots in the 1960s) answered, “I feel like I’m back at home.” Fr. Jerry could do nothing but laugh and say, “Well, you should fit in around here fine!”

From that meeting in June 1979, a friendship blossomed that would endure



“All of us as a single brotherhood are joined in one communal response to the Lord’s mission.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 2:18

until Fr. Jerry’s passing in 2006. In my almost 40 years in Holy Cross, I have never met a religious and a priest so enthusiastic for ministry with the poor and marginalized as the Rev. Jerome Regis Lawyer, C.S.C. He loved people and he made sure they knew it.

This energy and enthusiasm animated all of Fr. Jerry’s ministries. Entering Holy Cross as a 13-year-old high school seminarian in 1926, he relished being in the company of his classmates and the priests and brothers of Holy Cross who formed him. Ordained in 1939, he did additional studies to prepare to be a missionary to East Bengal and indeed, boarded a ship in November 1941, setting sail for Asia. After Pearl Harbor, Fr. Jerry and almost 1,500 priests, brothers and sisters were detained as prisoners of war in the Philippines for 3 1/2 years before being liberated in 1945. Upon returning home, he was assigned to work with Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and was instrumental in launching Holy Cross Family Ministries in Hollywood and in Spain, where he produced films depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary. Fr. Jerry also served as assistant provincial of the Eastern Province of Holy Cross. But when the chance came to serve as part of a team of Holy Cross priests who would serve as parochial vicars in inner-city parishes in New York City, he jumped at it and volunteered to come to the city. Being a huge baseball and Yankees fan and being assigned to a parish eight blocks from Yankee Stadium didn’t hurt either.

Fr. Jerry never missed an opportunity to put a “positive spin” on even the worst of situations. He was mugged more than a few times in his career in the Bronx. He came to carry multiple wallets, each containing some money. But even in these moments he would say, “The poor guy, he probably needed it more than I do.” He was generous to a fault with his time, talent and treasure. And he was truly multicultural: He celebrated the first Spanish Mass in the Bronx parish around 1970, insisting that the growing Spanish community would not be an “appendage” to the parish, but fully integrated with both the rights and the responsibilities that membership required.

Even though the Holy Cross priests and brothers each lived in different rectories (except where the Congregation administered the parish), they loved to gather in an apartment weekly with one another to swap stories, reflect on what was happening in Holy Cross and resolve the world's problems. In the 1990s, when I was superior of the New York community, I remember Fr. Jerry advising me: "Make sure every man knows that they are serving Holy Cross in whatever ministry they were engaged and celebrate that with them!"

Fr. Jerry was passionate about his religious life in Holy Cross, his priesthood and his life of service to the People of God. And those of us who knew him knew we were in the presence of a man of faith! May he rest in peace!



Fr. Mark Cregan, C.S.C., is on sabbatical in Totowa, N.J., after having served as president of Stonehill College for 13 years.



Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. (left), and Fr. Jerry Lawyer, C.S.C., on Mutual Radio.



"Our calling is to serve the Lord Jesus in mission not as independent individuals but in a brotherhood."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 4:33

Br. Ed Luther: A Life Centered on Christ

By Fr. Steve Lacroix, C.S.C.

In October, the staff and seminarians of the Old College Undergraduate Seminary gathered for a small dinner in honor of the 67th anniversary of Br. Edward Luther, C.S.C., as a religious brother. It was just a small display of gratitude from those of us who continue to benefit from his ministry, a testament to the tremendous impact that a humble brother can have on countless people simply through the witness of his life.

It seems that many people don't come into much contact with religious brothers these days. When someone learns what a brother is — a man who professes lifelong vows of poverty, chastity and obedience but does not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders — they usually all have the same question: "Why didn't you become a priest?" Br. Ed's life provides the perfect answer to that question. In many ways, the life of a brother is a pure example of religious life, a life in which a man makes religious vows in order to center his life on Christ; an act which allows him to offer his ordinary, everyday work as ministry in service to the Kingdom. Like St. Joseph, patron of the Holy Cross Brothers, Br. Ed is a worker. In fact, even at age 86, he still puts in a full workweek that would be a challenge for many people a whole lot younger.

Most of his work over the last seven decades has taken place in two settings: in the kitchen and on a college campus. As a novice in 1945, Br. Ed was assigned to work in the kitchen. It didn't take long for his superiors to recognize his talents as a baker. (Even to this day, his cinnamon rolls and sourdough bread remain favorites of the seminarians!) He was eventually trained in kitchen management and he managed kitchens at the Novitiate and at Moreau Seminary for 33 years.

