

# CONGREGATION



# newsletter

November 2008  
Volume 15, No.3

OF HOLY CROSS  
Eastern Province of Brothers

## Brother Evarest Neema, CSC makes perpetual commitment to Holy Cross

On August 15, 2008, the members of the District of East Africa, after a week of meetings at St. Augustine Institute in Kampala, Uganda, just down the road from the Bishop McCauley District House, gathered for the perpetual profession of vows of three of its members: Brother Evarest Neema, a member of the Eastern Province of Brothers, and seminarians Prosper Tesha and Leopold Temba, both members of the Indiana Province. Brother Thomas Dziekan, Provincial of the Eastern Province of Brothers, received Brother Evarest's vows. Both Prosper and Leopold were ordained deacons the following day by Auxiliary Bishop Christopher of Kampala.

Brother Evarest is from Nyansozi, in the Fort Portal area of Uganda. Prior to his entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross, Evarest received his certification as a teacher and taught science and math at St. Leo's College in Fort Portal. As a candidate, Evarest studied at Queen of Apostles Philosophy Center in Jinja, Uganda. At the end of his three year program, he sat for the exams from the Urbanianum University of Rome and received his B.Phil. He entered Holy Cross Novitiate in Saaka, Uganda on July 7, 2003 and professed his vows one year later. Evarest was then assigned to McCauley Formation House in Nairobi, Kenya. At the end of two years, he was awarded a B.S.Ed.

from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He spent the next year as a science teacher at Holy Cross Lakeview Senior Secondary School in Jinja. Upon the completion of his pastoral year, he returned to Nairobi and enrolled in the Spirituality Program at Tangaza College in Nairobi. He will complete the courses for the certificate in December 2008. Brother Evarest has been assigned to teach sciences at Holy Cross Lakeview, Jinja, Uganda.

Both Deacons Proper Tesha and Leopold Temba are from Tanzania. They too studied at the Philosophy Center in Jinja and will complete their theology studies at Tangaza College in Nairobi in December as well. Prosper will become a member of the formation staff at André House in Jinja and Leopold will minister at Holy Cross Parish in Dandora, Nairobi.



Brother Evarest professes his perpetual vows.



Left: The candidates from Andre House in Jinja dance during the Gospel procession. Right: The newly professed – Mr. Prosper Tesha, CSC, Mr. Leopold Temba, CSC, and Bro. Evarest Neema, CSC – with the Brothers after the Liturgy of Religious Profession.

# From The Desk Of The Provincial



Brother Thomas A. Dziekan, CSC

Dear Friends in Holy Cross,

May Gods' peace comfort and console all of you!

In the opening words of Constitution 2, **Brotherhood**, of the Congregation of Holy Cross, we are reminded:

*Our calling is to serve the Lord Jesus in mission not as independent individuals but in a brotherhood. Our community life refreshes the faith that makes our work a ministry and not just an employment; it fortifies us by the example and encouragement of our confreres; and it protects us from being overwhelmed or discouraged by our work.*

We are grateful for this great gift and we are happy to share that gift with you. We are your brothers! You are part of our Holy Cross Family!

In this issue, I would like to share with you some of the ways we witness to our brotherhood. We rejoice in the perpetual commitment of one of our Brothers from East Africa. We rejoice too in the faithful witness of two of our brothers who, in their own ways, "fortified" us by their example and encouragement. Our Convocation in Baltimore, **United in a Spirit of Zeal and Prayer**, was a true experience of brotherhood. Brothers and priests from all over the United States and from Brazil, Peru, Chile and Uganda joined together to discuss their hopes for a renewal of life and mission in the Congregation of Holy Cross. And lastly, our **In the News** section highlights the accomplishments and activities of some of our Brothers and our partners in mission as we all strive to be faithful to the apostolic vision of Blessed Father Moreau.

As always, I ask you to join with us in prayer for the many needs of each other and of our world. We know that there are many who suffer – whether from illness, a lack of basic necessities, from anxiety and fear, and a host of other ills. Let us remember them in our prayer. Let us pray, too, that young men will find beauty in the life of a Holy Cross Brother and will come to join us. Our Vocation Office is now located at the Provincial House in New Rochelle and Brother Jonathan is looking for business! Let us pray that his and our efforts are successful.

Know that we are grateful for all that you do for us. We remember your intentions in our daily prayer and, during this time of year, we especially remember your loved ones who have gone before us in their prayers.

