

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

General Chapter Sets Goals for the Coming Six Years



**The congregation's 2012-2018 General Council:
Brothers Gerard Byaruhanga, Guillermo Davila,
Yannick Houssay, Superior General,
and Gildas Prigent, First Assistant.**

What's ahead for the Brothers of Christian Instruction for the coming six years? That course was set by the acts of the participants of the 26th General Chapter of the congregation. A renewed commitment to the work of evangelization as called for by Pope Benedict was echoed through the 24 days of deliberation. Working with the young in educational centers, while showing a partiality for the poor and marginalized, remains the focus of the mission entrusted to the Brothers by Fr. John-Mary de la Mennais since the foundation of the congregation back in 1820.

The Brothers' motherhouse in the town of Ploermel in the center of Brittany, France, was the setting for the gathering of 45 Brothers from 13 countries representing the 865 members ministering in 24 countries. A main function of the gathering which takes place every six years is the election of the Superior General and his 3 assistants.

This 2012 General Chapter is of great importance to the lay persons associated with the Brothers either as directly involved as partners in their institutions or as a network of friends and sup-

porters inspired by the Mennaisian spirituality. From March 10-15 fifteen lay associates from 8 countries were invited to share in this event. Their wishes and recommendations impacted much of the discussion of emerging resolutions.

Richard Jusseume, president of Walsh University, was the invited representative from Notre Dame Province. He came away with a renewed interest and appreciation of Fr. de la Mennais, a passionate, faith-filled man. His pitch for an international community of Brothers on the Walsh campus generated much interest. Richard's active and impressive participation was greatly appreciated.

Linking evangelization with education proved to be enlivening, providing a clear mission for the establishments directed by the Brothers and their associates. New non-formal educational centers will be explored as appropriate means designed to meet the needs of the poor and marginalized students. Third-world experiences are to be explored capitalizing on the international dimension of the congregation.

In his chapter closing address, the re-elected Superior General Brother Yannick reminded the Brothers and their Mennaisian associates of their call to journey with the young while mentoring their academic progress. A new generation calls to be understood and their talents to be appreciated and engaged in pursuing the common good. Educating the whole person calls for reaching the heart of the individual.



Joining some 50 caring peaceful demonstrators, Br. Jerome Lessard braved the freezing cold day and brutal wind to spur on the York County Commissioners to reinstate an announced \$31,000 cut in funding to the food pantry on the NDI campus. Sadly no change of heart occurred. But since then the public has rallied behind York County Shelter Program in its efforts to address the exasperating hunger issues in the area.

Two Michiganders Celebrate Their Jubilee.

Among the 8 young men vested as novices on August 22, 1962, in St. Joseph's Church, Biddeford, ME were two Michigan natives, Albert Heinrich and Charles Thomas. Their acquaintance with the Brothers of Christian Instruction had begun at Cathedral Central High School in Detroit a few years earlier.



In the spring of 1958, **Br. Albert Heinrich** won a four-year scholarship to C. C. High School which he attended until he entered the Alfred juniorate in 1959.

Upon graduating from Walsh College in 1966, Brother Albert began his teaching career at St. Thomas Aquinas H.S. (Louisville, OH). For 11 years he taught at St. Mary's International School in Tokyo. His ongoing intellectual pursuits were great assets during his seven years in Nome, AK.

During the Brothers' Rome renewal session in 1980, he got to shake the hand of Pope John Paul II. That same year he made a memorable pilgrimage to the Holy Land and was present at the Vatican when Kateri Tekakwitha was beatified on June 22, 1980. Another unforgettable event occurred in Japan when he providentially got to shake Mother Teresa's hand.

Since 1998 he has been based in Alfred where he renders a number of services. He finds great support from the members of two local faith-sharing groups. Especially enjoyed among his many outreach opportunities is the parish folk choir of Holy Family Church in Sanford, ME.

Many hours go into his involvement with the York County Senior College. His lifelong interest in the sciences are evident in the mini courses he has offered in astronomy, computer science, physics, meteorology and most recently, nuclear energy.

