



2022
HOLY CROSS JUBILARIANS



Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of First Vows

BR. J. RODNEY STRUBLE, C.S.C.

Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination

REV. JAMES MADDEN, C.S.C.

Sixtieth Anniversary of Ordination

REV. HARRY CRONIN, C.S.C.

REV. JAMES DENN, C.S.C.

REV. JEROME ESPER, C.S.C.

REV. LAWRENCE HENRY, C.S.C.

REV. WILLIAM PERSIA, C.S.C.

Fiftieth Anniversary of First Vows

BR. THOMAS COMBS, C.S.C.

Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination

REV. CARL EBAY, C.S.C.

REV. THOMAS JONES, C.S.C.

REV. GEORGE LUCAS, C.S.C.

REV. THOMAS SMITH, C.S.C.

REV. THOMAS ZURCHER, C.S.C.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination

REV. LUCIUS ATWINE, C.S.C.

MOST REV. JORGE IZAGUIRRE, C.S.C.

REV. DAVID KASHANGAKI, C.S.C.

REV. JAMES LIES, C.S.C.

REV. JOHN STEELE, C.S.C.

REV. STEPHEN WILBRICHT, C.S.C.

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS



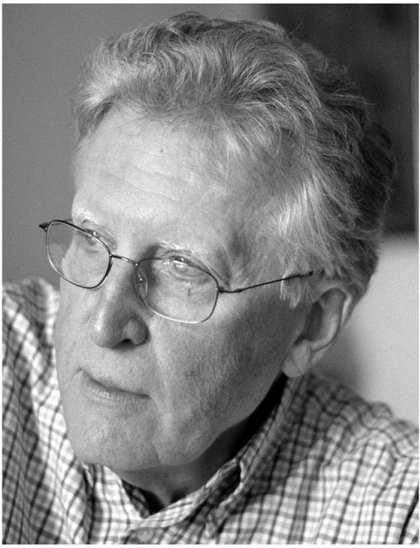
BR. J. RODNEY STRUBLE, C.S.C.

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

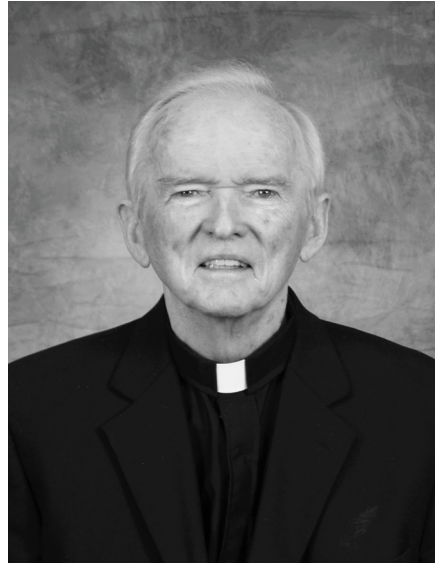


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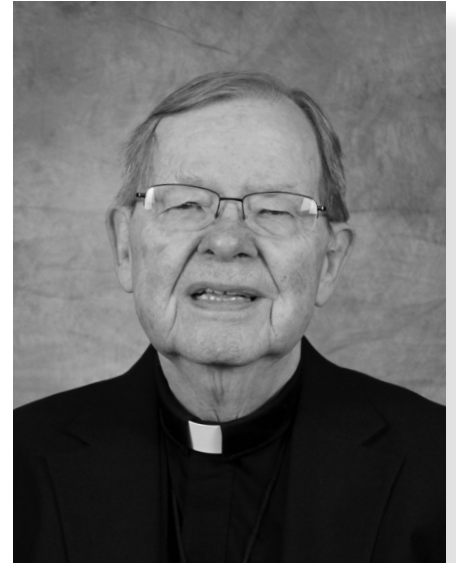
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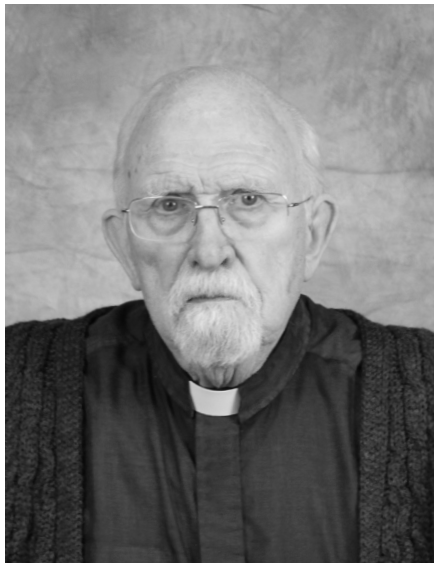
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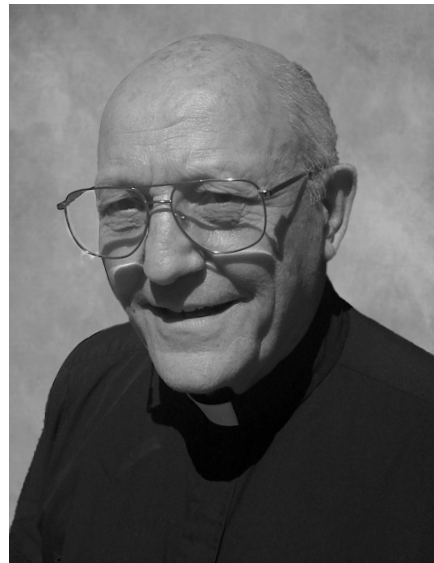
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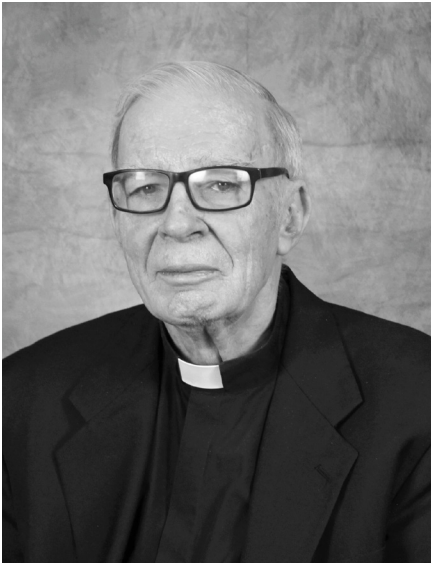
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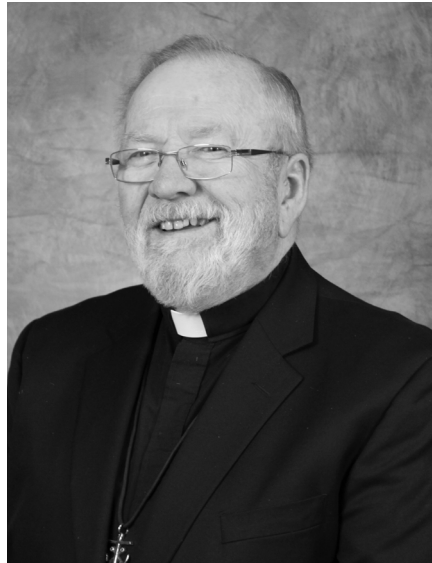


