

# 2015 Jubilarians

*Anniversaries of Religious Profession*

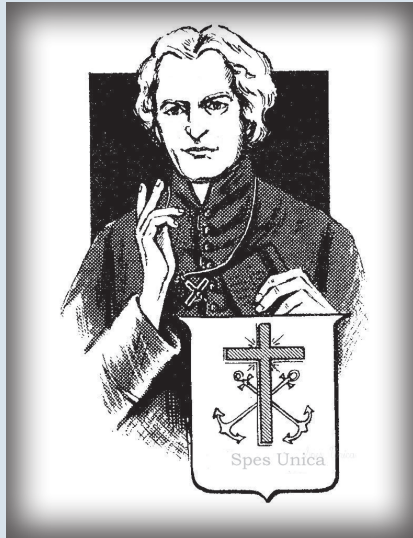


*Celebrating  
faith-filled  
lives vowed  
to God*



*Moreau Province*  
**Congregation of Holy Cross**

# Mission Statement



Moreau

In founding the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Moreau challenged his first companions to a way of life and service that would “contribute to preparing the world for better times.” This same challenge is now ours, for that contribution is as urgent today as when Father Moreau first responded to God’s call in the aftermath of the French Revolution.

As members of the Moreau Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, we strive to be “men with hope to bring” by the example of our courage in life and our competence in ministry. Ours is a “work of resurrection.” In this work, “we assist others not only to recognize and develop their own gifts but also to discover the deepest longing in their lives.” We commit ourselves to this work through our fidelity to the *Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross*, our union with one another, and our service in the church.

As community and in ministry, we “live and work as priests and brothers together” as witnesses to Father Moreau’s vision and profound hope for Holy Cross. We believe our integrity and fidelity to this way of life will hasten the better times for which our world longs. We are convinced this world can be transformed by our life and work in response to God’s grace.

In all our ministries — educational, parochial, pastoral — we “stand with the poor and afflicted,” and we “support men and women of grace and goodwill in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom.” Our choice of ministries and our continuing presence are based upon our ability to make that stand and offer that support. When we can no longer be present, our legacy continues through our colleagues.

As religious of Holy Cross, our deepest desire is to have “formed in us by God’s enablement the living likeness of Jesus Christ.” We recognize that such a formation requires a trust in God’s providential presence and activity in our lives and through our ministries, a close union with one another and with our colleagues, and an acceptance of the cross in all its forms as “our only hope.”

This is our commitment, this is our way of life. Because “we delight in our vocation, we will share it with others,” and invite them to join us in transforming this world by preparing it for better times. Together, we can advance the mission of Jesus and the mandate from Father Moreau to “make God known, loved, and served, and thus bring salvation to others.”

# 2015 Jubilarians

Anniversaries of Religious Profession

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The opening of the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross presents vivid imagery to us of our predecessors in Holy Cross as “a great band of men” whose footsteps we follow.

This year the Moreau Province celebrates the anniversaries of another “great band of men” who made the commitment to follow the Lord and to devote their lives to making Him known, loved, and served through the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In professing their vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience, these religious first responded to God’s call, and then trusted in His faithful love to keep the flame of their vocations burning over the years.

Our Jubilarians exemplify in a variety of ways what it means to be “Educators in the Faith.” As teachers in Holy Cross universities, colleges and schools, and aboard Navy ships, they have inspired generations of students to reach their fullest potential.

They have helped Christians deepen and enliven their faith through pastoral ministry. Our Jubilarians have stood with the poor and worked for peace here in the United States, Brazil and in East Africa.

They are a blessing to Holy Cross as well – they have served their own confreres in Holy Cross as formators, stewards, local superiors and in leadership roles at the Provincial and Generalate levels. In all these ministries, they have been our companions and caretakers of our common life and mission.

Let us give thanks to God for the inspiration that these Jubilarians provide for us in the many ways in which they have responded to the Lord’s call to “Come Follow Me.”

*Br. Wm. Zaydak CSC*

Br. William Zaydak, CSC  
Provincial, Moreau Province

70  
YEARS

BROTHER ELMER BRUMMER, CSC



Although born in Litchfield, Illinois on May 11, 1926, Brother grew up in small, French-Canadian farming community of Aurora, in north central Kansas, where he remembers everyone being Catholic. He was baptized William Paul Brummer at St. Peter’s Church in Aurora. He was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Salina Diocese from grade school through high school, but Brother Martinus Bombardier, CSC, two years ahead of him in high school, was the major influence in William’s decision to follow a religious vocation. Ads in the Sunday Visitor put him in contact with Brother Theophane, CSC, the vocation promoter at the time for the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province. In January 1943, William Brummer entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Watertown, Wisconsin, and on February 3, 1944 first professed vows as Brother Elmer. On August 16, 1948, Br. Elmer made his Final Profession. Graduating with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Notre Dame in June of 1948, Brother began his teaching career at St. Anthony High School, Long Beach, California. His love of the biological sciences led him to a M.S. from New Mexico Highlands University and a Ph.D. from Clemson University.

Brother states that he spent many years in the structured religious life that he was trained for as a novice, scholastic and during his teaching years in the high schools of the Holy Cross congregation. The Second Vatican Council brought challenges to the traditional way of religious life for him. His shift to teaching college courses at St. Edward’s University and later, doing research in the area of immunology helped him make the necessary adjustments in his religious life. Brother has been affiliated with numerous medical research centers and has published research articles on infectious diseases and immune systems.

On the occasion of Br. Elmer’s 50th Anniversary of Religious Profession, Brother Richard Critz, CSC, Provincial, wrote: “As my own teacher, as a research scientist, mentor, and international presenter, you have worked steadily and quietly, never seeking the spotlight. You have always maintained as your primary focus your



SPES UNICA

*“We pronounce our vows in a moment, but living them for the sake of the kingdom is the work of a lifetime.”*

— Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross 6:57



identity as a religious brother, keeping faithful to your religious exercises and doing your part to foster community life.”

Br. Elmer retired to the St. Joseph Hall Community on the Campus of St. Edward’s University. When he is not keeping up with the latest research in microbiology, especially disease-causing agents, he can be found outdoors camping in the wilds of Texas.

70  
YEARS

**BROTHER ALVIN OUELLETTE, CSC**



On October 24, 1925 in Haverhill, Massachusetts, a baby boy was born to Anthime and Laurenzina Ouellette. The following day, he was baptized Clement Rock Louis Ouellette in St. Joseph Church, Haverhill, Massachusetts. He was ably taught by the Marist Brothers at St. Joseph Grammar School and then attended Haverhill High School, graduating in 1943. He entered St. Joseph Juniorate in Valatie, New York in June of 1943, and was received into the novitiate of Our Lady of Holy Cross in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts in January of 1944. The following January, he made first vows, receiving the religious name of Alvin.

