

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

Brothers Bid Farewell to Fall River, MA

A historical period of 85 years is coming to an end this summer. The three Brothers remaining in Fall River will be relocating to the motherhouse in Alfred, ME, to assume important roles in operating Notre Dame Institute: Br. Daniel Caron as superior, Br. Walter Zwierchowski as his assistant and Br. Roger Millette, retiring but available when and where needed.

The presence of the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Fall River began in the summer of 1927 when seven Brothers under the direction of Br. Anatolius Lehure took charge of the upper division of Notre Dame Parish School. Over the years the Brothers witnessed the creation of a high school division (Msgr. Prevost H.S.), expansion into the annex and the evolution into a diocesan school. Dreams of a greater expansion came to naught in May 27-28, 1968 when the Prevost facility was completely destroyed by an arsonist caused fire. From that moment on the Brothers exercised their ministry at Bishop Connolly High School which the diocese had opened in 1966.

By the time the last Prevost class graduated in 1972, over 140 Brothers had served as teachers under an impressive list of fourteen able principals, including Brothers Patrick Menard, Dacian Barrette, Henri Bernier, Roland Vigeant, Richard Levesque, climaxing with Roger Millette whose presence in Fall River is set at a record of 45 years.

On April 26, Fall River Bishop George Coleman remarked "In the hearts and minds of many here, the Brothers of Christian Instruction have become synonymous with Catholic Education in Fall River. We will miss your efforts, out of love for Christ, to educate and form young people. In carrying out their mission, the Brothers have certainly exemplified St. Paul's words to Titus, 'showing yourself as a model of good deeds in every respect, with integrity in your teaching, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be criticized' (Titus 2:7). Thank you for your long years of dedicated service in the Diocese."



The Brothers' Residence at 555 Eastern Avenue remained a constant during the 85 years of the Brothers' work in Fall River. The parish-owned building survived the horrendous May 11, 1982 conflagration that claimed the impressive Notre Dame Church along with an entire block of neighboring three-deckers.

Special Alumni Gatherings Highlight the Spring.

On April 22, close to 100 graduates of the former Detroit Cathedral Central High School gathered in the old school gymnasium for the first of its kind general alumni gathering. With relatively short notice, Normand Brault notified this elite group that several Brothers were gathering in Detroit with the desire to meet with as many former students as could be reached. A very ambitious group of volunteers produced a remarkable event, billed as a fundraiser for the earthquake devastated Brothers' schools in Haiti. Several former Brother-teachers joined in this event.

On April 20, Walsh Alumni Director, Dan Gravo, sponsored a reunion of graduates of Walsh University's School for Professional Studies (SPS) at the Cuyahoga Falls Sheraton Hotel. Br. Jerome, academic advisor for 16 years and part of the original I.D.E.A.L. staff, was a guest of honor. Impressive is the number of graduates who having obtained their own MBA are now serving as adjunct teachers in the SPS program at one of its four campuses.

In Plattsburgh, NY, the Champlain Valley Catholic Schools Alumni Association held its traditional Reunion Celebration last Memorial Day Weekend. Midday Seton Catholic Central hosted an open house. Don Recore, inheritor of the late Br. Rene Demers' title of Alumni Director, hosted the dinner at the Elks Lodge on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain. Former MAI principal Br. Francis Blouin was the guest of honor.

Br. Herve Zamor, Haitian Provincial, Visits the US

During the week of June 3, Notre Dame Province welcomed Brother Herve Zamor, the provincial of the FIC Haitian Province of St. Louis Gonzaga. His visit to the US was occasioned by his sponsored participation in the Washington, D.C. June 1-3 National Solidarity Conference sponsored by the Conference of Catholic Bishops and by Catholic Relief Services.

The *One Table Many Partners* gathering was part of the effort to expand and coordinate the aid efforts that began after the January, 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Workshops for the 400 participants dealt with networking, parish twinning and other partnership projects. Miami Archbishop Wenski and a representative of the French hierarchy participated alongside the five Haitian bishops.

The oldest of 8 children, Br. Herve Zamor, a native of LaValley in the southern highlands, is a product of FIC schools. His novitiate was spent in Ciboure, France; his scholasticate took place in Ploermel, France. After a few years as a teacher in the Haitian formation houses, he furthered his studies in Europe, 3 years for a Licentiate in France and 4 years to earn a Master's in theology at the Gregorian in Rome. This was followed by 7 years as a novitiate formator, before being assigned in 2001 to the scholasticate in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In 2010 he was appointed provincial of the FIC province in Haiti. Counting his



Br. Zamor with Alfred's Br. Robert Michaud, one of several American FICs who worked in Haiti for weeks and for years as in the case of Brothers Marcel Syvestre and the late Paul Bolduc and Edward Harrison.

eight novices, he is responsible for 55 Brothers distributed in nine communities in Haiti as well as in formation in Europe and West Africa.

Accompanying Br. Zamor on his first visit to the US was Br. Marcel Sylvester. Br. Hervé enjoyed a full two days on the Walsh University campus. Br. Hervé admired the Ohio campus and was impressed by the people he met, notably Pres. Jus-seaume, Fr. Manning of the theology department and Miguel Chavez, head of the campus ministry.

