



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**PORTLAND**

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

BROTHER GODFREY VASSALLO, C.S.C.  
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND PIONEER

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by

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BROTHER GODFREY VASSALLO, C.S.C.

Walter Henry Vassallo, one of ten children, was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on December 4, 1893. His parents were Alphonse Vassallo, who had immigrated from the island of Malta, and Emma Spain, who had immigrated from Ireland.<sup>1</sup> Mrs Vassallo died when Walter was three years old.<sup>2</sup>

He attended St. Joseph Elementary School, an orphanage, for eight years. He then entered Sydney Academy, Nova Scotia, where he spent only the freshman year of his high school education.<sup>3</sup>

In 1910 Walter came to the United States, and attended Notre Dame Preparatory School at Notre Dame, Indiana, where he made his juniorate. He received the religious habit at the Notre Dame novitiate in 1912, and was given the name of Godfrey, which he would later make legendary at the Holy Cross institution, the University of Portland.<sup>4</sup> But his early years in Holy Cross were not promising. By his own admission, he was most inattentive and indifferent as a student during high school, though he did graduate in 1914. He was so unpromising as a student that he later said he was admitted to the University of Notre Dame only on the condition that he maintain high grades. He remained at Notre Dame for three years.<sup>5</sup>

Between 1917 and 1928 Godfrey alternated teaching high school at Holy Cross College, New Orleans, and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, and years later, he frequently recalled being the Indiana Archbishop's right hand man. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Science from Loyola University in 1921, when he was twenty-eight years old, and attended summer school at the University of Notre Dame from 1923 through 1927, earning his masters degree at age thirty-four, after submitting his thesis, "An Historical Exposition of the History of the Development of Magic Squares."<sup>6</sup>

It took Godfrey seven years to commit to final vows. Graduating

from high school at the age of twenty-one after years of dilatory attention indicate a man divided by uncertainty. But the Brother Godfrey who arrived in Portland, Oregon, in 1929, when he was thirty-six years old was a man who had put himself together, and had come to an institution where he would flower and greatly benefit the university with his presence.

Columbia University, later to become the University of Portland was a twenty-eight year old institution which had long been counting every penny. When Brother Godfrey arrived in 1929 the future seemed somewhat brighter for the financially beseiged campus, which contained a four year college preparatory school, and was, in 1929, to award degrees to its first class of four year college students.<sup>7</sup> The campus had only three buildings, which contained 18 faculty and 322 undergraduate and prep students.<sup>8</sup> That autumn the school had an official groundbreeding for an athletic stadium large enough to seat 10,000 football fans. The school's dream of becoming the Notre Dame of the West in football received a severe blow in late October of 1929.<sup>9</sup> After the stock market crash, all plans of work on the stadium were abandoned.

Brother Godfrey would have been at home with such penury, having experienced it at Holy Cross College in New Orleans. He could rely on his good physical health, his considerable physical strength, and his great zeal.<sup>10</sup> In appearance he was about six feet tall and had a great, thick shock of dark hair, which despite eventually turning grey, then white, remained luxurious.<sup>11</sup> Indeed, in later years he rarely wore a rain hat or rain coat, and his heavy woolen cassock seemed impervious to all but the very heaviest of Portland's frequent rains.<sup>12</sup>

Brother Godfrey came to Portland to teach mathematics, but it was not for his years as head of the small mathematics department, from 1929 to 1939, or as head of the physics department from 1939 to 1967 that he is most remembered.<sup>13</sup> These thirty-eight years of slight administrative duty would not explain why he became a legend, widely known simply as "BG." It was his willingness to do petty, unglamorous, often arduous work, such as refereeing at football and basketball games, setting up sound systems for various school events, working with the physics and engineers clubs to install an impressive number of campus landmarks, and presiding as grand marshall at over forty commencements,

actions which consumed weekends and many evening hours, always being where he was needed, and never failing to deliver.<sup>14</sup> He would divert attention from his manifold activities with a comment: "We had certain work to do and we did it."<sup>15</sup>

For some years he was moderator of the university's Parent's Club, which was endlessly raising money for various projects.<sup>16</sup> One evening its president, Mrs. James Burtchaell, mother of Father James T. Burtchaell, C.S.C., left campus to go home and change, after she had set up an elaborate display of the food she had brought for door prizes on her own beautiful serving dishes. When she returned, nothing was there. "BG" encountering a distraught Mrs. Burtchaell said, "Marion, you will learn that nothing can ever be left here unattended for a moment, or it will disappear. Come and I will show you where I locked it up." At another event, seeing a corpulent, ever-hungry, Father George Dum, C.S.C., heading for cake prematurely, "BG" said, unsmilingly, "Father, if you take a morsel of food I will cut your hand off."<sup>17</sup>

