

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

Uruguay Beckons: Walsh Students adopt another FIC Mission Outpost

With Brothers in 26 countries there exist many opportunities for volunteer individuals or groups wishing to connect in a supportive manner with the ministries of the Brothers of Christian Instruction.

Recently it was announced that the Honor Students of Walsh University have selected a ministry of the Brothers in Uruguay, specifically the two youth centers in Maldonado Nuevo, a very poor town one hour up the coast from Montevideo, where the Brothers of the Immaculate Conception Province (Argentina/Uruguay) direct Instituto la Mennais. Three Brothers operate the centers, one for younger children, the other for teenagers. Assistance with school work is complemented by snacks and meals. Each teen is provided with a "health book" to accompany periodic check-ups which constitute part of the effort to educate families to providing basic health care, hygiene and dietary counseling. Brothers raise funds by selling donated second hand items. Supplies for all the activities are always in demand.

Food comes mainly from partnering nearby touristic hotels in the very popular and trendy tourist city of Punta del Este, which offers opportunities for work to English speaking natives. Improving access and use of computer technology will be a major occupation of the volunteers.



July 2013 site visit: Gustavo Stille, Br. Fernando Mussi, Dr. Koop Berry & Br. Ricardo Morzan

Walsh's program is being organized by Prof. Koop Berry who visited the site in July. Assist. Brother Guillermo Davila provided the necessary contact information. Gustavo Stille, Assist. Dir. of Admissions at Walsh, helped with the communication in making the initial contacts and travel arrangements. His Spanish skills facilitated the logistical planning and overall assessment of the program's feasibility.

Ten honor students will be selected for the initial group for early May 2014. These will assist students with the homework in various subjects and direct activities related to arts/craft, IT, health and English language. The educational dimension of the Brothers' centers is aimed at encouraging students to pursue high school graduation.

This venture is part of Walsh's outreach program already well established in Uganda and Tanzania. This Uruguay undertaking is the first in a Spanish-speaking country. Fund raising activities to help pay for travel expenses and supplies will take place all year. Rotary International will help with this.



Walsh U's Dr. Koop Berry & Gustavo Stille

Brother Normand Berger's Dream is Being Realized



February 16, 2014 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accidental death in 1989 in Congo RDC (then known as Zaire) of missionary Brother Normand Berger at the age of 40. In two years as a radio specialist, airplane mechanic and pilot in the northeastern Dungu region,

Normand earned everyone's admiration by his patience and cooperativeness, dedication and dependability while participating in the modest system of air transportation to meet medical emergencies and to serve the varied needs of evangelization, education and development of the region. We are happy to report that the FIC Vice-Province of Central Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo / Rwanda), the origins of which go back to the late 1960's, is currently experiencing an almost unprecedented period of consolidation in fairly unstable political conditions.

The Congo boasts 20 professed Brothers (19 Congolese, one Canadian), 6 scholastics and 2 novices. Three (3) Brothers are pursuing advanced studies. For its part, Rwanda has 12 professed Brothers (7 Rwandans, 1 Congolese, 4 Canadians), 8 scholastics, 3 novices. Two Brothers study for advanced degrees outside the country. Brother Pascal Mbolingaba, a Congolese Brother, is Vice-Provincial superior of the Congo / Rwanda mission.

In the Congo, the Brothers currently run two secondary schools in Dungu and Isiro, and they have recently opened a small primary school in Dungu. In Rwanda, the Brothers administer a Teacher Training College in Kirambo, they coordinate the activities of a multi-purpose Formation Centre in Gisenyi on Lake Kivu and there are plans for a Technical Training School in this same area.

With a contingent of some 50 professed or in-training African Brothers, the Vice-Province of Central Africa may be in a position to manage other educational establishments in the not too distant future. Br. Berger had plans to dedicate the rest of his life to furthering the development of this mission territory. With the help of benefactors the ministries of this vice-province are made possible. CLARION readers can share in the endeavor by contributing to our Notre Dame Province Missionary Fund in memory of dedicated young Brother Normand.

Brothers Marcel Sylvestre & Robert Smyth

BCHS' Loss, NDI's Gain

In the summer of 2012, three "Connolly High School" Brothers were assigned to Notre Dame, Alfred, ME. So what are they up to?

At 88 I am fully retired. I occupy myself doing all sorts of odd jobs, fixing, mending, replacing broken items. In the summer I enjoy helping volunteer Bill Boddie mowing lawns (of which we have plenty). My pet project is attempting to rejuvenate abandoned fruit trees. I taxi confreres and am available to help as needed. Otherwise, I pray, read



walk and rest. Life is good.

Br. André Millette



I serve as the assistant director of our three building Notre Dame Spiritual Center where each year approximately 5,000 people participate in various retreats, classes, conferences and meetings. I was appointed the assistant superior

of the motherhouse in Alfred. I serve on the Menaisian Family steering committee which fosters the charism of our Founders.

Br. Walter Zwierchowski

After 47 years in schools, I "retired" from active ministry in June 2012. I was assigned to the position of local superior of our community of a dozen Brothers in Alfred, ME which includes overseeing the 300 acres of Notre Dame campus. In addition I was appointed as treasurer for the American Province overseeing the



finances of our three US communities.