The provincial then asked him to take on a new assignment as a dorm rector. Br. Ed spent the next several years leading and forming college-age men in Morrissey Manor (1978-86), Fisher Hall (1986-99) and finally at Old



Br. Ed Luther, C.S.C. (left) works with Old Collegian Jim Corcoran in the kitchen at Old College Undergraduate Seminary.

College (1999-present). While he may not have expected this change, he took to this work enthusiastically and became an important role model for generations of young men. I have worked side by side with Br. Ed at Old College for the last four years and in this role, he does it all: working with seminarians, maintaining our facilities and of course, putting his baking skills to good use.

Much of the work Br. Ed has performed over the last seven decades might seem rather ordinary: baking, running a kitchen, managing dorm events, working with seminarians. But like St. Joseph, Br. Ed's work can truly be considered Christian ministry because he does it for Christ. There is no telling how many souls he has led to Christ over the years because people have seen the love of Christ in his work. To me, this is the essence of what a brother offers to Holy Cross and to the people of God: demonstrating how our ordinary work can be sanctified if we do it for Christ. He has certainly inspired me to approach my own work differently. When I'm tired after a long day, I marvel at his continued zeal for ministry. When the day seems too busy, I am inspired by the caring attention he shows to each individual he meets. Br. Ed's witness has helped me to trust that God will take my ordinary daily work and make it fruitful. I am a much better priest and religious for knowing him. I only hope my seminarians are paying close attention to

"It is essential to our mission that we strive to abide so attentively together that people will observe: 'See how they love one another.' We will then be a sign in an alienated world: men who have, for love of their Lord, become closest neighbors, trustworthy friends, brothers."

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of
Holy Cross, 4:42*

this humble brother so that they can perform their daily work with the same zeal, joy and faith that they get to witness in him each day.



Fr. Steve Lacroix, C.S.C., is director of the Old College Undergraduate Seminary and a member of the formation staff at Moreau Seminary.

Fr. Frederick Schmidt: Tireless Missionary

By Fr. Tom Zurcher, C.S.C.

A missionary with great apostolic zeal, Fr. Frederick Schmidt, C.S.C., was tireless in his service to God's people, most especially the Mexican-American communities in Texas and the Mexican communities in the mountain village of Ahuacatlán. He rarely let any obstacle stand in the way of his loving preferential option for the poor.

This fortitude in the face of adversity and the desire to serve others were forged early on in life. He was born into a poor family in New York on Aug. 27, 1907. Three weeks before his 14th birthday, his mother died of cancer. Yet this did not stop him from entering the diocesan seminary that September.

Fred's father remarried shortly after his mother's death and the family moved to New Jersey. To help support his family, Fr. Fred left the seminary, moved with them, found a day job and went to school at night. Eventually he dropped out of school, keeping his job to help his family.

Thoughts about priesthood and the missions never left him. When he was 20, he met a Holy Cross priest at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He entered Holy Cross seminary and was ordained a priest on June 24, 1937.

His dream was to serve the poor in what is now Bangladesh. Instead, the provincial sent him to the Mexican-American missions in Texas. With a smile, Fr. Fred said, "That's OK. It's the will of God." He served there for 35 years.

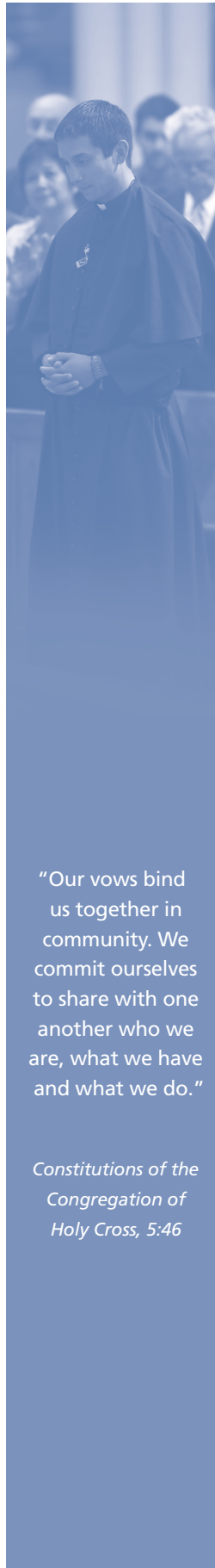
In the 1960s, Pope John XXIII called for missionaries to go to Latin America. Fr. Fred asked the provincial to send him to México. He was granted a one-year sabbatical. At age 65, Fr. Fred went to Ahuacatlán, San Luis Potosí, México, in 1972 to serve in what was previously a priest-less mountain village.

A year later, Fr. Fred pleaded with the provincial to let him stay. The one-year sabbatical turned into 30 years of ministry and a loving relationship among the thousands of people in the mountain communities of Ahuacatlán and their priest.

