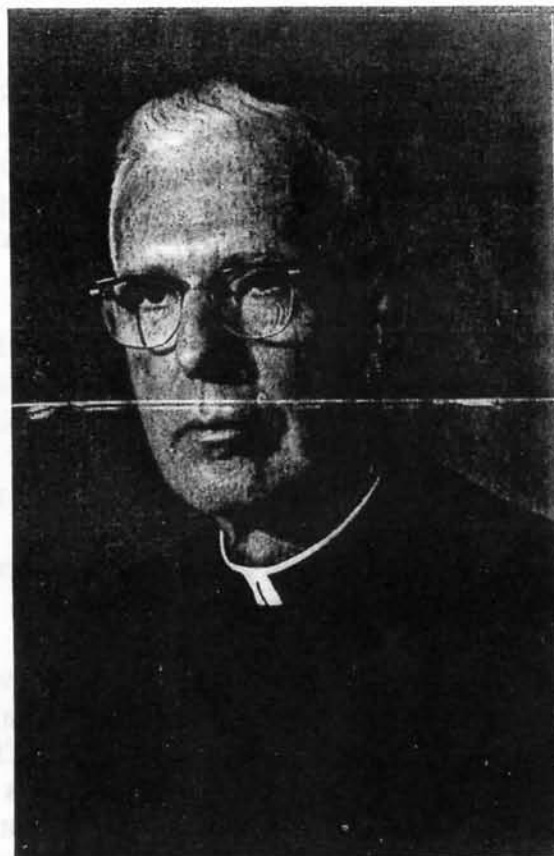


2002-9



BROTHER GONZAGA DAY, C.S.C.

PREFACE

Where are you now, Gonzaga, when I need you?

With the passing of time, I should not have been surprised on hearing that the assignments to do this paper on my good friend, Bro. Gonzaga Day, csc would be given to me. Others noticed that even though miles separated us, by Obedience, he came each year to clean my room...taking every little thing in that room – including clothing that he felt I didn't need. Believe me, my room resembled a Trappist's cell when he left, because I had very few needs according to him. The Missions needed things more than I did. I am getting ahead of my story.

After graduating from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA in 1937 I was planning on entering the Brothers of Holy Cross, at Notre Dame, IN. And, as the time for my departure from home drew near, the O'Malley clan at home planned a party to facilitate my saying goodbye; not only to the family but for relatives and my friends and those of my brothers and sisters whom I knew. It turned out to be quite a day.

It seemed to me, that my brothers and sisters had more friends than I. A number of very interesting people showed up.

One gentleman in line came from Cleveland, OH, and, he was a good friend of my older brother, Bert. His name was Don. In shaking hands, he said: "Ed, perhaps you will run into a young man who works for me in the Drug Store in Cleveland, and he is entering the Brothers. I asked if he knew what group of Brothers his co-worker was entering, but he said that he was a Protestant and that he didn't know that there would be more than one group. I assured him that there were a number of different groups, but if he gave me his name I would try to remember it. Don replied: "His name is: Thomas Day". "Little did I know what that name would mean to me later on!"

I was given the choice, by the Vocation Director at the time, Brother Ephrem O'Dwyer, of entering either of the two houses where I could serve my postulancy. One would be St. Joseph's Juniorate in Valatie, NY, or Sacred Heart College, Watertown, WI. I chose the latter, because it would allow me to visit my uncle, Thomas O'Malley, who resided in Chicago with my aunt Catherine and their sons.

I left home and Pittsburgh, and had a great reunion with Uncle Tom, then caught the Hiawatha Train to Watertown WI which made the trip in great time; only two minutes late. The cab brought me to Sacred Heart College.

The superior, Brother Jacob Eppley, answered the door and welcomed me, and told me that I was just a few minutes late, but all would work out well.

Brother ushered me in to a very large crowded, refectory, and, on looking around, found an empty seat at the foot of the table near the door. I was the tenth man at the table that seated four men on each side, with one at the top, and I occupying the seat at the foot of the table.

The young man at the head of the table asked: "What is your name?" I answered it was, "Thomas O'Malley". He followed immediately with a question, "Where are you from?" That was easy to answer. I replied, "Pittsburgh, PA." It was his third question that struck me out with, "Do you have a brother, Bert?" I couldn't believe it! I had to reply that I did have a brother, Bert-and here was the lad that Don had asked me to look for. Isn't it a small world? Pennsylvania, Ohio, and then Wisconsin all meeting at the same table hundreds of miles across country.

But the surprises were not over for me, yet.

It was just a matter of days when we heard that we had to report for a work period. They wanted us to contribute a few hours of work in return for the food we were consuming. That seemed like a fair swap.

We were teamed with partners, and sent to various parts of the campus on assignment. Could I say that I had the luck of the draw? Tom Day and Tom O'Malley were to work for Brother Jacob Eppley, and when we reported we were told that we were to go to the basement and dismantle the large institutional piano that was on the basement floor. He told us he wanted only the metal parts and the wiring. We could dispose of the wood outside of the building.

I also learned that 'rank' came into my vocabulary. Tom Day had entered Sacred Heart before me. So he was my boss. How much bossing could be involved in the dismantling of an old piano? I found out!

The first ruling, made by my boss, that we had to put this piano of ours into a standing position. I wasn't sure I was hearing correctly, but I was assured I had when it was repeated. So the struggle was begun with the two of us struggling, but getting the old piano up to about three-quarters of the way.

The second ruling by my boss has more of the surprise element to it than the first, and it called for me to put my knee against the back of the piano while he went to look for two props to hold the piano in the position we had achieved at the moment. He couldn't possibly mean it, could he? He did!

The reader here could possibly finish the scenario! And describe it exactly as it happened. As soon as my boss let go of his side of the piano it was impossible for me to hold up my side so - I did what I thought safest, and that was to let go and jump backwards. This I did - and, there was only one thing wrong with that. I did not jump back far enough, and the result was that the whole piano came crashing down on my foot!

I couldn't remember anything, so I will have to leave some space and start another paragraph.

Proper medical attention was rendered, and I spent the rest of my postulancy in bed. Then all of the postulants left for Rolling Prairie, Indiana by train and truck, and I wore bedroom slippers since I could not put my shoes on my feet.

We received the habit of the Brothers of Holy Cross on August 15th in 1938. I hadn't told my parents. So they couldn't understand my limping. They were surprised even more when they heard the full story.

The piano incident was forgotten, and Bro. Gonzaga Day and I were close friends for all of our fifty years in Holy Cross, and I always got that yearly visit where he removed everything he thought I didn't need. The Missions were beneficiaries of my losses. I was not permitted in the room when he was relieving me of my excesses. God rest his noble soul.

CHRONOLOGY: Life of BROTHER GONZAGA DAY, CSC (Thomas John Day, Jr.)

10/31/1919 Birth: Cleveland, Ohio

Parents: Ella Nunney, Thomas John Day

Brothers: Joseph Aloysius
John Leo
Francis Henry

Sisters: Mary Agatha
Helen: died shortly after birth

Parish: Holy Name of Jesus
(Newburg) Cleveland, Ohio
Baptized
Confirmed
First Communion
Graduated: (Elementary & High Schools) June 1937
Srs of Charity-Cincinnati, Ohio
Parents' Burial

09/07/1937 Left Home for Holy Cross

09/08/1937 Watertown, Wisconsin

08/06/1938 St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana

08/15/1938 Received Holy Cross Brothers' Habit

Novice Master: Rev. James Connerton, CSC

08/16/1939 Profession of Vows

Rev. Thos. Steiner, Provincial

1939 -1940 Dujarie Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana
Br. Fintan Curran, CSC, Superior

1940 -1941 Community House - Assistant Cook
Rev. Joseph Maguire, CSC, Superior

1941 -1942 St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana
Head Cook - 120 Novices

- 1944 -1945 Sacred Heart College, Watertown, Wisconsin
Steward
Br. Bonaventure Foley, CSC, Superior
- 1945 September 25, left with Br. Theophane Schmitt, CSC,
Open Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio
- 1946 Steward
- 1948 -1949 Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Connecticut
Steward, Librarian
Br. John Baptist, CSC, Superior
- 1949 - 1950 Br. Donatus Schmitz, CSC, Superior
- 1950 - 1951 Rome, Italy
Secretary to Rev. Edward Heston, CSC, Procurator General
Translation of Catta's *Life of Fr. Moreau*
Lived at Procure, Via Aldrovandi
- 1950 - 1951 Assisted in start of Notre Dame International School, Rome, Italy
- 1953 Returned to Gilmour Academy for second semester
Dean of Women
- 1953 - 1956 St. Edward's High School, Lakewood, Ohio
Steward, Religion Classes, Book Store Manager, Prefect of Study Halls
- 1956 - 1962 Elected to First Provincial Council of Midwest Province
Mission Promoter
Director of Association of St. Joseph
Organized Chapters:
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Indianapolis, Indiana
South Bend, Indiana
Detroit, Michigan
Lakewood, Ohio

- 1963 -1964 Silver Jubilee - Columba Hall, Notre Dame, Indiana
 Jubilee Funds, from Associates of St. Joseph
 Remodeled foyer, front entrance, parlors, storm windows : Columba Hall
 New furniture for St. Joseph's Novitiate: tile flooring :first floor; Chapter Rm.
 Held / organized national chapters of Associates of St. Joseph : at Gilmour
- 1979 -1980 At request of General Administration asked to:
 Organize, set up, staff, display all Province activities for 1980
 General Chapter at Stonehill College, North Easton, MA
- 1980 Moved to Harriman, TN
 Opened Seton Thrift Shop
 Sacristan for next ten years at Bl. Sacrament Church
- 1989 Golden Jubilee of Profession, Celebrated at Bl. Sacrament Church
 Celebrant: Archbishop John Amissah: Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa
 Mother Frances Amissah came with her brother
- 1991 Trip to West Africa, Cape Coast to attend funeral of Archbishop Amissah
 Killed in an auto accident.
- 1992 Seton Thrift Store, Harriman, TN: turned over to Diocese of Knoxville, TN
 Two Presentation Sisters from Fargo, ND: Sheila and Francis
- 1993 - 1997 Back to Columba Hall
 Worked in shipping needed supplies to Ghanaian Missions
 Entered Dujarie House, Community Infirmary
 Brought to Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
- 1997 Death: July 20

Mission Accomplished

The Family of Bro. Gonzaga Day, CSC (Thomas John Day, Jr.)

