

Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province
of the Brothers of Holy Cross
September 2004



Capital Campaign: *Honoring Lives of Faith – Securing the Future’s Promise*

Three years ago, the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross submitted a \$350,000 grant request to the National Religious Retirement Office. The purpose of the request was to help provide for the health care needs of aging Brothers. Prior to awarding such a large grant, a team of professionals from the NRRO office came to Notre Dame to more accurately assess the Brothers’ needs in the area of healthcare and retirement. In the process of their review, they determined that the Brothers’ long-term health care and retirement requirements exceed \$20 million over and above what had been prepared for. This startling news caused us to take a more serious look at all of our needs and at our long-term planning to meet these requirements.

Once this study was completed, the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross, with the help of Community Counselling Services, a professional consulting firm, decided on an ambitious but necessary plan of action, namely to undertake a capital campaign under the title: *Honoring Lives of Faith – Securing the Future’s Promise*. The goal for the capital campaign is to raise \$30 million dollars over the next five years not only to provide adequate health care and retirement housing for the aging members of the province, but also to ensure that the next generation of Brothers and their lay partners continue the mission and heritage of Holy Cross into the future. \$20 million is to be used for the health care needs of the Brothers as they age and retire; \$7 million will be used to provide for retirement housing for

Brothers in the South Bend area; and \$3 million will be for preparing the next generation of Brothers and lay partners to continue service in the tradition and heritage of Holy Cross.

In announcing the capital campaign, Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C., provincial superior, said, “Although our current needs may seem extraordinary, this campaign is not merely about avoiding a bleak scenario. It is also about creating a future with promise. We are building a future where the Brothers of Holy Cross not only survive, but thrive.”

During the past year, initial steps were taken to set the campaign on a firm footing. Over 160 prospective donors were personally contacted to discuss the Brothers’ needs and the capital campaign designed to meet these needs. Those responding expressed only positive feelings for the Brothers and their strengths.

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Brothers of Holy Cross: Men Who Bring Hope and Joy

When I came to work with the Brothers, I knew of their schools in my hometown. But I was not aware that northeast Ohio’s Gilmour Academy, St. Edward High School and Archbishop Hoban High School were even operated by Brothers.

I was completely unfamiliar with Holy Cross. I knew little of what a Brother is or what a Brother does.

But that quickly changed. My work began with the feasibility study for the proposed campaign. I saw first hand how the Brothers have made a positive

difference in many lives and sometimes over several generations in the same families. I heard alumni express their gratitude to Holy Cross. They said the Brothers helped them move beyond their tragic homes and become the successful people they are today.

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Message from the Provincial



Br. Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior

We, the Brothers of Holy Cross, proclaim that our mission is “to bring hope to others.” At a time when our primary focus was the education of high school students, it was obvious to us and to others that we provided our students with a solid education which would give them a foundation for a life of faith and the tools for creating a future for themselves and their families.

With today’s diversification in our ministries, we still see ourselves continuing to bring hope to others wherever we are and wherever we serve. We do this through the faith that motivates our lives, the way we live and the relationships we develop.

The hope we bring to others is grounded in a strong faith that allows us to look beyond the obvious. It is rooted in a faith conviction that God does indeed keep his promises. For each one of us keeping this hope alive is a challenge because it calls us to help lift the clouds of fear and desperation when confronted by the violence and injustice in the world around us or when faced with tragedy or the mystery of a lingering illness. As Brothers we find a source of strength in our Constitutions which remind us that “The footsteps of those men who called us to walk in their company left deep prints, as

men carrying heavy burdens. But they did not trudge; they strode. For they had hope.”

In this edition of our newsletter, you will discover initiatives the Brothers of Holy Cross are undertaking. These initiatives are rooted in a strong, vibrant hope for the future. New membership efforts, the Bessette Volunteer Program, the optimism of our young community of Holy Cross Brothers in Ghana, West Africa, and our capital campaign all reflect a belief in the future of religious life, of the Church, and ultimately, that the kingdom of peace and justice promised by Jesus will become a reality in our world. May you be encouraged in your faith, and strengthened in your hope by the witness of the Brothers of Holy Cross and by our commitment to the future.

