

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross –Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

July 29, 2009

Reflection on St. Benedict and Renewal of Vows

July 11, 2009

Today we remember St. Benedict. A lay person. A former hermit. Known as the founder of Western monasticism.

Some scholars say that *The Rule of Benedict* is the most significant, or one of the most significant books, in Christian history.

The Rule and Benedict himself are about conversion, conversion amid others and in the every day of life *with others*. He said, for example, that a person could not live alone until he demonstrated that he mastered living with others. He instructs that life with others is a school of charity, that we are to be the first to show respect to the others whom we encounter and live among. He reminds us that Perfect Love drives out all fear.



Benedict stressed not attachment to arcane devotions or rituals but the task of conversion and salvation in a common and communal life. This was for Benedict the reality of experiencing God among others during the earthly life. In this experience he proclaimed this wisdom: love was to be lived in all the routine events and places we are - alone and *with others*.

Benedict did not seek perfection. He sought God in humanity. He knew the problems of humans and of both dominance and permissiveness.

For Benedict conversion required growth and maturity as the product of a life regularly examined and assessed. Conversion, as he knew it, was a slow process, a simmering of the heart and soul and will over time.

Such a conversion occupies a lifetime, requires we be attentive to all that is in and around us. This conversion sheds our own ambitions. It acquires humility and

forgets about aspirations - especially to holiness and heroism. It savors the ordinary and finds God in all the ordinary.

We are all called to conversion and there is no extraordinary contortion one need perform. Rather it is slow and steady transformation, one act or moment by the next act or moment ... event by event; a careful examination of the life lived - its moments and acts; and prayer and consciousness of God and less intentional thought of God, in time - an uncovering of God in the unconscious ever-presence of God in all we do, all we meet, each experience, Creation, all creatures and circumstances, each breath and each breath of the other.

I renewed my vows today, a day we remember St. Benedict and thank God for him.

Crux ave,

Brother Robert Sylvester

2009 Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders

Click Pictures or links for a larger view:



www.brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/Leadership2009/-LeadersGroup03.jpg

Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders

Holy Cross College hosted the annual Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders of Holy Cross High Schools at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana July 15-19. The group included 30 students and nine teachers from six Holy Cross schools from the Eastern and Midwest Province: Holy Trinity, Chicago; St. Edward, Lakewood, Ohio; Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio; Holy Cross High School, Queens, New York; Holy Cross High School Waterbury, Connecticut and Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville, Maryland.

Casey Yandek and Kevin Hillery were the major coordinators of the conference. Hillery is from Archbishop Hoban High School and Yandek will begin at St. Edward High School in the fall after eight years at Hoban.

Each of the five-days of the conference had a different theme. The conference opened sharing how Holy Cross faculty and students are “a shared family,” and the need to become active disciples of the Holy Cross community.

The conference was not all work. Participants went to a South Bend Silver Hawks game and picnic, visited the South Bend Chocolate Company, had a cookout, toured Notre Dame Stadium and had dinner at Bruno’s Pizza.

On Thursday with the theme of a “shared heritage,” the students followed the steps of Fr. Sorin and the first six Brothers of Holy Cross with visits to the Notre Dame’s main building, Sacred Heart Basilica, Old College, Log Cabin and the Community Cemetery along with other sites on campus. Prior to visiting Notre Dame



the group learned the history of the brothers by Brother Robert Fillmore. At noon the group had lunch at Columba Hall to hear the stories of the resident brothers there. In the afternoon they learned the history of the founding of Holy Cross College and Village.

On Friday the group learned about the traditions of the schools and how the mission of Holy Cross is being lived out in the schools today.

On Saturday morning groups went to the Catholic Worker house in South Bend and Habitat for Humanity store and building project to learn about service to the community.

On Saturday afternoon, joined by a group of brothers, they attended the liturgy at Our Lady of Holy Cross Chapel. Following the Mass a dinner was held in the Holy Cross College Dining Hall for participants as well as brothers. After the meal students shared with the brothers what they had learned from their day of service to the community. Each brother had the opportunity to share with the students what he has done as a Brother of Holy Cross. Brothers attending included: **Raymond Harrington, Charles McBride, Thomas Shaughnessy, Edward Fox, Joe Berg and Walter Gluhm.**

The conference concluded Sunday at 12 Noon with the groups coming up with plans on how to “live the mission” back in their own schools.

For Pictures of the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders, click here:

www.brothersofholycross.com/CurrentEvents.htm

Next edition of Midwest-Midweek will be: August 12, 2009

View Website at: View Midwest-Midweek at:

www.brothersofholycross.com

www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm

Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published: cmcbride@hcc-nd.edu

For technical problems or errors please contact: **Br. Richard Johnson** at rjohnson@hcc-nd.edu

