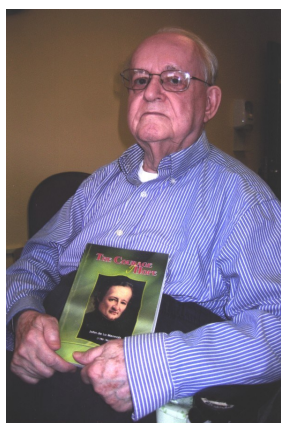


# The Clarion



*Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction*

## Jubilarian Br. Edmond Drouin Celebrates 75 years



Biddeford, ME native Brother Edmond Drouin is celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Brother of Christian Instruction. Though he began his professional career as a high school science teacher, most of his life was dedicated to professional research and writing, work he enjoyed and at which he excelled.

The 1956 graduate of LaMennais College pursued advanced studies earning an MS in Library Science from the Catholic University and a PhD in Education also from the Catholic University in Wash. DC. Br. Edmond organized the LaMennais College Library in Alfred, ME and directed its transfer to its new location on the Walsh College campus in Canton, OH in 1960. In recognition of his professional work and outstanding commitment, the Walsh Library was dedicated to him on Nov. 23, 2003.

In 1971, he was released to pursue his writing and research full time. During the early period of his research, Brother's work was mainly focused on educational questions, particularly Church-State issues. His highly praised MS Dissertation, *The School Question, A Bibliography on Church-State Relationships in American Education* was published and widely distributed. He also composed articles for the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* and several professional magazines.

When requested to write a professional biography of our founder, John Mary de La Mennais, he readily took on this task. No archive was too small, no distance was too great, no information too insignificant for him to seek out. Brother travelled throughout Europe and North America, verifying information, discovering new insights, confirming controversial information.

**Thank God for Pope Benedict XVI's** life of faithful service to the Church through dedicated teaching and humble devotion and witness to the love of Jesus at work in the world. May our loving God grant him consolation as he continues his life's journey in retirement.

After almost twelve years of full time work on the Founder's biography, Brother had completed more than 95% of his challenge, when illness prevented him from completing his work.

Since relocating to St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion in Lewiston close to relatives, the biographical material lay dormant during six years. Fortunately, the manuscript was completed and edited by Br. Francis Blouin upon his return to Alfred from Uganda in 2011.

Evidently Brother Edmond's text, *The Courage of Hope, John de La Mennais, 1780-1860* printed in 2012 is a work of love. Reflecting his persistence and dedication, the biographical material is documented by more than 700 footnotes. The historian gives full recognition to the important role of Father Gabriel Deshayes as co-founder of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. The author offers a professional assessment of the controversial Felicite Lamennais, Fr. John's brother while clearly explaining the difficult educational situation in France during the post-Revolutionary period. Copies are still available.

May this 91-year old religious enjoy many more years, blessed for his long years of dedicated service to the community.

*Br. Francis Blouin*

### The Blizzard of 2013



The Notre Dame campus in Alfred received over 2 feet of snow when the Blizzard of 2013 slammed into southern Maine on Saturday, Feb.8-9. Br. Walter is pictured putting finishing touches to the shoveling out of the Brothers' recently refurbished guest house (Stephen Hall). Fortunately the campus suffered no electrical blackout.

## Alfred Shaker Museum – a work of love in progress

Visitors to the NDI campus in Alfred, ME are invited to visit the Alfred Shaker Museum (ASM) on the Brothers' Notre Dame property.

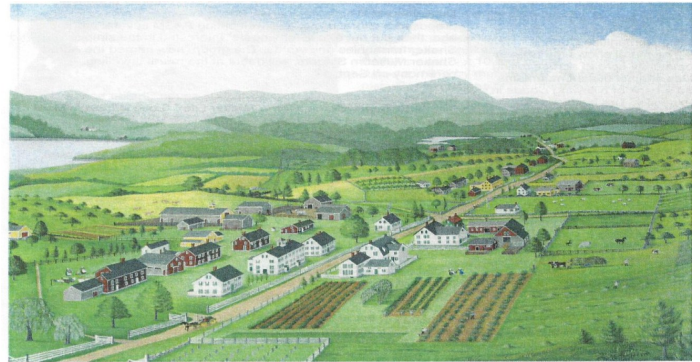
The bright red 1875 Shaker Carriage House is being restored by the Friends of the ASM by means of grants, donations, volunteer labor and fund-raising projects. Their aim in establishing this educational center is to maintain the Shaker legacy. Organized in 1995 FASM first opened the museum's doors in May 2009. They offer craft workshops, hold exhibits and special events, and run a museum shop.

