

Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province
of the Brothers of Holy Cross
First Quarter, 2004



Dignity and the American Dream: Brother Thomas Minta Ministers to the Disabled



Brother Thomas Minta, C.S.C.

I believe that all of us are called to live out God's love in ways that value people with disabilities as people with their own dignity, differences and contribution to the community of faith. Everyone deserves the right to use the talents and gifts that God has given in order for all to take an active part in the marketplace in today's society. The marketplace of our society is where work takes place - and work should be guaranteed for all people, including people with disabilities. That is the personal commitment that I make in my ministry as the manager of the Statewide Employment Unit that is part of the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS).

For nineteen years, I taught in secondary schools and enjoyed the challenge and rewards of life in the classroom. But God's Plan took a different turn when I was offered the position of working with people with disabilities at Goodwill Industries of Metropolitan Chicago. For almost ten years, I managed the training and job placement departments and developed a program that assisted people who were deaf or hard of hearing in their process of finding work and retaining their jobs. I left Goodwill Industries to take on my current position that focuses more broadly on developing statewide programs that assist people with disabilities in their search for employment.

People with disabilities have the right to work, the right to contribute to the economy and the right to a fair share of the American dream. All of us know that work is essential in order to support ourselves and those we love. But work is more than a financial lifeline. Work is a lifeline to dignity and self-

expression. Through work, we find self-fulfillment and can reach our full potential. That's why Americans with disabilities do not want a handout. Rather, they want an opportunity to go to work, get paid for an honest day's labor and enjoy the same rewards and responsibilities as everyone else.

The active ministry of Jesus focused on His concern for the disenfranchised, the broken and forgotten people, and those whose illnesses and disabilities severed them from the rest of society. The message of social justice echoes consistently in the parables that Jesus told. His loving attention to those who were cut off from the marketplace of their society is evident by His presence and concern for the sick and suffering.

My commitment to the Gospel message is expressed by the belief that no one is disabled in the eyes of God. We are created – each and every one of us – for a specific purpose, with skills and abilities to be shared and utilized. No one should be prohibited

continued on page 4...

Message from the Provincial



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

Reflection – A Spiritual Necessity

Mother Theresa frequently commented that a reflective life is the only life worth living. Our life experience tells us this is true. When we take the time to think about what we are doing and why we are doing it, we not only make good decisions but we also make commitments we are more likely to keep. And when God is included in such considerations, we have a greater assurance that we are doing God's will.

Reflection on what is taking place around us allows us to move beyond the bad news highlighted in the media; it frees us to become aware of those people and groups who are truly committed to making a difference in our world. We discover that there are countless personal initiatives and programs focused on persons who, through no fault of their own, are victims of poor health, physical disabilities, emotional illness, natural disasters or poverty. They are frequently discriminated against and often fall through the cracks in our society. When we allow the plight of these persons to enter our prayer life we may find ourselves called to respond to their needs.

This is one of the dangers of being a reflective person. Reflecting on what is happening around us can lead to new insights and stretch us so that we see things for what they truly are and not necessarily as we would like them to be. A reflective life can lead us to conversion – this is where Mother Theresa frequently found herself. As people of faith, reflection is as important to our spiritual life as breathing is to our natural life.

Earlier editions of this newsletter have highlighted stories about Brothers, who because they are reflective persons, have discovered in their ministry the grace to respond to the needs of others in special and unique ways. In this edition, we learn how Brother Thomas Minta responds to the needs of people living with disabilities. May Brother Thomas' story be a source of inspiration for all of us to become more reflective and may it give us the courage to make a difference for good.



Brother Kenneth Kane (left) and the Amateur Radio Club.

Gilmour Students Speak with Astronauts in Space

Nine Gilmour Academy students along with a student from Highland Heights took part in a unique radio conversation with astronaut Michael Foale aboard the International Space Station as it flew over Northeast Ohio at 17,500 miles per hour. The interview took place on Friday, January 2 at Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio, with over 50 people in attendance and was covered by local newspapers and a television station. Brother Kenneth Kane, science teacher at Gilmour's upper school and moderator of the school's amateur radio club, organized the interview with the assistance of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station organization. The organization is part of an educational outreach program with the participation of NASA.