May you know the peace and comfort of **Emmanuel** – "God-who-is-with-us"! May we never forget that God is always present to us and that we live in his all-embracing love!

Sincerely yours in Holy Cross,

Brother Thomas A. Dziekan, CSC  
Provincial

## PLEASE JOIN WITH THE BROTHERS IN PRAYING FOR:

- An end to war and hatred;
- The recovery and the generous perseverance of spirit of all those who suffer in any way, whether physically, spiritually or emotionally;
- Vocations to Holy Cross, especially to the brotherhood; and,
- The consolation and comfort of those who live in fear and anxiety.

## 2 Congregation of Holy Cross



Join us in praying through the intercession of Blessed Basil Moreau

## For the repose of the souls of:

Sister Rose Agatha Lundergan, CSC  
Sister Stephen Purcell, CSC  
Sister Leonella Moe, CSC  
Sister Christine Healy, CSC  
Sister Margery Mitternight, CSC  
Sister Marian Therese Slattery, CSC  
Brother Joseph Walter Olszowka, CSC  
(Midwest Province)  
Brother James Thornton, CSC  
(Eastern Province of Brothers)  
Brother Victor Monette, CSC  
(Eastern Province of Brothers)  
Rev. William J. Boland, CSC  
(Vicariate of English Canada)  
Rev. G. Michael Scully, CSC  
(Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers)  
Rev. James Tobin, CSC  
(Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers)  
Rev. Malcolm Johnson, CSC  
(Indiana Province)  
Rev. Walter L. McInerney, CSC  
(Indiana Province)

John Schmitz, brother of  
Brother George Schmitz, CSC  
Anna Blauvelt, mother of Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, Provincial of the South-West Province  
William Thornton, brother of Brother John Thornton, CSC  
John Weiners, former Province member

## And for the following individuals who are ill:

Catherine Gleason, mother of  
Brother John Gleason, CSC  
Rita Umile, mother of  
Brother Joseph Umile, CSC  
Bernice Clarke, sister of  
Brother Stefan Clarke, CSC  
David Ellis, brother of  
Brother Francis Ellis, CSC  
Peg Kennedy, sister of  
Brother Maurus O'Malley, CSC  
Carol Russo, sister-in-law of  
Brother Robert Russo, CSC  
Vincent Severino and Joseph Cirigliano,  
cousins of Brother Robert Russo, CSC

*Our ill and infirm Holy Cross Religious at Dujarie House and at Holy Cross House*

# IN LOVING MEMORY



**Brother James  
Thornton, CSC**  
February 15, 1935  
– July 4, 2008

## **BROTHER JAMES GERARD THORNTON, CSC**

Brother James Gerard Thornton, CSC, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross for 55 years, died suddenly at Dujarié House, Notre Dame, IN on Friday, July 4, 2008.

James Gerard Thornton was born to James and Mae Dunne Thornton in Brooklyn, NY on February 15, 1935. He attended St. Francis of Assisi School in Brooklyn where the Holy Cross Brothers were his teachers. Upon his graduation in 1949, he attended Immaculata High School in New York City and was graduated in 1953.

Brother James made his first profession of vows on August 16, 1954 at St. Joseph Novitiate in Rolling Prairie, IN and his perpetual profession on August 23, 1958.

A kind, friendly and compassionate man, he was always willing to listen and be present to those who suffered in any way, whether with physical or emotional pain or suffering with an addiction. He continued to minister even from his room at Dujarié House at Notre Dame.

Brother James was a teacher, counselor and campus minister. He received his BA from St. John's University in Jamaica, NY in 1960 and was awarded an MS Ed from Siena College in Loudonville, NY in 1967.

From 1956 to 1981, Brother James ministered at schools of the Congregation in the Midwest and the East: Sacred Heart Juniorate in Watertown, WI, St. Charles Boy's Home in Milwaukee, WI, St. Thomas Aquinas School in Brooklyn, NY, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Bronx, NY, Holy Cross High School in Flushing, NY, at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD, and Pius XII School in Chester, NY. In 1981, Brother James began ministry in Ontario, Canada. From 1981 to 1992, he was Chaplain and Campus Minister at St. Mary's High School in Hamilton, ON, and from 1992 to 2000, he filled those same roles at Bishop Ryan High School also in Hamilton, ON.

Because of his declining health, he was assigned to St. Joseph Center in Valatie, NY in 2000. As his medical condition worsened, he eventually was assigned to Dujarie House at Notre Dame in 2003.