Back in 1782, John Cotton of the Enfield, NH, Shaker Village came to the region to recruit for this first Shaker settlement in Maine. When the Brothers bought the property in 1931, the remaining Shakers relocated to the Sabbathday Lake Village in New Gloucester, ME. It was in the Alfred Village that Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett composed the famous Shaker song "Simple Gifts".

FASM is about to sign the deal in the purchase of the building from the Brothers who remain the owners of the land and provide water to the facility.



FASM member **Br. Albert Heinrich** occasionally volunteers as a docent during the Museum's Wednesday and Saturday afternoon open hours May to October. Since his relocation to the NDI campus in 2005, Br. Albert has furthered his interest in Shaker history by readings and conferences. He has shared his learning in articles for the *ASM Courier*, presentations and guided campus tours.



### ASM Mural - a Major Attraction

A historical accurate rendering of the Shaker Hill Landscape of about 1875 has been captured by Cornish, ME artist Sandra Howe painted on the wall of ASM's Morrison Community Room.

At its unveiling on Sept. 17, 2011, Br. Arnold Hadd of the Shaker community at Sabbath day Lake referred to the detailed painting in presenting a "bird's eye view" of a typical midsummer day experienced in the once-thriving United Society of Believers community in Alfred about 1875.

The mural depicts more than 50 buildings constructed since the foundation of the village in 1793. The remaining buildings acquired by the Brothers in 1931 are clearly identifiable.

Artist Howe who paints in the Rufus Porter style displays her work in a museum named for him in Bridgeton, ME. The ASM project was funded by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission and Maine Humanities Council. The visually pleasing mural is a great educational tool for schoolchildren and public visiting the Museum. Prints and note cards of the mural are available in the Museum gift shop operated by Friends of the ASM.

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### Brothers' HAITIAN Province Receives the "Prix Humanitaire"

After the earthquake of January 12, 2010, the "Fondation Lucienne Deschamps" established the "Prix Humanitaire". This honorary distinction recognizes people and institutions that have contributed to help the Haitian people in relieving their poverty.

"Through their interventions and concrete activities, the LaMennais Brothers have created something different in our community", explained the president of the foundation, on giving the prize to Br. Hervé Zamor, provincial of the Brothers in Haiti during the November 30 ceremony in Port-au-Prince. The FIC's were one of six 2012 recipients.

Thank you, Haitian supporters in the United States, who helped make this outreach possible.

#### Thank you, Clarion Benefactors— as of Feb. 28

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Please remember The Brothers of Christian Instruction in your will.



## Congregation Celebrates 175 years of Missionary Undertakings



**Missionnaires !  
Missionaries !  
¡ Misioneros !**

The recent special Issue # 17 of the congregation's **LaMennais Magazine** presents a pictorial history of the Congregation's 175 history of missionary undertakings. Five French Brothers arrived in Basse-Terre in Guadeloupe, the first Brothers of 2500 Brothers who would share in the missionary ventures undertaken in 30 countries on five continents.

Fr. John-Mary de LaMennais hesitated at first to send Brothers out of his beloved Brittany, a region in great need of religious educators. At the persistent request of the Minister of the French Navy, he could no longer refuse the call for Brothers to instruct the freed slaves on Guadeloupe and soon on Martinique, islands of the West Indies. Some 415 Brothers served there until 1901 when the congregation was forced out of the French Government owned territories.

Typical work of these early missionaries included teachers for schools for children of free and slave families, catechists for adults and house visitation. Conditions were primitive, the population consisted of both friendly and hostile citizens as well as government and church officials.

In 1841 Fr. John-Mary sent his Brothers to West Africa, beginning with Senegal. In 1842 the first North American venture occurred on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon off the coast of Newfoundland.

### THE CLARION

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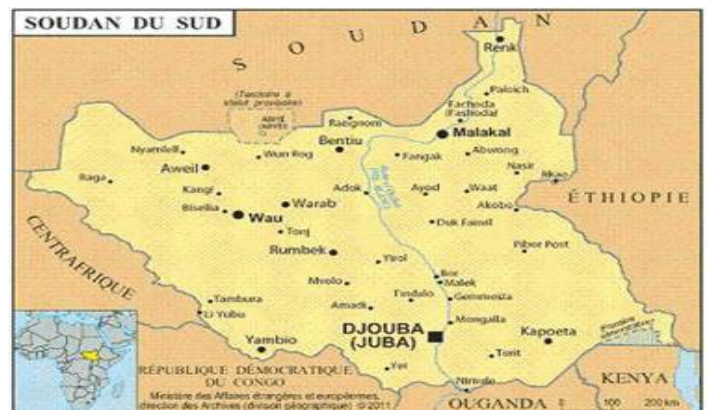
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**Please, send us your e-mail address**

Missionary Brothers first landed in South America in 1843 with the opening of schools in five communities along the coast of French Guyana. And in 1860, a school was opened in Papeete on the South Pacific Island of Tahiti. The missionary work expanded after the death of Fr. John-Mary on Dec. 26, 1860.