Office for New Membership

For any organization to thrive, it must constantly be on the lookout for new membership. The quality of the new members is directly related to the ongoing vigor and effectiveness of the operation. So, too, the Brothers of Holy Cross know that if the patrimony of their ministries is to continue as a gift to the People of God, then new Brothers with vigor for the brotherhood must carry this treasure into the future.

The Office for New Membership is now being directed by Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C., and Brother Edward Fox, C.S.C. These men are committed to getting the word out about the Brothers of Holy Cross through a number of new modes and programs.

Men with Hope to Bring is a DVD that includes a number of testimonials by Brothers about brotherhood, servant leadership and being a good neighbor. Brothers in a variety of ministries were interviewed at their ministry sites throughout the United States and South America. Although the DVD has been specifically designed as a vocation discernment tool for prospective members, it is available to anyone interested in knowing more about the Brothers of Holy Cross.

A series of lectures on the history of the Brothers is being presented this fall and winter at Holy Cross College. “Getting to the Know the Brothers” is designed for anyone in the South Bend area who wants to know about the

specific contributions of the Brothers to the Congregation of Holy Cross as they have ministered in the United States and elsewhere in the world for nearly 200 years. These lectures are presented by several of the Brothers who are residents in South Bend.

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Br. Philip Smith, director of new membership office, and young Ghanaian Holy Cross Brothers.

Men Who Bring Hope and Joy

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They shared how the Brothers gave them not only an excellent education but also the tools to live a balanced, well-rounded life.

I learned the Brothers were interesting and funny people. I heard stories of the Brothers that made me laugh and stories that made me cry. Individual Brothers were legends to me months before I met them. When I said goodbye to my husband for a year-long assignment in Notre Dame, Ind., I did not feel like I was moving to a new city of strangers – I felt like I was going home.

Over my year at Notre Dame, the Brothers proved over and over that what I heard was true. They are kind to people and generous with their time. They are committed, unselfish and humble. They make sure everyone else is taken care of before they meet their own needs. Wherever the Brothers go, they create not just schools, but families. They bring joy.

They bring hope.

I also learned that the Brothers are very different from each other. Each is his own person. I wondered how they could be themselves as individuals, yet still be so alike in what they brought to the world. I found the answer in the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The Constitutions are a beautiful statement of the Brothers, of why they became religious, of how they live, of who they strive to be: *“Come. Follow me.” It was Jesus calling us. We believe we have been inspired by the Father and led by the Spirit to offer our life in service to the Lord. We commit ourselves by vows of consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience. Our vows are an act of love for God who first loved us. By forgoing marriage and parenthood, by holding our goods in common, and by discerning God’s will in our life with superiors, we freely give ourselves to the needs of the Church and her people.*

Jesus loved us and gave his life for us.

He accepted torment but gave us joy in return. Few of us will be called to die as he died, yet all must lay down our lives with him and for him. We must take up our cross daily and follow him. We are called to be men who bring hope.



Debbie Emrick

Over my 15 months spent with the Brothers and being a part of their lives, my own respect and admiration for the Brothers of Holy Cross have grown immensely. My life is better for having known them. We are truly blessed to have had the Brothers of Holy Cross in our communities. May we all work together to assure the Brothers of Holy Cross grow and flourish for generations to come.

~ Debbie Emrick, campaign consultant for Community Counselling Services.

General Chapter 2004

The Congregation of Holy Cross gathered in Rome, Italy, from July 4 to July 24 for the general chapter of the congregation, a meeting ordinarily held every six years. Priests and brothers discussed important issues affecting the life of the congregation, including the congregation’s rapid international growth. Delegates came from all areas in the world where Holy Cross is present and ministers: North and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The chapter membership mirrors the personnel growth in the congregation. At the recent gathering, 30 percent of the delegates were born outside North America. It is conceivable that in 2010, when the next chapter is to meet, this figure could rise to 40 or 50 percent.