His spiritual life continues to evolve along the lines of "creation spirituality". His lifelong interest in astronomy has fueled an ever deepening awareness of the awesomeness of creation.



Although born in St. Louis, MO, **Br. Charles Thomas** grew up in Michigan. Back in 1958 as a student at Detroit's Cathedral Central High School, he got to hear many interesting things about the Brothers from Bro. Patrick Couture, active Vocation Club moderator who happened to be his homeroom teacher.

Charlie has enjoyed his teaching career which was primarily spent at Denis Hall Junior High School – a boarding school in Alfred – and in Plattsburgh, NY. Always willing to go where the superiors thought his talents were needed, he was seen as genuinely interested in the well-being of the students either as a teacher, coach or administrator. In his dealing with people he continues to show much concern and care.

Br. Charles' life has been enriched by his attendance at several renewal sessions and in benefitting from continuing education opportunities. He possesses enhanced computer skills and maintains a great interest in reading.

Of the many projects he undertook, the one that influenced him the most was his compilation of the history of Notre Dame Province, *We Remember: the Brothers in the US 1903-2003*. In delving into the early years of the Brothers' work in the US, Br. Charles developed a great admiration for his heroes among the province's pioneering Brothers: Salvius, Boniface, Benjamin, George and Clementien, models of dedication to work and of exemplary living of religious commitment.

With this interest in historical accounts, he willingly accepted to take over the province archives. He aims to maintain a quality and user-friendly ever increasing collection of documents, records and memorabilia. The work is done sporadically when visits to Alfred from Plattsburgh are possible.

With careful attention to his diabetic condition, Brother Charles fills his retirement days rendering service in his Plattsburgh community as housekeeper, bursar and cook. He is involved with several weekly bingos and volunteers at the city hospital twice a week.

*Additional anniversaries to be celebrated
in Alfred on July 22, 2012*

60th Brothers Marcel Crete and Donald Lapointe
70th Brothers James Lacasse and Ernest Paquet

Ad Multos Annos

A Breath of Fresh Air for Alfred

Quiet but enthusiastic Br. Henry Monday has made quite an impression on the Notre Dame campus since his arrival in August, 2011. The 42-year old Ugandan native is in the US to lend a hand to Br. Ted Letendre, Director of Notre Dame Spiritual Center.

Born in a very poor farming village of Idanda, Mbarara, Uganda on April 15, 1970, he is the second of 6 children of Donanto Katungwesi, a carpenter by trade, and Nzerameresi Kengyeya.

His first encounter with the Brothers of Christian Instruction occurred when an FIC scholastic student teacher made a brief appearance in his village school. Years later a friend introduced him to the Kisubi community. Upon expressing an interest in the congregation, he was given an application form and within months, on Aug. 12, 1992, was admitted to the Kisubi postulate.

After his novitiate year (1993-4) in Kasasa, he returned to Kisubi for his scholasticate formation. He made profession of perpetual vows on Jan. 1, 1999.

Preparation for his teaching career was pursued at Makerere University in Kampala where he earned his BA in philosophy, Swahili and Organizational Studies. Beginning in 1995 his teaching assignments took him to St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in Mubende, Caltec Academy, St. Henry's College and Bishop Comboni College, all in Uganda.

From 2004 to 2007 Br. Henry enjoyed a study sabbatical in Rome, earning both a BA and a MA in Theology at St. Thomas Aquinas University (the Angelicum). Prior to being picked for the US, he was a teacher in Kasasa where he also taught a course in spirituality to the nearby novices.

Often seen in his Brother's white cassock as worn back in East Africa, tall Brother Monday strikes quite a figure. Campus visitors gravitate to him with questions as to who he is. At the spiritual center he greets

guests and attends to their needs, often entertaining conversations and listening to peoples' stories. He has organized a rosary prayer group which gathers in Notre Dame Chapel after the Saturday morning Mass.