The genealogy of Thomas John Day, Jr. (Bro. Gonzaga Day, Jr.) is well charted in the archives of the Holy Cross Brothers (Midwest Province) Notre Dame, Indiana. It tells us that Bro. Gonzaga's grandfather, John O'Dea, who was born in Knocklong, County Limerick, Ireland, in 1841, and after suffering much pain, trouble, and hunger of the Irish Famine period, immigrated to the United States in 1860, heading to New York City where he knew that many of his friends from Ireland had landed.

It was to Castle Gardens area of New York City where he stayed until a promise of work in Cleveland, Ohio intrigued him and caused him to move west.

John O'Dea who like a great many other immigrants to the States dropped the "o" from his name on coming to the States and anglicized the spelling of Dea because of the anti-Irish, anti-Catholic spirit that was prevalent especially in the eastern area of the country where there were thousands of Gaels in such places as: Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore as well as in New York.

John Day was fortunate in meeting "a girl from home" in coming to Cleveland in the person of Elizabeth Looby who was born in Tipperary in 1843. There is no record that they knew each other prior to emigrating. But books and records state that the potato famine was the reason for hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrating to America.

Thomas J. Day, Jr.'s father was born of this match July 7th, 1875 in Cleveland Ohio. It was there in Cleveland that he met a young lady from Mauch Chunk, PA by the name of Ellen Marie Nunney (Mauch Chunk is named Jim Thorpe today),

Both had come from strict Catholic homes and after a long and happy courtship they were married in St. Patrick's Church, on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio on October 22, 1913.

This was a strong happy union between two people who had a deep love of God and of each other, and being staunch Catholics felt obligated to give back to God each child who would be given to them.

There were six children born to them, but one, a name-sake for her mother died shortly after her birth, leaving three brothers and a sister to mourn her leaving them. The names of the children born of this Day-Nunney marriage were:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Joseph Aloysius born: | November 5, 1915 |
| 2. John Leo | January 21, 1916 |
| 3. Mary Agatha | April 11, 1917 |
| 4. Thomas John | October 31, 1919 |
| 5. Francis Henry | March 5, 1927 |

Mission Accomplished

It was not unusual for the Day children to be at table eating and listening at the same time to mother or dad speaking to them about some religious matter such as: holidays, vestments, history of candles used at Mass, high and low, as well as explanations of liturgical colors.

The boys were encouraged to become servers at Mass – if given the opportunity. Three of the boys did learn to be servers. The pastor of the parish church took pleasure in training the boys of Holy Name Parish to be the best in the area.

Special feast days came in on the discussions as well as Ash Wednesday, St. Blaise feast day, as they came along in the calendar year.

The small Baltimore Catechism was a real teaching tool in the Day home, and the children were told that the parents were not interested in hearing any complaints from neighbors about their conduct. They knew that dad was a disciplinarian when it came to conduct – and rarely did mother forget to remind them as they went out the door to behave properly.

Each child was assigned chores to do. And, they knew that the job was to be done right and to the best of their ability or dad would hear about it!

Another interesting rule in the Day house was that each child was responsible for the sibling next in line. Due to there not being sufficient money to give each child a number of toys they were given just one or two toys but those were to be shared with their brothers or sister. This was especially true of a wagon, scooter and tricycle; but there were no bicycles. It was easy to be injured on the bicycle and the parents didn't care to have expensive doctor bills.

It is interesting to note that even in these early days that Tom stood out as the originator of decorations – always capable of finding things to use when he wanted to put on a show or a good party. He never lost that talent to be a showman. All who ever lived with him gave testimony of this ability of his.

The important point is that father and mother did a monumental job in rearing the five children given to them. They reared a family that was God-fearing and socially conscious – feeling a real obligation of serving friends and neighbors.

All of the Day Family realized the good home that they were reared in and how blessed they were with the parents they had. It was a sad day with the death of Ellen Marie (Nunney Day) on November 11, 1935.

Dad lived for many years longer. He died on April 4, 1961. He had the happy experience of seeing all of his children obtain profitable work and seeing one of his sons, his namesake, enter the religious life.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Education of Thomas J. Day, Jr.

1925 - 1937

It was a big day in the household of John Day, Sr. and Ellen Marie Day, when they saw the next to the youngest in the family off to school in the person of Thomas John Jr. It happened in 1925. Young Thomas followed the same route as did his older brothers and sister to Holy Name School, the parish school, where he would spend the next twelve years for Holy Name maintained a high school for the parish. He graduated in 1937.

The Sisters of Charity of Mother Seton, from Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio constituted the faculty of Holy Name Schools. Tom had great admiration for his sister teachers and would remain in school to assist the sisters in cleaning up and putting order in the classroom after dismissal. His loyalty to the Sisters of Charity lasted for the whole of his life.

One can believe that organizational skills that were started at home were sharpened with his work with the sisters as he came through school at Holy Name. His reputation went ahead of him as he advanced in school.

It is easy to see that his interest in assisting the home and foreign missions began at Holy Name. He had worked tirelessly for the mission drives that were held at different times during the school year when parishioners were asked to put aside old newspapers and magazines for the students at Holy Name to collect and sell. Tom using his organizational skills worked to get steady or regular customers that he could rely on for regular pick-ups and he knowing what volume that he could depend on. He always led his class in volume.

As we proceed with his story we note that Tom Day's life was devoted to direct service to others both within his religious community and outside of it. He was always ready to assist any individual or group that would assist people less well-off than he.

The pastor at Holy Name took great pride with his acolytes and he, Rev. William A. Scullen, D.D., picked at different times three of the Day boys to be masters of ceremonies. The first chosen was Joseph A. Day who took great pride in being chosen and worked to be considered the top master and ready to be called for assignment at any time.

Besides Joseph being selected as master of ceremonies was Thomas J. It was a mark in the parish that the acolyte so chosen was one of the best in the eyes of Fr. Scullen. After all he only chose one acolyte a year to hold the post. Did Fr. Scullen pick individuals who were special and individuals who proved Father right by what they did after leaving Holy Name.

Joe Day was appointed to the Cleveland Fire Department Elliot Ness. In fact, Ness held up the appointment until November 6, because Joe Day was only twenty years old and his twenty-first birthday was 11-6-36. He got the appointment and he retired as Battalion Chief. He was looked upon as a born leader.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Education of Thomas J. Day, Jr.

1925 - 1937

Joe never complained about the routine established by his parents and he established a similar routine for his family of fourteen; seven boys and seven girls (a wag in their home parish used to say when she saw the fourteen Day children coming to church on Sunday, "Here comes two weeks - fourteen days").

None of the Day Boys were athletically inclined. They were reared during the depression years and it meant that you should supply your own equipment and there was not sufficient money for this equipment. The same was true when it came to hobbies.

There were few jobs available for high schoolers. But, Tom Day was fortunate in getting a job at Shaw's Drug Store. It was rare for kids to get a job but Tom was lucky enough to get employment at the soda counter. Tom made himself an asset because he kept an eye open for things that had to be done and was not hesitant to do the work involved. The few dollars earned were given to his parents. He asked for little in return and his Sunday recreation was to get a Sunday street-car pass, along with his friend Ed Komperde and they would ride downtown and walk up one side of Euclid Avenue and down the other side just looking in the store windows - or, riding out to Euclid Beach. Again, it was a matter of not riding amusement park rides because of their shortage of money.

Two first cousins of the Days were the O'Donnell boys who had the opportunity to have started on their medical careers prior to the start of the Depression Era.

Leo Day O'Donnell was head surgeon at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh until his retirement. He studied pre-med at Notre Dame and went to Johns Hopkins Medical School. He was at one time president of Notre Dame Alumni Association.

John O'Donnell also graduated from Johns Hopkins and for many years was on the staff and medical doctor for the Franciscan Sisters at St. Francis Hospital also in Pittsburgh..

In the Day Home there were few complaints from neighbors when their children left the house.

Chores were assigned to the children and they had to be done correctly. Also, there was a house rule that each child was responsible for the sibling one step down in rank. Because of limited resources toys, which were few, had to be shared and cared for.

Thomas J. Jr. enjoyed and appreciated home - and loving the big feast days such as Christmas and Easter found it easy to "whip up" a party and if costumes were involved it was liked all the more. The parties improved as time passed. Even in community costumes appeared regularly. All of the Day children realized the good home that they were reared in and how blessed they were with the parents they had but they lost their dearly-loved mother who left them on November 11th, 1935. Their dad lived a quarter of a century longer; dying on April 4th, 1961. It was during this span of time that dad saw his first-born Joseph Aloysius move ahead in the ranks of the fire department, and one of his sons entered the religious life in the Brothers of Holy Cross.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Education of Thomas J. Day, Jr.

1925 - 1937

To complete the home life pattern of Thomas J. Jr. comments could be made that he was always willing and ready to pitch in and help with housework. His brothers had little or no interest in doing that kind of work so Tom had no competition in doing the chores. His sister, Mary, benefited from Thomas' interest and abilities. In buying for the house she stated that she would try to save a dollar or two to give to her brother for his acts of charity in getting passes to take his neighborhood friends to Euclid Beach and back. The rides to Euclid Beach were ignored because there was no money for such ventures - so, after reaching the beach it was a street-car ride home. They considered that a special treat just to get the ride even at this young age generosity and charity were virtues practiced by our young topic of this paper, Thomas J. Day, Jr.

Mission Accomplished

Entrance Into Holy Cross

It was a truly beautiful day in Rolling Prairie, IN on August 15th, 1938, at St. Joseph Novitiate and the fifty-five prospective novices were preparing to share all of this beauty and pleasure with parents, relatives and friends who had come great distances for the occasion: and they all seemed overjoyed with the anticipation of the ceremony of bestowal of the religious habit and with the Brothers the getting of a new name that brought smiles even from parents and fellow classmates.

Thomas Day, you will henceforth be known as Brother Gonzaga. That name was well known - but one parent asked her son "Didn't you have any choice in the matter at all?" Brother didn't have too much of a choice because he was number 34 in the class of 35 Brothers and the list presented to the group had just 35 names on it. It didn't take too long for the novices to get used to the names but family and friends took a lot more time.

The next morning the newly received novices participated in the solemnity of the ceremony wherein the novices who had completed their year of novitiate individually pronounced their first vows for three years. They took the three standard vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, and a number of newly professed also took the fourth vow to go anyplace in the world where the superior general would wish to send him. It was a truly touching ceremony and more than one broke down with the emotion of the moment. The vow ceremony had its effect on the newly received as well; it being a topic of conversation at the wonderful breakfast that followed the Mass. The newly professed did not have visitors for this solemn ceremony so it was strictly a community affair.