Brother Alvin relates that he became familiar with the Congregation of Holy Cross when he attended the reception of the habit, and the first profession of his brother Olbert in 1938. Another one of his brothers was professed in 1939 as Brother Emilius, later changing his name to Brother Roy.

After his own first profession in 1945, Br. Alvin went on the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1948 with a B.S. in Physical Science. He followed with a M.A. in Math Education from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. From 1948 to 1987, Brother taught at the Holy Cross schools in Evansville, Indiana, Terre Haute, Indiana, Taunton, Massachusetts, West Haven, Connecticut and Rochester, New York. Br. Alvin also taught in Uganda, East Africa at St. Augustine in Butiiti and at St. Leo’s College in Fort Portal.

In 1987, Brother took up the caring ministry when he was appointed Assistant Director of St. Louis Assisted Living Community in West Haven, Connecticut. In summer of 1996, when assisted living

care was transferred to St. Joseph Center, Valatie, New York, Brother moved there. Now in retirement at St. Joseph Center, he keeps himself busy driving Brothers to near-by doctors’ appointments and keeps up with the latest electronic technology.

65  
YEARS

**BROTHER LOUIS COE, CSC**



A true son of the Crescent City, Louis William Coe was born in New Orleans on December 28, 1931 to Edward Clarence Coe and Augusta Johnson Coe. He was baptized on January 17, 1932 at St. James Major Church in New Orleans, and graduated from St. James Grammar School in 1944. Taught by the Brothers of Holy Cross at the Holy Cross School in New Orleans, he graduated from there in June of 1948, and entered Sacred Heart College in Watertown, Wisconsin, as a candidate in the Congregation of Holy Cross. In February of 1949, he became a novice at St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and made his first profession of vows on February 2, 1950.

Brother Louis then began studies at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1953. That same year, he pronounced his final vows as a Brother of Holy Cross. He then started his many years of teaching ministry, first at St. Edward’s High School in Austin, moving on to Notre Dame High School in Biloxi, Mississippi, and then finishing eight years at Archbishop Curley High School in Miami, Florida, in 1960, before spending a year in the South-West Province’s mission in Brazil. In the summer of 1969, Brother returned to the Holy Cross School in New Orleans for a year before serving at Moreau High School in Hayward, California. In 1971, he returned to the Holy Cross School in New Orleans as Assistant Principal and Director of Studies. In 1973, Br. Louis left secondary education to teach at St. Edward’s University.

At several schools, Br. Louis coached soccer and tennis and served as Athletic Director. But, everywhere he has lived, one of his most energetic contributions has been as a grounds-engineer, from



running gang-mowers over athletic fields to tending gardens with his “green thumb.”

In 2000, when he celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Religious Profession, Br. Louis also began his 25th year of teaching Math at St. Edward’s University. While at St. Edward University, he was Superior of the Brothers’ community on campus at St. Joseph Hall, 1981–1987, and for many years was the bookkeeper at the Brothers’ residence and a regular on the University’s tennis courts. Retiring from teaching at the University in 2003, Br. Louis continued to live at St. Joseph Hall until health issues precipitated a move to the Brother Vincent Pieau Residence in Austin, Texas, in December of 2014.

**65**  
YEARS  
**BROTHER THOMAS FREY, CSC**



Born in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 20, 1930, Thomas John Frey was baptized six days later at St. James Church in the White Oak section of Cincinnati. He was the fifth of the seven children born to Norbert and Edna Frey. Thomas attended St. James elementary school and graduated from Roger Bacon High School, taught by Franciscan priests and brothers, in 1948. That summer, while working in his father’s grocery store, Thomas overheard a conversation between his dad and a Holy Cross Brother, Ligouri Denier, who was on vacation from his ministry in Bangladesh. That conversation inspired Thomas to write to Brother Eymard in Watertown, Wisconsin, requesting an application to join the Brothers of Holy Cross.

He entered the candidate program at Sacred Heart College in Watertown on September 7, 1948, and the novitiate program at St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana on February 1, 1949. He made first profession as a Holy Cross Brother on February 2, 1950 and final profession of vows on August 16, 1953.

Brother Thomas earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1953 from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, and immediately began a teaching career that, over the years, took him to Holy Cross schools in New Orleans, Chicago, Austin, and to Long Beach, Mountain

View, Hayward and Sherman Oaks in California. During the summers, he took advantage of National Science Foundation grants to earn a Master of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1966. He has mainly taught classes in mathematics, physics and religion.

Br. Thomas noted two Holy Cross members who had a great influence on his life as a religious. First was his Novice Master, Brother Nicholas Ochs, CSC, whose conferences and lifestyle touched a sensitive cord in Br. Thomas’ spiritual life. Then, as a student-Brother on the campus of Notre Dame, he came into contact with Fr. James McElhone, CSC, who became his spiritual director. Br. Thomas has a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament since his novitiate. There, while making a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, he experienced a grace-filled moment that strengthened him in his vocation as a Holy Cross Brother, now celebrating 65 years as a religious.

Br. Thomas retired to the Brother Vincent Pieau Residence in Austin, Texas, in 2006. He remains very active there as Chapel sacristan and bringing Holy Communion to the sick.

**65**  
YEARS  
**BROTHER JOHN McLAUGHLIN, CSC**



Born on August 27, 1930, a cool day in Fargo, North Dakota, to Raymond McLaughlin and Mayme Sundquist McLaughlin, he was baptized John Thomas a month later at St. Anthony Church in Fargo. Following his elementary education at St. Mary’s Cathedral School in Fargo, John entered Sacred Heart Academy, a co-educational school of 350 students, in Fargo and graduated in June of 1948.

During his senior year of high school, John, along with nine of his classmates, belonged to YCS, a Catholic Action group. That experience kick-started his interest in religious life. John remembers his decision in the fall of 1948 to enter the postulate for the Congregation of Holy Cross at Sacred Heart College in Watertown, Wisconsin. He considered that if he bought a round trip train ticket,





he would receive a one-third rebate on the ticket if he returned to Fargo within 90 days. Instead, he bought a one-way ticket to Watertown and has never regretted it for a minute.

After completing postulancy, John traveled to the Holy Cross Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, in January of 1949 and was received as a novice into the Congregation of Holy Cross on February 1, 1949. Brother John made his first profession of vows on February 2, 1950 and final profession on August 16, 1953.