Brother James is survived by his sister, Irene Bernat, and two nephews, Timothy and his wife Shirley Bernat and their sons Matthew and Christopher all of Niagara Falls, NY and Michael and his wife Bonnie Bernat and their daughters Amy, Stephanie and Mandy of Beaver Falls, PA.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph Center, Valatie, NY on Thursday, July 10, 2008.



**Brother Victor  
Monette, CSC**  
July 11, 1936 –  
September 11, 2008

## **BROTHER VICTOR ELDER MONETTE, CSC**

Brother Victor Elder Monette, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross for 49 years, died on September 11, 2008 at St. David's-South Austin Hospital, in Austin, TX.

Victor Elder Monette was the eldest of the four children born to Victor E. Monette, Sr. and Teresa Repholz on July 11, 1936 in North Adams, MA. He was graduated from Clarksburg Public School in Clarksburg, MA in 1950 and from Drury High School in North Adams, MA in 1954. Following his high school graduation, he attended Boston College and in 1958 received his BBA. Following his graduation from Boston College, he taught for two years at St. Michael's Indian School in Arizona.

Victor entered Holy Cross in 1960 and professed his first vows on August 23, 1961 at St. Joseph Novitiate in Valatie, NY and made perpetual profession in 1964. Following his first profession, Brother Victor was assigned to Dujarie Hall at Notre Dame where he earned a Master's degree in Economics.

Brother Victor was a true New Englander who loved everything about New England except its weather and spent most of his religious life in ministries located in warmer climates. He was involved in the educational institutions of the Congregation as a teacher, treasurer and business manager: at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT, Pius XII School in Chester, NY, and Notre Dame International School in Rome, Italy. In 1989, he accepted a position at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX as Student Financial Advisor. He retired from this position in 2006.

Brother Victor was an active member of many local and national professional organizations. In 2003, he was given the President's Award from the National Association of Student Employment Administrators.

Victor was well respected in his 46 years of active ministry – as much for the quality of his work as for the man he was. He was kind, gentle and approachable. People were always greeted warmly and treated with respect. At St. Edward's, many students have testified that they would not have been able to attend the University without Brother Victor's help in finding financial assistance for them. They remain grateful for his interest and care.

In 2003, Victor was first diagnosed with cancer. From that time, in spite of many operations, multiple chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and increasing debilitation, he remained cheerful and upbeat. He never expected special treatment; he never complained; he never indulged in self-pity. He was an inspiration to us all. He struggled valiantly and bravely. His faith remained firm.

Victor is survived by his sisters Kathleen Monette of Williamstown, MA and Mary Monette of Eugene, OR, and his brother Donald, his wife Marval, and their children Ronald and Donna, also of Williamstown, MA.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Thursday, September 18, 2008 in St. Joseph's Chapel, Valatie, NY.

# United in a Spirit of Zeal and Prayer – the Baltimore Convocation

From July 14 through July 17, 2009, some 120 members of the Congregation of Holy Cross met at the Conference Center of the Maritime Institute of Technology in Baltimore, MD at a Convocation called by the members of the Eastern Province of Brothers and the South-West Province. Besides members of the two convening provinces, there were representatives from the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, the Midwest Province of Brothers and the Indiana Province. The theme of this Convocation was *United in a Spirit of Zeal and Prayer*, a line from Blessed Basil Moreau's Circular Letter No. 14.

While we gathered for the purpose of talking about forming a new province, our conversation turned from the practical concerns to a real desire for renewal: to be at the service of the Gospel and to form communities that were prayerful and vibrant. Our theme, *United in a Spirit of Zeal and Prayer*, became a reality and named the reality we hoped to be.

The first days were spent in socializing, reflection and discussion. We reflected on our past and our love for Holy Cross and our hopes for the Congregation in the United States and the world. We defined the new province as being a mixed province, composed of brothers and priests. Our priorities

were: a strong, vibrant and prayerful community life and a collaborative culture of mission and ministry, both locally and internationally, responding to the needs of God's people. We realized that a strong program to make our vocation known is essential for continued growth.

The process was ably facilitated by Brother Paul Michalenko, ST. Everyone in attendance had the opportunity to voice his own thoughts, hopes and fears. Through our discussions and reflection, we were able to arrive at some specific themes: Mission and Ministry – Locally and Internationally, Community Life and Prayer, Forward Looking Leadership and Planning, Shared Resources, Vocations and Formation, and Health Care and Aging. These themes form our reality and frame our hopes.