Silence was followed in all of our meals in St. Joseph Novitiate, but for this meal the novice master granted permission to talk - and then goodbyes. Their trunks had already been sent to Moreau Seminary and Dujarie Hall; so after breakfast it was a rush to go to their rooms and put on their black suits and white shirt and black tie and then climb aboard trucks for the ride to Notre Dame. They all stood in the back of these trucks hanging on to the wooden braces erected on the back of the truck. We couldn't imagine what people thought when they saw these newly professed all in black; hats included and each one hanging on for dear life. Of course, a war had broken out. - It was 1939.

At the departure of the newly professed the new novices partially had the novitiate to themselves sharing with the half-year group so that was a new experience.

At the very next conference the novice master told the novices that they should focus their hearts and minds on what they saw in the profession ceremony and to focus every day if that be, or they felt if that sacrifice be for them.

Prior to this day the novices did not see much of their novice master because retreat master and conferences took up most of our time. We had already extended a good bye to the former novice master Fr. Kerndt Healey, CSC a legend in Holy Cross ranks. Br. Seraphim his assistant moved to Moreau Seminary to be in charge of the work projects.

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Fr. James Connerton, CSC was coming to St Joseph Novitiate from Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Indiana where he was superior and director of the Moreau Choir that received national acclaim with their rendition of the "Lamentations" sung at Knute Rockne funeral ceremony in Sacred Heart Church on campus at Notre Dame on Good Friday, a ceremony following the crash of the commercial flight on a Kansas farm.

Fr Connerton, CSC gave the novices excellent direction for the chanting of office that was part of the novitiate routine. The group was fortunate in having a very good organist in the group; Br Kenan Judge, CSC from Iowa, who made office and daily mass a happy and interesting experience.

Fr. Connerton made it very clear for the novices that they were not expected to make monumental sacrifices without his permission and he felt that the rule of silence offered up to the Lord for the poor souls in purgatory, or some personal intention was sufficient.

Father made it clear to the novices he wanted silence observed and the novices made great effort to observe the rule. The strict rule of silence and its observance made the recreation periods following lunch and supper extra special and ones that caused the novices to look forward to them. Those recreation periods were releases because there was no TV, radio, newspapers except for religious ones: no magazines, and talk did help.

The novitiate was not a matter of the novices being chained or asked to do something super-human because it wasn't. It was a big help in keeping us focused on why we were in St. Joseph's Novitiate in the first place. But, I can attest to the fact that despite the strictness there was humor connected with our lives. It was the "rec" period after supper when the hilarious side came from the least expected people.

One such instance that proved to be comical happened with a group of six of the novices and Br. Gonzaga, Br. Garnier, myself, Mr. Paul Waldschmidt, Br. Kenan, Mr. James Hart were recreating and Br. Garnier said that he had a problem. It was connected with his new obedience that he had just received.

Every six weeks the novices received a new obedience. It was not necessary that the novice had previous outside experience in the work attached to the new obedience. It happened that Br. Garnier's new assignment was taking care of the chickens. There must have been a thousand chickens in the coop and Br. Was told to keep the chart on the inside of the door up to date and to make sure that the chickens feed and water was ample.

Br. Garnier's complaint was that he had been on the job for three days and egg production was coming down - despite the warning from the assistant novice master Br. Marinus, not to allow production to drop because they were in the market in the area for selling eggs - thus there was a demand that had to be met.

Br. Garnier was a science graduate from the University of Washington prior to entrance but never dealt with collecting eggs.

Mission Accomplished

Mr. Paul Waldschmidt from Evansville Indiana, and a real comic when he wanted to be said, "I think what the girls need is a good retreat." Br. Gonzaga wasn't going to allow a good lead like that go by and his reply was "Who is going to preach the retreat?" Paul Waldschmidt said, "I will preach it!" He added that on "Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be church night for the chickens."

Of course at each rec period we were asking Mr. Paul Waldschmidt how the sermons were coming and he would say "Show up and find out!"

Of course we wouldn't dare let any other novice not in our group to know about the retreat because if the novice master learned about it while we were novices we would be riding the train home; the whole group of us.

Paul had really done a job on his talks. The first was on gratitude telling the birds to show it for the food and the care administered to them. Our second night was Pride that should be theirs being white leghorns and how easily the Brothers could compare them to other coops on farms at Notre Dame and St. Joe Farm in Granger, Indiana.

The third talk was on zeal, a virtue they should have in performing and doing the best according to their abilities as top ranked birds. The humor came when on Sunday and Monday the production was higher than ever. Of course Paul claimed it was the retreat. The novice master did not learn about our nonsense until years later and he said it was a good thing he didn't hear about it.

Some of the collaborators lived a long time in community and Paul Waldschmidt became auxiliary bishop of Portland, Oregon.

There were other humorous incidents in Rolling Prairie, but nothing that was mean or destructive; just humorous that can be recorded by the happy individual who writes the book about the life.

The novitiate year proceeded on with happy, sad and normal days moving in on a pattern and February came which meant that the midyear group that entered the previous February was ready for profession, and they followed the routine we observed the previous August group going through for their profession.

We happily received the new February group in the throes of a snowy winter but the group was small and so visitors were not too numerous. But the senior group ready to leave after profession were showing up with maturity and adulthood that impressed us with the departure of the newly professed we came to realize who we should act. Grown up!

It seemed as if the days moved faster and the things we wanted to do to bring the novitiate year to a successful close was becoming a real chore.

Mission Accomplished

One difficult period was the afternoon meditation period. After a heaving working period that a number of novices followed - lasting from one to three PM in warm weather that had set in was murder to endure because air-conditioning had not reached Rolling Prairie as yet so we found that exercise very difficult to take. One novice who had a hard afternoon of outside work - which he loved - came to meditation very tired and, his tiredness took over and very gradually his body began to slip off his pew and under the pew in front of him and it was most difficult to get the body out even though the one under the pew wanted to assist in the procedure. The poor novice had changed to a deep red color commonly associated with the top Sioux Chief. The rest of the novices sat up straight and hung on to the seat of the pew - making sure there was no movement. It did have a good effect on the group.

The novitiate program continued with all being focused on requirements and the vows that were being studied in class every day. Fr. Connerton, CSC the novice master was not telling us how easy things were. He kept telling the novices that only the strong would succeed and live the life to its final end. We should all strive to be saints.

The big day came on August 16, 1939, when all of those who survived pronounced their vows of Poverty Chastity and Obedience along with the foreign mission vow. Br. Gonzaga, CSC took the mission vow for he had that strong desire to serve abroad in the Bengal Missions but he was never called but he did more for the missions and missionaries than he ever could abroad - he did it from this side which comes in a later portion of his story.

We rushed to put all of our necessities in our footlocker and most of the newly professed found that they had acquired more in just that one year than could be squeezed into their footlocker.

On to the back of the truck we climbed and headed for our new home in Moreau Seminary and Dujarie Hall. A new superior noted for his kindness and charity greeted us: Br. Fintan Curran, CSC.

We also met a new class of Eastern Novices coming from the Eastern Novitiate in North Dartmouth MA. It took a while to meet all of them and really become acquainted because of the large number of scholastics in the house. A number of well-known future superiors were in the house at that time.

Br. Gonzaga Day during his time at Dujarie Hall made the request that he be allowed to change his status from teaching Brother to that of a Coadjutor Brother because he was of the mind that his life would be involved with work for home and foreign missions. His request was granted and he would not be given assignments to teach in the schools. Most of his obediences would be non-teaching assignments.

His first obedience outside of a house of formation was his going to the community house (now Columba Hall) as assistant cook with Fr. Joseph McGuire as superior. He has learned some of the knacks about preparing the meals for a large group while in the

Mission Accomplished

novitiate assisting Br. Marian – and so he was a good help during the years 1940 and 1941 – and was surprised in 1942 being assigned back to St. Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie as head cook for 120 novices. Fortunately, he had help from the novices with that obedience. He did very well at the novitiate until he was sent in 1944 to Watertown, WI where Br. Bonaventure Foley, CSC was superior. These two religious became very good friends and it was a life long friendship for in 1945 Br. Gonzaga was sent along with Br. Theophane Schmitt, CSC to open Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, OH.

1940 - 1942

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:
Community House

After leaving the novitiate and going to Dujarie Hall most of the Brothers began their collegiate careers at Notre Dame University or, if they were college grads they began work for a Graduate degree. It was while at Dujarie Hall that Brother Gonzaga made his official request to begin his work as a Coadjutor Brother - a request that was formally approved by the provincial, Rev. T. Steiner, CSC.

We noted that while in the novitiate Brother Gonzaga had spent more than one stint in the kitchen working with Brother Marian and acquiring skill in organizing a kitchen to feed approximately one hundred novices and staff of professed. One notes all through his life in Holy Cross that wherever he was assigned it was well-organized - or he made it so!

After spending a short period in Dujarie Hall under the superiorship of Brother Fintan Curran followed by Brother Agatha he, Brother Gonzaga, was assigned to the Community House (Columba Hall) as an assistant cook. Fortunately, he had good preparation at the novitiate with Brother Marian and so during 1940 - 1941 he was a big help to the regular cooks at Community House. He moved from salads to soups to cookies to main dishes. It was a real learning experience for him because he was associating with men who had some real professional training in their field.

But it happened while working at the Community House that an opening occurred at Saint Joseph Novitiate, Rolling Prairie, Indiana, where he had been but a short time before - but, this obedience appoints him as head cook for one hundred and twenty novices.

Brother Gonzaga remained at the novitiate for a two year period having plenty of assistance with the novices ready and willing to fill-in and assist just as he did while a novice.

When all was going smoothly in the kitchen at the Prairie a surprise came when he was assigned to Sacred Heart Postulate in Watertown, Wisconsin. He was also asked to serve as steward for the house.

1945-1947

GILMOUR ACADEMY

It was in 1944, when Brother Gonzaga received a new obedience that moved him to Watertown, Wisconsin naming him to the position of steward of the house. The house he was to serve was Sacred Heart Juniorate where a good friend of his, Brother Bonaventure Foley was superior.

Brother Theophane Schmitt was also a very good friend of Brother Gonzaga Day - as well as a good friend of our whole novitiate group when we were postulants at Sacred Heart Juniorate back in 1938.

Both men were excellent organizers and spent a goodly portion of their religious life on assignments where they were called to be organizers. Both men were on this assignment, given the awesome task of putting order in an abandoned state.

It was no surprise then when Father Thomas A. Steiner phoned Brother Theophane Schmitt at Watertown, Wisconsin on September 20, 1945, telling him that he should take Brother Gonzaga Day with him as steward. Father Steiner gave the two brothers two days to prepare and asked them to stop at Notre Dame on their way to Cleveland.