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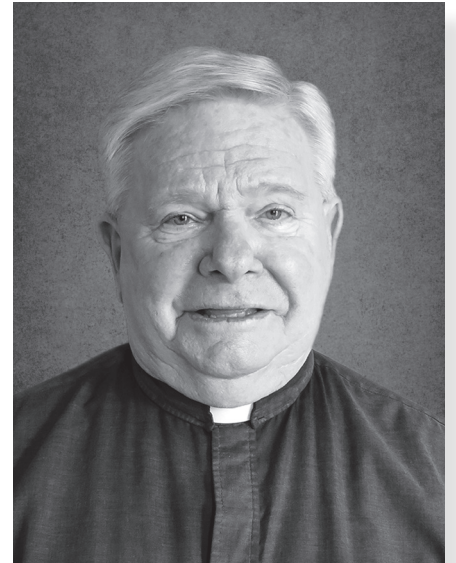
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REV. CARL EBEBY, C.S.C.



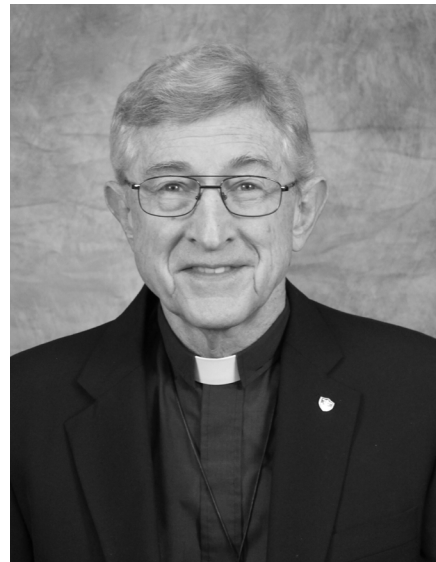
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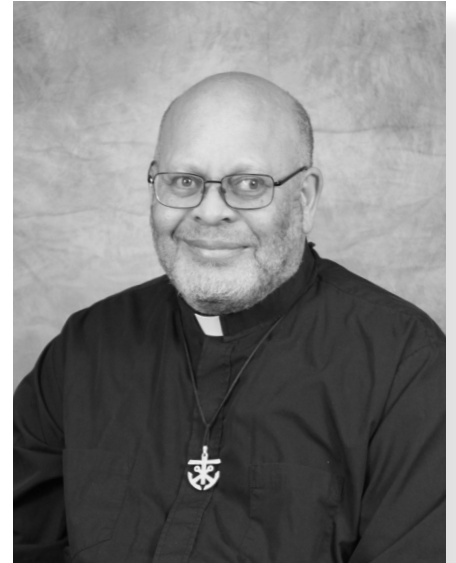
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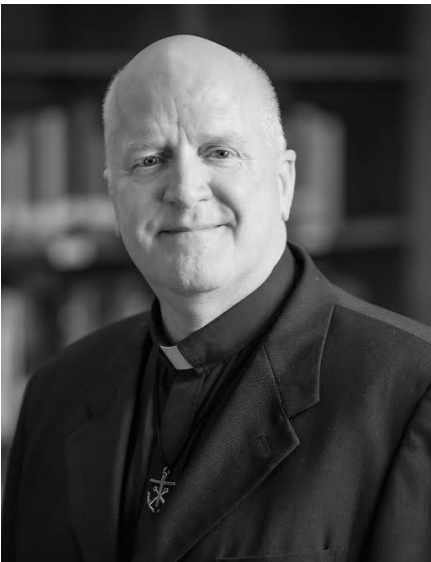
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REV. STEPHEN WILBRICHT,
C.S.C.



BR. THOMAS COMBS, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS

My Family lived in the Washington DC area. My parents, John and Christina Combs raised five children. The oldest child died at birth. My siblings are John, Richard, and Florence. I was the fourth child. My brother and I cared for our mother after my father died.