In the classroom Brother Godfrey earned the reputation of being particularly good with the average student, for as he taught with experiments, not lectures, he kept his eyes on the students, watching for those whose attention was slack. Then, going over their frequent tests, he would give the struggling boys pep talks to motivate them, always remembering his own poor attention in the classroom during his high school years.<sup>18</sup> He greatly enjoyed the use of puns during his classes, and anyone going down the corridor could judge the quality of the pun by the groan from the class, the better the pun the louder the groan.<sup>19</sup>

Early in 1938 he organized a photography club and began taking pictures at football games and other school events. John Beckman, a student in Columbia Prep became fascinated with photography. He and his buddy asked Brother if they might use his photography studio. "BG" threw open the door to them whenever they needed to use it. Beckman recalled: "When I once needed a certain photographic gadget, he found an older student with the skills to build it, and asked him to do so." Godfrey learned that Beckman would be unable to attend the University of Portland for financial reasons, and contacted a friend

who secretly paid the boy's expenses. When Beckman later learned the name of the donor, he paid him back. Beckman became increasingly fond of Brother Godfrey, and after Beckman successfully developed his unique camera, used at many national horse races, he was able to fly Brother to and from his ranch in northern California to Portland.<sup>20</sup>

Godfrey had two great dreams of things he wanted for the campus. One of these he achieved, a set of cannons which were placed near the bluff, embedded in several tons of concrete. In the mid-1980's an anti-military group on the campus sought to have the cannons removed; when they learned of the heavy concrete encasement, they gave up their project. But Brother's other great dream, a massive pendulum, he never achieved.<sup>21</sup>

In the summer of 1949, "BG" dragooned three fellow faculty members and some ten students into "backbreaking work" as a faculty member remembered it. This crew undertook to dig under the foundations of the new Engineering Building, which had no basement, to create two rooms, one measuring fifty by thirty feet and the other twenty by fifteen feet.<sup>22</sup> Either "BG" or Mr. Bill Keane devised "a conveyor belt with a motor drive" which ran through a small vent or window variously described as 18 inches by 4 or 5 inches, or as "BG" remembered it, about 1 by 3 feet, which carried out some 150 cubic yards of dirt.<sup>23</sup>

There were many footings under the building which needed concrete reinforcement:

We had to build little fences as it were, and shore up around those so that the sand wouldn't fall away and let the middle of the building down.<sup>24</sup>

"BG," now fifty-six years old, "liked to direct big projects, and he had friends from whom he could get money and supplies."<sup>25</sup> However, an eighty year old man, Harry McPherson, also pitched in to help dig out the Engineering basement. He was one of those needy people for whom Godfrey was always on the lookout.<sup>26</sup> MacPherson was an expert at repairing x-ray machines, and the main reason for making the basement was to build an x-ray lab. One of the workers remembered:

When the city inspector came to inspect our forms, for the pouring of concrete walls, he said that

they needed stronger support. B.G. enthusiastically rallied the workers to the task in the presence of the inspector, but when the inspector left, we stopped and went ahead with the pouring. The forms held.<sup>27</sup>

Brother Remy Aydt, C.S.C., who did much of the digging recently said of Godfrey:

He was the best man I ever worked for. He would bring in something to be repaired, and I would say, 'When do you need this? Yesterday? We never had a cross word between us.'<sup>28</sup>

The physics department decided a radar tower and unit would be useful in its electronics course. The radar equipment was given to the university by the government, and lengthy correspondence finally secured a short-term license to operate it.<sup>29</sup> The renewal of the license was then sought:

...and somehow a feud arose between Brother Godfrey and the director of the FCC.... This happened to be a woman and Brother Godfrey and women sometimes don't get along too well. The feud got so violent that we never did get another license from them.<sup>30</sup>

Brother could be downright importunate. One day he picked up the phone and called a Portland business firm, The Commercial Ironworks, and asked for Mr. Edward L. Casey, its vice-president and a former student of "BG's" "Casey," he said, "the university needs a metal flagpole," and then gave the specifications and hung up. Mr. Casey correctly inferred that he was expected to donate the flagpole, and this he did.<sup>31</sup>

Brother heard of a 20-inch reflector telescope being offered as a gift to whomever qualified by Mr. Angus E. McIntosh, who had installed it at his home in Portland's West Hills. Brother went to dinner at Mr. McIntosh's home with Father Robert Sweeney, C.S.C., the university president.<sup>32</sup> He later recalled:

We didn't have any hope of getting the telescope.

Finally we sat down to talk after dinner and



I found out that he was from Nova Scotia. I knew a lot of the people that he knew and this was a deciding factor in getting the telescope. . . .