On arrival in Cleveland, Brother Theophane spent his first night at the Tudor Arms Hotel in University Circle, while Brother Gonzaga went home to the family. It was not until the next day when they called on John Murphy, who gave them the dire news that the deed to the property had not been officially transferred because of legal complications.

But, did that stop the two organizers sent there to do a job? They resolved not to allow the legal limbo to bother them in pursuing their obedience of putting Cedar Hill Farm into condition for the opening of the prep school. They visited Bishop Edward Hoban who was very friendly to them and delighted with the proposals by the Holy Cross Congregation. He was a former student of the Brothers in elementary school in Chicago Illinois.

Along with social amenities being taken care of, they opened a bank account and began the monumental task of cleaning up the forty -one room manor house and directing the use of a hundred and thirty-five acres on the estate. One item on the estate that is eye-catching was that Mr. Drury ordered the planting of one million rhododendrons which in itself made it singularly beautiful.

It wasn't that everything was going smoothly. There was opposition to the planning of a Catholic Boys' Boarding School in the heart of non-Catholic Gates Mills. The natives even passed a petition around the town objecting to its opening.

Things worked to the advantage of the new opening when Cleveland Newspapers publicized the opening of the new school as well as the objections in the Gates Mills area to the expansion of the Cleveland Metroparks. It turned matters to the positive side because village leaders in Gates Mills were very much aware that constant opposition to

the proposed Catholic Boarding School would cause totally negative reaction to all future plans for the exclusive Gates Mills Area and they didn't want that angle magnified.

Just when one difficulty was eradicated another problem appeared. After some opposition cleared, the Brothers learned that the deed to the property had been held up. The two Brothers Theophane and Gonzaga had one goal in mind – to put the Drury Estate in good condition to receive a freshman class that numbered along with some eighth graders some Forty-five students.

We haven't mentioned a name for the school. It was decided after much discussion by the Provincial Council at Notre Dame to call the new prep school, Gilmour Academy, named after the imminent 19th Century Cleveland Bishop – Richard Gilmour.

Bishop Richard Gilmour was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1824. As a child he moved with his Presbyterian coal-mining family to Nova Scotia and later moved to Pennsylvania. It was there he met Catholics and they deeply impressed him with their way of life and gradually he converted to Catholicism and eventually became a priest. He was ordained in 1852, in Cincinnati, Ohio where he gained a reputation for building Catholic schools in all of the rural parishes where he served. He published a Bible History, which was a classic and served Catholic Schools for one hundred years.

Bishop Gilmour was named the second Bishop of Cleveland succeeding Bishop Amadeus Rappe. He fought bravely against anti-Catholic bigotry that rose amidst poor immigrants from Europe. He also established a Diocesan Newspaper to answer some of the attacks against the faith that popped up in local newspapers. He pleaded immigrants to attend the American Catholic Church instead of their national Churches.

Bishop Edward Hoban approved the name selection after being asked by Fr. Steiner if he had any objections. Gilmour was a champion of Catholic Education, so the academy received the name of a very illustrious fellow.

It is of note to say that while all of this house-hunting, planning and execution was going on, the Bishop ruling Cleveland Diocese was also involved in trying to find an appropriate site for the school.

The bishop was fortunate in having two schools named after him in his diocese and attended the dedication of the second school – Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio. The first school was St. Edward's High School in Lakewood. At the dedication dinner Bishop Hoban leaned over and whispered in Brother Ephrem's ear, "Brother, I have a middle name!" Brother Ephrem whispered back, "Forget it!"

Brother Gonzaga was steward as his obedience stated and it would take a book to tell the story of his shopping for the equipment needed for classrooms that were in some instances to be held in beautiful paneled rooms.

In 1947, a greenhouse became a classroom where for one year Brother Theophane taught biology to sophomores.

Brother Gonzaga had a bit more trouble in rounding up furniture. The war had just ended, and manufacturing firms had not gotten their manufacturing work into top working condition. Odds things happened. For instance., when Brother Gonzaga ordered fifty beds from Racine, Wisconsin and they were lost in transport but a railroad executive whose son was registered at Gilmour, eventually traced the beds to a box car in Detroit. Due to the action of the prospective parent-executive, the beds arrived, September 7th, two days before the boarding students were due to arrive for the start of school. But the problem was not totally solved. The side rails were not attached and the springs would not fit the frames in the beds. The Brothers disassembled and then reassembled the springs to fit the beds, using a special tool forged by Brother Loyola Christoph an artist in another of areas - and, by Sunday night the exhausted Brothers, nine in number, fitted the springs to the beds and covered the mattresses with linens that Brother Gonzaga had rounded up from thirty stores throughout the Midwest.

There was some confusion on an early bulletin that listed Brother Gonzaga the "Dean of Women". It caused a bit of a halt because the school was a prep school for boys. On checking they found that it was a self-imposed title because he was the supervisor of dish-washers, cooks, and cleaning ladies who had moved into a farm house on the property.

There was a terrific load of work done by the individuals involved to pull off the job of preparing an abandoned mansion, overgrown property, unreliable markets for supplies, recruiting students, organizing faculty, setting up a chapel for religious who were on campus and would be coming in.

There were other Brothers as well as lay-men who made a great contributions to making Gilmour Academy ready for comfortable living but their contributions must be in a book that will give the whole story. A few of the names are: Brother Loyola Christoph, Brother Vincentius Balog, Brother Carl Shonk, Brother Rex Hennel, Brother Edward Sniatecki, Brother Laurian LaForest, Miss May Day, Mr. Paul Murphy, F. J. O'Neill, Mr. William J. O'Neill, considered co-founders of Gilmour because of their leadership and support.

It must be noted that Brother Theophane's influence over the type of school Gilmour became with twenty-nine seniors in the first graduating class - each headed to a top university.

A closing note should be that Mary A. Day was doing great work at Gilmour Academy as telephone operator and receptionist - each of her kind deeds and promise of assistance caused a prospective parent to think well of the school.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

1948 - 1950

Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Connecticut

In 1948, the Brothers of Holy Cross made the announcement that the community would be opening a boys' high school in the Hartford Diocese, on the invitation from Bishop Henry J. O'Brien. The new school would be part of the expansion program of the Brothers in the Eastern Section of the country.

An announcement of a new boys' high school in the New Haven area was received with glee by the large Catholic population of the area. There were two Catholic high schools in the New Haven area: Sacred Heart Academy owned by the Missionary Apostles of the Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's High School operated by the Dominican Sisters from Columbus, Ohio who took in a number of boys in the student body. But there was no strictly boys' school in that area of the diocese.

This was the setting ready to receive Brother Gonzaga Day when he came to West Haven to assist Brother John Baptist Titzer who was named the first principal. He had Brother Gonzaga on hand to assist as best he could and you couldn't have two better organizers than Brother John Baptist and Brother Gonzaga Day.

Brother John Baptist made his reputation early because he announced a date for the first entrance exam for Notre Dame High School.

The exam was scheduled for the largest room in the German Singing Club building that was purchased as the first school building and Brothers' House. There was a good freshmen class taking the exam but there were a few late-comers who did not take the exam on that special day waiting for a follow-up exam.

Brother John Baptist had not finished getting living quarters in the proposed school - Brothers' House. So he made the announcement to all late-comers that any individual wishing to be a member of the first class at NDHS would have to come to Saint Thomas Aquinas School in Flatland, Brooklyn, NY on a set date. No new date would be given those who failed to make the Brooklyn date. The regulation was an eye-opener and surprise for the people in the New Haven area. It was a hefty trip for the lads to make the trip down to Brooklyn, NY.

A number of young lads had parents drive them down to St. Thomas' and they were on time. The alternative for a boys high school was Fairfield Prep, situated in Fairfield, CT and started in 1942 by the Jesuit Fathers. Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan was the Ordinary extending the invitation to the Jesuits to do the honors.

Notre Dame High School has maintained high standards academically as well as athletically and there has been a long line of top-notch headmasters leading the school into a prominent position among the prep schools in Connecticut.

Brother John Baptist left Notre Dame High and Brother Donatus became principal and superior for the 1949 - 1950 year: prior to moving back to the Midwest to become the provincial.

1948 - 1950 MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Connecticut

Brother Gonzaga was doing a great job as steward and librarian during the above-mentioned administrations. He was invaluable assistance in obtaining everything needed for staff and teacher work at the new school.

It was not long before the need for a new building was apparent. Enrollment prompted changes in the structure of the school building because certain departments were expanding and developing. I use the band as an example. The Notre Dame Band under the direction of Brother Pierre Schu, CSC moved right to the top in the New Haven area as the number one band. Then came the drama or musical show departments to attain similar standing.

The school has supplied some excellent vocations to the Church with graduates entering the priesthood of the diocese as well as vocations to the religious life as priests in various religious orders beside Holy Cross and a number of strong vocations to the Brothers of Holy Cross.

In 1950, Brother Gonzaga was surprised with a new obedience given him. And that was the announcement to go to Rome, Italy, as a secretary to Father Edward Heston, CSC. Procurator General of the Congregation of Holy Cross to assist him with work on the Catta Brothers Life of Father Moreau. He was to live at the Procure on Via Aldrovandi.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

1951 - 1953

Rome, Italy

As mentioned, Brother Gonzaga proved himself an invaluable partner for Brother John Baptist, and Brother Donatus. He enjoyed his work tremendously in Connecticut and he made many life-long friends in the state.

But the new obedience came to him from the provincial office asking him to make preparations to go to Rome, Italy by ship to assist the procurator-general of the congregation, and Fr. Edward Heston in the all-important work on the life of Father Basil Moreau, founder of Holy Cross, translating the Catta Brothers' work from French into English.

Brother Gonzaga's job was an important one because it involved typing all of Fr. Heston's work from each one thousand page volume. There were two volumes. Actually both men were prompted to look upon their work with a filial piety - for what the two-volume work would contribute as a real necessity toward advancing the cause for the beatification of Fr. Basil Anthony Moreau.

This assignment was difficult for both men because they were slowed and bothered with the numerous delays that forced both of them to work from printers' first proofs.

Both men had friends in community who could testify that neither man would permit a handicap to interfere with an assignment especially when it meant advancing the Moreau Cause that demanded a printed definitive work.

Fr. Edward Heston, CSC complimented the work of Br. Gonzaga Day, CSC for his perseverance and constancy in doing a professional job typing - preparing for the passage of his work to St. Mary's College and Mother Rose Elizabeth, Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who generously undertook to prepare the work of Fr. Heston and Br. Gonzaga for publication.

The Very Rev. Stephen Catta was honorary Canon of Nantes, and professor of Roman and Byzantine History at the University of Angers.