Following first profession, he went on to the University of Notre Dame, in Notre Dame, Indiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in June of 1953. His teaching career began at Notre Dame High School, in West Haven, Connecticut, in fall of 1953. He earned a Master's in Education from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, California, in July 1964, which was quickly utilized in his numerous assignments as Principal or Assistant Principal in a number of Holy Cross schools. Br. John's love for religious life as seen in his prayer and community life made him a frequent choice for religious superior in many of the Holy Cross community houses.

Working on the Great Northern Railway in the summer months during his high school years, gave Br. John a sense of "trekking" miles. Since then, Br. John has trekked a lot of miles across the U.S. from West Haven, Connecticut, to Long Beach, Mountain View, Chatsworth, California, New Orleans, Louisiana, Hayward, California, Beaumont, Texas and now Austin, Texas. Along the way, he has always been quick to make friends among faculty, students, parents and especially, his fellow religious in Holy Cross.

In 2002, when his elder sister was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Br. John moved to Loveland, Colorado, to help her working daughter care for her. For one and half years, he delighted in the role of "house boy," taking on domestic chores of cooking, cleaning and doing the laundry. Returning to the Province Center in Austin, Texas in 2004, Br. John expressed gratitude to the Community for allowing him time to accompany his sister.

In 2007, Br. John retired to the Brother Vincent Pieau Residence in Austin, Texas, where he continues to enjoy community life. Health issues may have slowed him down a little, but he still plays cribbage each day after lunch and enjoys listening to barbershop quartet music.

At any community gathering, you can count on him to be the one most likely to burst out in song!

65

YEARS

## BROTHER HAROLD NAUDET, CSC



When asked recently why he decided to begin his journey of religious life in Holy Cross, Brother Harold replied, "I've come to discern, to check it out, to see if it is God's will for my life. So far, so good. But, give us some time! We're still working on it."

Harold Glen Naudet was born on January 27, 1928 in Coffeyville, Kansas. His parents, Patrick Thomas Naudet and Frances Josephine Deckert, were originally from Oklahoma. Harold was baptized at Holy Name Church on February 14, 1928. He graduated from St. Joseph's Grammar School and Field Kindley Memorial High School, both in his home town.

In June of 1945, Harold entered Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Missouri. At the time, his expressed professional goal was to become a teacher, but mostly he took courses that seemed interesting to him. His senior year at Rockhurst was especially memorable because he experienced a spiritual conversion and began a new prayer life.

As graduation approached, one classmate after another surprised him by revealing that they were entering either religious life or the diocesan priesthood. Harold began to wonder if God might also be calling him. Expecting the information to come in a unmarked, brown envelope to avoid any embarrassment to the recipient, he answered a small ad for the Brothers of Holy Cross in *The National Catholic Reporter*. The information came, along with a visit from Brother Eymard, vocation director for the Brothers, who was visiting other students at Rockhurst.

Harold had strong family concerns before entering the Brothers of Holy Cross. When his mother passed away, he assumed some key responsibilities in the family. But in June 1949, after graduating from Rockhurst College, Harold went, with his father's blessing, to the candidacy program in Watertown, Wisconsin and was accepted as a



novice at the Holy Cross Novitiate in Rolling, Prairie, Indiana, on August 15, 1949. Brother Harold made his first profession of vows on August 16, 1950, and his final profession of vows on August 16, 1953.

After first profession of vows, since he already had an undergraduate degree, Br. Harold was sent to Austin, Texas, to live at Vincent Hall, the young Brothers' residence on the campus of St. Edward's University. He had a full schedule of teaching at St. Edward's High School, in the Main Building of the University, and since he was fluent in Spanish, he was put in charge of the high school boarders from Latin-America.

In 1955, Br. Harold was assigned to teach at St. Anthony High School, Long Beach, California. In 1961, he was asked to consider serving the South-West Province's mission in Brazil. With his positive response, Br. Harold began his many years of service in Brazil.

For over two decades, Ir. Haroldo taught at Colégio Dom Amando in Santarém. Since that time, he served in pastoral ministry in Mauá and in the Diocese of Pernambuco attending to the spiritual and physical needs of the poor. For a year, he was the coordinator for Family Rosary ministry at Casa Notre Dame in Campinas. Currently, in Santarém, Ir. Haroldo is involved in a ministry of inner healing and offers spiritual direction.

Seeking God's will is a constant pursuit for Brother Harold, even after 65 years as a religious of Holy Cross. For our part, his Brothers can confirm his call: "So far, so good!"

## 65 YEARS

### PADRE JOSÉ PRADO, CSC



The ministry of Catholic Action and the sense of modernity expressed by the Holy Cross Religious in the São Paulo area of Brazil brought a seminarian for the Diocese of São Carlos to enter the Congregation of Holy Cross.

José was born on November 14, 1930 in the city of Jaú which is in the interior of the state of São Paulo to Bento Prado, a coffee grower and later a teacher of Latin and Portuguese, and Almeida Ferraz e Scintilla do Amaral, a housewife. He was

baptized José Amaral de Almeida Prado, and later confirmed at Our Lady of Patricino Church of the Diocese of São Carlos in the city of Jaú. José was the seventh of ten children, having an equal number of brothers and sisters. He informs us that all of his sisters are alive, and one of them is a religious of the Fraternity of Jesus, a religious institute founded on the spirituality of Charles de Foucauld.

Educated in the local public schools, he entered the minor seminary of São Paulo while he was still very young, finishing his secondary education in 1947. He then entered the Congregation of Holy Cross as a postulant and completed his philosophy in the minor seminary. In 1949, he traveled to Canada to enter the novitiate of the Holy Cross French Canadian Province and made his first profession of vows on August 16, 1950 at Pointe Claire, Québec. His study of theology was at Saint Genevieve de Pierre Frond in the Province of Québec. After his ordination in 1953, he returned to Brazil to study and earned a degree in Latin Languages at the University of São Paulo while teaching Latin, Portuguese and religion at Colégio Santa Cruz. He was named Director of Colégio Santa Cruz in 1963. Following a sabbatical year 1968-1969, Pe. José was a professor at the University of the State of São Paulo until retiring that position in 1985. It was during his teaching at the University, he earned a highly regarded doctoral degree in Archaic Portuguese Language from the University, in 1975. But, not his entire ministry has been in education. He has been involved in religious formation as director of Holy Cross postulants during the decade of 1980-1990, was District Superior, has worked among the basic Christian communities in the suburb of Pirituba, which is part of the greater city of São Paulo, and assisted groups of couples in preparations for the sacrament of marriage. Since 2000, he has been at Colégio Santa Cruz as a spiritual counselor. He relates enjoy celebrating daily Mass for the students and faculty and leading weekly biblical studies. Colégio Santa Cruz has published a book of his homilies for the liturgical years of A, B and C, and looks to publish future ones. After 65 years as a Holy Cross religious, Pe. José says he is looking forward to many more years in his retirement ministry to those at Colégio Santa Cruz.