The depth of this experience together was unexpected and inexplicable. While we all harbored hopes about how this would work and what would happen, the end result was far more than anyone could have anticipated.

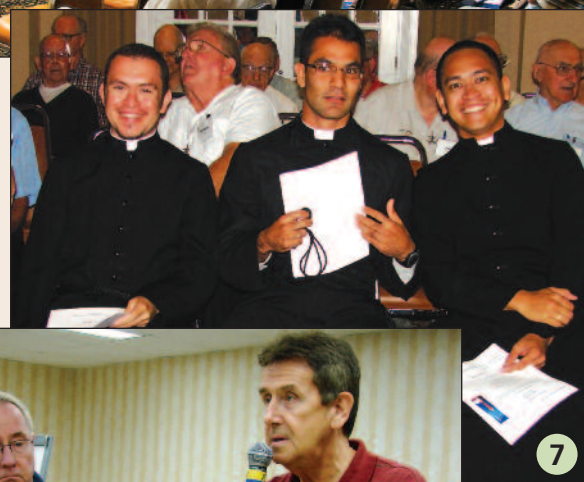
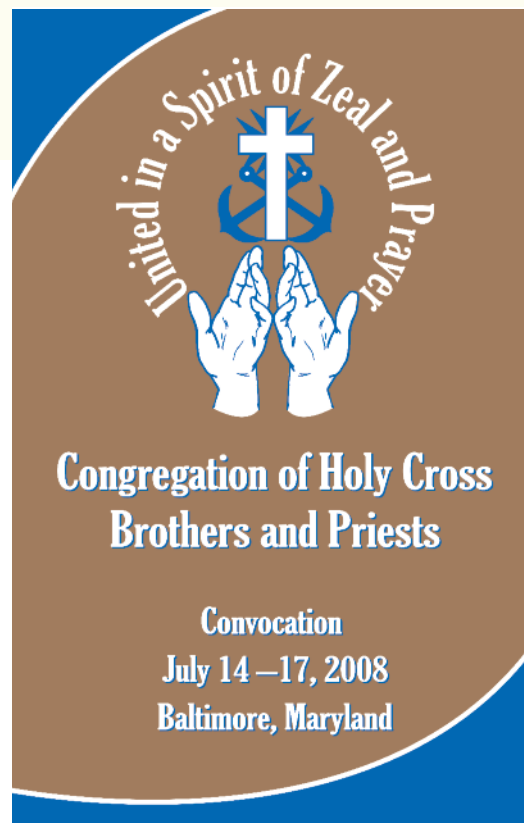
On Wednesday, July 16, 2008 Brothers Jesus Alonso, Joe Ruiz and Nich Perez, all members of the South-West Province, renewed their vows. The earnestness, desire and



sincerity of these three young men making the same commitment that all present had made some 30, 40, 50 or more years before was touching and a real moment of grace. We remembered our own call to serve God in this way in the Congregation of Holy Cross. It was a moment of awareness of God's presence and love for all of us.

Also on Wednesday, just before dinner, we gathered for evening prayer and remembered the members of the Eastern and South-West Provinces who had gone before us – men who were mentors, role-models, formators, administrators, pioneers – brothers – and who had built up the Congregation over these last sixty years. As their pictures flashed before our eyes and as we reflected on this “great band of men who had passed this way,” as our Constitutions state, “who strode, and did not trod,” we had the real sense that they supported us with their own prayers. It was a prayer the depths of which were also unexpected and inexplicable.

The Convocation provided both the Eastern Brothers Province and the South-West Province with the agenda and discussion items for their respective Provincial Chapters to be held next July in Baltimore.



1. Brothers James Branigan, George Schmitz and John Flood prior to the beginning of a general session. 2. Br. Thomas Dziekan, EB Provincial, delivers one of the opening presentations. 3. Br. Richard Critz (SW) reports on the Vocation and Formation conversation group, while Br. Paul Bednarczyk looks on. In the foreground is Br. Richard Daly (SW). 4. Brothers Daniel Durrig (SW) and Gerard Suddick (EB) indicate their priorities. 5. Brothers Michael Brickman (SW) and David Andrews (EB) in discussion. 6. Br. Patrick Sopher (SW) leads the assembly in prayer. 7. Brothers Joe Ruiz (SW), Jesus Alonso (SW) and Nich Perez (SW) prior to the liturgy during which they renewed their vows. 8. Brothers James Branigan (EB) and Richard Daly (SW) report on the Mission and Ministry conversation group.