Tony Catta, his brother, was a gifted attorney who produced a masterly study of Basil Moreau and the origins of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Another important person involved with the work of Fr. Edward Heston was a close friend of his in Rome Monsignor Fontanelle, postulator of Moreau's Cause and he was very interested in the work being done by the Catta Brothers.

Fr. Heston was very kind and thoughtful of Br. Gonzaga. He took every opportunity of allowing Brother to go on trips around Italy - at times by himself - but usually with Brothers of Notre Dame International School in Rome.

1951 - 1953

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Rome, Italy

Part of a letter from Br. Gonzaga home to the folks in Cleveland reads

My Dearest Ones:

October 20, 1951

Greetings from Rome! This has been my biggest day yet. This morning I saw the Holy Father and got his blessing several times. At 6:30 AM we left here for St. Peter's to attend the canonization of three Italian religious. The ceremony began at 8:00 AM but we had to be there early to get a place. If I live to be ninety I will never forget it.

Last Sunday we had dinner here in honor of Archbishop John O'Hara, CSC. And prominent American Churchmen were invited such as: Bishop O'Connor from the North American College as well as several superiors general, monsignori and priests. The guest of honor was Cardinal Spellman.

Letters like that, gives one an idea that it was not all sitting around listening to dictation from a spool. The date now is January 16, 1952 a letter to Mary Day, his sister, goes as follows:

"This information you can keep under your hat until you hear it from someone else. We are to open a school here in Rome, come this October for English-speaking students living in and around the city; especially sons of diplomats. We expect Br. Ephrem here in ten days to make final arrangements." It was a wonderful assignment for Br. Gonzaga and it was one that he enjoyed thoroughly and never forgot. It was nearing time for word from Notre Dame, Indiana giving him a new assignment.

When the new word came bringing his Roman assignment to a close - the new word came to tell him to come to St. Edward's High School, Lakewood, Ohio.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL; MISSIONS

1956-62

The Brother Provincial of the Midwest Province was Bro. Donatus Schmitz, CSC. The Chapter named Bro. Gonzaga Day as a member of the Council to serve with Brother Donatus.

It was another surprise for Bro. Gonzaga but Bro. Donatus knew his man well and assigned him a work that was of great interest to Bro. Gonzaga-the Missions. The Missions would be foreign and home. It was his job to do as much as possible to encourage financial support for the work being carried on in Bangladesh and Ghana.

One of his first plans was to develop the Associates of St. Joseph, an organization that was established by Father Moreau for the purpose of prayerful and financial support of the Community. The Association was a volunteer group for Bro. Ganzaga in acquiring funds for the shipment of needed goods to the mission schools in Ghana and Bangladesh.

There were members of the Associates who were most generous in assisting Brother's projects. Such things as rummage sales, raffles, bazaars were helpful in raising funds.

He was working out of the basement sector where Bro. Vianney used to have his shoe repair shop-Bro. Gonzaga used in preparing early shipments.

It was matter of his going into Michigan and buying empty oil drums that were on sale at an oil company. He got the drums at a bargain rate and would bring them home and scour and clean of all traces of oil. He had to do this because he was sending food products, canned or packaged, when requested.

One time for a shipment that he had ticketed for arrival in Bangladesh-and he wanted to add something a touch of home to it-he lined the bottom of the drum with cans of Campbell Beans-and it was that special thought that brought back generous thanks in writing from the missionaries for the beans-it reminded them of home on Thanksgiving.

It was in 1962, that he left the Provincial Council and moved to Columba Hall on campus from the Jefferson Blvd. Provincial House.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

MISSION PROMOTER

1962-1980

With Brother Gonzaga being named to the Provincial Council he was enabled to establish units of the Association of St. Joseph in various spots in the country and they were lively units with lots of activity. A few of them were spread out in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Indianapolis, IN, South Bend, IN., Detroit, Mich., and Lakewood, Ohio.

It was in August, the 16th, in 1964 that brother celebrated his silver jubilee of profession and, leave it to him, he arranged a beautiful National Convention of the Association of St. Joseph at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio..

It was a real shot in the arm for the organization—meeting members from other chapters of the same organization. As has been said he was a real organizer who always did a good job in rounding people up for a just cause.

A return that came to Brother Gonzaga from the Associates of St. Joseph was the cost of a trip to Ghana and Monrovia in Africa where the brothers had schools. It was a treat and a real desire to see for himself what needs were present to enhance the missions and aid he could arrange to send.

Brother Theophane stationed in Monrovia, Africa, wrote a letter to May Day, brother's sister in Cleveland about the trip; while Bro. Gonzaga was still with him. The letter was written on February 27, 1963. It reads in part:

Dear May,

It got your flowers—special delivery from Cleveland to St. Patrick's, Monrovia and your letter a few days later by less efficient delivery. The flowers were in perfect condition and I used them Saturday night, then back in the ice box, for Sunday Baccalaureate Mass, the back in the ice box, for graduation Sunday afternoon. This sixteen boys and seven girls had it broadcast all over Monrovia that their graduation flowers were flown in direct from Cleveland, Ohio, for their graduation. The three ceremonies 'smacked of Gilmour'. Bro. Gonzaga will verify this.

Brother had ten days with us in Monrovia. He was wonderful help as you imagine for our first impressive graduation. Bishop Carroll sent him by plane for a visit to Cape Palmas. Bro. Donald took him for a hundred and ten mile trip into the interior. I have a lot of business to handle here before going to the States with him and things are clicking him. Archbishop Amissah is not helpful.

He is coming in two hours to take us to Cape Coast , Ghana, for the night. He'll have a man show Bro. Gonzaga the City of Accra. Brother Gonzaga feels the heat somewhat but I don't mind it so much after nine years in Rome and six months here. He is getting a good rest which is very good for him. The brothers are busy teaching so he is forced to relax. He will be busy with Archbishop Amissah on a trip to the bush from Friday to Monday this week.

I am looking forward to a nice visit when I get to Cleveland. Brother will have a good ready for your with his slides. I too must take some of Africa before I leave.

All for now. Regards to Leo, Hank and all

Brother Thoeplane, CSC

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REQUEST

1979-1980

It was during this span of time that Bro. Gonzaga Day received a request from Father General and his staff, to organize and set up as well as manage a display of all activities carried on by the congregation that could be on display for the Capitulants and visitors to the General Chapter that was earmarked to be in session at Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass.,

This was a monumental task for Bro. Gonzaga because it meant for representatives from all of the provinces contributing the information and identifying the pictures and displays at North Easton, Mass., Brother having about to decide on a theme, organize and arrange displays.

It has been noted over and over again in this theme regards: Bro Gonzaga Day, that if there was one natural talent that the man had, from his earliest days, it was that of being an organizer.

He was able to check on American Province news from his own files and office and workshop in Columba Hall. Columba Hall, it is the hall previously referred to as Community House in this paper. It was named after a very holy brother, Bro. Columba O'Neill, who lived and worked in that hall and very unusual things happened in his life and work. His devotion was to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In recognition of his unusual religious life the brothers changed the name of the hall to honor Bro. Columba during this period of time.

The Stonehill display was a huge success because of the color of the display in the hall as well as the information contained in the displays. It got the thanks of Father General and the Capitulants, as well as the visitors to Stonehill. It was thanks well deserved and humbly received. It was work necessary for the establishment of an environment that would give strangers an idea of the various cultures that the Congregation of Holy Cross was involved in around the world. It was sad that the immense display had to be dismantled—it was so well done.

During the year, 1980, Bro. Gonzaga was ready to make a big decision re: Home Missions after a conversation with his Provincial in approving Bro. Gonzaga's idea of serving in some form of mission work. Bro. Philip Armstrong, the Provincial had written and spoken of the value of such a form of mission work and approved the idea of Brother Gonzaga Day, CSC

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

SETON THRIFT SHOP

1980-1992

Not too long after the original four Holy Cross Brothers moved to Eastern Tennessee, the idea of a thrift shop came to Bro. Gonzaga... The first brothers: Bro. Chester Caster, M.D., Bro. Paul Bray, Bro. Donald McIntyre, and Gene Hausman had constituted the pioneer group in Petros, TN.

Bro Philip Armstrong, Provincial of the Midwest Province of Brother of Holy Cross, had spoken to Bro. Gonzaga Day, about his interest in serving the poor in a home mission—set up, while making his visitation at Columba Hall. Both religious were enthusiastic backers of such a venture. The Provincial backed up his interest by sending a letter to all of the schools and houses of the province proving his interest. It aroused interest on the part of the members of the province as it was well proved later on.

It must be noted that Bro. Gonzaga had been the mission procurator for Holy Cross Missions, raising money and obtaining supplies for the missions around the globe.

Brother Gonzaga had envisioned the Thrift store as an outreach effort that would be centered in Blessed Sacrament Parish in Harriman, TN. And the people were so willing to provide items and give financial assistance. In addition, the parishioners, with the great support and encouragement of the pastor, Fr. Edward McKeon, called for a parish collection of food for the poor of the area.

We have to note they had just one hundred and thirty families in parish and they were so generous in helping the poor of the area.

The pioneering brothers were stationed in Petros, TN, and they were running into some difficulties because of the interference in Dr. Chester Caster's operations. No reflection on his medical work because that was superb. So, the brothers thought it would be wise to give thought of moving their headquarters to Coalfield area. After study, it was decided to move. The matter of a permanent home was uppermost in their mind. Their first home left a lot to be desired.

Bro. Philip Armstrong's letter to the community in the Midwest Province explains reasons for this new idea "Home Mission." He wrote:

Brothers. Our constitution, our tradition, and our inclinations as men of Holy Cross, lead us toward more active service to the poor in any area where we are present. I see the proposal that Bro. Gonzaga has made—the thrift shop in Harriman, TN, --has a very tangible show of concern for the needy and those

oppressed economic powers they are not capable of fighting against. We normally think of your mission as overseas project and rightly so; but there is no denying "mission" in the church today sensitizes us to the needs of all, especially the poor. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Bro. Gonzaga's effort to help establish a thrift shop and ask that whatever attention and cooperation you can give along with those you serve, be given. Our prayers will be directed to the success of this project and we ask your, as well as whatever material help you can give.

Yours in Holy Cross
Brother Philip Armstrong, CSC
Provincial

Brother Gonzaga was asked in 1982, by Provincial Archivist: "When, where, and how did you come to take up this new and unusual apostolate?" It would be too much to write his total response, but, it is good for province members to know a bit of the history and purpose of Bro. Gonzaga's work.