# 65

YEARS

## BROTHER JOSEPH ZUTELIS, CSC



Looking back to his early days at Sacred Heart Grammar School, New Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Brother Joseph recalls a remote attraction to religious life prompted by the suggestions of the Sisters to all of their students to consider a vocation in the Church. The attraction began to wane in his high school years and drifted far off once he graduated from Blythe High School in Cumbola, Pennsylvania, in June of 1940. After passing a Civil Service Examination, he found secure employment in Washington, D.C. He envisioned having the life of a government worker for the next 30 years until retirement. But, this was not to be the case. As he began his years of civil service went by, Joseph felt that something was missing. He had come to understand that he wanted a deeper experience of God's presence in his life. He responded to this grace by seeking information on religious congregations and orders. A priest at his parish in Washington gave him the name of the head of the Holy Cross Seminary at Catholic University, Fr. Bernard Ransing, CSC, who put him in touch with Brother Silvan Mellett CSC, vocation director for the Brothers of Holy Cross. In March 1949, Joseph entered the Holy Cross Juniorate in Valatie, New York.

On August 15 of that year, he entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Valatie, making his first profession of vows on August 16, 1950, and his final profession on August 16, 1954. Following first vows in 1950, Brother Joseph was sent to the University of Notre Dame, but due to overcrowding in the Brothers' house of studies, he was reassigned to St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Commercial Studies in January of 1953. Br. Joseph then began his ministry of education in numerous Holy Cross schools across the United States and Rome, Italy.

Br. Joseph's first teaching assignment was at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he began teaching commercial accounting, but when the need arose for a senior English teacher, and with the encouragement of Br. Pedro Haering, CSC, Superior-Principal, Br. Joseph jumped right in. Over the years, many students have benefitted from his love of English literature. During his years at

Cathedral, he developed expertise in the College Entrance Exam/SAT and as a result was appointed head of the language section of the Indiana English Curriculum Revision Committee. From Cathedral High School, he went to teach at Holy Cross High School, Flushing, New York, and Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Connecticut, before being assigned to Notre Dame International School in Rome, Italy in the summer of 1969. Traveling back and forth from Rome during the summers, he completed a Masters of Arts degree in summer of 1977, from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.

Due to the mentoring and friendship of Br. John Thornton, CSC, Headmaster at the International School, Br. Joseph was able to explore Europe during his time of ministry in Rome. He credits this experience for nurturing his interest in art and music and for improving his teaching. His love of music found expression in playing the piano, and he even studied under a renowned pianist. Later injuries to fingers on both of his hands brought an end to this pursuit.

Leaving Rome in the summer of 1986, Br. Joseph returned to his home town, New Philadelphia in the southwest anthracite regions of Pennsylvania. There he assisted his ailing sister until her death in 2007. He retired to live first with the Brothers at Holy Cross High School Flushing, New York, and then moved to St. Joseph Center in Valatie, New York, making the complete circle of his religious journey in Holy Cross.

# 60

YEARS

## BROTHER STANLEY CULOTTA, CSC



It was when Brother Stanley entered the Holy Cross School in New Orleans that the thought of religious life became more focused. He was friendly with the Frey family who had two sons already ordained and two more in the seminary. The value and challenges of religious life and the need for more men to pursue a religious vocation were common conversation topics. During his high school years, there were many presentations





by vocation promoters from various religious communities. In his senior year, he began thinking more seriously about ministering in the foreign missions and about brothers in contemplative communities doing maintenance and yard work, both of which he enjoyed. So, why not do these things as a Brother? He filled out a response card given during a vocation presentation. That resulted in a conversation with Brother Fisher Iwasko, CSC, the vocation promoter at the Holy Cross School. Thus, began his relationship in the Brothers of Holy Cross.

Stanley Leo Culotta was born on September 25, 1936 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Frank Herbert Culotta and Loretta Lacourriere. He was baptized on October 11, 1936, at St. Leo the Great Church in New Orleans, and while in St. James Major parish grammar school, received the sacrament of confirmation. Graduating from St. James Major, he went on to the Holy Cross School. Following graduation in June of 1954, he entered the Brothers of Holy Cross Juniorate in Watertown, Wisconsin, and the Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, on August 15, 1954. He made his first profession of religious vows on August 16, 1955, and final vows on August 16, 1958.

After taking first vows, Brother Stanley left Rolling Prairie to begin college studies at the University of Notre Dame, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in June of 1958. His first teaching assignment initiated a lifelong relationship with Holy Cross High School, San Antonio, Texas. From the fall of 1958 through the summer of 1973, he was a classroom teacher of math and science, assistant principal and then principal. After 15 years, the desire to enter the medical profession became a reality when, at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, he took pre-med courses that allowed him to become a medical student at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio from 1974 to 1978. He completed his residency at McAllen General Hospital from 1978 through 1981. In July 1981, Dr. Stanley Culotta, M.D. opened the Holy Cross Center offering medical, legal and social services in the area around Holy Cross High School. His medical career was one of the turning points in his life. When asked if he has left education behind for medical school, he replied absolutely not, "education is most important for everyone." With that being said, Br. Stanley experienced another

turning point in his life by returning to teach at Holy Cross High School in 1995, becoming principal once again in 1996, and President in 2001 to the present. Over the past four years, he has not ceased in his efforts to seek State legislation to assist parents in paying for their children education in non-public schools.

Over his years in Holy Cross, Br. Stanley remembers Br. Benedict Gervais, CSC, his physics teacher in high school, as the best teacher he has ever had. He also delights in remembering a three day trip from San Antonio of Mathuala, Mexico, with a group of Brothers on a communal vacation when they encountered a group of gypsies as well as having a great time in the town's cantinas. Looking back and ahead, Br. Stanley states, "Each Jubilee we celebrate does not mean a lessening of our involvement in the mission of the Congregation. Our role might change, but there is no time limit to our support of the mission of the Congregation."

60

YEARS

## BROTHER FRANCIS ELLIS, CSC



Brother Francis was born on December 23, 1936 in West Haven, Connecticut, to Frank R. Ellis, a detective, and Alma East Ellis, a teacher and principal. The second of their four sons, he was baptized Francis Raymond Ellis in St. Mary's parish in West Haven on January 10, 1937. He started his elementary education first at Ivy Street Public school and finished at St. John the Evangelist, both schools in New Haven before going on to Notre Dame High School in West Haven.