Foale, a veteran astronaut, has flown previously on four space shuttle missions and spent two periods aboard the former Russian space station MIR. He is currently the commander of the Expedition 8 crew on the International Space Station. Along with answering the students' questions, he commented on the view of the Earth from his position in orbit and how well he and his crewmate Sasha Kalari eat in space.

The nine students ranging from grades four to nine were selected to take part in the conversation on the basis of the questions they prepared in advance. The topics ranged from life aboard the space station to the future of space travel, world geography and a cancer related research project being conducted aboard the station.

At the end of the interview Brother Kenneth remarked: "Even though our contact wasn't perfect, it was about 75 percent solid, enough to provide memories for the students and parents. We were delighted with the results and learned a lot from the effort." Speaking of the interview's educational value, Brother Kenneth added, "The opportunity to ask questions to the astronaut directly and to have them answered right away allows students not only to learn more about space, the space station and the space programs and experiments on the station, but it teaches them about radio communication protocols and practices."

Gilmour Academy's Amateur Radio Club began two years ago with the call sign ND8GA and is ranked fifth in the nation for the high school division.

St. Edward High School – 55 Years of Commitment and Success

Tom Glasenapp '66 and Ron Perger '72

The growth of Cleveland's west side and its suburbs was not unnoticed by Bishop Edward F. Hoban, then coadjutor to Bishop Schrembs. Long a champion of Catholic education, Bishop Hoban had a driving desire to provide every child in the diocese the opportunity to attend a Catholic high school, regardless of the child's scholastic aptitude or the family's ability to pay tuition.

Bishop Hoban's problem was well defined – to build a traditional Catholic high school for boys on the west side that would be both affordable and offer a comprehensive curriculum. Who would staff such a venture? Who better than the same order of teaching Brothers that had taught him at St. Columbkille School in Chicago.

In August of 1949, the Diocese announced its intention to build a new traditional Catholic high school for boys in Lakewood, to be staffed by the Brothers of Holy Cross. The Bishop dictated that the school would accept students of all ability levels. Furthermore, tuition was set at less than \$100.

The new school, estimated to cost \$1 million, would open in September of 1950. It would, in fact, affordably offer the values of a Catholic education to every boy.

Two Holy Cross Brothers were sent by the Provincial in the late summer of 1949 to prepare for the opening of the unnamed school. Brother John William Donoghue had been appointed as the first principal. He was joined by Brother Paul Schwoyer. A third, Brother Regius Gendron, joined them just before the opening of school. He

was assigned to teach general science, French, and religion.

On October 13, 1949, at the feast of St. Edward the Confessor, Superintendent of Catholic schools Msgr. Clarence Elwell, publicly announced that the "Catholic Boys' high



Pre-engineering students use technology and learned skills to solve problems.

school in Lakewood" would be named St. Edward High School in honor of Bishop Hoban. "It is a fitting manner of observing Bishop Hoban's nameday and of signaling his interest in Catholic education by placing the new Catholic high school in Lakewood under the patronage of St. Edward."

During the past 55 years, over 14,000 young men have entered the halls of St. Edward High School. Our graduates have set the stage for the 21st century as leaders in media, in business, in politics and throughout the Congregation of Holy Cross. When asked about their experiences and



St. Edward High School in 1950.

memories of high school almost all talk about their experiences with "The Brothers."

Over the years the brothers have had a special impact on the young men of St. Edward High School. Some, like Brother John, Brother Barry Lambour and Brother Charles Krupp are remembered fondly for their actions. And some are revered, like Brothers Bennet Nettleton, Robert Siegel and Joseph Chvala, whose dedication to students has become legendary.

With the recent passing of Brothers Bennet and Robert, men from every era have shared special memories. Terry Gannon from the class of 1957 wrote about Brother Bennet,

Brother Bennet and I started at St. Ed's the same year, 1953. I never had him for a teacher, but I worked for him in the cafeteria all four years. We had a wonderful crew. We worked all four years before, during and after school, and even summer vacations. He was a wonderful friend and inspiration to all of us, especially for me. We have kept up correspondence all of these many years at Christmas and he even remembered my birthday as well.