For 25 years, Bro. Gonzaga was Mission Promoter, a job that he filled well and with great enthusiasm and generosity. But, like anyone after a long period in the same work, there is a felt need to seek a change. Bro. Gonzaga felt drawn or pulled to working in a depressed area, and when Br. Chester Caster and his companions went to the Tennessee mission in July, 1978, seemed to offer him the opportunity he was seeking. He had secured for the first group to Tennessee enough furnishings for a five-room house and sent it along with them. Over the years after-- his interests continued to grow for a ministry among the poor in the same area.

In August, 1979, Bro. Gonzaga headed for Tennessee with a van loaded with supplies to evaluate opportunities to be of service. He called on Fr. Edward McKeon, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church.

When a proper building was found for the thrift store-- it was leased as of August 1, 1980. He was convinced that the store be called Seton Thrift Store, he honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose Sisters had influenced Bro Gonzaga's life from his early days at Holy Name Parish in Cleveland. In all of his planning and searching Bro. Gonzaga had the support and encouragement of Bro. Philip Armstrong. The building chosen for the thrift store had been vacant for a long time and needed thorough cleaning and painting. Help from Blessed Sacrament was organized by Mary Riter, a parishioner who came every day to scrub and paint. A rented carpet cleaner was used to clean the large rug in the main section of the store.

At mass the following Sunday after a packed van had made its way to Harriman loaded with supplies in its forty-five foot rig. He needed help to unload what was in the van brought Bro. Victor Chouinard and Bro. Rudolph Talaga. Father McKeon asked for volunteers to help unload the van and sixty parishioners

responded. In an hour and a half the shelving, display cases, table and merchandise were stacked high in the building. It was until October 1, the Feast of the Little Flower, that the store could be opened. Since that time the store has been serving the people of the area; and rightly so.

In addition to the store, a pantry for needy families wanting food was working. Families recommended by the local church pastor for Office of Human Relations were served food bags valued at \$15.00 each given to these special people. In more dire cases of need, the store paid rent, electric bills, etc.

It was comical to be present when some of these people came in and would say: "Mr. Seton, could I have some food?" They thought because the name was on the window facing the street and it said: Seton Thrift Shop, that that was his name. Bro. never corrected them. The food supplies came from school operated by Brothers of Holy Cross.

Brother Gonzaga's apostolate for the Needy and Poor expanded and was empowered by Sheet of Proposals and Employment in Blessed Sacrament Church submitted by Bro. Donald McIntyre, April 23, 1979.

1.) Visit the ill and shut-ins of parishes in Oak Ridge and Harriman.

2) Take Eucharist to homebound and those who have special request.

3) Visit the ill and shut-ins at Deer Lodge. Also "Should be Catholic" at Deer Lodge, TN.

4) Aid the clothing room or reorganize it for more effective help to needy.

5) Help with building of addition to St. Ann's in Deer Lodge, if that be a parish project. Also help with Harriman building, if that be a parish project.

6) Possible clerical or secretarial work for the parish in Harriman.

7) Work with youth of the parish on "wood pile for burn outs" in mountain areas.

8) Continue to transport mountain people to the Petros Clinic for Health Services, and transport folks to Department of Human Services for food stamps.

Respectfully submitted,
Br. Donald McIntyre, C.S.C.

Brother Gonzaga was doing a fantastic job of organizing the Seton Thrift Shop and he had Brothers who volunteered to work with him, added to the group of

four who went to Petros, TN. But made the decision to move to Harriman, TN within the confines of Blessed Sacrament Church. But he didn't want to leave Columba Hall where he had functioned as Mission Promoter when he was appointed to the Provincial Council.

He wrote a letter to the Brothers living with him in Columba Hall that needs to be posted for readers. His first paragraph was taken from Thomas Merton's ...*Thoughts in Solitude*, but the rest of the letter reads:

"For the past eighteen years and four superiors, I have called Columba Hall my home. These have been good years...I've gained much from my stay among you and hopefully I have made some small contribution to the life of the community here. I now leave the large community to take up residence in our small community in Appalachia. During the past quarter of a century I have served our Province as the Mission Promoter with offices here at Columba Hall. I leave this position now before too many months. But Brother Provincial will announce my successor. In the meantime, Br. Ramon has graciously consented to run the office until the new appointment is made official. In leaving the community at Columba Hall after all these years, I sincerely want to thank each of you for what you have been to me. For your many kindnesses, I am grateful. For any slights, transgressions, or uncharitableness on my part, I ask your forgiveness. Let us remember each other often in our prayers.

Devotedly yours in Holy Cross,
Brother Gonzaga Day, C.S.C.

One hears much in this section of the story about Br. Gonzaga and his connection with Seton Thrift Store. But, we must make a comment that along with operating the store, Br. Gonzaga was the parish sacristan for the next ten years at Blesses Sacrament Church. His talent for decorating was evident always with his care of the altar and sanctuary. It is hard to comprehend how he managed to operate and manage the two jobs and he "pitched-in" with house assignments. He could take over cooking assignments. There was no chore that he felt beneath him.

Brother usually was an early riser as was Br. Chester, M. D. the doctor for the Eastern TN area but working out of Oak Ridge Hospital. He delivered over three hundred babies to mothers in Appalachia without losing one. He allowed mothers who had problems during pregnancy to call as early as 5:00 AM because he would be in the kitchen preparing for work and he would receive each call before the other Brothers were aroused.

But, one Saturday morning Dr. Chester Caster slept in a few minutes and was not available when the phone rang; but Brother Gonzaga was up so he answered the

phone from a troubled woman who announced without asking who was answering the phone: "Doctor, my water broke!" Brother Gonzaga, who had never heard the expression replied, "Well, why are you calling here? Call the Water Works!" The woman hung up the phone - realizing that she didn't have Dr. Caster on the phone. She did call later to tell Dr. Caster the reply she got on her first call. Be assured there is humor in the religious life. Brother Gonzaga supplied his share of it.

The Seton Thrift Shop has an impact on the Harriman area. One newspaper writer wrote:

"The Seton Thrift Shop resembles more of a small department store than a stereotypical cut-rate store. There are no piles of obviously second-hand clothing to rout through, looking for a usable item. No helter-skelter boxes of old appliances or household items. No disarray of shoes with one shoe on top and its mate in there somewhere.

The Seton Thrift Shop is by design, a clean orderly place. Part of the philosophy of opening the thrift store was so that the poor could shop with dignity, said Br. William Schu one of the two Holy Cross Brothers who operate the shop. The Brothers worked to maintain the "friendly and happy atmosphere" of the store.

The thrift shop acquires its inventory - everything from clothing and household items to furniture and decorative art - from a well-developed network of benefactors, both local and national, maintained by Br. Gonzaga Day, who founded the store. Every Summer, Brother Gonzaga puts about two thousand miles on his truck collecting usable items from people around the country. The surplus is sent to Holy Cross Missions in Africa and South America, and Bangladesh.

This system allows the shop to "make things available for a minimum price for people who can't afford to buy in a more costly store," Bro. William said. The idea behind the store was to outfit one person entirely for six or seven dollars.

The Seton Thrift Shop serves about fifty customers a day, but not all are poor people. Some are collectors or just plain folks looking for bargains that are many. The collectors, the Brothers said will sometimes pay more than the asking price for their collectables. All proceeds are put back in to the operation of the store, which maintains only one paid employee, Linda Gamble, who works the counter.

Brother Gonzaga, who will celebrate his golden jubilee, May 28th 1989, founded the Seton Thrift Shop nine years ago when he arrived in Harriman".

Where did the time go that a golden jubilee was almost on the scene. Great plans were being contemplated by the local community.

Archbishop John Amissah of Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa, let it be known that he would feel honored if he could come to be the celebrant of the High Mass in Blessed Sacrament Church. He mentioned that his blood-sister Mother Frances Amissah would come along – she never having been in the United States.

A beautiful Mass in the morning with the parish choir never sounding better - then in the evening close to five hundred guests jammed the social hall for a banquet. There were speeches, the Archbishop praising the vocation and the work of Brother Gonzaga as well as the tremendous help sent to Ghana, West Africa since he became Mission Promoter. The surprise of the night came with Mother Frances Amissah agreeing to sing. There were some misgivings by the audience that this would be the dull part of the evening but it was hardly so. Mother Frances had a gorgeous, well-trained voice, and the rendition of her song beautifully done. The audience gave her a standing ovation and the applause so long and so loud she agreed to sing another song. She was a real hit.

Brother Gonzaga gave the closing talk about his vocation comparing himself to a house painted in different colors representing the different assignments that he was given..

There has been no mention of the drain that the heavy work had on his health and physical well-being. It was noticeable that he was losing weight. The poor physical condition was definite when in Maryland, due to weakness, he went over the curb with the van and fortunately did not strike anyone, and a state trooper sensing the physical weakness of Br. Gonzaga, arranged a motel room for him and summoned the community about his poor condition. Another Brother went to bring Brother Gonzaga back home after repairing a tire on the van.

It was December 8th when he had to forego the use of the van and forbidden to drive – part of the decision was his own. He destroyed his driver's license and insurance card, as well as his Triple A cards. He believed the severance should be complete.

During his stay at Dujarie House, our community infirmary at Notre Dame, IN. he was put through a battery of tests, x-rays and scans to see if they might be able to locate the reason for his not being able to gain or keep weight as of December 14th 1993, he weighed just 122 lbs. which is not much with a six-foot two inch frame.

Scan after scan, exam after exam, did not give a clue to his problem. Seventeen years previous he had been operated on for Prostate Cancer. There was some indication of serious cancer. Later exams at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans denied finding any trace of that disease.

There was serious loss personally for Brother Gonzaga, when Archbishop John Amissah of Ghana, Africa died October 1991 as a result of an automobile accident. Brother Gonzaga went over to Ghana for the funeral and he took part in all of the exercises. He remained in Ghana for a while after the funeral but returned home in good spirits.

There was another great loss for him in Harriman when a woman belonging to Blessed Sacrament Parish who was very good to Brother Gonzaga – died. He attended her wake and the next day went to the store to check on some matters before walking to the church for the funeral Mass. He excused himself to the girl at the store, Linda Gamble, and started for the church – he collapsed on a side street. A woman in her home who recognized him from the store called the police, and notified the store. Linda rushed to the church to notify the Holy Cross Sisters and Brother Paul Bray. He was rushed to the Harriman Hospital and when Linda looked at him she said, “That is not my boss - - my boss is white!” One can imagine who black he was from broken blood vessels all over the upper half of his body. When they heard that Dr. Chester Caster was his doctor they transferred him to Methodist Med Center in Oak Ridge, TN. Immediately Methodist Medical Center gave him a heart pacemaker.