He began thinking about becoming a Brother during his sophomore year at Notre Dame, and decided to "give it a try" early in his senior year. He admired the way the Brothers at the school lived, taught and interacted with the students. He especially remembers Brothers Eldred, Pierre, Melanus, Germanus, Felician and Tom Keefe. With his determination and direction set, he applied and entered the Holy Cross Juniorate in Valatie, New York, in June of 1954 following his graduation from Notre Dame High School. He was received into St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana, on August 15, 1954 and



made first profession of vows on August 16, 1955 and final vows on August 23, 1958.

Brother Francis left Rolling Prairie for Notre Dame, Indiana, following first profession to begin his college preparations for teaching. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame in August 1958, and the following year, began graduate studies at Siena College, in Loudonville, New York, earning a Master of Arts degree in 1961. Both degrees prepared him to teach Latin, math and history over the years in the Holy Cross high schools in Massachusetts and New York State, and in Rome, Italy, and at St. Mary's Seminary in Fort Portal, Uganda. Recognized for educational leadership, he became principal at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Rhode Island, and later at Cardinal Mooney High School in Rochester, New York. Returning from Notre Dame International School in Rome, Italy, in 1991, he began a Master of Science degree in Administration at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, with a concentration in business accounting. Earning this degree assisted him as he became business manager for Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, from 1993 until 2005.

Br. Francis recounts the many memorable experiences over the years of his educational ministry: the rebirth of Bishop McNamara High School over the last 25 years, the consistency of Bishop Hendricken as an outstanding high school before and after the transition of administration by the Brothers, his seven years as principal of Cardinal Mooney High School, teaching and coaching football at Holy Cross High School, Flushing, New York, and his overseas teaching experiences.

Br. Francis is, as he states, "semi-retired" at Columba Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. He drives members of Columba Hall to various medical appointments or community celebrations. As Assistant Superior at Columba, he takes in all that the university has to offer including athletic events, lectures, cultural events and playing golf for free at the two university courses. He says, "I plan to keep doing most of these things for the next decade or so with God's blessings."

60

YEARS

## BROTHER CHARLES BARRETT JOHNSTON, CSC



In his younger days, Brother Charles Johnston, CSC, thought that he had found a home in the Navy. As the only rated Electronic Technician aboard the USS Turner, his job was quite secure. He relished disappointing his shipmates by not getting seasick, even after a second helping of beans and ham fat for breakfast. And although he had to sleep face down with his arms wrapped around a too-short bed to keep from rolling off his bunk in stormy weather, Navy life was pretty good.

Still, when his Executive Officer asked him to reenlist, Charles asked for a few moments to think about it. As he strolled about the Turner deck, he foresaw what his next job assignment would likely be. Someone would have to climb up the masts and scrape off the black paint mistakenly sprayed on all the antennae insulators. Says Br. Charles: "I went back into the office and asked for a discharge. I came that close to spending the rest of my life in the Navy."

Over the next few years, Charles completed an undergraduate degree in Chemistry, then a minor in Industrial Arts Education. He was teaching Electricity and Electronics at a high school in his home state of Washington, when he finally decided to follow up on his interest in religious life, sparked earlier while on a retreat. He wrote to all the religious orders suggested by his pastor and received responses from Holy Cross and the Franciscans. Prompted by Brother Eymard Salzman, CSC, he visited the religious community at the University of Portland and found a new home in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Charles entered the candidate program at Watertown, WI. Here, he picks up the story: "Entered the novitiate in January of 1954 in Rolling Prairie and after a year was put back to work teaching and living the religious life. I was happy with the situation." Since Br. Charles already had a college degree plus teaching experience, he was able to short circuit the scholastic years and go directly into the classroom.

For over 50 years, Br. Charles served the education mission of



Holy Cross, teaching science, physics, chemistry, mechanical drawing, computing, and mathematics from algebra through trigonometry. His high school assignments took him to South Bend, Long Beach and Sherman Oaks, and twice to Biloxi and Mountain View. He took on the roles of Dean of Students, Director of Facilities, and religious superior of the local community.

As Br. Charlie recalls these experiences, he mentally tracks the repairs and improvements he made in each place, wearing his trademark tool belt: fixing the heating system, rewiring a scoreboard, maintaining the swimming pool, pulling computer lines, etc.

In his personal Chronology is this entry: "1989-1996 Transferred to St. Joseph's Farm, Granger, IN, appointed Superior, assigned to help feed and bed cattle." At times, a wistful Br. Charles will say that those were his happiest years, that all he ever wanted to do was work on a farm. As was true with all of his handyman work, completing his chores there, doing the job well, even the same job every day, was a source of much satisfaction.

Perhaps because the rewards are less apparent, Br. Charlie has always greatly underestimated the impact he had on his students, inside and outside of the classroom, as a hard-working, resourceful, demanding but caring teacher, and a faithful religious brother.

Always wanting to do more, Br. Charles maintains a ministry of letter writing, readily engages with his brothers in community and stays grounded in his vocation through long hours in chapel. Celebrating 60 years of religious life this year, he can still say: "I'm happy with the situation."

60  
YEARS

## BROTHER LEO LEGENDRE, CSC



A Waterbury, Connecticut, native born to Leo Joseph Legendre and Mary Margaret Loughlin Legendre on March 30, 1935, he was the oldest of their three sons. He was baptized with the name of his father, Leo Joseph in May at St. Margaret's Church, and later confirmed in Blessed Sacrament Church in Waterbury. His early education was split between two

Waterbury schools, first Notre Dame Academy and then Bunker Hill Grammar School, before going on the Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury.

It was during his sophomore year in high school that one of his friends on the swim team went to a summer camp run by Brothers. He returned praising the Brothers. This sparked an interest in religious brotherhood that peaked in Leo's senior year during a men's retreat where he made the decision to become a teaching brother. Applying and being accepted into the candidacy program for the Brothers of Holy Cross in Valatie, New York, in September of 1953, he was then received into St. Joseph Novitiate on January 25, 1954. He made first profession of vows in January of 1955 and final profession in August of 1958. Following first profession, Brother Leo began an extensive history of collegiate studies at various colleges and universities over many years. It began first at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, but earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from St. John's University, followed by a Master of Science in Education from Siena College, Loudonville, New York, and ended in 1993 by taking courses in business at Monroe College, in New Rochelle, New York.

The desire to teach was realized first in 1956 at St. Francis Grammar School, in Brooklyn, New York. High school teaching followed in the Holy Cross schools in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Texas and ended in the summer of 1979 after serving as History teacher and Department Chair at St. Joseph High School, Notre Dame, Indiana, since 1972. Br. Leo's ministry went in another direction after two years of personal spiritual renewal programs. He began working for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, in their Urban Affairs Office from 1981 until 1986. Then Br. Leo again changed ministerial directions with his relationship with Program for Afloat College Education of the U.S. Navy, (PACE).