Mr. McIntosh gave us \$4,000 with which to set up the telescope on our property.<sup>33</sup>

The University was in fiscal trouble in 1952, and it lacked money to pay for the moving of the telescope to the campus. Brother again thought of his friend, Mr. Ed Casey, who came and took a look at the telescope and said his equipment couldn't handle the move, but he had a close personal friend who was one of the biggest truckers in Portland. Steve Wilhelm was contacted and proceeded to move the telescope and dome free of charge.<sup>34</sup> The lens had been ground as one of three by the Corning Glass Works as an experiment for the larger Mount Palomar telescope.<sup>35</sup> Having secured this generous gift and moved it to campus, "BG" was now free to concentrate on his usual extended summer leave, and his physics colleagues built the concrete pilings, and other necessary structures to house the telescope.<sup>36</sup>

About 1970, when the country was becoming concerned about student violence, "BG" came in a flustered mood to the university president and said, "Father, excuse me for bringing this up at supper, but do you want cyclone fencing around all or parts of the campus? A friend has offered to give us as much as you want, and maybe I can get it for nothing. I have to know fast!" A bemused Father Waldschmidt said, "Why no, Brother, but thank you ever so much."<sup>37</sup>

In World War II (1941-1945) the university faced one of its periodic crises, because much of its all male faculty and student body were serving in the armed forces. By the final spring of the war the number of students had declined to around sixty, and the school was kept open by the profits from a burgeoning Columbia Prep.<sup>38</sup> Brother Godfrey returned to part-time teaching of high school mathematics, from 1942 to 1946, while continuing to teach physics on the college level.<sup>39</sup> Brother Godfrey's pioneering efforts in the Civilian Pilot Training Program antedated the war by several months. Obtaining a ground instructor's rating from the Civil Aeronautical Administration, "BG" taught courses on the college level in air craft operation, meteorology, and navigation.<sup>40</sup>

After the program was reorganized, "BG" ceased teaching, but continued weekley supervision of its operation as coordinator. In a time of food rationing, apparently through "BG," the school rented a cannery and bought 150 head of cattle to feed the students in the Pilot Training School. When the program was over, the faculty and students of the university inherited a good supply of milk and meat, as well as butter and canned goods worth four or five thousand dollars. Godfrey thought that, all in all, the CPT program had brought in a badly needed \$50,000 to the university.<sup>41</sup>

In the two years after the end of World War II, the enrollment swelled to 1,884, and then to 2,185. The school had only West Hall for classroom instruction, plus two hastily acquired war surplus buildings. Because of the heavy volume of students in West Hall, that literally jammed the central staircase, it was Brother Godfrey who blew the whistle as he stood on the staircase, indicating by the number of blasts when students were to go down the stairs and when they could come up.<sup>42</sup> Brother not only had a commanding presence, he could bully. He also had a gentler variation of the strong-arm tactic. When he wanted something from someone, he firmly grasped the upper arm of his listener to make his point.<sup>43</sup>

The end of World War II meant the manufacture and greater availability of consumer products. "BG" would listen to the desires of various veterans and of the lay faculty: then, through one of his ever increasing networks, he would contact a Mr. Cronin of Cronin Electrics, getting many of the desired items at a greatly reduced, sometimes even wholesale, price. But he abruptly ended the practice when someone subverted the system by going around him.<sup>44</sup>

Brother Godfrey lived and worked in a university which, like other such institutions, rarely admitted, at least publicly, that a member was not up to snuff in performance -- indeed, a member felt he was being personally attacked when he heard another member criticized, whether justly or not. After World War II, an undergraduate complained that Father Richard Murphy, C.S.C., was a poor physics teacher. Brother angrily denied this, and in his anger "BG" could be formidable. The student transferred to another college. About a year and a half after



this, "BG" saw the former student in downtown Portland, and this time angrily asked the student why he hadn't told him that Father Murphy was a poor teacher. "BG" denied any memory of the student's previous complaint.<sup>45</sup>

But "BG" could be full of surprises. When a Holy Cross priest was given a sabbatical in the early 1960's to study in southern Oregon, it was "BG" who found a friend who had a house in Ashland. The friend loaned it to the priest, and departed for a year in Europe. Some months later he called long distance from Europe and asked, "Brother, what am I to do? I am told that that priest is living in my house with a woman." After a gasp and a very short silence, "BG" loudly replied, "Throw them out!" This was done.<sup>46</sup>

Brother Godfrey was not shy about publicity -- he sensed the important role it played in getting things done. Thus he often lectured at local gatherings on the applications of electronics, and in 1947, spent a summer in South America, giving a number of lectures on electronics there, then returned to the States and gave lectures on features of life in South America.<sup>47</sup>

A long time colleague remembered another aspect of Brother Godfrey's career:

...One summer in ...[1952] he ["BG"] took a course in radio-active isotopes at Oak Ridge [Tennessee]... He came back with a radiation burn on his arm. He had spilled a solution in the lab. on his arm. This was typical -- a bull in a china shop....In succeeding summers he included Oak Ridge in his itinerary. He claimed that he taught a class in mathematics to medical doctors, but I never could bring myself to believe this, because I questioned his credentials as well as the shortness of time spent there.<sup>48</sup>

Brother operated upon a theory: if someone offers something for free, take it whether you want it or not:

...if somebody offers a piece of equipment accept it with thanks and gladly, let the fellow know you

appreciate it even if you don't want it, because later he might give you something that you do want. We have received any number of old x-ray machines because of this philosophy....<sup>49</sup>

When television began to be nationally talked about, Brother was listening. So when the School of Business held its first Greater Portland Industrial Exposition on campus, "BG" arranged for a television camera to be placed in Education Hall; faculty and students walked toward the manned camera, waving at themselves as they watched their images on the nearby TV monitor. And at a corner window of Meier and Frank, the department store in downtown Portland, a monitor was telecasting this picture live.<sup>50</sup>

When the Holy Cross community acquired a television set in the early 1950's, the religious of the local group often misadjusted the finer tuning controls. Wearying of the frequent calls to come and fix the picture, "BG" came in, properly adjusted it, removed almost all of the controls and put them in his pocket, leaving only the knobs for on/off and volume.<sup>51</sup>

The University of Portland awarded "BG" the Culligan Award, honoring him as the outstanding faculty member of 1972, but probably the highlight of Brother Godfrey's career at the university was the big celebration of his golden anniversary as a religious of Holy Cross.<sup>52</sup> On December 1, 1963, in the University Commons, 320 Holy Cross religious and other friends gathered. They included a former student, Mayor Terry Schrunk of Portland, who presented his former teacher with a key to the city. The faculty presented him with a scroll of appreciation, acclaiming "...a man who has been an unheralded mainstay of the University of Portland..., maintaining an unlimited enthusiasm for...growth..., who approaches every class as a new adventure..."<sup>53</sup> Only the day before "BG" had said to Father Charles Hamel, C.S.C., "I love teaching. I can't think of a field where one can be so at peace with God and his fellowmen."<sup>54</sup> University president Father Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C., said: [Brother Godfrey] "...has captured the essence of what education is about -- the teaching of a student." Alluding to "BG's" loathing of red tape, carbon copies and

filing boxes, Father Waldschmidt said he was setting aside formal procedures, and was then and there declaring the gathering to be an academic convocation, and that then and there Brother Godfrey was to receive the university's highest honor, an honorary doctor of science degree. "BG" had almost reached his seventieth birthday.<sup>55</sup>

Ahead lay the turbulent student unrest of the later 1960's and early 1970's. University publications contain no tirades against "BG" as a teacher, even though he insisted on beginning and ending class with prayer, and had personal prohibitions against beards and long hair.<sup>56</sup> His classes were still sizeable. He did not discuss politics, the Vietnam War or the draft in the classroom, but he did say:

What I object to most in kids today is their lack of personal discipline...

The cause of the whole thing is in the homes of these kids. Their parents haven't insisted on what they should do.

The protest against the Vietnam War is wrong. Last week there were 11 Americans killed in Vietnam and during the same period there were 537 murders in the United States.<sup>57</sup>

When announcers on the student radio station, KDUP, did not clean up their language while on the air, Brother simply cut the wires connecting the studio with transmission equipment.<sup>58</sup>

In early May of 1970 the university faculty were agog over a proposal that those faculty members opposed to the war in Vietnam should wear arm bands over their academic gowns. What was perhaps the leavening factor was an afternoon discussion in the University Commons as various faculty members stated, one by one, opposing views in a jammed faculty diningroom. Brother Godfrey told the administration that since he was grand marshall of the commencement procession there would be no trouble. There was none.<sup>59</sup>

There had been another matter gravely affecting the faculty earlier that spring. Because of deep university indebtedness, Father Paul Waldschmidt, C.S.C., university president, announced "a reduction of about ten percent in the faculty in all departments, and... small departments would have to reduce by one person."<sup>60</sup> Because Karl

Wetzel was the new man in the physics department, he had cause for worry. He and his new wife had moved from Yale to Portland the preceeding year and even today, his wife remembers exactly when and where they were as he broke the news to her. Karl recalls that:

Within a day or two, "BG" came to my office, and his demeanor told me that we were going to have a serious conversation, not the general chatter as was usually the case. He reviewed briefly the physics staff, his current role, his participation in the science/physics program for over forty years. He then made some general "haroomph" pronouncement that if anyone were going to be cut from the department, than it would be he.