It should be noticed by any observer that Brother Gonzaga's days in Harriman were numbered. In 1992, the store was turned over to the Diocese of Knoxville, TN.

Negotiations were opened with the Presentation Sisters from Fargo ND. The two nuns sent to operate the store were Sister Mary Frances, and Sister Mary Sheila. They were both sisters who adapted quickly and capably to the work that they came to do in Harriman. They lived in the same house with the Brothers in the beautiful home built on the acre of land donated to the community by Mr. Ross Wilson. He was also the inspiration behind the clinic erected in Coalfield TN. The clinic managed by Dr. Chester Caster was a large modern facility built conveniently in mid-town. Prior to receiving money for the facility Dr. Chester used the basement of the Baptist Church. It was where the clinic located after their exodus from Petros, TN.

Brother William Healey, CSC had come from Notre Dame to augment the workforce at the store. He was a great help until he too broke in health.

One could feel that Brother Gonzaga would be returning to Columba Hall. This he did in 1993. But a very impressive decision was made in Harriman with the Seton Thrift Shop involved. Accet is also involved – that is Catholic Charities of East TN.

Mr. J. W. Teasley was the former landlord of Seton Thrift Store in Harriman. The Thrift Store was occupant of the first floor of the main building of three floors.

There was a similar building next to this main building plus another building behind the front two.

Mr. Teasley, phoned Accet Director, David Dotson the day before Thanksgiving in 1994 stating that he would like to give to the Diocese of Knoxville before the end of the calendar year. He was making the offer, Mr. Teasley said based on his friendship with Brother Gonzaga Day. He was so impressed with the charity shown to the poor of Roane County.

The Bishop agreed to accept the property valued at \$320,000 with a mortgage just \$50 a month more than what Bro. Gonzaga was paying a month. The total property consisted of three commercial and five residential properties.

It is the hope of the diocese of re-doing the residential sections of the building creating low-income housing for the poor of Roane and Morgan Counties.

Br. Gonzaga came back to Columba Hall in 1993, and his main work was buying, collecting oil barrels filled with supplies requested by our men in the Ghanaian Missions. This was not easy work. The barrels were clumsy and empty, but when partially or completely filled they were a real job to handle.

They were all to be addressed and then brought to Chicago where they were moved to a ship going to Ghana. Most of ten it took six weeks for the barrels to reach Ghana. Barrels were used and preferred because boxes were not proofed against people in the ports pilfering the materials meant for the missionaries. The barrels proved to be a cheap form of insurance. But the hard heavy work was taking its toll. Brother was getting weaker and the Non-Absorption of food was making it impossible for him to continue his work and in 1997, he entered Dujarie House, the community infirmary in the Brothers' Center. Most of the Columba Hall community did not expect him to return to them for they had seen the great drop in his weight and endurance - with just a little bit of spirit leaving him. There was limit to what the doctors, nurses and aides could do for him except to keep him comfortable.

As was said, Brother Gonzaga asked Brother Maurus O'Malley, to type a letter for him. He wanted to dictate the letter. (A copy of the letter is enclosed at the end of the paper.) It sums in a litany of thanks to all of the wonderful friends of Holy Cross.

Brother Gonzaga, Thomas J. Day, had a definite mission to work on and achieve, and he did that. I give testimony that his Mission was accomplished.

The provincial and the staff of Dujarie House were of the mind that the Cleveland Clinic might have a treatment or a therapy to treat Brother. At first, he protested, but Brother Donald Gibbs, Assistant Provincial, did a magnificent job of convincing Brother to make the trip to the Cleveland Clinic. He finally agreed,

and he was taken by ambulance to the Cleveland Clinic. Their doctors realized the seriousness of Brother's condition – and their helplessness. There was no therapy or cure for him at the clinic, and the only favorable situation that came from his move to Cleveland was that it was convenient for the family – especially his sister and brother—to visit with him at the clinic. He lasted just a week expiring on July 27th, 1997. I can attest that his Mission was Accomplished.

on an architect. This particular afternoon, I really hit a low point. I shared my growing pessimism with one of my co-workers. She told me she had never seen me so down so she, in turn, became quite anxious.

I walked back to my office, sat down at my desk, closed my eyes and prayed to Brother Gonzaga. I am not one to pray for gifts, so I asked him what he wanted me to do about Harriman. I asked for his intervention in any way he saw fit. I opened my eyes, feeling a bit better simply because I had prayed to him. Not more than one minute later, the phone rang. It was the Community Development person from the local bank which had sponsored our loan application to the Federal Home Loan Bank. She excitedly asked, "Did the FHLB people call you?"

"No," I said.

"They just called me to ask me a few questions and from what they said, it is obvious we will receive the money!" Now remember, this happened a full month before we were supposed to hear about our application

She was excited. I was amazed and humbled. I hung up the phone, closed my eyes and prayed to Brother Gonzaga again. This time, I thanked him over and over again and renewed my commitment to see this project to its completion

Postscript: We did receive official word in mid-December. We still have a number of issues to address so Brother Gonzaga, the Patron Saint of Harriman, continues to be consulted for advice and strength. We are still searching for the best way to memorialize him at the project. I am sure we will find the most appropriate way to memorialize a man so humble, so gifted, and so spiritually powerful

I hope this helps you as much as it has helped me

ACCET

Continued from Page 1

thrift store founder, and Presentation Sisters Francis O'Neill and Sheila Barrett, the store's co-managers.

Sister Sheila said that Mr. Teasley had often asked if ACCET would be interested in being given the property as a gift, but we "never really took it seriously."

Mr. Dotson quoted Mr. Teasley as saying that "life has been good and I want to give something back. If I die tomorrow, I'll die with a smile on my face."

After inspecting the property with

Mark Clifton, who will serve as the property's maintenance manager, Mr. Dotson said they were looking at the possibility of redoing the residential areas and utilizing much wasted space to creating more apartments in the two- and three-story buildings.

"There is a great low-income housing shortage in Roane and Morgan counties," he said. "And ACCET has been looking at how to get involved in this area and this gift is just what we needed to get started."

Mr. Dotson said that planning was still in the early stages and much work was left to be done.

ARCHIVES



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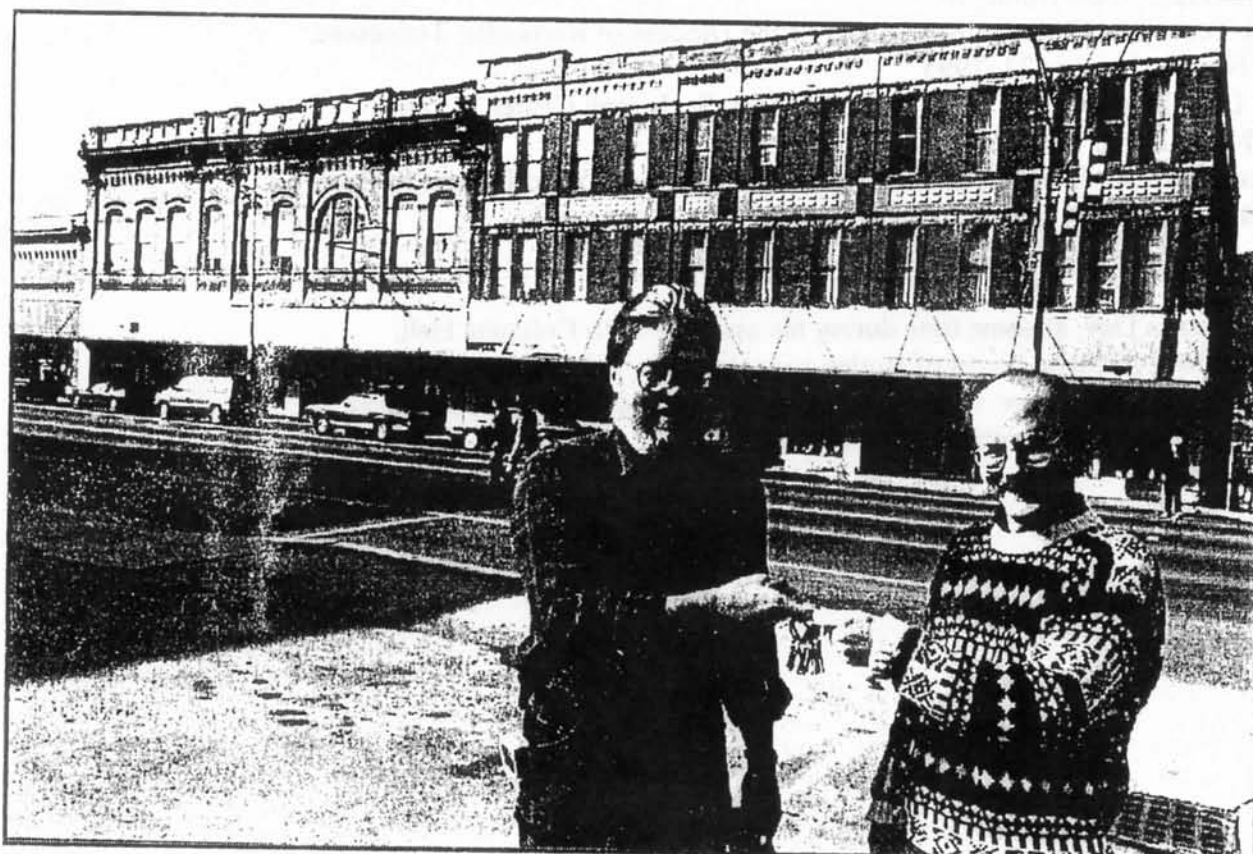
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ARCHIVES



DIOCESE OF THE EAST
Diocese of Holy Cross
Notre Dame, Indiana

ACCET DIRECTOR DAVID DOTSON right, and Mark Clifton hold the keys to the buildings in the background that were recently donated to the

organization by J.W. Teasley, a resident of Roane County. Mr. Clifton will be maintenance manager of the property. (ETC photo by Dan Barile)

Businessman gives block of buildings in Harriman to Catholic Charities

By Dan Barile

HARRIMAN — Thanks to the generosity of a businessman in Roane County Associated Catholic Charities of East Tennessee now owns property in downtown Harriman.

J.W. Teasley, the former landlord of the Seton Thrift Store in Harriman, donated several buildings, including the one housing the thrift store, in the 500 block of Roane Street to ACCET, effective Jan. 1. ACCET Director David Dotson said he hopes to convert part of the property into low-income housing.

The \$320,000 property gift came as a surprise, Mr. Dotson said.

