

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

Year of the Brother

We recognize the need to bring a new dynamism to our Mennaisian vocation ministry declared the General Chapter of 2012, which invites the Brothers to testify before the young that religious life as a Mennaisian Brother is a path of joy and fulfillment that gives meaning to our lives.

to announce the Good News of Jesus who favors the poor and the little ones in raising them up.

Being a Brother is really good news, the sign of Jesus who sought to serve, not to be served.

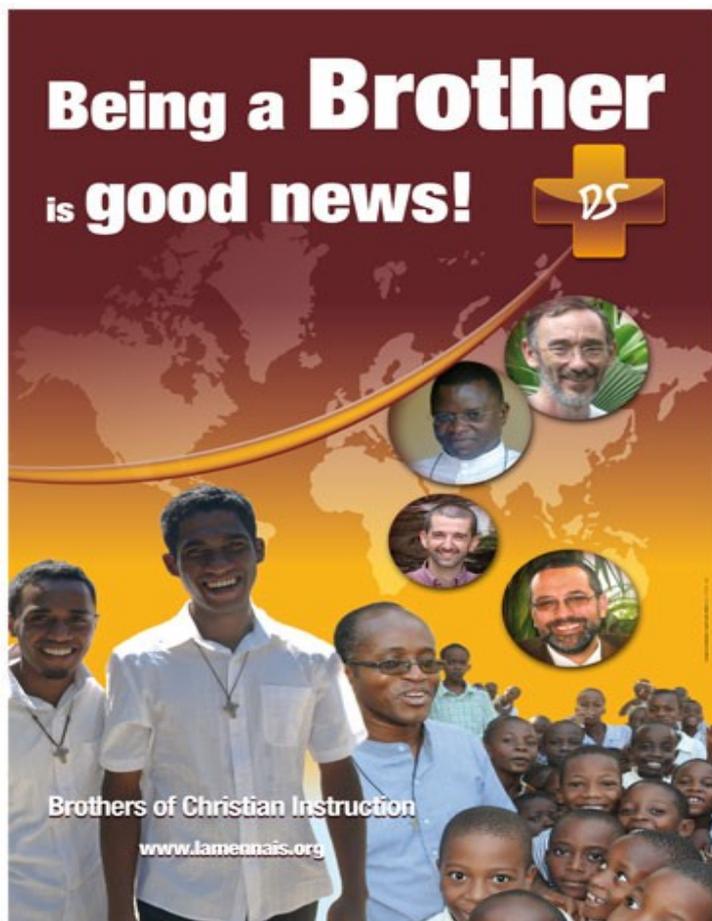
Being a Brother is really good news. He is called upon to evangelize by his life more than by his words, joyfully, humbly, unassuming, and with a great love in his heart for God and for young people.

This year's theme offers to the entire Congregation, to the Mennaisian family, to adults and young people of good will, the chance to see what is beautiful and good in the Brother's vocation. After all, as Fr. John-Mary de La Mennais stated: *the vocation of a Brother is a sublime vocation! It is that of Jesus Christ himself ...* (S VII, 2237)

I invite our Lay Mennaisians to support the Brothers in their response to the vocation to which they are called today. I also invite all to let grow in themselves all the richness of the grace of Baptism that makes each one of us witnesses to the Gospel in the heart of the world.

I pray that our young people will see and understand the beauty of the life that they have received. May they be sensitive to the Spirit of God inviting them to give of themselves in making our world a beautiful home for all, especially for the little ones.

I pray God to bless this very important year. May He give us generous new vocations from among the young people in the countries where we Brothers continue to serve. Brothers, let us resolve this year to go throughout the world as apostles bringing the Good News of Jesus' peace and message of brotherhood.



We believe that today's young people need Brothers, Brothers who are witnesses of brotherhood to all, especially to little ones, witnesses of the fraternal presence of Jesus to everyone, witnesses of God who gives himself entirely in love.

Being a Brother, indeed, is good news because he is called

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Yannick Houssay'.