I attended St Dominic's Grade School taught by the Dominican sisters. I attended the Bell Vocational High School. In 1948, I entered the US 5th Battalion Reserves Marine Corp. I was called up in active service in August of 1950 at Camp Lejeune. I was in the Active Reserves until 1952 then I also attended the Naval War College. In May 1951, I was sent to Korea to serve in the first Marine Division as a Combat Radio Operator. I reenlisted in 1952, and served with USMC in the US Canal Zone in Panama for 2 years.

After I was honorably discharged from the Marines, I worked as a Bus Driver for the DC Transit and a milk man.

I used to take my Mother to the lay meetings at St. Gabriel's where some Holy Cross staff assisted with the meetings.

I had thought of being a priest or brother since I was 12. I wanted to be in a religious community. I am grateful for the Dominican Sisters, who cared about my education and me. I am grateful for my vocation as a Brother. I was inspired by the Congregation of Holy Cross because of the missionary work in Africa.

I joined the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1969 as a candidate. I attended the Novitiate at Bennington, VT. After 2 years, I returned to Moreau Seminary and went to Ivy Tech to learn about furniture making. I worked at Ave Maria Press. In 1979, I took my final vows at the University of Portland and also was the Sacristan there. I also worked with the illegal immigrants with Fr. Jose Pawliki, CSC and Fr. John

Connor, CSC in the Coachella Valley. Fr. Pawliki, CSC was a very caring person. I also attended the College of the Desert. I worked at St. Joseph Medical Center as an orderly.

Cardinal Newman, St. Dominic and the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin have influenced my life in a variety of ways.

As I look back over my life as a Brother in the Congregation of Holy Cross, I enjoyed working with the migrant workers in the Coachella Valley in Indio, California. I also enjoyed being the sacristan at the University of Portland. I was very happy that my family could come to the final profession of vows at the University of Portland. I currently live at Holy Cross House.

REV. CARL EBEBY, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

I was born on May 31, 1940 to Warren and Florence McDonald Ebey as the younger son in Detroit, Michigan. Growing up in Detroit I attended Presentation grade school and the University of Detroit High School. In September of 1958 I arrived at the University of Notre Dame as a student in college and graduated in June, 1962. I entered the Congregation of Holy Cross at Saint Joseph Hall in September 1962 studying Latin and Philosophy. After the novitiate, I continued study of Latin and Philosophy. In 1965 I was able to go to Rome to study Theology and then in 1961 I went to Washington D.C. to continue studies in Theology. On April 29, 1972 I was ordained with my classmates to the priesthood on the University of Notre Dame campus by Archbishop Edward L. Heston, C.S.C.

My first years of priesthood were at Notre Dame working in Internal Auditing and Student Accounts and in hall ministry as Assistant Rector of Flanner Hall and Rector of Fisher Hall.

In September 1977, I went to Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana to pursue Doctoral studies in Accountancy which I completed with a D.B.A. in 1980.

In 1979, Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C. asked me to serve as Provincial Steward which I gratefully accepted. For the next 8 years, I lived at the Provincial House while being able to teach accounting at Notre Dame and serve as Provincial Steward. In 1987-1988, I was privileged to work for Notre Dame President, Rev. Edward Malloy, C.S.C. From 1988 until 1997, I served as Provincial of the Indiana Province, living at the Provincial House. I returned in 1997 to Notre Dame and taught accounting.

At the General Chapter of 1998, Rev. Hugh Cleary was elected Superior General and asked me to serve as General Steward. For the first six years, I was able

to do this part time in Rome, Italy. In 2004, with the permission of the Provincial, Rev. David Tyson, I was asked to be Procurator General and General Steward living in Rome full time. At the request of both Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C. and Rev. Robert Epping, C.S.C., I continued as Procurator General until June 30, 2021 while stepping down as General Steward in 2012.

On July 01, 2021, for health reasons, I returned to Corby Hall at Notre Dame where I now reside.

My heart is filled with gratitude for every one of you, family, friends, and community members who have been supportive of me over the past fifty years as a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross. I am grateful to all of you for your prayers and many kindnesses. My life has been blessed by my family, my friends, and my community.

REV. THOMAS JONES, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Fifty years a priest! Looking back, it doesn't seem that long. However, what has shaped my priestly ministry goes back even further, to my novitiate year in Jordan, Minnesota from August 1963, to August, 1964. The "novitiate" is a year of training in prayer, in the spiritual life, and in the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross before taking temporary vows as a Holy Cross religious.

In December of my novitiate year, the first document of the Second Vatican Council was published: *Sacrosanctum Concilium: The Constitution On The Sacred Liturgy*. At the time it was published, Pope Paul VI (now St. Paul VI) said that "the liturgy was the first subject to be examined (by the Council) and the first, too, in a sense, in intrinsic worth and importance for the life of the Church." We had lots of time for reading and prayer in the novitiate, and I "devoured" this first Council document. My favorite passage comes from paragraphs 9 & 10 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy:

The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church. . . . Nevertheless, the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the fountain from which all her power flows.

I did not realize it then, but over time these words became my prayer, inspiration and encouragement during my time in the seminary. Over the past fifty years, these words have become the motivation, focus and joy of my ministry as a Holy Cross priest and religious.