Since the creation of Notre Dame Province in 1948, American Brother Missionaries served in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania (East Africa), in the Seychelles Islands, in Japan and the Philippines, in Haiti and briefly in Egypt and Congo. Some would consider our years in Alaska as missionary undertakings. Our last missionary brother commissioned to Uganda, Br. Francis Blouin, has his page in the special issue of the **LaMennais Magazine**.

This issue is available on the Brothers' website [www.lamennais.org](http://www.lamennais.org) at the Official Document tab. The most recent missionary undertaking by the Congregation took place in Indonesia (in 2000) and in Mexico (in 2007).



The next missionary undertaking by the congregation will be spearheaded by the Ugandan Province. Three Brothers have been selected to open a school this year in Rimenze parish in the southern most diocese of Tombura-Yambio, South Sudan.

The work continues today with the help of lay associates, thus carrying out the spirit of the orientations of the 2012 General Chapter.

There are opportunities for single or married men and women desiring to work in FIC mission outposts. Inquiries are most welcome at [jllessard40@yahoo.com](mailto:jllessard40@yahoo.com)

## Bro. Charles St. James Continues to Inspire



Since the Fall of 2007, the memory of Br. Charlie stimulates an annual scholarship fund raiser on the Walsh campus in No. Canton, Ohio.

Every September resident hall RA's enthusiastically embark on hosting a bowlathon meant to raise money to bolster the Br. St. James Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Two \$1000 scholarships are awarded to applying students who exemplify the morals and values of Br. Charlie, especially his service to others. Br. Charlie was well known on the Walsh campus during his residency in LaMennais Hall from 1992 until his death on December 17, 2006 from complications due to Parkinson's disease. A multitude of students and staff benefitted from his charismatic presence, ability to listen and desire to reach out and touch people.

This year, Ben Daleiden, coordinator of University Housing Placement with an office in Menard Hall, led the charge working in tandem with Bryan Bader, Director of Residence Halls. This annual event is one of many events organized on campus to highlight the legacy of all the Brothers associated with the great enterprise known as Walsh University.

Some 160 students sign up for the bowlathon. Several departments and WU individuals sponsor lanes and most campus members get to participate in the "Change for Charlie" held by the RA's during the weeks leading to the event.

At least \$4000 has been raised each year for the endowed scholarships. About 15 applications are reviewed annually for these one-time undergraduate scholarships. Coverage of the event is handled by the campus student SPECTATOR as well as by several No. Canton community newsletters.

## K of C Support Reconstruction in Haiti

On January 16, 2013, the Knights of Columbus Msgr. Morris L Dwyer Council #255 held their charitable gifts dinner at the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, NY. Under the charitable gifts program groups selected from a committee receive a specified donation to help defray operating costs or to support the organization's efforts to meet the needs of its clientele. Among those groups this year was the Brothers of Christian Instruction who received a check for \$1000.00 towards its "Haitian Fund" to help in the reconstruction of their schools and communities devastated by the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake.

In addition to the third gift from the Knights (they have given similar checks the previous two years), the Brothers' efforts are supported by a weekly 50/50 drawing at the Seton Catholic Saturday night bingo. Weekly raffle tickets are sold by Mr. Richard Giguere. One ticket is pulled for a choice of \$50.00, or \$50.00 in Lottery tickets. Since the earthquake Bro. Raymond Fortin, organizer of the bingo, has made this drawing's top goal the support of the rebuilding of the Brothers' efforts in Haiti. To date, more than \$23,000 has been raised for Haiti. Br. Raymond takes every chance he can get to thank the bingo players and the Knights for their effort and their concern for supporting the Brothers. With a help from our friends, devastation turns into hope!



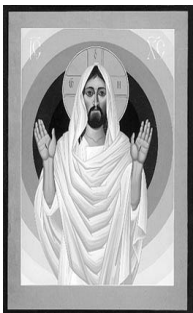
L-R: Br. Charles Thomas, Roy Garrant (Council Secretary) Kevin Goddeau (Finance Officer), Cliff Mattot ( Grand Knight) & Br. Raymond Fortin.

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Spring, 2013

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