Br. Leo was now the Brother on board, doing three tours of duty and one in dry dock in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, teaching college credit history courses and visiting various countries. Br. Leo states, "Going around the world was a fascinating experience. I did not know what to expect. I supplied myself with a good number of



sickness patches, but I never got to use any.” Brother retired from the high seas in 1997 to live with the Holy Cross community in Flushing, New York. Eventually, with health issues increasing in his life, he retired to St. Joseph Center in Valatie, New York. Br. Leo enjoys the fellowship of his Brothers in Holy Cross and the spiritual dimension in his life through spiritual reading and the influence of Father Robert DeLeon, CSC, Chaplain at the Center, thus bringing about full circle his religious journey as a Brother of Holy Cross.

60

YEARS

**BROTHER PETER MULLETT, CSC**



A student of history, Brother Peter Mullett, CSC, strives to keep everything in proper perspective. His vantage point of 60 years in religious life gives him a long view, spanning years of dramatic changes in the Church and the modern world. Skilled at drilling down below surface appearances, Br. Peter can easily be prompted to share his detailed, factual knowledge of a wide range of historic and topical events, but he is as modest as St. Joseph in recounting his own life of distinguished service as a Brother of Holy Cross.

He simply says: “My professional life revolved around the classroom and administrative responsibilities. The Brothers of Holy Cross provided me with an excellent education capped by a Master’s degree from Notre Dame University. I taught in high schools across the United States and our American boarding school in Rome, Italy. I was principal of Holy Cross High School in San Antonio for nine years. I have taught American and European history, which broadened my interest in numerous fields of study. Since retirement from the schools in 2006, I enjoy researching the history of current events to better appreciate the moral, political and economic issues of our times. Along with other brothers, I also make time to be of service to the community by providing transportation to medical appointments, shopping, etc.”

This simple account could easily be amplified by his Brothers in Holy Cross. An energetic promoter of academic excellence

throughout his career in education, Br. Peter still maintains high standards. He is a generous, thoughtful, dependable contributor to the life of the Brother Vincent Pieau community, where his quiet service is provided with courteous refinement.

Still, putting his life in perspective, Br. Peter sorts out what is truly important. “In the more hidden dimension of my spiritual journey, I tried to absorb the principles and example of the religious life taught in the early days of my novitiate and scholastic training of a vowed life lived in the tradition of the Brothers of Holy Cross. A life lived in a community of men praying together each day at Morning Prayer, Mass and Vespers, and in private prayer at other times to deepen one’s spiritual life. This is the part of my life from which there is no retirement, it describes more who I am rather than what I do.

“Every life follows the ebb and flow of success and failure, requiring renewed commitment and resolve. I view my years in religious life in a vertical rather than a horizontal context; reflecting the times in my life when I lived closer to the ideals I aspired to, compared to the periods of preoccupation with matters of less consequence.

“Thanks to the Brothers of Holy Cross, the opportunity lies before me to proceed on my journey to explore the mysteries of an apophatic spirituality knowing that my labors are totally dependent on God’s grace.”

60

YEARS

**BROTHER BENJAMIN SUNDAY, CSC**



Reflecting on the roots of his vocation, Brother Benjamin states, “Religious life attracted me from my very early years. However, I kept delaying making a decision. Why? Well, that was ‘the way it was.’ I entered military service, and after that worked in the business world, making a decision to enter religious life when I was in my 30’s.” Before entering Holy Cross, it was obvious to him that highly successful people that he met were not truly happy. He recognized that true happiness was to be found only in God.



Born to parents of Polish descent, Thomas Mielcarz and Mary Sadaj on July 28, 1922, in Meriden, Connecticut, he was the youngest of their three sons. He was baptized Benjamin Stanley Sunday in St. Stanislaus Church in Meriden. He attended St. Mary's elementary school and was taught by the Felician Sisters who had a great influence on his early spiritual life. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Middletown, Connecticut, in June of 1940.

Military service followed, and upon being honorably discharged, he entered the business world.

He worked as an office manager, bank operator and payroll manager between the years 1947 and 1954. In June of 1954 that he made the decision about religious life and applied to the candidacy program for the Brothers of Holy Cross in Valatie, New York. The following August, he entered St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, and made first profession of religious vows on August 16, 1955, and final profession on August 23, 1958.

Leaving Rolling Prairie after first profession, Brother Benjamin traveled to St. Edward's University to begin his undergraduate studies. In summer of 1956, he was sent to Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Connecticut, the only assignment he has had in his life as a Holy Cross Brother. At Notre Dame High School, he taught typing and religion to countless young men. He worked in the school office, but perhaps he is best known for running the school's bookstore and organizing the school's annual Christmas Fair which began in 1959, and continued under his supervision until this past December.

After ministering to students, alumni, parents and friends of the high school for 58 years,

Br. Benjamin retired to St. Joseph Center in Valatie, New York, last fall. He writes from St. Joseph Center: "During my religious life I've really had only one major assignment, West Haven, CT, for 58 years. During that time the people I worked with and came in contact with left a lasting impression. Their spirit of loyalty to Notre Dame High School and to Holy Cross was a sustaining factor for me. Many of them were with me during my entire 58 years. The people supported the Brothers and shared with them what they had."

50  
YEARS

## BROTHER JAMES BRANIGAN, CSC



In the fall of 1963, after numerous conversations with some of the Brothers at Vincentian Institute, James Branigan decided to simply apply for the beginning experience on the road to becoming a Holy Cross Brother. He was so positively affected by the Brothers' caring for others that he could not help but see them as models for life - his life. A life of outreach and service to others attracted James and increased the faith life that his Mom and Dad instilled in him.

James was the third child of seven born to James Branigan and Helen Weaver Branigan on November 3, 1946 in Albany, New York. Baptized, confirmed and educated in Albany, James graduated from Vincentian Institute in June of 1964 to then enter the same month into the candidacy program for the Brothers of Holy Cross at St. Joseph Juniorate in Valatie, New York. He was received into St. Joseph Novitiate in Valatie on August 22, 1964, and professed first vows in August of 1965. He made final profession on August 18, 1973.

Following first profession, Brother James began his academic studies at Stonehill College in North Easton, Massachusetts, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in June of 1969. He then began what would turn out to be a lifelong ministerial relationship with Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Connecticut, beginning from 1969-1979, where he organized student government, assisted with the Fathers' Club and coached track and cross-country. His love for running developed in his own high school years. The years 1979-1995 were spent in ministry at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, New York, as a religion teacher, guidance counselor and principal before returning to Notre Dame High School in West Haven. During his ministry in Flushing, Br. James earned a Master's of Science degree in Religious Education from Fordham University and a Master's of Science degree in Secondary Education from St. John's College, in Queens, New York. He renewed his relationship with Notre Dame High School in West Haven first as Principal in 1995, then President from 1996 until the present day. During these years, he is credited





with overseeing the development of an academic program for the 21st century and significant improvements in the school's facilities.