See additional photos on back, page 8

# In the News



**First row, from left** — **Daniel J. Scavone**, Principal, Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, CT; **Michael Giampetruzzi**, Assistant Principal, Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, CT; **Louis F. Howe**, Assistant Campus Minister, Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, CT; and, **LeSandra Hayes** Director, Project PRIDE, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD. **Second row from left** — **Victor Shin**, Assistant Principal for Student Life, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD; **Michael Pozniak**, Teacher, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD; **Reginald Brady** Assistant Principal, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD; **Laura Keller-Dougherty** Teacher, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD; **John DeCaprio** Teacher and Coach, Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT; **Clare Treichel**, Counselor, Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, MD; and, **Tina Collura**, Teacher, Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT.

Eleven administrators and faculty members of three schools sponsored by the Eastern Province of Brothers attended the Mission Seminar at King's College from July 8 through 11, 2008. The Seminar is one of the programs sponsored by the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University in Austin for faculty and staff. The purpose of the Seminar is to strengthen the participants' awareness of and commitment to the Holy Cross mission. While helping them to develop as Holy Cross leaders, it also allows the participants to define ways to share and implement what they have learned within their schools.

Congratulations to **Brother David Andrews** who has been appointed to be a Senior Advisor of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Miguel d'Escoto. David has accepted this appointment with the encouragement of Food and Water Watch where he serves as a Senior Representative. President d'Escoto hopes to make issues of sustainable development part of his program at the UN. "Food & Water Watch works with grassroots organizations around the world to create an economically and environmentally viable future. Through research, public and policymaker education, media, and lobbying, [they] advocate policies that guarantee safe, wholesome food produced in a humane and sustainable manner and public, rather than private, control of water resources including oceans, rivers, and groundwater." (From their Mission Statement)



Students from Fe y Alegria #25 School in Canto Grande, Lima, Peru where **Brother Thomas Giumenta** is the Principal. The students are in the chapel which is in the process of being renovated through a grant of the Poverty Action Fund of the Eastern Province of Brothers.



In the latter part of June, **Brother Roger Croteau**, **Gail Bellucci**, Campus Minister at Notre Dame High School in West Haven, CT and **Marco Clark**, Principal of Bishop McNamara High School in

Forestville, MD participated in the International Session in Holy Cross Spirituality in Le Mans, France. The International Session is a program organized and hosted by the Marianites of Holy Cross at *La Solitude du Sauveur*, one of the first houses of the Congregation of Holy Cross. They joined Holy Cross brothers, sisters and priests from all over the world for presentations on the history, charism and spirituality of Holy Cross. They made a pilgrimage to all the sites associated with the life of Blessed Basil Moreau, Father James Dujarie, and the early days of the Congregation. Marco Clark had this to say about the whole experience, "It was absolutely life changing! Not only did I learn a great deal more about our history and tradition, but I gained an even greater appreciation for the entire family of Holy Cross. I am most proud to be associated with this family and am committed to do my utmost to assure its continued growth and development as well as continuing to educate in the faith tradition of Holy Cross at McNamara and beyond."

On Saturday evening, November 12, 2008, Holy Cross High School in Flushing will have its annual Hall of Fame dinner. Among the honorees for this elegant event are **Brother Joseph McDonnell**, a former Principal of Holy Cross and a long time faculty member, and **Brother Ralph Edmiston**, an associate in the Holy Cross Advancement Office. Congratulations to our two brothers for their dedicated service!



The newest members of the Eastern Province of Brothers: above, **Brother Christopher Nganzi** professed his first vows at the conclusion of his novitiate at Blessed Brother Andre Novitiate in Ghana on July 12, 2008. Prior to his entrance into Holy Cross, he taught at St. Joseph's Hill Secondary School in Kyarusozzi, Fort Portal, Uganda, a school begun by Holy Cross.

# From The Vocations Office



Dear Friends of Holy Cross,

I spent almost every Saturday morning of my childhood with my heroes. Leaping from the bed in a single bound, I landed squarely in front of the TV and settled in. Nothing would disturb my viewing except for the occasional refill of my cereal bowl (“Sugar Pops” if my mother was in a very good mood). One after another, I would greet my friends who arrived and departed every half hour—Spider-Man, The Fantastic Four, Super Friends, Underdog, . . . My favorite hero was Aquaman. Breathing water and using his special telepathic powers, he summoned the creatures of the sea to help him rescue the survivors of a massive underwater earthquake (or whatever the disaster was that week). Filled with excitement and wonder, I thought to myself, “Boy! I would love to do that!” Then I grew up.