The general chapter is the ultimate authority in the congregation, ranking even higher than the superior general, who is elected by the chapter and acts under the chapter’s mandate. Rev. Hugh Cleary, C.S.C., was re-elected for a second six-year term as superior general. A brother and priest were elected as his first two assistants, and in a new structural change, four other assistants (two brothers and two priests) were appointed by the superior general rather than elected by the delegates. These four assistants will remain in their own countries rather than live full time in Rome as has been traditional for all assistants.

Committees such as religious life, mission and ministry, vocations and

formation, met to produce decrees and recommendations for action. Governmental and fiscal issues proved the most challenging, but committees were able to propose to and win approval of the full chapter. At the same time, directions were set regarding administrative moves planned for the coming six years. These include the possible raising to province level of the Indian Brothers’ District and the East African District, and the formation of a new province in Canada by the merging of the two major French-speaking provinces in Montréal. In addition, other steps were proposed for possible future congregational restructuring.

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Office for New Membership

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Brother Philip Smith will also moderate six discussions on discerning the will of God in times of choice. These are being promoted among the students at Holy Cross College, the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College.



Br. Joseph LeBon with computer students at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio.

The *Bessette Volunteers* program, named after Blessed Brother André Bessette, C.S.C., of Montréal, has been organized to meet the desire of college graduates wishing to volunteer time and talent in one of the ministries of the Brothers. The first volunteer left for Ghana on September 2. An electrical engineer, Chris Slattery of Akron, Ohio, will serve with the brothers in Sekondi at St. John Secondary School and at the Holy Cross Skills Training Center. It is projected that this volunteer program will grow rapidly in size as this opportunity becomes more widely known.

For young men seriously reflecting about a vocation as a brother, *Bessette House of Discernment* will be opened in

January of 2005. Brothers, candidates and those discerning a vocation to the brotherhood will comprise this community. The community will foster support, information, common prayer, and volunteer service as the members travel together toward an understanding of God's call to religious life as a Brother of Holy Cross.

The Brothers of Holy Cross want to foster, nurture and support men who wish to cast their lot with them. It is these new men with hope to bring who will assure that the Body of Christ continues to be enriched through the service, the leadership and the brotherhood of Holy Cross.

Securing the Future's Promise

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The most repeated comment was that the Brothers were good educators not just in the classroom, but they were educators for life. In expressing their support for the campaign, many said that such a campaign is long overdue and they were surprised that the Brothers had not asked for help before. Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, said when accepting the position of honorary campaign chair, "I would stand on my head for the Brothers.... In large part the University of Notre Dame owes its founding to the Brothers of Holy Cross... through the years the

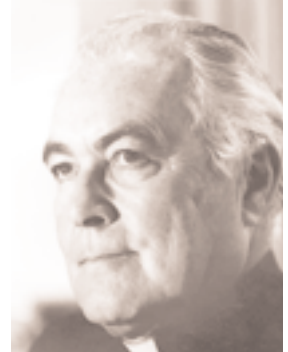
Brothers have rarely asked for financial support... I can think of no better purpose now for the charitable gifts of friends of the Brothers."

It was hoped to have commitments totaling \$5 million by the end of the first year. The Brothers are fortunate to report signed pledges of \$2.6 million from 60 donors with an additional \$3 million verbally committed from 37 others. The average gift of \$43,289 is very gratifying.

We ask you, our friends, to please keep our capital campaign, *Honoring Lives of Faith – Securing the Future's Promise*, in mind and in your prayers. We will be happy to send our campaign materials to anyone wishing to help

support us in our efforts to meet the campaign's goals to provide for our older Brothers and to assure the future of the Brothers of Holy Cross' ministry. For

further information, please contact Mr. Jerome Kearns, Director of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN, 46556-0460, or by e-mail at jkearns@hcc-nd.edu.



Father Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C.

Please remember our deceased Brothers in your prayers.