Indeed, he went through some discussions with the administration to have his status changed and in the next year he gave up the physical science courses, keeping only the photography and related responsibilities.<sup>61</sup>

And so, Brother Godfrey, supposedly already in retirement, gave up his current load of four classes (with 144 students): "three sections of physical science for sophomores, and a photography class."<sup>62</sup>

Godfrey had entered the Congregation of Holy Cross at a time when its members did not retire. The university had begun a retirement policy by at least 1971-1972, when the university suffered its last grave financial problems. Retrenchment in the size of the administration, faculty and staff was the order of the day. By presidential fiat seven Holy Cross Religious were retired at the end of the 1971-1972 school year, of whom only one had a doctorate.<sup>63</sup> But Brother Godfrey did not want to retire, and he did not want to go back to Notre Dame. In September of 1970 his provincial had written:

We look forward to seeing you at Notre Dame next summer. I am personally anxious for an opportunity to chat with you, and you have many friends in this area who haven't seen you for a long time.<sup>64</sup>

On January 19, 1972 Brother received a letter from the university president, Father Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C., whose Mass he daily served.<sup>65</sup> Couching his letter carefully, Father Waldschmidt wrote:

...in all honesty we want to have you around here  
as long as possible -- and certainly anything  
we can do to ease the pressure on you -- we  
want to do....you will be able to do as much,  
if not more, for the university and especially  
for the students, if you have more free time....<sup>66</sup>

The Beacon on January 21, 1972 printed that "BG" had had forty-two years of service to the university and was now 79 years old. Godfrey was quoted, "I am going into adult education, teaching meteorology and the metric system." He was also going much more actively into his new hobby of polishing rocks to create jewelry for sale to bolster the "BG" Scholarship Fund.<sup>67</sup>

Brother Godfrey had always enjoyed excellent health, though he had noticed loss of hearing in 1956, complaining that he could not hear questions in his large classes, numbering fifty to seventy-two students. He found a hearing aid of much help, and in 1961 received a gift of a new hearing aid which he found even better.<sup>68</sup>

On January 15, 1974 Godfrey had a very successful cataract operation on his right eye, but he wrote to his provincial:

After I got out of hospital had a slight attack  
of angina.... In the house I am O.K. but to walk  
in cold air gives me pains in my chest -- maybe  
when weather gets warmer I might be O.K. I feel  
at 80 I should have something the matter with me -  
so I am humbly grateful that it isn't too bad.<sup>69</sup>

On March 4, 1974 he returned to a Portland clinic where he was examined by two doctors who were former students of his. They told him he must slow down.<sup>70</sup>

In December of 1969 an announcement appeared establishing "The Brother Godfrey Student Aid Fund," with the initial contribution, the largest, from "BG's" old friend, John C. Beckman, of \$20,000.<sup>71</sup> The second largest contributor was Brother Godfrey himself, who sold

his stamp collection and raised \$5,000. Beckman thought of "BG" as "a driving and vital force... he was a very visible and vital figure on the campus and always did whatever he could to help students."<sup>72</sup> Beckman recalled the help he had been given in photography when a student.

Two departmental colleagues recalled "BG's" darkroom in the Engineering Building. Dr. Paul Wack stated:

....His photographic darkroom was always white with crystals from the hypo. Father Richard Murphy, C.S.C., could never understand how he could produce good pictures under such circumstances. Cleanliness is one of the first darkroom rules.<sup>73</sup>

Dr. Karl Wetzel remembered:

Brother Godfrey continued his domination of photography on the campus in those years. He taught the courses, the labs, and took all photos for the student directory. He also developed and printed these photos and supplied them to the student publications. It was a marvel that these photos were not totally ruined in the development process, for his own darkroom, built into the side of the storage room (Eng.[ineering] 206), was a shambles.... There was virtually no surface in the lab which was clean, uncluttered, or not coated with dried, crystallized chemicals. Yet he thrived in all this and made a real contribution to the students.<sup>74</sup>

It is not certain, but it seems highly probable, that Brother Godfrey was the photographer who took the individual photos of students for nearly forty years for the student year book, The Log. For example, from 1951 to 1959 he snapped 7,303 pictures, if he got every student.<sup>75</sup> At such sessions he was brisk and gruff, always making sure he had the correct identification. And in 1970 he added yet another burden to his shoulders, he began taking photos for the new



student directory.<sup>76</sup>

Godfrey was in a bad humor at the end of the afternoon session on Wednesday, September 4, 1974. He had snapped pictures, or so he thought, of hundreds. Then, at the end of the session he found he had forgotten to load the camera with film. He went to see his superior, Father Richard F. Berg, C.S.C., who remembered Godfrey being very upset. And then Godfrey did something uncharacteristic. He asked Father Berg to sit down on a bench outside of Buckley Center and there with his superior he reviewed sixty years in religious life.<sup>77</sup>

