

# The Clarion



*Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction*

## LaMennais Year Celebrations to Begin

December 26, 2010 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. John Mary de la Mennais, one of the two founders of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. The official beginning of the year will take place on November 27, at the motherhouse in Ploermel, Brittany, France, where Fr. John Mary is buried.

Br. Yannick Houssay, Superior General and 10<sup>th</sup> successor to the founder, issued the following invitation from his headquarters in Rome, Italy.

“Let us make the Year of John Mary de la Mennais a time of grand celebrations, permitting us to know better the motives that inspired this man, this priest, this extraordinary founder and thus learn more of his legacy.

Dear Brothers and members of the Mennaisian Family, I invite you to participate with joy in this year’s celebration with a desire to appreciate the faith and the missionary zeal which lay in the

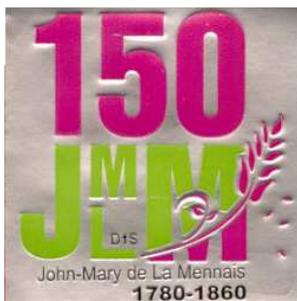
heart of John Mary. Let us make ours that spirit which drove him to tackle head-on and with zeal the elements threatening the faith, walking in the steps of St. Paul, embolden with a great love for God and for the young.”

Throughout the houses of the congregation found in 24 countries, a variety of activities will be taking place, especially in the Brothers’ schools.

Updated Mennaisian materials

will be generously circulated highlighting the achievements of this Servant of God as well as the accomplishments of his Brothers and Sisters for nearly 200 years. A new biography will be issued during the commemorative year.

Within the American province, plans are underway for celebrating this anniversary with special gatherings at Notre Dame, Alfred, Maine, in the summer of 2011.



American Brothers present at the August 15 celebrations in LaPrairie, QC, opening the Mennaisian Year for the Canadian Brothers’ Province of Jean de la Mennais: Mark Couture, Jerome Lessard, Raymond Fortin, Charles Thomas and Rene Demers (seated).

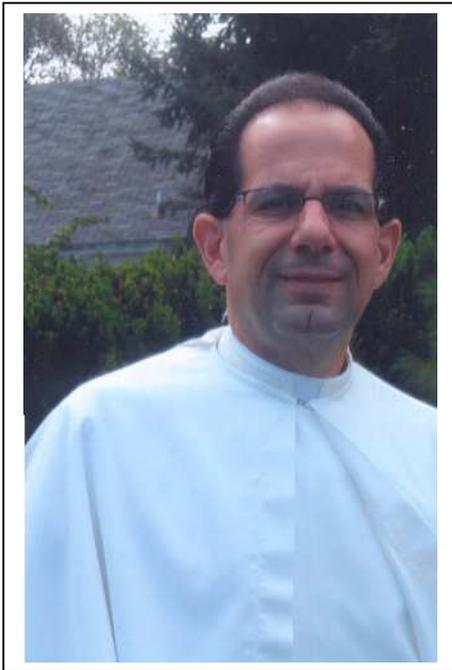
# Let Us Sow Abundantly and Generously

Under the administration of the present Superior General, Bro. Yannick Houssay, and his council, each year the congregation has embarked on a unified project for the year. The theme for Project 2010-11 is:

**LET US GROW GENEROUSLY.**

Each Province is to organize periods of prayerful reflection on this topic. In turn, each house is to decide how the theme can be implemented throughout the year in its localities, adapted to its ministerial opportunities.

In presenting this year's theme, Br. Yannick reminded the Brothers and members of the Mennaisian family that the mission entrusted to us remains a task yet ours to work at. Most relevant today is the parting message of our Co-Founder, Fr. John Mary de la Mennais:



**John Zagarella, O., Praem**



“Encourage one another to sow generously in order to gather abundant fruits for the Kingdom.”

Our work of evangelization continues to be vital for the young and the not-so-young.

To assist the provinces in reflecting on this theme and appropriating the recommended practices, the General Administration has created an Ongoing Formation Team. Brothers Jean Pettilon and Guillermo Davilla have produced booklets destined for use at prayer services and in community sharings. The materials integrate in a *lectio divina* format scripture passages and texts from the sermons of Fr. John Mary.

In our province, the six-day retreat in July occasioned the launching of this Project 2010-11. John Zagarella, O. Praem. (Norbertines) tailored his conferences around Jesus' parables employing the image of the seed. Central to the week's topics was

the Parable of the Sower, which Jesus himself expands in a rare explication of his intended lesson.

A print of Vincent van Gogh's painting THE SOWER was made available to each community to serve as a reminder throughout the year. At the closing ceremony of the retreat a packet of flower seeds was received by each retreatant with the message “Go and sow generously and abundantly.”

In this year's proposed PROJECT 2010-11, the Mennaisian community has received the plea to delve deeply into Scripture (God's seed) and to live by this word of God in its ministry, especially among the young. The spread of the Father's Kingdom was Jesus' life purpose. Such is that of the disciples of Jesus. With mutual encouragement all are invited to go and sow abundantly and generously.

## The Brothers of Christian Instruction

Committed to the imitation of Christ  
In his way of life by the practise of the three evangelical vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, we Brothers pledge to continue Jesus' mission by the Catholic education of youth with special consideration for the poor and marginalized at home and abroad.

For information check website

<http://www.ficbrothers.org/>

Or call 207-324-0067 (Maine)

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P.O. Box 159

Alfred, ME 04002

## News in Brief

York County Shelter Programs, Inc's quarterly newspaper **HEADING HOME** prominently featured **Br. Francis Blouin** in its Summer 2010 issue. The article highlighted his work in education, peace and social justice. Brother Francis played a significant part in welcoming the Shelter to the grounds of the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred some 25 years ago.