Brother Jonathan P. Beebe, CSC I’m not sure how it happened, but I know I did. Gone were the TV shows. Gone were the friends who had kept me company all of those weekend mornings. They were replaced with such unpleasant things as homework and helping around the house. Gone, too, was the innocence. The world had become a different place—and I had become a little less excited and a little more suspicious and cynical—the characteristics found in all emerging adolescents.

Where do all of the superheroes of our childhood go? Who takes their place as we mature into young men and women?

Looking back on my life, I consider myself very fortunate that my parents sent me to Catholic schools. There, I met new “heroes.” Not the kind that one might read about in comic books, but real heroes—ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Living lives of compassion, generosity, and service, the religious women and men of my youth helped me recapture the excitement and the wonder of my childhood. Watching them day after day, inside and outside the classroom, I thought to myself, “Boy! I would love to do that!”

Real heroes are people of faith. Real heroes are people of character, courage, and conviction. Real heroes don’t clamor for our attention, but work quietly at doing what is good and right and true. From its birth during the French Revolution, the Congregation of Holy Cross has been blessed to count many of them among its ranks.

Pray with me that young men will be inspired to dedicate their lives to something greater than themselves. Pray with me that they might discover that calling as a Brother of Holy Cross.

*“Glory be to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.” (Ephesians 3:20)*

*Bro. Jonathan P. Beebe, CSC*

Brother Jonathan P. Beebe, CSC



**Brothers of  
Holy Cross**

**Educators in the Faith**

*Making God Known,  
Loved, and Served*

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# In the News

Newly professed **Brothers Patrick Mugabo** and **Joseph Mutabingwa** are joined by **Brothers Joseph Kaganda**, Director of Novices, and **Alan Harrod**, Director of Vocations.

**Brothers Patrick** and **Joseph** professed their first vows at the conclusion of their novitiate at Holy Cross Novitiate in Saaka, Uganda on July 12, 2008. Both Brothers Patrick and Joseph are also from the Kyarusozo area. Brother Joseph is the first graduate of St. Joseph’s Hill Secondary School to enter the Congregation. Congratulations to our Brothers.



# UNITED IN A SPIRIT OF ZEAL AND PRAYER – THE BALTIMORE CONVOCATION

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## MISSION STATEMENT

**Eastern Brothers Province  
 Congregation of Holy Cross**

In the spirit of our founder, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, we serve the needs of the people of God through our consecrated commitment as lay religious within the church.

We respond in faith as prayerful and prophetic men who make God's love known to all. As disciples of Jesus, we strive to reach out to others and challenge ourselves to be especially attentive to the poor, oppressed and afflicted in our midst. We seek to confront aspects of society and culture which detract from the fullness of life. We share this mission with people of various cultures and traditions.

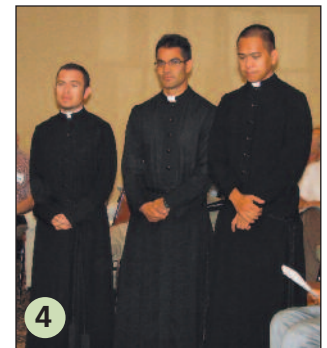
We are sustained and motivated by our relationship with God and are enriched by prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist. We commit ourselves to ongoing personal growth, renewal and conversion.

As men of mission, we are supported and encouraged by our brothers and sisters in Holy Cross. We build community, in a spirit of hospitality, as a sign of hope in an alienated world.

As brothers, dedicated to the mission of Jesus, we look to the future with boldness and hope.

-promulgated October 30, 1993

This Newsletter is published by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Eastern Province, to provide information to our friends and benefactors who prayerfully support our ministries.  
 God Bless You!



1. Br. Donald Blauvelt, SW Provincial, delivering one of the opening presentations. 2. Br. Donald receiving the vows of Br. Jesus. 3. Brothers William Zaydak, Mark Knightly and Lawrence Atkinson. 4. Brothers Joe Ruiz, Jesus Alonso and Nich Perez, during the liturgy at which they renewed their vows. 5. Social Time: Brothers Richard Critz, Patrick Sopher, Joseph Ash, George Schmitz, and Thomas Dziekan. 6. One of the general sessions.

**Photos by: Br. Gilbert Pretto, Br. George Schmitz, Marco Clark, Br. Thomas Giumenta, Fr. Robert Gilmour and Candidate Callistus Tukamuhebw.**