Over those many years, Fr. Fred traveled the mountain roads by foot or by his truck that barely held together: baptizing, hearing confessions, celebrating Mass, anointing the sick, burying the dead, blessing homes and sharing meals. He established curias of the Legion of Mary to join him in service to others and traveled great distances to make the Cursillo renewal available for his people.



Fr. Frederick Schmidt, C.S.C., in Belton, Texas, 1969.



"Our vows bind us together in community. We commit ourselves to share with one another who we are, what we have and what we do."

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of
Holy Cross, 5:46*

His most heartfelt ministry was to establish and promote two communities of contemplative sisters. The first was a convent of Dominicans in the town of Xilitla. For years, he traveled 15 kilometers of winding mountain highway twice a week to celebrate Mass and offer confessions. The second was the Monjas Agustinas Recoletas who took up residence in a convent he built next to his parish church. With rooms for 40, the convent was soon filled to capacity with happy, young women living the contemplative life.

Fr. Fred was himself a man of prayer, making a daily Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He lived in the sacristy of the church that he helped to rebuild so that he might remain close to the Blessed Sacrament. When asked about the money for his many projects, his response was one of faith, "Divine Providence sends it from various places in the United States."

At 95 years old, Fr. Fred died in his sleep in Ahuacatlán on Jan. 12, 2003, and was buried in the crypt of that convent he built. His spirit of zealous pastoral service continues to inspire many, most especially the C.S.C.s who serve in México today.



Fr. Tom Zurcher, C.S.C., is superior of the U.S. Province Region of México.

Fr. Richard Sullivan: Link in the Chain

By Fr. Tom Gariepy, C.S.C.

On a fall afternoon 50 years ago, a librarian ran shouting into the Cushing-Martin Library offices at Stonehill College: "They've shot the president," she screamed. This alarmed another librarian who shouted back, "Why would anyone want to shoot Fr. Sullivan?"



Fr. Richard Sullivan, C.S.C. (right), was among those who met with then-Sen. John F. Kennedy at Stonehill College in 1958.

Why, indeed? Fr. Dick Sullivan, C.S.C., was a beloved Holy Cross priest who worked in the former Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, serving generations of God's people in a variety of apostolates. It was actually President John F. Kennedy who was shot that day.

Much could be written about his achievements in any or all of the positions he held within the Congregation. Fr. Sullivan entered Holy Cross Seminary as a "little seminarian" in the 1920s; was ordained in the 1930s; a graduate student in the 1940s; seminary rector and novice master in the 1950s; college professor and president in the 1960s; provincial in the 1960s; and spiritual master from the 1970s to the 2000s. Only advanced age and ill health persuaded him to give up those apostolates to spend his last years praying for the Congregation at Holy Cross House back at Notre Dame where his voyage began.

As impressive as his accomplishments were – and they were impressive – this note will focus on a service he provided for the Province and for the Congregation: He was a link in a very long chain. What does that mean: "link in the chain?" Fr. Sullivan received me into the Novitiate and gave me my religious habit. During that year, he arrived for the annual provincial visit. He gathered all of us into the conference room, took out a forerunner of the obituary found in our current Ordo and introduced us to that great



"The footsteps of those men who called us to walk in their company left deep prints, as of men carrying heavy burdens. But they did not trudge; they strode. For they had the hope."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 8:122

band of men who striding, not walking, had gone before us. When Fr. Sullivan was in the little seminary, he knew brothers who had received their habits from Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C. He told us of the hard life of brothers who went door-to-door selling subscriptions to *Ave Maria* magazine. He told of Holy Cross religious who struggled to create a university out of Notre Dame, colleges in Easton or Wilkes-Barre, parishes in Texas or who went off to work in new missions. In those days, the Eastern Province was comprised mostly of young men and deaths were rare. He spent even more time telling us about the members of that young province who themselves had died young. One example was Fr. Richard Novak, C.S.C., who was killed in East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. He took what were only names for novices and breathed life into them. Through him, we learned much about what made Holy Cross a zealous, apostolic community.

If you pursue a vocation in Holy Cross, you will encounter several religious who will tell their old war stories. Many of us can see in our mind's eye seminarians cringe when a priest or brother starts a conversation by saying, "Why, when I was in formation ..." That was not Fr. Sullivan's style. You wanted to hear him because the stories were never about him; they were always about Holy Cross.

As time progressed, stories were told about him. He loved Scripture and it always formed the foundation of his preaching. He loved to eat. He loved people. He loved to travel. He loved Holy Cross. He loved the Lord.

During Fr. Sullivan's funeral eulogy, Fr. Bob Kruse, C.S.C., said that when Richard Sullivan entered a room, everyone was glad to see him. Yes, indeed.



