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Crosiers continue practice of TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICES



In May 2014, I had the opportunity to attend the largest ecumenical youth gathering that had ever been organized at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Thousands of young people from different parts of Mexico and Latin America responded openly to the "Pilgrimage of Trust" led by the Taizé Community from the Burgundy region of France.

The ecumenical monastic community of Taizé was founded by Br. Roger Schutz in 1940 as a response to the needs of the refugees fleeing the violence of World War II. Their prayer style, reflection, silence and community work began to draw thousands of young adults on pilgrimage, as Taizé offered a new spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation after WWII.

The ministerial impact of Taizé on the lives of youth led the community to encourage new leaders from different parts of the world to establish groups of prayer and reflection, thus fostering Br. Roger's vision of Christian unity.

Today, this ecumenical community is most known around the world for its style of prayer and song.

My first experience with Taizé prayer in Mexico City was life changing. I witnessed thousands of young people gathered around the Cross, singing short songs in unison, repeating them again and again, creating a meditative environment. This created an experience of feeling consumed by the Word and fostering a deep desire for unity in God. Thus, it became a way of listening to God.

In the early '90s, the Crosiers became aware of the Taizé style of prayer and were moved by it. Without disregarding their ongoing commitment to the Liturgy of the Hours—the liturgy of the whole Church—they began offering Taizé prayer on Fridays during Lent in different parishes in Minnesota and Arizona. The chanting talents and Crosier spirituality made it possible to embrace the shared vision of both Br. Roger and the Catholic Church to promote unity among the world's Christian churches through prayer.

Crosiers have continued this practice throughout the decades. We invite all to join us for Taizé Prayer around the Cross every Friday during Lent at Crosier Village in Phoenix. Please visit our website for details at www.crosier.org/events. The goal is to create a space where people of diverse backgrounds, especially young people, may come to pray and encounter the Lord who dwells within and among us! ❖

Fr. Daniel Hernández, osc, is the novice director and a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Phoenix.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 4

Fr. Marcos Leles, osc, ordained to priesthood

PAGE 5

Crosiers expand multicultural outreach

PAGES 6-7

National Shrine of St. Odilia designated pilgrimage site during Jubilee Year of Hope

PAGE 9

Crosier mysticism plays important role in Crosier Religious Life



Taizé prayer fosters peace, unity, and connection with God through meditation and candlelit reflection.

CONVENTUAL PRIOR shares contemporary view of religious life



By Fr. Alex Juguilon, osc

In the introduction to his apostolic exhortation "Vita Consecrata," Pope John Paul II stated that consecrated life "is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit." This gift is both diverse and multifaceted, reflecting both enduring traditions and significant changes in response to modern challenges. While a present reality of contemporary religious life includes a decline in religious vocations, the reality also includes that religious life is still "a precious and necessary gift for the present and future of the People of God" (VC, no. 3).

How does this precious and necessary gift manifest itself in the world today despite all its challenges?—By its ability to live, witness and adapt.

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LIVE

Religious life is a vocation to live the Gospel fully. The Second Vatican Council reinforced the idea that religious life is a special calling to follow Christ in a radical way. It is a gift from God that requires a response of total

God that requires a response of total commitment. This life involves living the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience to express the fullness of the Gospel.

The vow of poverty involves renouncing personal wealth and material possessions to live a life of simplicity and reliance on God. The idea is to imitate Jesus, who lived without earthly wealth, and to focus on spiritual richness rather than material gain. Poverty frees us from the distractions and attachments of the world so that we can be more open to serving God and others.

The vow of chastity allows us to focus on our relationship with God. It allows us to freely love others and to be inclusive, rather than exclusive, in this love. Chastity also allows us to channel our love and energy into service to others, without the responsibilities that come from marriage and family life.

The vow of obedience is a commitment to follow the rules of a religious order and the authority of its leaders and, ultimately, to surrender our personal will to God's will. It is seen as a way to imitate Christ, who submitted Himself to the will of His Father. Obedience involves humility and a willingness to lay down our wants and desires for the sake of others. As Crosiers, we vow obedience to God through our master general, trusting that God's plan for us will be revealed through the guidance of our religious superiors in the community.