Prior to returning to the campus in the fall of 1974, Godfrey had visited his old friend John C. Beckman in California, where he met one of the first of four recipients of a scholarship from the Brother Godfrey Vassallo Student Aid Fund.<sup>78</sup> Mr. Beckman then flew Brother Godfrey in his private plane to Portland, where he was picked up at the private plane section of the airport, by Father Frederick Barr, C.S.C. On the way to the campus Brother deviated from custom and told Father Barr how very tired he was.<sup>79</sup> On the morning of Thursday, September 12, the maid knocked and knocked at Godfrey's door, room 200-C in Shipstad Hall. Using her pass key, she entered and found his body, fully covered, in the bed. She went seeking a priest, not thinking to look in the Shipstad Chapel where morning prayer was in progress.<sup>80</sup> The coroner told Father Berg that Brother had been dead for several hours.<sup>81</sup>

Two hundred and forty-four people signed the register at the viewing of the body in Buckley Center Faculty Lounge, and the funeral was held at St. Mary's Chapel on campus, Saturday, September 14, 1974.<sup>82</sup> His body was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery near the Holy Cross Brothers Center at Notre Dame, Indiana.<sup>83</sup>

Brother Godfrey Vassallo, C.S.C., died at the age of eighty; he had given forty-five years of uninterrupted service in a manner which quickly became a campus legend.

1. A card, "C.S.C. - United States Brothers' Province (Southwest)" from the Midwest Province Archives, Congregation of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana.
2. "Brother Godfrey Vassallo's Golden Jubilee of 1st Profession, Dec. 8, 1913 - Dec. 8, 1963," by Fr. Charles Hamel, C.S.C., September 22, 1963, University of Portland Archives, Portland, Oregon.
3. Letter to Brother Garnier from Brother Godfrey Vassallo, January 26, 1951. Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
4. Ibid.
5. Cassette tape transcription from Leo Walsh, recorded March 30, 1995, University of Portland Archives; "Brother Godfrey Vassallo's Golden Jubilee...", September 22, 1963, by Fr. Hamel, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
6. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Garnier, January 26, 1951, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame; "Brother Godfrey Vassallo's Golden Jubilee...", September 22, 1963, by Fr. Hamel, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives; "An Historical Exposition of the History of the Development of Magic Squares," A dissertation submitted to the Department of Mathematics of the College of Science of the University of Notre Dame, by Brother Godfrey, C.S.C., Wilson W. Clark Memorial Library, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon.
7. "Souvenir Commencement Program," Columbia University, 1929, p. 270, University of Portland Archives.
8. Catalogue of Columbia University, 1928-1929, University of Portland Archives.
9. The Columbiad, November, 1929, p. 62. Although the Columbiad states that construction was begun, the stadium did not materialize, nor was it mentioned again. University of Portland Archives.
10. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Donatus, December 12, 1961, stated "I am in excellent health." Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame; letter to The Brothers of Holy Cross from Dr. John R. Hand, The Portland Clinic, Portland, Oregon, January 14, 1972, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
11. "U.S. Certificate of Citizenship," December 20, 1940, states that Brother Godfrey was 46 years of age; Color: white; complexion: ruddy;

eyes: brown; hair: black-grey; height: 6 feet 1 inch; weight: 210. Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.

12. Reminiscences of Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
13. University of Portland Bulletins, 1929 through 1967, University of Portland Archives.
14. Funeral and death announcement sent to the University of Portland faculty and staff by Fr. Michael O'Brien, C.S.C., September 12, 1974, University of Portland Archives. Actual documentation of his being Grand Marshal begins in 1951 in The Beacon. May 25, 1951, p. 1, but tradition places the figure at more than forty. The University of Portland Bulletin, Alumni Edition, July 1971, Vol. XXXII, No. 5, p. 5, says Brother Godfrey led the Commencement procession for 44 years (this is in error, since Brother Godfrey did not come to the university until 1929). The Log. 1955, was dedicated to Brother Godfrey and mentions the many projects for which he was responsible, p. 7, University of Portland Archives. Brother Godfrey is also mentioned in several oral history interviews conducted by Brother David Martin, C.S.C.: "Ed O'Meara Reminiscences," October 1970, Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 304; "Herbert Heywood Reminiscences," December 1968, Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 51, University of Portland Archives.
15. "Brother Godfrey Vassallo, C.S.C. Reminiscences," April 1968, Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 310, University of Portland Archives.
16. Ibid., p. 311.
17. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. in phone conversation with Mrs. James Burtchaeil in Portland, Oregon, March 1995.
18. "Dr. James Covert Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series II, Vol. 1, p. 4, University of Portland Archives.
19. Paul E. Wack letter to Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., August 6, 1994, p. 1; John Beckman Eulogy for Brother Godfrey, September 14, 1974; "Brother Godfrey Vassallo's Golden Jubilee...", September 22, 1963, by Fr. Hamel, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
20. Beckman Eulogy, September 14, 1974; Leo Walsh tape transcription, March 30, 1995, University of Portland Archives.