Br. James states that in his life as a Brother, he has had many wonderful memorable experiences. Along his religious life journey, the support and friendship of so many, family included, have kept him "going." So many Brothers has been a Brother to him. As he continues in community and ministry, he feels he still has the energy for educational outreach for the young people of today, especially for those who might otherwise be "lost." Quoting him, "Fifty years of all of this is simply amazing!"

50  
YEARS

## BROTHER JEROME DAVID DONNELLY, CSC



It was just a homework assignment for a sophomore religion class. Who would have guessed that such an insignificant mustard seed would take root and grow in a receptive soul, eventually overtaking that garden "with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade?" Far have those branches extended through ministry, touching many lives since Brother Jerome Donnelly, CSC, first took vows as a Brother of Holy Cross fifty years ago.

The project was simple: research a religious community and present the information in class. Jerome picked Holy Cross out of the *Guideposts* booklet and sent a request for information. The literature came; he received an "A" for his excellent report, but he was left somewhat "intrigued by the notion of 'Brothers' living and working together." And even though he eventually asked to be taken off their mailing list, Holy Cross persisted in maintaining contact and sending vocation information.

About a year after graduating from high school, when Jerome was working and taking classes and asking himself serious questions about his future, the mustard seedling broke through the tilled soil. "I became convinced that I was 'called' to the religious life, and the desire to respond to that call began to grow and grow." Jerome was able to draw upon the inspiration of his religious teachers and the

support of his family, but ultimately he says, "I believe to this moment that it was the Lord's doing, and so it continues to be."

Br. Jerome's talents have generously and capably advanced the mission of Holy Cross in teaching and youth work, guidance and counseling, formation, and in provincial and school administration. In service, the canopy of the mustard tree covers the United States from coast to coast and extends overseas to Rome. And those branches provide the shade of gracious hospitality, good humor, and fond memories to the many good friends made along the way.

The concept of Brothers living and working together, the notion that first intrigued Br. Jerome, has only continued to grow in importance. "A strong sense of support and inspiration is offered by the Brothers I have come to know and very much love over the years, many of whom continue with great patience and prayers to be faithful to our call. I am grateful for their example."

Fidelity to his religious vocation is a persistent call for Br. Jerome. As the Constitutions say, "We pronounce our vows in a moment, but living them for the sake of the kingdom is the work of a lifetime." His participation in the LeMans Spirituality Program "was a great experience and helped me, once again, to cement my desire to be a Holy Cross Brother. Coming to know the historical roots of the Congregation and the internationality of the membership was most meaningful for me."

In these later years, Br. Jerome values the time he has to reflect, pray and to be quiet, but not so quiet that he won't toss a few mustard seeds into new gardens with the advice: "Stay firm in your conviction and in your response to God's call. Continue to pray for an increase in the desire to be a religious."



50  
YEARS

**BROTHER JOHN GLEASON, CSC**



“I have been blessed with a remarkable life in Holy Cross. Over the years, my various ministries have taken me a long way from South Philly – I have literally ‘seen the world.’ I have been asked to do things I would never have imagined nor attempted, and my life has been incredibly enriched. I have

known intelligent, humble and deeply spiritual men, and equally, I’ve been challenged by them. I have been the recipient of profound acts of kindness from men for whom kindness is not an act but a lifestyle. In many ways, I am still the 17 year old who couldn’t wait to get to Valatie; and in many other ways I am profoundly different. I have lived through some of the most significant periods in the life of the Church, and I am deeply grateful for that.” Such are the broad strokes laid out by Brother John Gleason, CSC, as he reflects on his 50 years as a Brother of Holy Cross.

One might wonder why the “kid from South Philadelphia” was in such a hurry to get to Valatie. Since grade school, an inclination toward religious life had been stirring in his soul. Although his 7th grade teacher, Sister Paul Mary, RSM, never addressed the topic of a vocation with him, John says, “I was deeply impressed by her ‘way’ and ‘manner,’ and although I did not have the word for it at the time, it was her evident ‘holiness.’ Plain and simple, I wanted to be holy and a teacher.”

In the 8th grade, John learned about religious brothers at a diocesan vocation convention. The next year, praying for his mother’s survival from breast cancer, he promised the Blessed Mother that he “would at least explore religious life.” True to that promise, in his junior year, he used the *Guideposts* vocation magazine to research congregations of religious brothers. “I had two criteria: what did their habit look like (really) and being a teacher. I wrote to 52 religious communities and ONLY CSC, Brother Hyacinth (Edward Sniatecki), wrote back with a personal letter.” The answer was clear: the path to holiness ran through Valatie.

In his vocation as a religious, Br. John treasures the support and accompaniment he has constantly received from his family. During his

novitiate year, they made the 500 mile round trip from Philadelphia through snow, rain or sunshine every visiting Sunday, just to enjoy the allotted two hours with him. To a degree, they too have seen the world: “Over these 50 years, my family has visited me in every assignment I have held. And they have unknowingly encouraged me as I have witnessed their fidelity in dealing with struggles in raising their own families, putting so much in perspective for me in my own religious journey.”

On that journey, Br. John is especially grateful for the guidance, support, correction and encouragement he has received from his spiritual directors. “Their vision and understanding of the Church and religious life was broad, gentle, merciful, nonjudgmental and inclusive. They have had a profound influence on my life and my views on the Church and religious life, and how I have lived and live my life in the Church.

Early in his religious life, Br. John received a powerful, consoling grace that lifted a heavy burden of doubt and enabled him to profess his final vows. “I was literally overcome with the realization of God’s love for me – it was as if God took a ladle and poured his love over my head. From that moment to this very day, I have never once doubted God’s love, although I have never ‘felt’ it since, and this has enabled me to face many challenges and uncertainties over these many years.”

Reflecting now on what he learned from Sr. Paul Mary, Br. John says: “I try to live by the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: ‘Preach the Gospel, and if you have to, use words.’” He concludes: “As I celebrate these many years in Holy Cross, ‘thank you’ remains my daily prayer.”



50  
YEARS

**BROTHER JOSEPH WALSH, CSC**



Born in Hamden, Connecticut, on May 1, 1939, to Edward M. Walsh and Vera Egan Walsh was their younger of two sons, Joseph, who was baptized and confirmed in his home parish of St. Rita in Hamden. His elementary education was in the Hamden public schools, and his high school at St. Mary's in New Haven, Connecticut, graduating in June 1958. He went on to Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962.