While Joseph McKenna from the class of 1971 wrote about Brother Robert,

In my own case, many of life's best lessons took place in the principal's office.

In 1967, I was a shy, scrawny Catholic kid who had just matriculated into St. Edward High School.

continued on page 4...

Brother Robert was principal of the Vietnam-era rabble that called itself the Mighty Eagles. He was as discerning and encouraging to his charges as when he had served as the school's band director.

Standing in the middle of the cacophony of changing classes would be Brother Robert, advising a teacher or offering a quip to one of the almighty seniors. During my earliest days at SEHS, I found myself a bystander, deferring to my outgoing chums who wanted to make an impression on the principal. One day, following a little rhetorical thrust and parry with my pals, Brother Robert fixed his radar on me.

"What about you?" he asked as if waiting to hear how I planned to make my mark over four years at the school.



St. Edward High School's first football team.



Hands-on experiments provide learning experiences for Chemistry students.

"I don't know," I mumbled. "I'm just with these guys, Brother." My friends continued to get into minor high school mischief, and I continued to tag along. That would virtually guarantee more encounters with Brother Robert, who never neglected an opportunity to engage in a little "Christian formation," either with a good word or a gentle correction.

Our history has been shaped by people, the Brothers, the faculty, staff, students and alumni who have spent the last 55 years working to make St. Edward High School one of the finest high schools in the country. A place where we embrace the challenge of Fr. Moreau to educate both the hearts and minds of young men and to prepare our graduates for the challenge of being men of faith in today's world.

Dignity and the American Dream

continued from page 1

from participating in the marketplace of today's society because of discrimination and false judgment. As more and more people with disabilities enter the workplace, employers are seeing for themselves and hearing from others how productive they can be. Every time someone proves his or her ability on the job, it makes it that much easier for others to follow. Prejudice and discrimination crumble in the face of performance – and one's success leads to another.

My job is to reach out and show employers how practices and policies to attract, hire, retain and advance people with disabilities can improve the bottom line and bring about results. My job is to get the word out that hiring workers with disabilities is a good investment that will pay off in productivity and profitability. It's a

message I try to broadcast to small businesses as well as big corporations – to rural as well as metropolitan areas of Illinois.

I am fortunate to manage a group of people who share the same principles of belief as mine. But as you may know, enormous obstacles are often placed in the paths of citizens with disabilities that make our job a challenge. Two-thirds of working age Americans with disabilities are unemployed or underemployed. Too many top managers and CEO's still worry about the cost of accommodation. Others are deterred by myths, misinformation and stereotypes about people with disabilities. There are still too many people who think workers with disabilities can't cut it and should be pitied and patronized instead.

My ministry and work attest to the belief that in Christ we are called to live out God's love in ways that value people with disabilities as people with their own dignity, differences and contribution to the community of faith. In my daily work, I desire to put into practice the words of Pope John Paul II when he said that "disabled persons can bring forth from within themselves exceptional energy and values of great use for the whole of humanity." (John Paul II, *Insegnamenti*, 3-31-1984).

It is my hope and dream that perhaps the work I do will result in a stronger Christian community of mutual caring, support and encouragement that excludes no one, but allows all to participate by actively using the gifts provided to each of us by the love of God.

Brother Authors Book on Rosary

The Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, has published a book on suggested uses of alternative mysteries for reflection while praying the rosary.

No, Pope John Paul II has not gone a step further in promulgating new mysteries, as he did in October 2002 when he gave the faithful the Luminous Mysteries. This book, written by Brother Philip Armstrong, C.S.C., contains fourteen sets of alternative mysteries plus an additional list of some twenty possibilities not as thoroughly elaborated as