21. Reminiscences of Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
22. "Merle Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 67, September 1970, University of Portland Archives.
23. Leo Walsh tape transcription, March 30, 1994, Mr. Walsh says 18 inches by 4 or 5 inches; "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 315, University of Portland Archives.
24. "Dr. Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 67, University of Portland Archives.
25. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p. 2, University of Portland Archives.
26. Ibid.; "Dr. Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 74, University of Portland Archives.
27. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p. 2, University of Portland Archives.
28. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. telephone conversation with Brother Remy Aydt, C.S.C., February 2, 1995.
29. "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 316, University of Portland Archives.
30. "Dr. Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 69, University of Portland Archives.
31. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. conversation with Patrick Casey (son of Edward Casey), April 7, 1995.
32. "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 315, University of Portland Archives.
33. Ibid.; "Dr. Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 70, University of Portland Archives.
34. "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 315, University of Portland Archives.
35. "Dr. Starr Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 3, p. 70, University of Portland Archives.
36. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p. 3, University of Portland Archives.
37. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., reminiscences.
38. Ibid.

39. The Columbiad, 1942 through 1944, University of Portland Archives.
40. The Log, 1941 (no page numbers), University of Portland Archives.
41. "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 312, University of Portland Archives.
42. University of Portland Bulletins, 1946, p. 125 and 1947, p. 144, University of Portland Archives.
43. Leo Walsh tape transcription, March 30, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
44. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p. 2; letter of Dr. Karl Wetzel to Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., November 1, 1994, University of Portland Archives.
45. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., reminiscences.
46. Ibid.
47. "Brother Godfrey Reminiscences," Oral History Program, Series I, Vol. 1, p. 310, University of Portland Archives.
48. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, in this letter Dr. Wack remembered the time as the 60's, but the Beacon, May 23, 1952 reported the burn as occurring shortly before that edition appeared. In a letter to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., Christmas 1971 (Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame) Brother Godfrey said he had a radiation burn on his left elbow which he had had for twenty years. The doctors wanted to check it out every year or so.

A colleague noticed that "several fingers on one of his hands were slightly deformed, as if he had arthritis. The story was that this....was due to an accumulated effect of overexposure to x-ray from his experiments." Dr. Wetzel letter, November 1, 1994, p. 4, University of Portland Archives.

In a letter to Brother Donatus, April 30, 1964 (Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame) Brother Godfrey reported teaching a course in radiation mathematics.

49. Letter of Fr. James Rigert, C.S.C. to Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., February 6, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
50. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. reminiscences and Fr. Hagan's conversation with Dr. Arthur A. Schulte, Jr.
51. Leo Walsh tape transcription, March 30, 1995, University of Portland Archives.

52. The Culligan Award: The University of Portland Alumni Bulletin, Vol. XXXIII, No. 5, July 1972, p. 2, University of Portland Archives. Brother Godfrey's Golden Anniversary as a religious of Holy Cross: The Oregonian, November 29, 1963 and Nov. 30, 1963; The Oregon Journal, November 28, 1963; The Catholic Sentinel, November 21, 1963; The Portland Reporter, November 30, 1963; The University of Portland Alumni Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 4, December, 1963, p. 3, University of Portland Archives.
53. The Oregon Journal, December 2, 1963; "Scroll presented to Brother Godfrey Vassallo, C.S.C., December 1, 1963, by the University of Portland Faculty Association," University of Portland Archives.
54. "Brother Godfrey Vassallo's Golden Jubilee....," September 22, 1963, by Fr. Hamel, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
55. The Oregon Journal, December 2, 1963, University of Portland Archives.
56. The Sunday Oregonian, "Northwest Magazine," December 28, 1969, University of Portland Archives.
57. The University of Portland Alumni Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 1, January 1970, pp. 12-13, University of Portland Archives.
58. Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. reminiscences with Margaret Henzie, University of Portland Archives.
59. Dr. Arthur A. Schulte, Jr., interview with Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C. University of Portland Archives.
60. Dr. Wetzel letter, November 1, 1994, p. 4, University of Portland Archives.
61. Ibid., pp. 4-5.
62. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994; The Beacon, January 21, 1972, p. 3, University of Portland Archives.
63. Ibid.
64. Letter of Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C. to Brother Godfrey, September 21, 1970, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
65. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Rex, March 21, 1970, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame; letter from Rev. Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C. to Mr. Thomas Keenan, January 3, 1972, "He serves my Mass every morning." University of Portland Archives.
66. Letter from Rev. Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C. to Brother Godfrey, January 19, 1972, University of Portland Archives.