Most of my priesthood has been spent working in parishes. It has brought me great joy to celebrate the Sacraments with my brothers and sisters, especially presiding and preaching at the table of the Lord. However, from 1978 – 1984, I was Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne –

South Bend. All my efforts then were spent helping people appreciate that the Eucharist is not a "thing" we receive, but always an "action" ---- "a giving thanks" ----- an event we share together in and with Jesus Christ. In the words of Father Eugene Walsh, S.S., in the Mass we all give; we all receive; we all celebrate. When we offer ourselves at Mass as a "living sacrifice", we join Jesus in his great act of thanksgiving to the Father. St Augustine taught that everything Jesus said and did has passed over into the Sacraments. When we make the effort to become "living sacrifices" each day, then everything we say and do passes over into the "kingdom" that God is making present in and through us. Perhaps this is why the Mass is the summit and fountain of all the Church's activity.

I am so grateful for all the many people who have shaped and formed me, for better or worse, along my life's journey, especially my parents and family members. The parishioners and co-workers in the places where I have served have been wonderful examples of dedication and generosity. God's grace, and your patience and care have kept me focused on the commitment I made a long time ago. I say "Thank You" for allowing me to share your joys and sorrows, your hopes and dreams. You are in my prayer each day. You have made me a better person and have helped me grow in wisdom, age and favor.

A special "Thank You" to my brothers in Holy Cross, especially the young seminarians, deacons, and priests I have been privileged to serve with over the years. You have been patient with me and taught me so much: how to preach; how to preside prayerfully; how to be a shepherd and pastor. Because of the good you are doing for our Holy Cross brotherhood and for the mission of the Church, I have a deeper trust in Divine Providence.

I pray each day for anyone I have hurt in the course of my ministry. I ask your forgiveness for my

weaknesses, failures or any pain I may have caused. Abundantly blessed, I also know that I have a lot more growing to do because conversion of heart is a daily process. It's not over 'till it's over!

A few months ago at Christmas I said the following in a homily, "If God who is great, chose to become small; if God who is powerful chose to become weak; if God who is self-sufficient chose to become "needy", then it is essential that we discover in each other, that

goodness which prompted God to become one of us." The Word became flesh and continues to dwell in us and through us! God is good every day, all the time. As the saintly Brother Herman Zaccarelli at Holy Cross House often said to me: "We all have much to be thankful for."

REV. GEORGE LUCAS, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

The psalmist wisely says the days of our lives are seventy years and if by reason of strength, eighty years. Seventy years is neither a promise nor a limit but a poetic estimate of a lifespan. What I share now comes from mind and heart in my seventy-eighth year!

I was born on the 28th of October 1944, the first son to the late Joseph and Marion Lucas. We were five kids with my sister, Colette, a year older. Three of us went to Notre Dame High School which was staffed by the Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers and The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. By my senior year, I was pretty sure that I wanted to become a priest and had applied to enter the seminary program of the Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers at Stonehill College, North Easton, MA. My parents supported my decision to enter the seminary and showed their support by visiting me “monthly” for the next five years.

College studies opened my eyes to a further call, the call to become a missionary priest. Fortunately, Holy Cross had a missionary seminary in Washington, D.C. and following graduation from Stonehill in 1967, I entered the Foreign Mission Seminary and was enrolled at Catholic University of America for theology. My time in Washington, D.C., was cut short when the decision was made to close the program in D.C. and to move to Moreau Seminary in Notre Dame, Indiana, joining the theology program at Notre Dame.

For my pastoral ministry, I was active within the Black Community at Saint Augustine Parish and the Urban League. In fact, I helped to open a Street Academy for dropouts in South Bend. Also, in 1969 I was accepted into the Crossroads Africa Program and went to The Gambia, West Africa, as a volunteer helping to build a primary school during summer vacation. Graduating from Notre Dame in

1970 with an MTh in Theology, I was assigned to East Africa in September with Tom Smith. We had made our Final Vows and were ordained Deacons in the spring of 1970. Our assignment was Rutooro language study and to serve as deacons in the parishes in Fort Portal, Uganda. Ordained a Holy Cross priest in June of 1972, my first ten years in East Africa were during the terrible reign of Idi Amin. It was a time of hardship and fear for everyone living in Uganda during the rule of the gun. Roadblocks and harassment by soldiers were common experiences. After nine years of madness Amin was driven out by the army from Tanzania but others followed at times no better than those who preceded them.

As a Holy Cross priest, I served in parishes, schools, as the first novice master and then as assistant district superior and superior over a period of 18 years. While serving as superior we opened a mission in Tanzania extending our presence and service within East Africa. During my 33 years in East Africa, I was fortunate to assist in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Some years ago, when speaking to a group of folks in the USA about my experience of being a Holy Cross missionary in East Africa, I told them that I considered it a great privilege to have been a part of the growth of Holy Cross in East Africa.

Surely there were growing pains and disappointments, too. Maturing is slow and costly, but then comes the harvest. There is an African proverb that says if you sow seed without care and attention, you will eat poor results. (PANDA OVYO, HULA OVYO.) The early missionaries lived and worked under much harsher conditions, but their commitment and labors laid the foundation for what growth and progress exists today. Vocations to Holy Cross have been abundant and soon the District will

become the Province of East Africa. I give thanks for it all.

These days find me in Lima, Peru, at another Holy Cross mission. Here a whole new world has opened for me. My struggles with learning about the cultures, customs, and a new language (Spanish) are real, but the warmth and acceptance of the Peruvian people make up for it. The Lord of Hope Parish is

a sign of Hope for the thousands who call it their parish with its 18 chapels, 2 schools, and a polyclinic.

Why did I accept this assignment after so many years in Africa? I believe the answer was given long ago by the Founder of Holy Cross, Basil Moreau, who said it so well, namely, “to make God better known, loved and served.” Being part of such a great mission, continually gives me HOPE wherever I have been asked to serve.