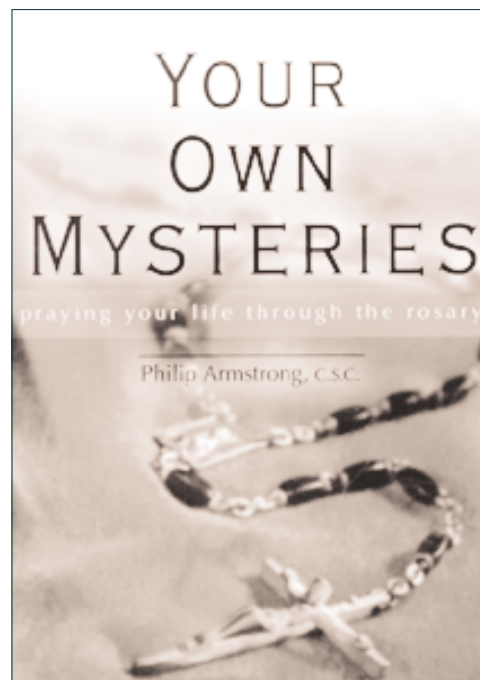
Brother Philip
Armstrong, C.S.C.

are the fourteen. Holy Cross Father John Phalen, Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries (the predecessor of which was Father Patrick Peyton's Family Rosary Crusade and Family Prayer) wrote the preface.

The book speaks to those who pray the rosary regularly as well as those who have not used the beads in recent years because of over-familiarity with the

traditional three sets of mysteries – the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious. All are invited to take up the rosary with a new enthusiasm and approach, reflecting on a wide variety of scriptural events and everyday circumstances as they influence the individual who is praying. Brother Philip helps the reader see how one's personal experiences and memories can be valid sources out of which "mysteries" can suggest themselves, or can shed new light on many events in the life of Jesus as well as that of the Blessed Mother.

Pope John Paul's encyclical *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* providentially appeared the very day Brother Philip was scheduled to discuss and submit the manuscript he had been working on for several years. The pope's initiative



undoubtedly contributes to the timeliness of the book because of a regenerated interest in praying the beads during the Year of the Rosary, which ended in October, and carrying forward the practice even beyond that year.

The book, entitled *Your Own Mysteries – Praying Your Life Through the Rosary*, is available now for \$8.95 plus shipping and handling at the Ave Maria Press, P.O. Box 428, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556; by phone at (574) 287-2831; or through your local Catholic bookstore. Further information can be found at the Press's web site, www.avemariapress.com.

Comments on *Your Own Mysteries* include that of Brother Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O., general editor of the journals of Thomas Merton: "*Your Own Mysteries* is a gem which should have a wide appeal today among countless seekers, both religious and laity alike."

Maggie Oman Shannon says, "Brother Philip presents readers with a gift that will deepen with time and expand with exploration: the gift of many meaningful, integrative and creative suggestions for re-encountering the Rosary in more personal, powerful, and prayerful ways."

Dear Brother Philip,

The Holy Father was pleased to receive your kind letter and the gift of an inscribed copy of your book, *Your Own Mysteries – Praying Your Life Through the Rosary*. He very much appreciates your efforts to promote greater devotion to the Most Holy Rosary.

Monsignor Gabriele Caccia, Vatican Secretariat of State

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

Please remember our deceased Brothers in your prayers.

Brother Thomas Henning, C.S.C.

Died March 4, 2003; 50 years a vowed religious

Brother Carl Shonk, C.S.C.

Died April 1, 2003; 49 years a vowed religious

Brother Walter Duda, C.S.C.

Died June 25, 2003; 47 years a vowed religious

Brother Philip Alessandro, C.S.C.

Died July 16, 2003; 49 years a vowed religious

Brother James Linscott, C.S.C.

Died October 10, 2003; 55 years a vowed religious

Brother Bennet Nettleton, C.S.C.

Died November 17, 2003; 60 years a vowed religious

Brother Donald Bailer, C.S.C.

Died December 9, 2003; 45 years a vowed religious

Brother John Quigley, C.S.C.

Died December 11, 2003; 50 years a vowed religious

Brother John Harris, C.S.C.

Died December 21, 2003, 53 years a vowed religious

Brother Robert Siegel, C.S.C.

Died December 30, 2003, 50 years a vowed religious

Brother Leonardo Bebetu, C.S.C.

Died January 11, 2004, 62 years a vowed religious

Brother Thomas Corcoran, C.S.C.

Died January 24, 2004, 56 years a vowed religious



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