Yannick Houssay, Superior General

Province receives Child Protection Re-accreditation

Just recently we the Brothers of Christian Instruction were notified that we have earned Praesidium's three year re-accreditation, the highest honor in child abuse prevention practices. This document confirms that Notre Dame Province has been found by an independent team of specialists to be in compliance with the highest current national standards for protecting children and responding to allegations.



To attain our original accreditation three years ago, under the direction of Br. Daniel Carton, then provincial superior, we underwent a long educational process and a rigorous assessment to clarify our responsibilities, identify best practices, and evaluate the extent to which we are meeting these defined standards. Similar activities were undertaken these past months for re-accreditation following updated national norms and requirements.

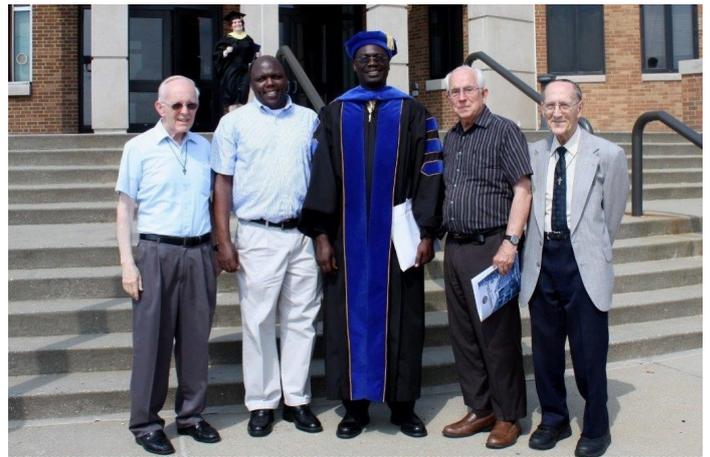
In doing so, the US Brothers have implemented directives received from our general administration, which in producing general child protection guidelines to be used throughout the congregation, has asked each province to comply with Church and/or national requirements in setting up its own practices.

The bishops of the three diocese in which we live and work (Portland-ME, Ogdensburg-NY, and Youngstown-OH) have been notified of our successful completion of this assessment, thus demonstrating our ongoing resolve to protect those in our care from abuse and allow our members to be a healthy, faith-filled presence in the lives of the families and communities we serve.

Praesidium Inc., the accrediting body, is the national leader in abuse risk management. It works with hundreds of religious congregations of men in the United States who in conjunction with our Bishops have set policies to safeguard children and vulnerable adults who frequent our ministries.

Br. Jerome Lessard, Provincial

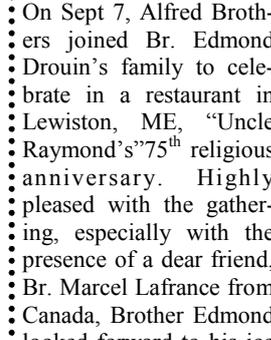
Summer



On Aug. 17, Ugandan Br. Pius Ochwo received his PhD from Kent State U. Fellow graduate student Br. Denis Katusiime and the Brothers of the LaMennais Hall residence on the Walsh campus witnessed the event.



On Aug. 4, Brothers and a few relatives and friends gathered in the Notre Dame cafeteria to celebrate Br. Henri Bernier's 98th birthday. Happy to be back on the hill, Bernie entertained his guests with several songs with a surprisingly still strong voice. He will reach 100.



On Sept 7, Alfred Brothers joined Br. Edmond Drouin's family to celebrate in a restaurant in Lewiston, ME, "Uncle Raymond's" 75th religious anniversary. Highly pleased with the gathering, especially with the presence of a dear friend, Br. Marcel Lafrance from Canada, Brother Edmond looked forward to his ice cream dessert. His niece Paula Valliere made the arrangements and provided a photo montage and cake for the occasion.

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Highlights



On Aug. 10 Friends of the Alfred Shaker Museum (FASM) gathered for a greatly appreciated musical event celebrating the very popular Shaker song *Simple Gifts* composed on Shaker Hill by Joseph Brackett in the summer of 1848.



Two gardens were lovingly tendered on the Notre Dame campus, one by area Master Gardeners, the other by Dept. of Correction Transition Program women (pictured above). The nearby garden shop was recently upgraded as a tribute to long time Master Gardener Br. Eugene Roberts.