REV. THOMAS SMITH, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

The farther we go in giving the more we stand to receive. These words from our Holy Cross Constitutions express well the truth of what I have experienced in ministry as a priest, and the receiving has far outdistanced the giving!

My ordained ministry began in Butiiti, a rural parish with more than 80 village outstations in Fort Portal Diocese, Uganda, birthplace of Holy Cross mission in East Africa. Though struggling to learn the language, the kind hospitality of the people quickly put me at ease and I grew to love visiting the homes of the sick and elderly, playing with the children, praying and celebrating the sacraments in the simple thatched churches. A surprise request from Bishop Magambo, Vincent McCauley's successor in Fort Portal, resulted in a move to northern Uganda and four years of teaching theology and church history in the newly established Alokolum National Seminary. I'm sure I learned more there than my students did! These were the tense years of Idi Amin's erratic rule in Uganda, a time of fear and suffering for many, and we were often told that our Holy Cross presence was a source of hope for those we served.

Then another surprise: An appointment to a 6-year term as Superior of Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame. There was initial disappointment at this call to leave Uganda so soon, but today it is a source of great satisfaction to see so many of those with whom I lived and ministered at Moreau serving God's people so generously. At the end of this "interruption" to East Africa's hold on my heart, I was elected Superior of our mission there. In the nine years of that responsibility I was especially happy to witness the union of all Holy Cross priests and brothers serving in East Africa and the expansion of our formation programs and facilities for those wishing to join us. In these same years I was blessed to serve as pastor of Holy Cross Parish Dandora, home to more than 300,000 people of diverse ethnicity on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. As a small-town Nebraskan, I thought I could never be happy in a large poor urban

setting, but how wrong I was! The lively faith and prayer of the people there, their generosity toward needy neighbors, and the commitment of so many wonderful lay leaders made this a deep experience of God at work among his people for which I will always be grateful.

There followed an assignment to direct our post-novitiate formation program in Nairobi, and then a return to parish ministry as one of the first team of Holy Cross to serve in Kitete Parish, a remote, wheat growing area above the Rift Valley in Tanzania. Next came another surprise: back to the States, this time for nine years at the Holy Cross Mission Center where David Schlaver and I did our best to promote reflection on, and support for, our Holy Cross international mission.

Upon return to East Africa, a brief period in parish ministry led to seven years as Director of Novices at our beautiful novitiate on Lake Saaka, outside of Fort Portal. The prayer, teaching and sharing with the young men in formation there has given me much hope for the future of Holy Cross service to the people of East Africa and beyond.

I am now doing what I can to assist my younger Holy Cross brothers serving in Holy Cross Parish Bugembe (Jinja, Uganda). Africa is very kind to "elders," and the slower pace of these days offers ample time to reflect on how much I have received from wonderful Holy Cross colleagues, from my always loving and supportive family and friends, and from the many I have met in ministry during these fifty years. I give thanks for each of them, and I am especially grateful to God for his love and mercy through it all.

REV. THOMAS ZURCHER, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

This 50th anniversary provides an opportunity to take to heart the words of the late Bishop Ken Untener.

“The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.... We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.”

The tiny fraction of God’s “magnificent enterprise” entrusted to me can be described as parish ministry, formation ministry, and cross cultural ministry. The guiding compass was and is Jesus the Servant Leader. “After he had washed their feet, he said to them: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example...” (John 13: 12-15)

Next to God’s awesome Kingdom that knocks at our door today and is also the promise for tomorrow, mine are meager contributions. Even so, for me they are precious and priceless. And they are not mine alone; they’re collaborative contributions and “we” endeavors.

There was the joy of parish ministry, becoming a gardener serving the Kingdom by cultivating all the conditions needed for families and individuals to grow together in love. In one parish that meant creating a new worship space by building a church, in order to facilitate our communion as Church. In a heartbeat, I would do it again.

There was the empathic ministry of formation, becoming a hearing aid in the profound listening for the tender voice of God speaking intimately to the heart; faithful people entering into one another’s sacred space in order to hear the call and summon up the courage to say “Yes”. This was no small task.

There was the humble service of building bridges, constructing connections with peoples of different cultures, discovering how God’s love and our response are incarnate in multiple languages,

customs, hopes and dreams. On occasion I would react, “I like it better my way!” This was a stretching experience, learning what we know in our heads by crossing those bridges: “God-with-us” is bigger than all of us.

During these years there were sacramental moments of holy awe and delight. A baby immersed in baptismal water who sprinkled the family with his own little fountain. A youngster going to confession who asked, “This is just between you and me, right Father?” Weddings and funerals when God’s love was encountered in moments of human attachment and separation. Above all, that sacred meal, the Eucharist, when hungers were fed at two tables: that of the Word and that of the Bread of Life.

These reflections briefly tell the story of what the Master Builder entrusted to me. In the midst of beauty and light, there were dark moments and failures to be sure. When I didn’t follow the example of the one who washed feet, I ask that you wash mine. From all those who have been disappointed, I beg your pardon and forgiveness.

In the end, I am a very grateful person for the vocation of religious life and priesthood in Holy Cross. It has allowed me, as Daniel O’Leary might say, to modestly remind myself and others of the light within us.

Let me conclude with William O’Malley’s prayer, and mine. “Holy Friend, let me be content with who I am. Hush me when I complain. You gave me life and that’s enough. I give you back today. A small gift to be sure, but nothing to be scorned if not by you then not by me.”