Fr. Tom Gariiepy, C.S.C., is a professor and chair of the Department of Health Care Administration at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

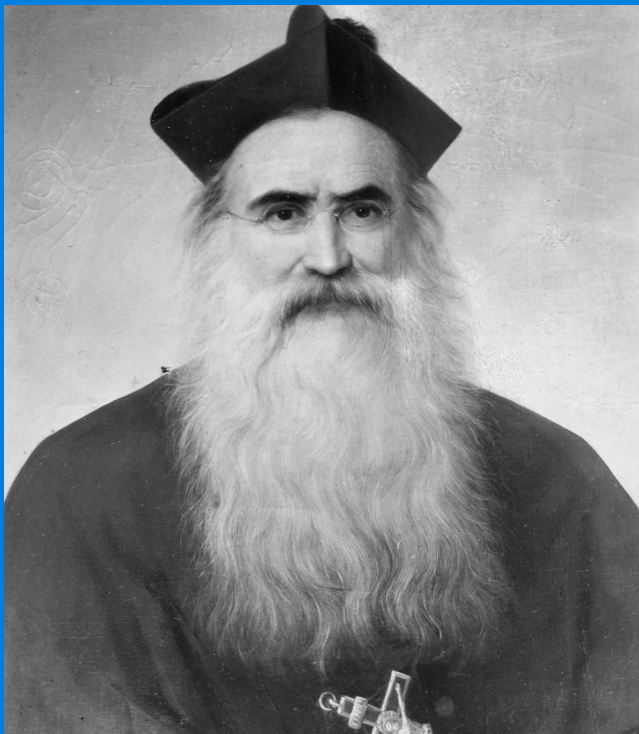


Fr. Edward Sorin: Missionary, Pastor, Educator

Rev. Edward Frederick Sorin, C.S.C., was a zealous missionary, pastor and true educator in the faith. He was born on Feb. 6, 1814, to Julian Sorin de la Gaulterie and Marie Anne Louise Gresland de la Margalerie in Ahuillé, France.

Edward Sorin met Fr. Basil Moreau while he was a seminarian at the Major Seminary in Le Mans, France. Sorin was inspired by his young professor's zeal for faith and evangelization. After he was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1838, Fr. Sorin joined the Auxiliary Priests that Fr. Moreau formed to preach parish missions in the fledgling Congregation of Holy Cross.

Frs. Moreau and Sorin both possessed a missionary zeal to spread the word of God beyond France. In 1841, Fr. Sorin accepted Fr. Moreau's call to lead a group of Holy Cross religious to the United States to start a school on the frontier in Indiana. From the beginning of his mission, Fr. Sorin relied on hope, perseverance and trust in Divine Providence to light the way – and he needed to repeatedly, as the missionaries suffered from illness, a lack of funds and the general difficulties that came with serving in a fledgling community on the frontier.



Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.

In November 1842, Fr. Sorin and six of the brothers who came to America with him from France arrived in South Bend and founded a new school, *L'Université de Notre Dame du Lac* – The University of Our Lady of the Lake – honoring his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Notre Dame educated “minims” (grammar school students), laborers, seminarians and eventually, college students. Fr. Sorin was unwavering and quite ingenious in his efforts to build up and support this new institution amidst many of the challenges that surfaced along the way.

Notre Dame suffered several devastating fires in its early years, including one that consumed the Main Building in 1879, but Fr. Sorin, one of the original members of the “Great Band of Men,” relied on Divine Providence to find the resources necessary to rebuild each time. He faced opposition formulating the curriculum for Our Lady's University, but remained steadfast in his belief that it was the right direction. Today Notre Dame is one of the premier Catholic universities in the world.

As provincial superior of the Holy Cross Province in the United States and while he was still president of Notre Dame, Fr. Sorin also oversaw the mission of Holy Cross in the rest of the country during most of the latter half of the 19th century, including in New Orleans and later what would become St. Edward's University (then St. Edward's Academy) in Austin, Texas. Under his leadership, the new province grew into Ohio and Kentucky, Philadelphia, Chicago, Wisconsin, the Dakota territory, Utah, Baltimore and Washington. Ministries included parishes, orphanages and schools. While some of the ventures failed, vocations to the priesthood and religious life – both brothers and sisters – continued to expand in the United States.

During the Civil War, Fr. Sorin answered the call to supply chaplains to the Union Army and sent a large number of sisters to work as nurses on the front. In 1864, he founded *Ave Maria*, a weekly journal that published for more than 100 years. Today that legacy lives on as Ave Maria Press, one of the leaders in Catholic publishing. Fr. Sorin was elected the Congregation's third superior general in July 1868 at the age of 55 and he served Holy Cross in that capacity until his death on Oct. 31, 1893, at Notre Dame.

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