"Mr. Teasley called me the day before Thanksgiving and said that he would like to give ACCET the property before the end of the calendar year," Mr. Dotson said in an interview with *The*

East Tennessee Catholic. "So I talked with the bishop and he agreed to the terms that Mr. Teasley had set."

The terms of the agreement include that ACCET, on accepting the property, will pay off the \$60,000 mortgage remaining on the property.

"Considering that the Seton Thrift Store already pays \$500 a month rent and that the mortgage payments are \$565 a month, it made sense to agree to the offer," Mr. Dotson said. "So for just \$65 more a month ACCET owns 80,000 square feet of property consisting of three commercial and five residential properties."

Mr. Dotson said that Mr. Teasley had decided to offer the property to ACCET based on his friendship with Brother Gonzaga Day, CSC, the

Please see ACCET, Page 12

References:

- 1) All of the material used came from the AMWB (Archives of the Brothers of Holy Cross Province, Notre Dame, IN.
- 2) The East Tennessee Catholic, Newspaper of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tennessee, Vol IV, No. 11, January 22, 1995
- 3) Homily, Dr. Chester Caster, M.D., Funeral Mass, St. Joseph Center, Brother' Center, Notre Dame, IN 46556
- 4) Associated Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, Inc. Mr. David Dotson to Bro. Joseph Berg. Letter re: property and a prayer.

N. B. Brother Gonzaga Day, at some time during his assignment to Columba Hall, completed twenty-three Archival boxes of stories and interesting information about his time in Holy Cross. How, where or when he found time to do this massive assignment: these boxes are in the Midwest Brothers' Province Archives.

For My Dear Friend
Brother Gonzaga Day, CSC

Twelve years ago Gonzaga asked me to give the eulogy at his funeral. This has been the longest appointment that I have ever kept in my schedule. During these years cascades of thoughts and feelings have passed through my heart. What words could I say for this man of grand stature whose deeds have been the making of a legend. What song could I sing to this man of magnanimous compassion for people in all degrees of struggle and need. Today, my heart feels great sadness at the passing of this cherished and beloved friend, but my being celebrates the accomplishment of a life devoted to caring, service and gifting. These lines and verse are for you Gonzaga, spoken to your many friends.

The call came last Wednesday,
the forecast was given that you were soon to die, maybe within the day.
Sleep came slowly that night. . . .
And then a wonderful thing happened--at 2:58 a.m. I was nudge awake by your presence in my room.
I felt a great peace
I felt assurance that you would always be present in my life
And I am looking forward to all the times when I can say, "there's Gonzie at it again."

Such a flood of memories,
So many scenes from our thirteen and a half years together

First in that little farm cottage in the "holler",
Then the big yellow house on that mountain top in Tennessee.

What a business man!
Making that yellow house possible
by finding a loan at 6% when the going mortgage rate in the early 80's was 17%

What a business man!
You open the Seton Thrift Shop and Friendship Center on a wing and a prayer.
That old abandoned hotel on Roane Street was the center of trade and pleasant conversation for those in need of life sustaining goods and a caring heart.
Remember when the Harriman news reported the move of your store down the street to the old Miller and Brewer Department Store. . . ?
"The Seton Thrift Store and Friendship Center has moved to a new location. . . so says it's proprietor, Gazanda Bay"

Gonz,
Does anybody know how many boxes you have packed and labeled,
Ordered and stacked in that back room
Ready to be brought to the sale tables just at the right season?
. . . and what about all those drums you packed for shipment across the seas, especially to your beloved Ghana?

You showed me this astounding country in 1989
and introduced me to her joyous and loving people.
Your love for the children there
And your concern for their education was evident.
I have seen with my own eyes Gonzaga Block
I have seen the happy children who study there.
I have seen them sing and dance for you.
How thankful they were for your efforts.
My heart was filled with joy for you.

Even as your body was shrinking these past several months,
Your desire to return to Ghana
for just one more time was growing.
What an itinerary you planned. . .
Just reading the events of the first day left me exhausted.
Departure September 15 from South Bend
Arrive in Cleveland for lunch with May and Leo
Arrive in Newark, have supper with Bob Fountain and Francis Johnson
Francis, who was to accompany you on the trip, to buy the largest suitcase he can
find at K-mart
Fed Ex to deliver special treats to the ticket counter of SwissAir
these will be repacked in this largest suitcase and then checked.

Now I know that on the wings of angels you have made it there .

And speaking of travel. . .
Did anyone keep tally of the zillions of miles behind the wheel of your Ford
Econolines?
I am sure that many were the nights when you were lulled to sleep in your berth at
the Holiday Inn
by the passing of white stripes in your mind's eye.

I heard that Wall Street reported a dip in the value of Ford stocks the day you turned
in your key.

I cannot pass up this opportunity to share with your many friends here your
hilarious side
Many may not know about the many character impersonations which you have
played over the years,
at least a third of which you could have had academy award nominations. (I've got
the pictures here today to prove it.)
What frolic we have had seeing you as Miss Piggy, Aunt Jemima, Indian Princess
Summer/Fall/Winter/Spring, Lizzie Ooten and, of course, Gazanda Bay.
There have been cowboys, bishops, cardinals, maids, great dames of aristocracy,
nurses, and nuns of all orders.

And speaking of Sisters. . .
Doesn't everyone know what a historian you were for the religious communities of
women.
And how blessed has been your life, and ours, through the prayers and support of
your Carmelite sisters in LaPlata, Des Plaines and Terre Haute

And here is a pot pourri of images which I will always remember:

The band aids on your fingers to hold together the skin splits
you sustained after hours of sorting and packing for shipments to peoples of lands
far away.

I can't go into a restaurant and order iced tea and not remember your call for "double
on the lemon and a straw"

I'll always remember how you loved watermelon, your fishing hat with the rolled up
brim, and of course, that huge black pocketbook for the daily revenues from the
thrift store--you know, the one Bill Schu refused to carry.

I will always remember the many delicious meals you set before me,
the really special ones in a style that would make Amy Vanderbilt or Emily Post look
shabby

And the very special times,
like my 38th birthday,
when you, as an English butler
and Bill Healy as an English chambermaid,
treated me as a king
fully equipped with orb, cape and crown
and seated me to a stupendous lunch of cucumber sandwiches and scones.
(There are pictures here to prove that too.)

I remember the winter twilight and you sitting cozily in your easy chair,
legs crossed, sipping your tea,
reading of the lives and works of Dorothy Day and May Sarton.
In the background, your desk top was always active with your prolific
correspondence
for which most of us here were receivers.
And there were those soulful and contemplative moments
when your head was bowed, searching the mysteries of the Christ-life through your
Divine Office and the recitation of the beads.

How blessed were your final days!
You were attended by your loving family
You heard your sister May's daily greeting, "Good morning, here is your Fight Team"
And you were visited by your friends and Brothers.

Your final day was blessed by our good friend, Shiela Michel,
who just happened to be in Cleveland for her sister's wedding.
She came to your bedside and sang to you an Irish lullaby,
prayed the psalms from your Divine Office Book which you had marked as your
favorite
and extended to you the invitation and permission to pass on through and beyond
death.

You have completed the journey!
Gone is the view of seeing your head towering over most of us.

Silent is your unmistakably deep and resonating voice.
Your life has been lived well, faithful and true. . .to your God and to your friends.

As we, for the time being, remain on this side of life,
We remember you as one more of those great ones in Holy Cross,
Right there with those legendary ones, like Brothers Lambert, Ephrem, Theophane,
Donatus and Andre.
You have gifted us all so richly, so much of your life and love remains with us, only
your body goes to the grave.

Now the eternal banquet table has been set for you,
And no doubt Miss Piggy and Aunt Jemima are peeking through the drapes
for a full glimpse of you.
And Gonz, I've already pre-ordered your iced tea, DOUBLE ON THE LEMON, AND WITH A
STRAW.

Spoken By Chester Nicholas Caster at the Funeral Mass for Brother Gonzaga (Thomas)
Day, CSC on July 24, 1997.

Born: October 31, 1919

Died: July 20, 1997

Buried: July 25, 1997



Brothers of Holy Cross

. . . .

Columba Hall

Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0776

July 20, 1997

My Dear Respected Friend:

It has always been a pleasant task for me, over the years as Mission Promoter for the Brothers of Holy Cross of the Midwest Province, to write to you and the other of my loyal and dedicated friends when I needed things for the Missions – but, this time I will follow a different theme.

The Lord has been very good to me over all my years spent in the Brothers of Holy Cross – allowing me to meet with and associate with so many wonderful people. I've asked Brother Maurus to write this letter for me, since I am in bed at Dujarie House and unable to type. But there are things that I must say and Brother will type it for me.

The very first group that I must thank is the Carmelite Nuns who have never ceased to be participants and supporters of the work of Holy Cross Midwest Province's Mission activity. If I were well, I would write a special letter to each of the Carmelite Monasteries: Carmel in Pittsford, NY, Morristown, NJ, DesPlaines, IL, Terre Haute, IN, and LaPlata, MD. At this moment, words seems so inadequate in conveying my real heart-felt thanks to them. God reward each of these monasteries for their charity and love.

I want to express thanks to the people in Harriman, TN, for their cooperation in my pet project, Seton Thrift Shop. I spent a number of happy years in their midst - and the friendships and cooperation touched my heart deeply.

The story of Tennessee and Holy Cross would be incomplete if I were to forget the Brothers that I lived with and worked with. I refer to Dr. Chet Caster, M.D., the Holy Cross Sisters and the Presentation Sisters, the Priests of Bl. Sacrament Parish, Brother Douglas Roach, and the lay-folk of the area such as Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wilson. God love them.

I want to express my thanks to the personnel at Dujarie House, our community I think, that they are spoiling me with the kind care and solicitude that they are showing. Bro. Thomas Shaughnessy sees me almost daily and Becky, the head nurse, and her assistant Maureen, and the many aides who made sure my every need was taken care of.

No letter expressing thanks to people who have been good to me would be complete were I to forget the Provincial Administration of the Brothers of Holy Cross here in the Midwest. They have been consistently cooperative with satisfying the needs of our missionaries and the personal kindness shown to me since I got sick was edifying.

Thanks to the good friends and acquaintances who sent me cards, flowers and candy. I do appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness. God bless you for your kindness.

My Provincial Administration has decided that I go to the Cleveland Clinic to have them check me out. Perhaps there is a therapy or treatment that I need. We shall see. I have agreed to go because I will do anything to regain my strength – so that I can complete some work for the Missions. I have not been able to do that since May. I depend on your good prayers that God will lift this cross of poor health - but, if it is not to be, that I will gladly bow my head and say: Thy will be done.

Gratefully yours in Holy Cross,

Brother Gonzaga Day, CSC