REV. LUCIUS ATWINE, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

I was born on June 2, 1962 to Valentine Butuuro and the late Christine Kakurema Butuuro, in Rugazi, Rubirizi District, Uganda. I am the 5th born of thirteen siblings. I have four sisters and eight brothers. My home parish is Holy Name of Mary Parish Rugazi in the Archdiocese of Mbarara in Uganda.

I had my primary and secondary education in Uganda. For primary education I went to H. H. the Agakhan primary school in Mbale, from 1972 to 1978 and attended St. Kagwa High School Bushenyi, St Francis Xavier Minor Seminary Kitabi and St. Leo's College Kyegobe, Fort Portal for secondary education.

In July 1986, I joined the Holy Cross District of East Africa candidacy program in Dandora, Nairobi, Kenya and did Philosophical studies at the Institute of Philosophy, Consolata Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1986 to 1989. Upon completion of the candidacy program, I joined the Holy Cross Novitiate at Lake Saka in Fort Portal, Uganda on June 14, 1989 and professed first vows on August 16, 1990.

After profession of first vows, I did theological studies at the Theological Center of Religious, Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya from 1990 to 1994. Upon completion of theological studies, I did a pastoral year at Holy Cross Parish Bugembe in Jinja, Uganda from 1994 to 1995. On August 15, 1995, I professed my final vows at Holy Cross Parish Bugembe in Jinja, Uganda and on August 16, 1995 was ordained a Deacon at the same parish.

For my Diaconate, I served in Holy Cross Parish Dandora in Nairobi, Kenya from August 1995 to October 1996 and St Jude Thaddeus Parish in Kyarusozzi, Uganda from October 1996 to September 1997.

I was ordained a Priest on 13 September 1997 at St Jude Thaddeus Parish in Kyarusozzi, Uganda. After ordination, I continued serving in this parish

as an associate pastor until January 2004 when I was transferred to Holy Cross Parish Dandora in Nairobi, Kenya where I worked as an associate pastor from February 2004 to August 2008.

After this I did a Master's of Science in Health Care Administration at King's College Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania from August 2004 to November 2006. Upon return to the District, I did an internship at Holy Family Virika Hospital in Fort Portal, Uganda in 2007.

In January 2008, I was appointed the Director of Development in the District of East Africa and served in this capacity until August 2010. In January 2011 I became Chaplain at Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School in Jinja, Uganda where I ministered until June 2016.

From August 2016 till May 2017, I attended a sabbatical program at the School of Applied Theology in Oakland, California. Following the sabbatical program, I was appointed an associate pastor at Holy Cross Catholic Parish Dandora, in Nairobi, Kenya from September 2017 until January 2018.

From January 2018 to July 2018, I attended the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at the Servants of the Sick Training Center for Healthcare Ministries in Nairobi, Kenya. On August 13, 2018 I was appointed the director of pastoral care and mission at Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

MOST REV. JORGE IZAGUIRRE, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Twenty-five years have passed since that February 15, 1997, day of my priestly ordination. It was a hot morning and a feast day to my hometown, Casma, Peru. Many people accompanied me, among those were relatives and family, friends, and my brothers and sisters of Holy Cross. Finding myself in front of the altar: “I prostrated myself conscious of my nothingness and I got up as a priest forever”, just to use the phrase attributed to the holy Curé of Ars.

I still get moved remembering the beautiful ordination liturgy where my bishop, the Most Rev. Luis Bambarén Gastelumendi, SJ, laid his hands on my head and anointed me. At the top stood out a phrase: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). From that day on, I have tried to live my priestly ministry with generosity and fidelity, being joyful and authentic, close to the people and being helpful, I hope I have achieved it, with the help of divine grace and the Holy Spirit.

Today as I celebrate my 25th Anniversary of priesthood ordination it is propitious to thank God for putting his merciful eyes on me, for choosing me and blessing my life with this precious gift. Also, for the unconditional love and support of my family; they laid the good foundations to awaken my faith and vocation.

Holy Cross has been and continues to be my great support, from the fraternal life in community I learned to appreciate my baptism, to be a man of prayer, to discern the voices of the spirit and to prepare myself to be a good shepherd, a man of mercy and compassion.

I thank those who were my formators in Peru and Chile; they knew well how to transmit to me their apostolic zeal, their closeness to the poor, and their passionate love for the mission and for the Congregation. I owe a lot especially to Roberto

Plasker, CSC, to Fermín Donoso, CSC, my master of novices; to Roberto Gilbo, CSC, my spiritual director; and to Arturo Colgan, CSC, a true teacher, brother and friend as were David Farrell, CSC, Robert Baker, CSC, James Lackenmier, CSC, Daniel Panchot, CSC, among others. My gratitude to the entire Congregation for the solid human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation that they gave me throughout my years as a religious of Holy Cross.

I appreciate the beautiful experience of living with the Stonehill College community for two unforgettable years, with whom I learned a lot; especially with Robert Kruse, CSC. I am very grateful for the privilege of having served on the General Council alongside Richard Warner, CSC, who led an extraordinary team, with whom my vision was further expanded in many ways.

And finally, I want to thank everyone, who over the years helped me forging my identity and priestly spirituality. Above all, I appreciate the good example, the closeness and the friendship of so many priests, brothers, sisters, lay collaborators who have been my best school.

REV. DAVID KASHANGAKI, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

My hometown is Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa. I am the second oldest child of Joseph and Lucy Kashangaki in a family of seven children. In this family, I learned about God and felt the urgings of a life of service and commitment. Prayer, faith and trust in God shaped who I was becoming. Early on, the call to be a priest was beginning to stir. Spending time in prayer before the tabernacle grew constantly. Attendance at Mass as a congregant, a lector, and altar server were highlights of my high school years.