Brother Walter Davenport, C.S.C.
Died July 10, 2004, 56 years a vowed religious

Brother Jerome Quella, C.S.C.
Died August 11, 2004, 52 years a vowed religious

Brother Edgar Plas, C.S.C.
Died September 4, 2004, 70 years a vowed religious

In Christ all will come to life again. (1 Cor. 15:22)

Sankofa

The Brothers of Holy Cross are men of hope. Relying on the efforts of the past, they live in the present and look to the future as men with hope to bring (Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross) as they strive to build up the kingdom of God wherever they are called to serve. One of the strong indications of hopeful signs of the future in Holy Cross is the young community of Brothers in Ghana, West Africa. When asked to share with readers their hopes for the future, several of the young Brothers were quick to respond. Here is what they have to say:

In Ghana, Holy Cross is confident and sure of being able to offer immense support to the church. A sign of this confidence is our vibrant formation program that has seen a good number of young men living life in Holy Cross and discerning their vocation. This is a privilege God has bestowed upon us in the District.

~ Brother Ebenezer Prah, C.S.C.



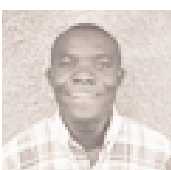
Br. Ebenezer Prah, C.S.C.

I believe that good education and working to support ourselves will make the future more enjoyable and meaningful in this modern world. There is a future for us in Holy Cross if we really plan ahead.

~ Brother Vincent Ntsiful, C.S.C.



Br. Vincent Ntsiful, C.S.C.



Br. Benjamin Biney, C.S.C.

The past ten years have seen an increase in vocations in the District of West Africa... This is an indication that Holy Cross will be able to extend its mission to other parts of West Africa. The Congregation of Holy Cross is very sure of a bright future.

~ Brother Benjamin Biney, C.S.C.

With our mission and charism, I see the growth of Holy Cross to be vibrant. We must take a bold step and stride with confidence and courage to make Holy Cross a native congregation in West Africa. May God bless Africa and the people he has chosen to be his servants.

~ Brother Nicholas Arthur, C.S.C.



Br. Nicholas Arthur, C.S.C.



Br. Kenneth Goode, C.S.C.

We are an apostolic community that brings the vision and heritage of Holy Cross to West Africa. We live and work together as hopeful signs of the kingdom. . . . We live community; we pray and share our lives to bring Christ to others.

~ Brother Kenneth Goode, C.S.C.

At St. John's School, Holy Cross has a great impact on the students and the school. The students see the way the Brothers pray, work and interact and some are attracted to this way of life. It was through this that I wanted to become a Brother. Also I believe the Brothers are making an impact at the Holy Cross Skills Training Centre. This center helps the less fortunate in society acquire a skill so they can sustain themselves in the future. Seeing men trying to help the less fortunate. . . others are attracted to join such a venture thereby promoting the mission of Holy Cross.

~ Brother Paul Bukari, C.S.C.



Br. Paul Bukari, C.S.C.

General Chapter

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Members of the General Chapter meet with the Holy Father during the weekly audience held on July 21. Standing next to the Holy Father is Rev. Hugh Cleary, C.S.C., superior general.

During the course of the chapter, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, received the delegates at his weekly audience in the Paul VI Audience Hall. In a letter addressed to the superior general and the members of the chapter at the time of the audience, the Pope wrote: "The theme of the present chapter is *Crossing borders of every sort*. These words, taken from your own Constitutions, express the desire

to capture anew that initial spirit of your founder and they demand, in the first place, a personal commitment from every member of the congregation to a life of holiness and the joy of the vocation which the Lord in his goodness has given. I am confident that your faithful witness to Christ's invitation to *come and see* (John 1:39) will inspire others to do the same."



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Brothers of Holy Cross Capital Campaign

Cover is a Great Memory by Timothy P. Skanda, www.brothersofholycross.com

— Constitution & 118th Chapter of Holy Cross

We must be men with hope to bring.

A plan...
...to make it happen

A pledge...
...to empower the laity

A promise...
...to stay the course

An opportunity...
...to thank those who served

Brother of Holy Cross, Michael Proulx

Securing the Future's Promise



Honoring Lives of Faith