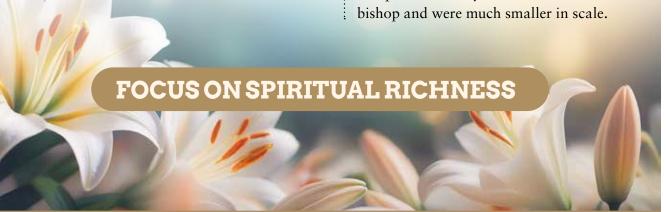
Crosiers do not view our religious vocation as a "second-class" state in life; a default vocation because we were unable to find a lifelong partner; or because we are afraid of our own sexuality. Rather, we view it as a special means to fulfill our baptismal calling and follow Christ more closely.

Moreover, we live this vocation in community. The Rule of St. Augustine, which we Crosiers follow, states, "The main purpose for you having come together is to live harmoniously in your house, intent upon God in oneness of mind and heart" (No. 3). The Second Vatican Council highlighted that religious life is lived in community, which serves as a fundamental aspect of the vocation. Religious life is not only about personal holiness but is also about communal holiness. It is a corporate journey, not just an individual one. This includes building a community where individuals can support each another on their journey of faith. The communal dimension of religious life is also essential to the mission of the Church, since religious communities work together to serve the world, especially in education, health care and social justice.

In South Phoenix, rural Minnesota, and wherever our priories are around the world, Crosiers live together in community to serve and engage the people of God. Whether that means working with marginalized groups, engaging in Hispanic ministry, or focusing on issues like trauma, poverty or environmental sustainability, our communities prioritize a more relational, community-based approach to religious life.

WITNESS

We Crosiers are not friars or monks. We are canons regular. This way of living religious life was born out of a tradition that started around the mid-fifth and sixth centuries when the local church was organized around a cathedral. This structure was composed of a bishop and his household, known as his familia, located in a cathedral city. The familia were made up of clergy who gathered around the bishop to participate in the liturgy and to perform various administrative tasks. By the sixth century, priests not living at the cathedral also lived in common and had a common refectory, a common prayer schedule and a ministerial life. They patterned their organization after the cathedral, with the exception that they did not live with the





Canons regular believed that their way of religious life had to affect not just their own lives, but other lives as well. They felt a responsibility to bear witness to others by their way of life. This understanding can be summed up by the phrase "docere verbo et exemplo," or to teach by word and example.

This is evident in Richard of St. Victor's "De questionibus" from the 12th century. Behind his exhortation is the assumption that a canon regular living in a cloister is responsible for whatever he says and does, not only for his own salvation, but also for the salvation of his neighbor. Most scholars agree that one way the canons regular worked for the salvation of others was through an apostolic life.

Today, Crosiers follow in the tradition of maintaining an apostolic life. We strive to "touch suffering with hope" through various ministries.

ADAPT

Adaptation has been a part of Crosier life over the centuries. The impact of secularism, globalism and the digital age has shaped contemporary religious life. The Crosiers, like many other religious communities, have had to adapt to this changing landscape. Early in our history, during the Middle Ages, there were as many as 90 Crosier communities. Crosiers were involved in the running of inns for travelers and those on pilgrimage. There was also a significant Crosier presence in Paris and Toulouse, Cologne and London and in the Low Countries. During the Reformation, many Crosier priories and churches were suppressed, and in England, King Henry VIII ordered all the houses to be confiscated. By the end of the 18th century, the French Revolution and the subsequent Napoleonic reforms had decimated the Crosiers. By the early 1800s, only two priories in the Netherlands remained—at St. Agatha and in Uden.

In the mid-19th century, the Order experienced a resurgence. By the early 20th century, Crosier missionaries were sent to the United States, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the island of Java in Indonesia and Brazil. Today, Crosiers from these areas around the world come to live in our priories in the United States. This makes our priories multicultural and international communities.

In the 20th century, Crosiers established parishes and taught in schools throughout the United States. Such places included Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Maryland and Louisiana. With the decline in enrollment near the end of the century, the Crosiers could no longer sustain these schools. However, they continued to serve in parishes as their ministry. Sadly, with the decline in vocations, Crosiers have had to reduce the number of parishes in which we can serve.

Another way in which the Crosiers have adapted is through their use of modern technology. Crosiers use varied social media platforms, videos and streaming services to engage with the faithful. For example, we livestream our Morning and Evening prayer and Masses every day from Phoenix. It is not uncommon for us to meet spiritual directees both online and in person. Many of us have created virtual prayer groups or Bible reflection groups to reach a wider audience. We use Meta (Facebook), Instagram and X to share pictures and videos of our life and ministries with people from around the world.