**Brother Albert Heinrich** was featured in the Summer 2010 issue of **SENIOR MOMENTS**, the newsletter of Senior College of York County. As a YCSC faculty member Brother offers courses in astronomy and physical sciences. With his background and varied interests, "he has created a following of students curious about the scientific and intellectual worlds which are his milieu". On his drawing boards are outlines for possible future offerings in the study of weather, geography and geology.

Among our senior Brothers in health care facilities, **Br. Edmond Drouin** is holding his own at D'Youville Pavilion in Lewiston, ME. **Br. Raymond Berube** is in a more critical situation in No. Berwick, ME. **Br. Albin Vigeant** recently took up residence at St. Andre Care Center in Biddeford, ME. **Brother Joseph Power** remains in community in No. Canton, OH where he is receiving the medical attention his serious condition requires. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

## Walsh Legacy II Visits Alfred, ME



Text & photo courtesy of WalshU.

Members of the Walsh University Legacy Group recently paid a visit to the Brothers of Christian Instruction motherhouse in Alfred, Maine, as the capstone event in their study of the history, mission and founding of Walsh University. The 364-acre farm was originally owned and operated by The United Society of Believers, commonly known as the Shakers, from the early 1800's until the Brothers of Christian Instruction purchased the farm in 1931.

For member Ryan Ozar, director of global learning, the three-day retreat was an opportunity to get to know his colleagues as well as the Brothers residing in Maine. "It was incredible to be in a place that carries so much of the history of the Brothers and the Shakers before them. It is touching to realize the passing of the time and the accomplishments of people who have been at this farm. The Shakers are gone. The Brothers membership is dwindling. It really drove home the importance of our work in the Legacy Group and responsibility we have to carry on their mission."

Walsh Legacy Group members are committed to studying, learning, understanding and promoting the Mission of Walsh by examining the history and vision for Catholic higher education.

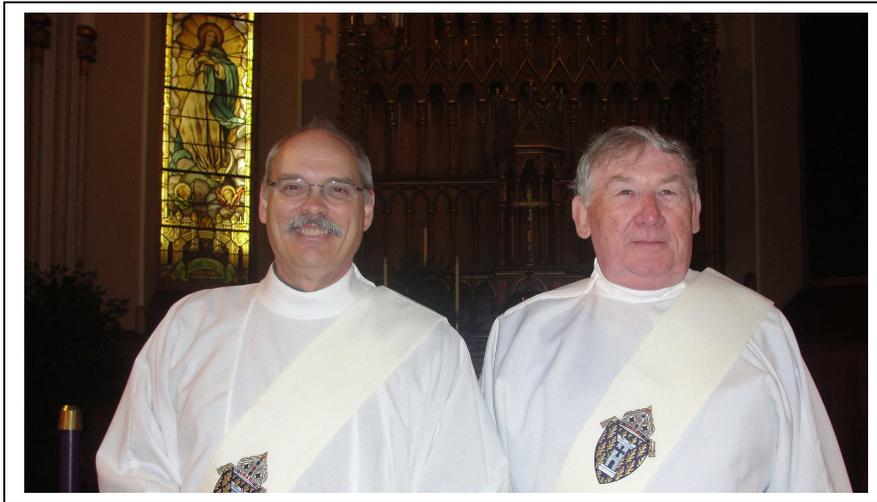
### In attendance were:

Bobbi McKnight, Wellness Center Director  
 Mike Cinson, Coordinator of Residential Education and Leadership  
 Bryan Badar, Director of Residence Life  
 Jo Anna Kelley, Asst. Professor of Sociology  
 Mike Petrochuck, Director of the Walsh MBA Program  
 Britt Cooper, Director of Fine and Performing Arts  
 Elise Francis-Shafer,  
 Ryan Ozar, Director of Global Learning  
 Craig Eymon, Director of Annual Giving and Donor Relations  
 Teresa Griffin, Director of Marketing  
 Sherrie Underwood, Clinical Assoc. Professor of Nursing  
 Chris Petrosino, Chair of Graduate Education  
 Brad Beach, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy  
 Tim Oberschlake, Director of Information Systems

### Group Facilitators from Walsh:

Richard Jusseume, President  
 Janet Howard, Dir. Of Walsh Leadership Institute  
 Frank McKnight, Dir. Of Human Resources

## Congratulations, Mountie Deacons



On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2009, two alumni from Mount Assumption Plattsburgh, NY were ordained to the order of Deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburgh, NY. Mark Bennett, Class of '70, and Jack Cogan, Class of '54, were ordained by Bishop Robert Cunningham of the Diocese of Syracuse at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburgh. Jack has been assigned to St. Mary's of the Lake-O.L. of Victory

parish in Plattsburgh, while Mark is full time Spiritual Life Director for St. Peter's parish in Plattsburgh. Jack graduated in 1959 from St. Michael's College (VT), Mark from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in 1974. Both new deacons fondly remember the time they spent at THE MOUNT under the leadership of Br. Stephen Farrell (Jack) and Br. Francis Blouin (Mark).

## Thank You Donors

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## THE CLARION

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Staff: Brothers Robert Michaud

And David Denicourt

To receive by mail or electronically, please use this contact information:

Address: The Clarion Desk

P.O. Box 159

Alfred, ME 04002-0159

Tel: 207-324-0067

Email: [jlessard40@yahoo.com](mailto:jlessard40@yahoo.com)

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