67. The Beacon, January 21, 1972, p. 3; The Sunday Oregonian, November 4, 1973; letter from John Beckman to Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., January 28, 1995; letter from Fr. Frederick Barr, C.S.C. to Fr. Hagan, February 23, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
68. Letters from Brother Godfrey to Brother Donatus Schmitz, C.S.C., on November 1, 1956 and December 12, 1961, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
69. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., February 26, 1974, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
70. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., March 5, 1974, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
71. The Sunday Oregonian, "Northwest Section," December 28, 1969; The Beacon, March 13, 1970, p. 1; The University of Portland Alumni Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 1, January 1970, p. 11, University of Portland Archives.
72. Letter of John C. Beckman, January 28, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
73. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, University of Portland Archives.
74. Dr. Wetzel letter, November 1, 1994, University of Portland Archives.
75. University of Portland Bulletins, Enrollment Statistics, 1951 through 1959. This includes freshmen, sophomores and juniors, the seniors had their portraits professionally taken, University of Portland Archives. In a letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., August 15, 1972, "BG" said that that day he "took 1080 pictures for our telephone directory." Midwest Province Archives.
76. The Student Directory, 1969-1970, listed Mark Falkenstein as Manager of Photography. From 1970 through 1974 Brother Godfrey's name was given as the photographer. In 1970 he took approximately 1170 student pictures and 148 photos of faculty. University of Portland Archives.
77. Fr. Hagan's reminiscences with Rev. Richard F. Berg, C.S.C. and Rev. Michael J. Peppen, C.S.C., University of Portland Archives.
78. John C. Beckman letter, January 28, 1995; Pioneer Press, "People," Wednesday, September 11, 1974. The name of the student was Loretta Kellems of Etna, California. University of Portland Archives.
79. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994. Dr. Wack tells how tired "BG"

67. The Beacon, January 21, 1972, p. 3; The Sunday Oregonian, November 4, 1973; letter from John Beckman to Fr. Barry J. Hagan, C.S.C., January 28, 1995; letter from Fr. Frederick Barr, C.S.C. to Fr. Hagan, February 23, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
68. Letters from Brother Godfrey to Brother Donatus Schmitz, C.S.C., on November 1, 1956 and December 12, 1961, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
69. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., February 26, 1974, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
70. Letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., March 5, 1974, Midwest Province Archives, Notre Dame.
71. The Sunday Oregonian, "Northwest Section," December 28, 1969; The Beacon, March 13, 1970, p. 1; The University of Portland Alumni Bulletin, Vol. XXXI, No. 1, January 1970, p. 11, University of Portland Archives.
72. Letter of John C. Beckman, January 28, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
73. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p.4, University of Portland Archives.
74. Dr. Wetzel letter, November 1, 1994, University of Portland Archives, p.2.
75. University of Portland Bulletins, Enrollment Statistics, 1951 through 1959. This includes freshmen, sophomores and juniors, the seniors had their portraits professionally taken, University of Portland Archives. In a letter from Brother Godfrey to Brother Charles Krupp, C.S.C., August 15, 1972, "BG" said that that day he "took 1080 pictures for our telephone directory." Midwest Province Archives.
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78. John C. Beckman letter, January 28, 1995; Pioneer Press, "People," Wednesday, September 11, 1974. The name of the student was Loretta Kellems of Etna, California. University of Portland Archives.
79. Dr. Wack letter, August 6, 1994, p.5. Dr. Wack tells how tired "BG"

- seemed on the day of his death. University of Portland Archives.
80. Fr. Barr letter, February 23, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
  81. Fr. Hagan reminiscences, University of Portland Archives.
  82. "Brother Godfrey, Register of Visitors," Hennessey, Goetsch & McGee, Inc., Portland, Oregon (no date or time was given on the registration cards). University of Portland Archives.
  83. Letter to Faculty and Staff from Fr. Michael O'Brien, C.S.C., September 12, 1974; letter to C.S.C. Community in Oregon from Fr. Richard F. Berg, C.S.C., local religious superior, September 12, 1974; The Oregon Journal, September 12, 1974; The Oregonian, September 13, 1974; The Beacon, September 18, 1974, p. 4; St. Johns Review, September 19, 1974; Catholic Sentinel, September 20, 1974, Vol. 105, No. 39, pp. 1 and 20; Province Review, Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province, October 1974, p. 3; The University of Portland Bulletin, Alumni Edition, Vol. 35, No. 2, October 1974, pp. 2 and 3 (unnumbered), University of Portland Archives.

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80. Fr. Barr letter, February 23, 1995, University of Portland Archives.
81. Fr. Hagan reminiscences, University of Portland Archives.
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