We Crosiers continue to gather four times a day in prayer and offer daily Mass for the needs of the Church and the world. Our ministries include hosting citizenship classes to immigrants in partnership with Promise Arizona, direct assistance to the poor, accompaniment for veterans at Veterans Court, pastoral services to jail inmates, campus ministry, Hispanic outreach, ministry to youth and young adults, elder care, pastoral ministry and assistance in local parishes in the diocese, spiritual direction and inter-religious dialogue.

Crosiers continue to adapt in response to the changing needs and challenges of the world. Crosier Religious Life is dynamic and diverse, navigating a balance between tradition and adaptation. It continues to be shaped by ongoing social and cultural changes, and the Church's commitment to mercy, justice and dialogue. As we face these new challenges, we will continue to evolve, aiming to be relevant and engaged in a rapidly changing world while staying true to our call to serve God alone, together.

Fr. Alex Juguilon, osc, is the conventual prior of the Conventual Priory of the Holy Cross.

LOS CRUZADOS CONTINÚAN LA PRÁCTICA DEL SERVICIO DE ORACIÓN DE TAIZÉ

Por el P. Daniel Hernández, osc

En mayo de 2014, tuve la oportunidad de asistir al mayor encuentro ecuménico de jóvenes que jamás se había organizado en la Basílica de Guadalupe de Ciudad de México.

Miles de jóvenes de diferentes partes de México y América Latina respondieron abiertamente a la «Peregrinación de confianza» dirigida por la Comunidad de Taizé de Borgoña, Francia. La comunidad monástica ecuménica de Taizé fue fundada por Fr. Roger Schutz en 1940 como respuesta a las necesidades de los refugiados que huían de la violencia de la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Su estilo de oración, reflexión, silencio y trabajo comunitario empezaron a atraer a miles de jóvenes adultos en peregrinación a esta comunidad ecuménica, que aspiraba a un nuevo espíritu de bondad, sencillez y reconciliación tras la II Guerra Mundial.

El impacto ministerial de Taizé en la vida de los jóvenes llevó a la comunidad a animar a nuevos líderes de distintas partes del mundo a crear grupos de oración y reflexión, fomentando así la visión de unidad cristiana del H. Roger.

Hoy en día, esta comunidad ecuménica es más conocida en todo el mundo por su estilo de oración y sus cantos. Mi primera experiencia con la oración de Taizé en Ciudad de México me cambió la vida. Fui testigo de cómo miles de jóvenes se reunían en torno a la Cruz, entonando cantos cortos a voces unidas, repitiéndolos una y otra vez creando un ambiente meditativo, teniendo una experiencia de ser consumidos por la Palabra y fomentando un profundo deseo de unidad en Dios. Este canto meditativo se convirtió así en una forma de escuchar a Dios.

A principios de los años 90, los Cruzados conocieron el estilo de oración de Taizé y se sintieron conmovidos por él. Sin dejar de lado su compromiso permanente con la Liturgia de las Horas -la liturgia de toda la Iglesia-, empezaron a ofrecer la oración de Taizé los viernes de Cuaresma en distintas parroquias de Minnesota y Arizona. El talento para el canto y la espiritualidad de los Cruzados hicieron posible abrazar la visión de Hno. Roger y de la Iglesia católica de promover la unidad entre las iglesias cristianas del mundo a trayés de la oración.

Los Cruzados han continuado esta práctica a lo largo de las décadas. Invitamos a todos a unirse a nosotros para la oración de Taizé alrededor de la Cruz todos los viernes durante la Cuaresma en Crosier Village en Phoenix. Visite nuestro sitio web para más detalles: www.crosier.org/events. El objetivo es crear un espacio donde personas de diversos orígenes, especialmente jóvenes, puedan venir a rezar y encontrarse con el Señor que habita dentro y entre nosotros.

La oración de Taizé fomenta la paz, la unidad y la conexión con Dios a través de la meditación y la reflexión a la luz de las velas.