On July 31 Maine Governor Paul LePage made a brief visit to the NDI campus as the guest of York County Shelter. He left greatly impressed by the professional and efficient operation, taking with him ideas for improving State social service operations.

The 2013 Apple Weekend Festival Marks a welcome Tradition.

Maine is very proud of its many apple orchards, holding annually a Family Orchard Day. For the fourth year, Notre Dame campus has held an Apple Festival Weekend on Sept. 14-15.

The event is hosted by a partnering team of York County Shelter Programs, the Gile Family Orchards, Friends of the Shaker Museum and the Brothers of Notre Dame.

YCS held a juried arts and crafts fair, a penny auction, a pig raffle, a yard and book sale as well as some children’s activities, live music and a lunch wagon. Notre Dame Bakery traditionally makes a brisk sale of its famous breads and pies as does the Brothers’ Apple Store with its fresh cider and variety of apples, thanks to seasoned operators Pete Delesdernier and Bill Boddie assisted by enthusiastic fellow volunteers.

Joan Sylvester, YCS community relations director, is overjoyed at this year’s turnout. Proceeds from the YCS organized events benefit hungry and homeless adults and children county-wide.

FASM folks held several demonstrations of Shaker arts and crafts while offering the kids pony rides and games. According to Betty Morrison of the Shaker Museum staff, slices of pies made of apples from the trees planted by the Shakers in 1920 were a hit as well as a lobster raffle.

Pick Your Own Apples enticed a number of visitors that weekend, providing a great family outing. Stephen Gile and Frank Boucher, directors of the Gile Family Orchard at Notre Dame, state that a wet spring and recent dry weather have contributed to apple size, sugar content and plentiful pickings. While waiting for the fruit to ripen a seasoned team of Jamaican workers have prepared an attractive orchard.

Best Wishes...
To Brothers Achilleo Kiwanuka and Francis Mulima, our Ugandan confreres who on July 18 launched the FIC’s mission in Rimenze of the Tumbura-Yambio Diocese, South Sudan, Africa’s newest country.

Brothers Participate in National Fund Appeals



Most Catholic churchgoers are aware of urges from the pulpit for their generous participation in a number of special collections that are spaced out throughout the year.

Two national appeals seek the assistance of religious. One is the national collection for the

Retired Fund for Religious meant to assist religious men and women with their underfunded retirement plans. The results of this annual November collection are published as are the amounts distributed to the various qualifying religious groups. This year our own Notre Dame Province received \$9000 destined to help meet two of our leading retirement-related concerns: elder care delivery and property management.

Volunteer speakers like Br. Guy Roddy in Ohio are assigned a parish or two to speak at weekend Masses. He claims that “the task is easy since so many adult Catholics have fond memories of Sisters and Brothers who taught them in elementary and high school.”

Another annual appeal occurs when religious of missionary-sending groups are invited to address a select number of parishes each summer. These representatives speak in behalf of the missions our province continues to support, at least financially, if not with personnel.

This personal appeal by missionaries makes the needs of the mission more real. It has been the general experience of our veteran appealers, Brothers Francis Blouin and Marcel Sylvestre, that the faithful respond generously. Our Ugandan Brothers in Ohio and in Maine were active in this past summer’s appeals. These events remind the faithful of the Church’s missionary vocation and their need to be involved in this undertaking.

We Brothers are very grateful to all the faithful responding to these appeals. We trust that they sense our gratitude which is buttressed with sincere prayers for their intentions.

Thank you, Our Supporters as of Aug. 30

Anonymous	Joe Lapointe
Jean-Paul Beaudoin	Ray & Nancy Lausier
George Briere	Jeanne Levesque
Sr. Constance Drouin	Robert Moisan
Paul Garriepy	J-P Paquette
Geraldine Lacasse	Ernest Ramirez
Joseph Lacase	Gerard Thibodeau
Aime Lachance	Roland Pomerleau
Roger Lamontagne	Ronald Traynor

DID YOU KNOW that you now have the option to start receiving your CLARION issue (with colored photos) via your email rather than in the mail? All we need is your E-mail address.

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