Br. Daniel Caron

THE CLARION

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“When I was in prison, you...”

Prison ministry may not be a common undertaking in our panoply of ministries as Brothers, but it happens that two FICs have a serious interest in this.



Ordained **Br. Ted Letendre** volunteers to celebrate Mass every Saturday late afternoon for about 75 to 110 inmates of York County Jail, situated on the other side of the Town of Alfred. This opportunity, especially for the holydays of Christmas, New Years and Easter, is almost unique throughout the Maine prison system. It is a free service where the Brothers furnish the missalettes, hosts and wine as well as the liturgical books and vestments which he brings with him weekly.

This outreach began 10 years ago at the invitation of Sr. Theresa Couture, scim. Overcoming the intransigence of the Sheriff's Office a persistent demand for Catholic services from inmate Nicholas Dardeno – almost to the point of suing for this right – finally met with approval. Br./Fr. Ted makes himself available for consultation and the sacrament of reconciliation once or twice a week or whenever the jail Chaplain, Rev. Trent Boyd, gives him a call.

“There is a real need there for these “house calls”; these are the most marginalized individuals in our society. Inmates have said that the Saturday “church” service was the only “good” thing they had experienced during their incarceration. And, as fate would have it, a goodly number go from YCJ to our York County Shelter. Thus our relationship continues on the Notre Dame campus.” In addition Br. Ted encourages mail contacts during and after their stay at YCJ. This exchange of letters serves as a reminder of God's love with a promise of prayers for their success, their families, the victims of their crimes and for those working with the criminal justice system.

Ugandan **Br. Henry Monday** assists Br. Ted as liturgical reader. In addition, Br. Monday is a highly appreciated participant in Kairos Prison Ministry, an international Christian organization whose objective is to carry the love of Christ to prisoners motivated by Jesus' own words “when I was in prison, you came to see me” (Mt. 25:36).

Twice a year this group of several dozen volunteers organizes a weekend long Cursillo-style retreat at the Warren Maine State Prison. As a follow-up team members will travel once a month to Warren to hold a three hour Saturday morning reunion with past participants where prayers, scripture readings, worship singing and discussion take place.

Clint Daggeit, Buffalo native, was instrumental in bringing the Kairos program to Maine twenty years ago. Fortunately the present prison administration considers Kairos as a fitting ingredient to the rehabilitation work of the prison system. Clint considers Br. Henry a blessing to the entire program. “He is a natural leader of prayer and an effective table leader with meaningful testimonials and meditations.”

Tall Brother Henry who sports his white cassock attracts a number of the participants who “hang on his words”. He in turn is struck by the response of the 20 inmates who are most grateful for the opportunity to rediscover God's ever present unconditional love for them. “Give thanks to the Lord, for His love is everlasting.” The incarcerated individuals who wish to participate experience a deepening of their faith while preparing to re-enter the community with a transformed heart and mind.

A new logo was recently initiated fulfilling a request of the 2012 General Chapter for "a dynamic and eloquent logo that would become a common symbol for all of the Mennaisian Family. As an expression of unity in the congregation and its associates, the simple symbol expresses a branch with its leaves representing the international educational network established by the Brothers and their associates on the five continents (hence the colors). The D+S indicates how all is sourced in God Alone and rooted in the works of Fr. John Mary de La Mennais, works generously and selfishly sowed and maintained over 150 years for the welfare of youth in 26 countries.



October in Pictures



On Sat., Oct. 19 the Brothers' community was visible at the St. Therese Parish Festival where Br. Jerome was manning a table selling produce from Shaker Hill: apples, bakery goods and the

Apple store volunteers Bill Boddie and Pete Delesdernier challenge each other at cribbage while resting and waiting for customers. After a very good apple season, Pete returned to Oklahoma and Bill to Florida to escape the Maine's cold winter. In addition to running the store both are very handy with odd jobs on campus during their stay on Shaker Hill.



very popular cider. This was a first for Shaker Hill's involvement in this popular and necessary annual parish fund raiser. Diana Meunier (and her husband Tom) assisted in the selling during the 8 hr. shift.



On Sunday Sept. 15, thanks to Pete Bernier visiting his uncle, both Brothers Henri Bernier and Marcel Crete, residents of Southridge

Care Center in Biddeford, spent time visiting the Notre Dame campus. Both showed evident joy during this brief visit being warmly greeted by the Alfred Brothers.

Thank you, Our Supporters as of Nov. 20

Bill Boddie
 Marc Bolduc
 Rita Brodeur
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 Lorraine Copan
 Pete Delesdernier
 Fr. Wilfrid DeRoche
 Omer & Sue Desjarlais
 James & Ann Desroches



Sr. Constance Drouin
 Jerry & Sue Fortin
 Gaye Gaudrault
 Eugene Hallee
 Joe Lacasse
 Raymond Lessard
 C & A Savage
 Tom Thomas
 Normand Valiquette

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.

Please remember the Brothers of Christian Instruction in your will.

The Clarion
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Ours will be His peace



If ours is His will

Merry Christmas

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