Brother Herve then flew to Boston where he enjoyed a walking tour of the city with Br. Jerome before coming to Alfred. His one full day was given to visiting the various activities on the NDI campus. In exchange for several bottles of Haitian rum left for each of the US Brothers' houses, Brother Zamor received a generous donation of funds raised mainly at the Plattsburgh Saturday bingo supplemented with contributions from NDI chapel worshippers. In Plattsburgh volunteers Richard & Shirley Giguere are committed to their 50/50 weekly raffle. Br. Ray Fortin reports that \$19,500 has been raised in the past two years through their efforts.

DEAR CLARION READERS:

Notre Dame Province continues to gather donations for the ongoing reconstruction efforts of our Brothers in Haiti. Two major school restoration projects – Delmas and Jacmel – remain to be completed as funds become available. Anyone willing to share in this undertaking can forward their donation to the CLARION desk for this specific purpose.

Thank you. *Br. Jerome*

THE CLARION

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More 2012 Jubilees to be Celebrated at July Gathering



Brothers Marcel Crete and Donald Lapointe

Two Silver Jubilarians enjoy a companionship in Alfred. Together during their daily walks they reminisce about their 1952 novitiate class which they enjoyed in Oka, Quebec.

Br. Marcel Crete, born in 1933 in Barre, VT, has passed the last ten years in Alfred most of them as campus manager with a special interest in berry picking. Recently he has dealt with gradual memory loss, decreasing his interest in number of previous interests and activities. But he remains very hospitable and available, ready for a car ride and on the alert for visitors to the campus with whom he can share some of his favorite jokes always delivered with a genuine laugh.

Br. Donald Lapointe, born in Winslow, ME in 1934, continues to enthrall visitors to his remarkably large and impressive Marian collection. Except for two years, Bro. Donald has lived on the Notre Dame Institute campus since leaving home in July, 1949. He keeps rendering a number of services, beautifying several settings on campus with his plants. He enjoys the visits of numerous friends he has accumulated over the years. Now somewhat slowed down with health issues, he gives himself to a more contemplative manner of living his religious life.

Two of this year's six anniversary celebrants made their novitiate in LaPrairie, PQ, 70 years ago and remain relatively active. **Br. James Lacasse** will celebrate his 86th birthday on Dec. 17. He is completing a lengthy career as local superior, especially of the Brothers on the Walsh campus and since 1995 on the Notre Dame campus. For four decades, he diligently served as province treasurer, a task he calls his "hobby". Fortunately his mind is not going the route of his legs which have slowed him down considerably. He remains optimistic and very prayerful.



70 Years – Brothers Ernest Paquet and James Lacasse

Another Maine native, **Br. Ernest Paquet**, older by one year but younger in seniority, continues to impress all who witness the pace of his walks on the Walsh University campus in North Canton, OH. Since retiring from a lengthy teaching career, he remains employed half-time as Director of Academic Counseling. Always an avid serious reader, he shares his book summaries with his email correspondents. He is the province's justice and peace director, disseminating bulletins from a number of social activist groups monitoring such important developments as climate change and budget cuts affecting the poor.

These four, along with our golden jubilarians – Brothers Albert Heinrich and Charles Thomas - will be celebrated in Alfred at a July 22 province ceremony. We wish all six of our 2012 jubilarians many more years of great satisfaction as religious lived in good health while testifying to God's ever abiding love.

Let's go GREEN!

Many readers have asked to have THE CLARION sent to them electronically. This is an excellent idea, especially for our "snow bird" friends. Please cut the mailing flap and forward to us your email address.

Thank you for your ongoing friendship and support.

Br. Jerome Lessard, Editor

Email: _____

Ugandan Martyrs Feastday Celebrated in Waltham, MA

For the second year, several Brothers of NDI have joined the Boston area Ugandan natives in their annual celebration of the June 3 feastday of the Ugandan Martyrs. Over 250 people gathered in St. Mary's Church in Waltham for the joyously exuberant celebration of the 1:30 Mass concelebrated by over 25 Ugandan priests coming from all over the northeast. Every year a bishop is the main celebrant. This year, it was the turn of former student of the Brothers Bishop Egidio Nkaijanabwo of the Kasese Diocese.



Pictured at the June 3, 2012 gathering are Ugandan Br. Henry Monday, Bishop Ezidio and Br. Francis Blouin.

In his white cassock Bro. Henry Monday attracted much attention, especially from the participants who connected with the religious habit worn by our Brothers in East Africa. Bro. Francis Blouin was recognized with great appreciation for his work as founding principal of

Kisubi Brothers' University. These two along with Br. Jerome Lessard were guests of the 2012 Organizing Committee headed by Mr. Henry Ndawula.

The Uganda Martyrs were Christian converts who were martyred under the orders of King Mwanga II on June 3, 1886. The celebrated martyrs were mainly

pages of the king's court, recent converts under the lay leadership of Charles Lwanga. Hundred of Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, were killed during this period of persecution, but this group of 22 is especially revered for their steadfast and courageous holding on to the faith in the midst of cruel punishment.

Welcome:

Ugandan **Br. Rogers Kazibwe** is living on the NDI campus since his arrival on June 16. Unfortunately Br. Henry Monday's visa is expiring on Aug. 2 at which time he must return to Uganda.

Br. Gerard Mwebe, provincial superior of the Ugandan FIC province, will be spending early July visiting the Brothers of the American province while making contact with his two Brothers studying at Walsh University.

A new biography of Fr. John-Mary de LaMennais has been published. The English version of Br. Josu Fernandez Olabarrieta's **JEAN-MARIE DE LA MENNAIS - PATHFINDER** will be mailed to you for a suggested offering of \$10.00 to help with the postage and handling.

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