Bro. Monday has been to Sanford's St. Thomas School to speak on vocations and on African culture. He shares in several area prayer groups and has joined a local

Knights of Columbus council. He enjoys singing in the Holy Family Folk choir and serves as Br. Ted's altar boy at the Saturday afternoon Mass at the Alfred York County Jail.

Brother Henry enjoys living with the Alfred community where he interacts with several Brothers who either as former missionaries or visiting administrators have an acquaintance with East Africa. This happy religious Brother is grateful for the warm and friendly welcome he is experiencing. He was much uplifted by the genuine sympathy expressed at the recent death of his father.



On January 24, the NDI community gathered to send Sr. Jane Durgin off to her retirement. She served 6 years as "infirmarian" after working side by side with Br. Francis in Uganda for 2 years. She is presently a member of her congregation's assisted living setting in Rockville Center, NY.

THE CLARION

The quarterly newsletter is published by the Brothers of Christian Instruction of the Notre Dame Province, USA. It is financed by donations from its readers.

Publisher: Br. Jerome Lessard, FIC

Staff: Brothers Robert Michaud and David Denicourt

Layout: Joyce St. Pierre

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

The Clarion Desk

P.O. Box 159

Alfred, ME 04002-0159

Telephone - 207-324-0067

Email: jlessard40@yahoo.com

Website: www.ficbrothers.org

Br. Francis honored at Kisubi Dedication



In 2003, Br. Francis Blouin relocated to Uganda to take up a challenge: establish a university on the grounds of St. Mary's College (h.s.) in Kisubi, 20 miles from Kampala, the Ugandan capital. Eight years later, Kisubi Brothers University paid him tribute for his work not only in launching the school but forging it into a firmly established institution of higher learning.

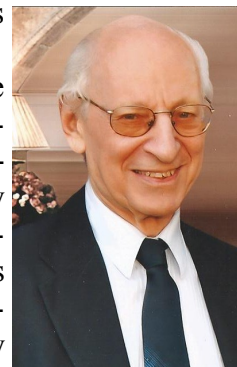
On Monday, Feb. 6, the Brother Blouin Academic Center was dedicated in a spirit of gratitude for the work he spearheaded until his retirement in the summer of 2011. Special liturgies, elaborate dinners and social gatherings provided occasions for speeches, entertainment and well-selected tokens of appreciation.

Opened in 2004 KBU now enrolls 650 students in six BA and two MA programs. Under Br. Blouin's direction older buildings were renovated.

His administration then proceeded to build three major structures and four smaller ones, almost all fully paid for with the \$4.5 million dollars raised for capital development and scholarships. Well-attended religious services are offered daily. More than 15 religious and priests are on the professional staff; over 100 students are young religious and priests.

The University boasts one of the finest libraries in Uganda. The science labs are the best in the country. Dell computers are easily available as are water and electricity, no mean achievement in this part of Africa. Classes are intentionally maintained small, faculty members are professionally qualified and, along with the staff, are paid regularly on time at competitive salaries. Graduates have already been recognized for their achievements, many already holding positions of prestige.

Since his return to the US last summer, Br. Francis has settled in Notre Dame Institute where he is adjusting to serious health issues associated with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). This condition did not keep him from returning to Uganda for this event, thanks to his traveling companion and benefactor, Richard Gagne.



Bill & Marilyn Austin
Jill Bair
Normand Belanger
Dan & Sherry Bossart
Marc Boyer
Lorraine Copan
Pete Delesdernier
Sr. Constance Drouin
Paul Dumais, Sr.
Normand Fisette

Our Benefactors



THANK YOU!

Sue and Ed Fisher
Joseph Lacasse
Aime Lachance, Jr.
Joe & Faye Lapointe
Bob & Jackie Langlois
Barbara Morris
Rick & Sheree Niece
Pat Lausier
Ernest Ramirez
(as of 4-10-12)

Congratulations!!!

The Clarion
PO Box 159
Alfred, ME 04002-0159

Spring
2012

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 13
ALFRED, ME

Return Service Requested

*All praise to You,
Lord Jesus,
For Your
Resurrection!*