My spiritual growth was influenced by Opus Dei present in Nairobi since the early 1960's. From spending afternoons in the 1970's as a member of a Boys Club run by them, to being a member of their inaugural high school class in 1977, God's direction and Providence came through. The Boys Club, which provided solid human and spiritual formation, and camaraderie for a naturally shy pre-teen and the opening of the high school just when I needed a place to continue my education after seventh grade, God's Providence and love were evidently clear. These years provided a deepening sense of what the priesthood might be like. My best mentors were some missionary priests and a young, growing indigenous Opus Day community. Next came studies at St. Mary's School, a prestigious institution founded and administered by the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) Congregation. Two priests who presented the best image of priesthood to me in these years were both named Fr. Cormac; one a member of Opus Dei, and the other a member of the Spiritans. I keep their model of ministry and their personalities very close to my heart as I journey through life in Holy Cross.

I later studied in Baltimore, MD and Ann Arbor, MI. During that time, I intensified my search for a religious congregation that might understand my desire to fulfill God's will. It was a reconnection with two friends from St. Mary's in Nairobi, studying at the University of Notre Dame, that introduced me to Holy Cross. While I was at the University of

Michigan, we occasionally came together. During one visit to South Bend I met the Vocation Director at Notre Dame. Then, I learned that Holy Cross works in Nairobi; and I visited Dandora. These discoveries deepened my relationship with Holy Cross.

The past 25 years have offered opportunities for service in parish ministry in Holy Cross Parish, Dandora; in formation work with candidates in Jinja, Uganda; and in collaborative parish ministry in the diocesan parish(es) of St. Patrick – St. Hedwig, in South Bend. I have worked with some wonderful Holy Cross colleagues like Fr. Fulgens Katende, csc, Fr. Russ McDougall, csc, Br. Joseph Kaganda, csc and Br. Jim Nichols, csc. This has been a time for living a life rooted in the Sacraments. Teaching, preaching, anointing, blessing, consoling and grieving, have been a constant during these years. Living through these grace-filled moments, I have found God always nearby. The Holy Cross Religious through my years of formation were instrumental in building the Holy Cross spirit in me. My debt to them can only be repaid with continuing fidelity and service to God's people. I have a deep sense of gratitude for their wisdom and guidance.

Living in a large Community setting for much of my Holy Cross experience has revolved around those "sacred" times with the community in prayer and fellowship. There I have learned to deepen that initial TRUST that God's will continues to unfold. I have grown through the support and encouragement of people I have encountered in community and in ministry. And I value the healing that continues to take place in me. This journey of service and commitment, that began with the devotion of my family and was inspired through the examples of the Frs. Cormac, continues to take shape as I seek to respond to the Lord's ongoing invitation, "Come follow Me!"

REV. JAMES LIES, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

There may be no scarier start than this, but here goes... I was born... on the Fourth of July, 1962, the eighth of ten children, and the first of twin sons born to Tom and Laurie Lies. We were raised in Little Falls, Minn., on fifty acres on the banks of the Mississippi River. My early childhood, though wonderful, was deeply marked by the sudden death of my father, just before the birth of the youngest of us, which left Mom to raise us all on her own. By God's grace, Mom had been a nurse and went back to it, working the night shift such that for many years in my youth, I didn't know she worked! While she died in 2008, she remains fondly remembered and much cherished by her children.

All ten of us went to St. Mary's Catholic Grade School, where Dad had been a teacher. I graduated from high school in 1980 and from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., in 1984. Upon graduation, I worked in Residence Life for a year at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisc., after which I headed to Notre Dame to pursue a Master's degree in counseling psychology, and where I served as an Assistant Rector to Fr. Pat Sullivan, C.S.C., in Holy Cross Hall. It was during that time that I first encountered the Congregation, and said to my twin brother, Bill, "I'm going to die a Holy Cross priest... I just don't know when I'm going to become one!"

It would be six years before I was to enter in the Fall of 1991, spending three of those years as Rector of the Notre Dame London Program, and another, traveling around the world as a member of the Residence Life team on the Semester at Sea program... fearing that after I entered religious life and vowed poverty, I'd never be able to travel again!

After the Novitiate, I studied for the M.Div. at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, which proved an important and blessed time in my life. After Final Vows in the Fall of 1996, I was assigned to Notre

Dame, where I was ordained in the spring of 1997, and ministered in Campus Ministry and Residence Life for four years, three of which were spent as Rector of Zahm Hall, of fond and wooly memory.

As studies beckoned again, I left to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Minnesota from 2000-2005, while living and ministering at Nativity Parish in St. Paul, which proved a blessed reprieve from the solitary pursuit of a doctoral degree. Some very dear and lasting friendships began there. After a year of further study and research at Stanford University, in the Fall of 2006 I was assigned to the faculty in the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Portland, an exceptional regional institution in the Holy Cross tradition. Upon receiving tenure in 2012, and after three years as Executive Director of the Garaventa Center for Catholic Intellectual Life & American Culture, I was appointed Vice President for Mission at Stonehill College, an exceptional Holy Cross liberal arts institution near Boston, in North Easton, Mass.

An opportunity to return to London for Notre Dame came up in the Fall of 2017, when I was appointed Director for Catholic Initiatives & Outreach and given a faculty appointment at the Notre Dame London Global Gateway. I have recently completed my fifth year in London, with a bit of a 16 month Covid hiccup in the middle, where I now serve as the Senior Director of Academic Initiatives & Partnerships. If my life and career will be remembered for anything, it will be the ridiculously long job titles I've had!