Looking to a career in education and, while taking courses for a Master of Science degree at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, he met and became friendly with Brother Alvin Ouellette, CSC, who was finishing his degree work and preparing for missionary work in East Africa. He relates that this interaction with Br. Alvin in 1964 must have been miraculous for one thing lead to another and at the end of that school year, leaving his girlfriend, he decided to give the Brothers of Holy Cross a try.

He entered the Holy Cross Brothers' postulancy program at St. Joseph Juniorate, in Valatie, New York, in June of 1964, and was received into St. Joseph Novitiate on August 23, 1964, making his first profession of religious vows on August 23, 1965, and final profession on August 22, 1971. From Valatie, following first profession, Br. Joseph went on to teach at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick, Rhode Island. It was during this time that he finished his master's degree at Fairfield University. The summer of 1970 brought Br. Joseph to Mackin High School in Washington, D.C., where, in addition to teaching, he was the dean of men. The following years, with his Master's degree in counseling from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut, he taught and was a guidance counselor at Pius XII School in Chester, New York, and at Holy Cross High School, Flushing, New York. In 1996, having the foreign mission vow, Br. Joseph answered the call to go to East Africa. He ministered first in Holy Cross parishes in Nairobi, Kenya, and later taught and was guidance counselor at Lake View School, in Jinja, Uganda. Leaving a very positive African ministerial experience and

following a year sabbatical, Br. Joseph's ministry then focused on caring for the sick and dying in Hospice work. Since summer of 2006, he has been at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford, Connecticut.

Br. Joseph states, "As I get ready to start my next fifty years in Holy Cross, I look forward to my ministry in which I have been engaged in for ten years now, Hospice work. This ministry is also a mystery at how people face new life. Through this ministry, my faith has soared to great heights because of the people I met and will continue to meet."

40  
YEARS

**BROTHER HOWARD METZ, CSC**



The first religious Brother Howard saw regularly were the Holy Family of Nazareth Sisters who taught in the public school in North Dakota back in the 1950s. One of his sisters entered their community, and his admiration for her congregation is where the seed of his own vocation to Holy Cross had its germination.

Born to Steve Metz, a rancher and Margaret Zentner Metz, a homemaker, on May 27, 1950 in Dickinson, North Dakota, he was baptized Howard Michael Metz on June 11, 1950 at St. Mary's Church in South Heart, North Dakota. Howard was the 13th child having 7 sisters and 6 brothers. He was educated in the South Heart Public schools system. After graduating from high school in 1968, he worked as an orderly in Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen, South Dakota from 1969 until summer of 1972, when he became a candidate for the Brothers of Holy Cross. His first assignment was to work in a reading lab as an assistant at the Holy Cross School in New Orleans, Louisiana. What a climate change from cold temps to warm and humid days!

He was received into the Holy Cross Novitiate in Bennington, Vermont, on August 15, 1973, and made first profession on August 2, 1974. Brother Howard then left for St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in June of 1977, followed



by his first teaching assignment at St. Joaquin School in Hayward, California. He remarks that he was raised in the North, trained in the East, educated in the South and did his first ministry in the West. He literally traced the sign of the cross over the physical landscape of the United States.

Most of his years have been spent in the classroom as a master teacher of geography in the Holy Cross School in New Orleans, where he is quoted as saying, “Without geography, you are nowhere.” In the middle years of his teaching in New Orleans, he returned to studies and received a Master of Science degree in geography from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota in June of 1988. In 1996, he left New Orleans to engage in formation and vocation ministry for the South-West Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. Returning to the classroom in the fall of 2002, he taught geography and religion at San Juan Diego High School in Austin Texas. Again, a change came in his life when in summer of 2008, Br. Howard took over the responsibility of being Director Food Services for the two Brothers communities at St. Joseph Hall and Brother Vincent Pieau Residence in Austin.

Over the past forty years of his religious life, Brother remembers the experience he had at the Holy Cross summer institute in LeMans, France, in 1998, where he was able to meet and interact with the various male and female religious communities of Holy Cross. Reflecting on his years in Holy Cross, he sees them as a time of grace. He is thankful for the years, experiences, and the shared life. He prays that with good health, he will have many more good years to come.

25  
YEARS

**BROTHER CLEOPHAS KYOMUHENDO, CSC**



Brother writes, “Celebrating twenty-five years of religious profession, I could concur with the prophet Jeremiah that the Lord knew me for my mother’s womb. But a more human approach was when, in my youth, the question of what am I going to do with my life became clearer after secondary school with the help of a friend and my parish priest directing me to religious brotherhood in the Congregation of Holy Cross.”

Born in Buliisa Bugungu, Uganda, to Charles Waholoyi Sabiiti, a farmer, and Antonia Malia Namata, a housewife, on September 30, 1964, he was one of their 11 children. He was baptized Kyomuhendo Cleophas Sabiiti on December 7, 1964 in Ndandamire parish and confirmed in on January 1, 1977 in his home parish of Nyamigisa, in Masindi, Uganda. Following the British primary and secondary education system, Cleophas graduated from Old Kampala SS, in Kampala, Uganda, in summer of 1987.

He entered the candidacy program for Congregation of Holy Cross on November 1, 1987 at Maguru, Fort Portal, Uganda. He was received into the Holy Cross Novitiate in Saaka, Fort Portal, on June 14, 1989, and made first profession as a Brother of Holy Cross on June 16, 1990. It is through his different stages of ongoing formation that he has encountered and journeyed with Christ. He says the question, “What is God saying?: (Ruhanga nagamkaki?)” has been his constant and continuous quest for God! And, for him, he cannot hesitate to say that the easiest answer has been: “Come follow me.”

Br. Cleophas has matriculated at numerous colleges, earning certifications in education, spiritual direction/guidance, financial management, church management and leadership. With this educational background, Br. Cleophas has been asked to take on the role in religious formation programs, communities in Nairobi, Kenya, including director of the Dandora community, and more recently of Bishop McCauley House. With his ability in leadership, he has served as Assistant District Superior, District Financial Steward and Director of District D. In March of 2012, Br. Cleophas was appointed the Headmaster for Holy Cross Senior Secondary School in Jinja,



Uganda.

Br. Cleophas reflects on the calling of the Lord. “The harvest is rich,” he states, “but the laborers are few and scarce! In this world there are many voices calling each of us. We are called to listen carefully, attentively. What kind of voice brings the call, a call to religious life in Holy Cross to be heard and answered for one’s salvation? It is the call to have Jesus Christ known, loved and served in the whole world.” This is Br. Cleophas’ deepest desire, longing, wish and craving.

In reflecting upon the future, he states, “It lies in the hands of God! May God’s will be done in him and through the Congregation of Holy Cross in the District of East Africa.”





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