As hard as it is for me to believe that it's been 25 years since ordination, it's not hard to identify those who have helped to make mine such a blessed life. I am especially grateful to my family, and in a particular way, my dear brother, Bill, a fellow Holy Cross priest (...and my mean Provincial!). My family nurtured my

vocation and have walked with me through the ups and downs of it all. I'm grateful for my family of Holy Cross, too, who have also been faithful companions on the journey. I am also thankful for the many friends and folks who have accompanied me along the way, whether from childhood, school, parish, or

university, they have been both faithful and fruitfully challenging throughout. Finally, I am most grateful to God for the many blessings and tender mercies that I have known throughout my life and unto this day.

REV. JOHN STEELE, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

In 1965, I was born into a military family in Denver, Colorado. We moved several times before settling down in northern Virginia. Raised in a mixed Catholic and Evangelical family it was not until the college years in Richmond, Virginia that I felt drawn to commit my adult life to the Lord in the Catholic faith. On a college retreat in the Diocese of Richmond, I felt called personally to consider the priesthood for the first time through the encouragement of new friends.

Leaving behind a happy life in Richmond to pursue a preparatory degree in philosophy and theology at Boston College was a sign of future leavings, an exercise in detachment, and an experience of freedom in the Lord.

After graduation in 1988, I spent a year in volunteer service back in the Diocese of Richmond. On the recommendation of a friend that year, I applied to Holy Cross. After two years, in August of 1990, I was assigned to the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley. In the middle of theology, I studied Spanish in Bolivia and taught high school religion in Canto Grande in 1993 and 1994.

Before diaconate ordination on the first day of my new assignment at St Casimir's on July 17, 1996, during the St. Anne Novena, my life was truly changed. I had never seen a monstrance before or been to Adoration. The next day while again contemplating the Eucharist during the novena Holy Hour, I felt the words rise up in me, "the Eye of eternity," and sensed the presence of the heavenly court all around. This experience called me to dig deeper in the ancient faith and let the Lord fill the gaps in my previous studies. This has been the ongoing project of the past 25 years, and it is a joy to find the inexhaustible Font that satisfies and is a foretaste of heaven.

The past 25 years have been filled with various assignments, parishes, dorm rectorship, formation and vocations, but the richest years have been the past

ten years serving as an auxiliary priest and pastor in small rural parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Resurrection for us is a daily event. We have stood watch with persons dying in peace; we have witnessed wonderful reconciliations; we have known the forgiveness of those who misuse their neighbor; we have seen heartbreak and defeat lead to a transformed life; we have heard the conscience of an entire church stir; we have marveled at the insurrection of justice. We know that we walk by Easter's first light, and it makes us long for its fullness. --Constitution 8: 119

To these words that inspire us in Holy Cross, I might add: We have seen Temples raised to the honor and glory of God. We have seen forlorn communities heal and hope and thrive again. We have seen the Eucharistic Lord come to our aid in countless circumstances. We have known the solace and strength and courage and hope inspired by our Blessed Mother who never abandons her children, but lifts us up to Christ our Lord.

REV. STEPHEN WILBRICHT, C.S.C.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

In the gospel passage of Christmas morning, John declares that through the Word made flesh “we have all received grace in place of grace.” I see the past twenty-five years that God has gifted me to serve the Church as an ordained minister as “grace in place of grace.” For all of the contours of this mystery, and for those yet to come, I am both grateful and humbled.

I was born in the small town of Hanover, Illinois in 1969. The relationships forged in my childhood years continue to be a major part of my life. In 1987, I entered both Notre Dame and the formation program at Old College, graduating with a degree in government in 1991. After a year of discernment at the Holy Cross novitiate in Cascade, Colorado, I professed vows in 1992, and continued with formation and ministry/theological studies at Notre Dame.

One of the surprises of God’s grace came at the end of formation, in 1995, when I was not allowed to profess final vows on schedule. This curveball led to one of the best periods of my life, as I would minister in the Southwest as a regent, a deacon, and a priest—for a total of seven wonderful years. My first assignment, St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Arizona, and a subsequent 3-year assignment at St. Gregory the Great in downtown Phoenix were both extremely important in helping me develop an identity as a priest. While I would struggle with fluency in Spanish during these years, I learned so much from the people with whom I lived and served. They will always have a special place in my heart.

Having discerned the possibility of teaching on the college level, I began graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2002. The seven years spent in D.C. working on two degrees were not only valuable for my further education, but they also gave me the opportunity to establish lasting relationships with neighborhood

friends and academic colleagues. Like my time in the Southwest, these were years of unexpected grace.

Nearing the end of writing my dissertation, I was assigned to Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. Although I had always envisioned teaching at Notre Dame, the past twelve years of working at a small Catholic college—mostly with students who have little interest in my academic area of liturgy—has been a tremendous gift. Another important source of grace for me comes each summer, as I provide weekend assistance at St. Peter’s Parish in Provincetown, a time that reminds me that I am a priest before I am a professor.

Besides God, who I believe called me to ministry, I am most grateful for the guidance and support of my parents, David and Sue Wilbricht. As their one and only child, I have received the gift of unconditional love every day of my life. My father’s death one day before my 50th birthday in 2019 has created a new chapter in life for us. However, God’s will unfolds in a mysterious way, and I have the hope that “grace in place of grace” will never fail.