Fr. Marcos Leles, osc, celebrates ordination to the priesthood



I have attended and participated in many ordinations, and it is always very exciting to **be part of these celebrations.** Each one has its own special character because each Crosier being ordained organizes his celebration according to his dream. Preparing an ordination is not easy as there are so many details to consider, and each detail needs to be prepared with love and care. It is a special day and a day of deeper surrender to the calling that God has made in a person's life. I was anxious and had no words to explain what I was about to experience. At other Crosiers' ordinations, they talked about their joy and happiness in that moment. For mine, I couldn't describe it, but it felt like my heart stopped beating! I wanted everything to be organized in the best way possible and for the celebration to go smoothly so that everyone could enjoy it and celebrate with me.

During my priestly ordination, I wanted to prepare each detail in a simple way that spoke about my vocation. The presence of St. Odilia and the image of the Mother Queen of Schoenstatt spoke to my history and my faith. I asked the choir to sing songs that people could sing with me, ones that spoke of the Church as a community of brothers and sisters because the priest alone does not make the Church. I would like my priesthood to reflect a church that walks together, a reflection of the Crosier community, which is a community of disciples who pray together—and share life and bread.



Dcn. Br. Marcos lies prostrate while the bishop and everyone present sing the Litany of Saints.

"All because of a great love," Bishop Miguel Ângelo Freitas Ribeiro of the Diocese of Oliveira emphasized during his homily. I felt a little anxious but I kept thinking that I was there because of a great love. During the celebration, when I was sitting in front of the altar, I looked at the Cross and thought: All because of a great love. God loves me and I love God, so for Jesus I give everything and I will follow Him wherever He wants me to go. All my anxiety disappeared during the moment of prostration while singing the Litany of Saints, I felt light and an immense peace invaded my heart. Until then I was smiling nervously with anxiety, but from that point forward, on I smiled with joy and immense peace.

When I received the priestly vestments, a gift from my aunt and godmother, and they were placed on my shoulders by the master general and my conventual prior, Fr. Alex Juguilon, osc, I saw that there was no turning back. The sea is God and the boat is only me, and that takes me forward to be a Crosier fisherman. When the oil was poured over my hands, I saw that I was consecrated to service, to serve Christ in my brothers and sisters, and that celebrating the Eucharist and the sacraments is a mission of service. And so, I chose this as my priestly motto: "Be the one who serves." I reflected that the priest must be the one who serves, for as the Gospel speaks of Jesus' teaching to the disciples, "If you want to follow me, seek the last place and be those who serve" (Mark 10: 43-45).

A memorable moment was when I blessed my parents. My parents cried a lot at that moment, with immense emotion. I could not cry. I felt complete—with a fulfillment that I cannot explain. It was as if what was missing was now in place; and I was overflowing with joy. The entire celebration went perfectly. I looked at everyone gathered there and could only thank God for such joy and ask that He bless each person in a special way. However, I also thought about the great responsibility and



Fr. Marcos shares this special moment with his mother, Marcia Aparecida Rodrigues Leles, and his father, Antonio Bartolomeu Leles.

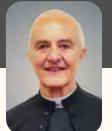
mission that lay ahead of me. I thought about the great mission as a Crosier to serve the community and the Church.

At the end of the celebration, I blessed everyone present: family, friends, confreres from the U.S. and Brazil, the bishop and priests and deacons of the diocese. It was a unique and special moment in my life. God who loved me first called me and I said yes. And out of a great love, I gave myself completely to God to be His servant. My heart is now full; I feel an unparalleled joy every time I celebrate the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

As I looked at each person present and saw the emotion they felt for the commitment I had just made, I felt so small in the face of **such immense greatness.** But I was sure that I would not be alone on this journey. I saw the joy on the faces of my superiors, community brothers, family members and friends who celebrated this moment with me. There wer so many gifts that I felt unworthy of, and all I could do was thank them. I was at a loss for words. Then I remembered what Jesus said, "Whoever leaves father, mother, and brother for love of Him will gain a hundred times more" (Mt 19:29). And that's when I realized its truth—the family grew and became international! To each one of you, I give many thanks, my prayers and my blessing. *

Fr. Marcos Leles, osc, is the post-novitiate formation director and a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Onamia.

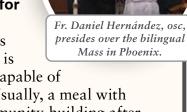
MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS



at Crosier Village provide spiritual, cultural enrichment

By Fr. Virgil Petermeier, osc

Local French-speaking, Indonesian and Latino communities have celebrated mid-day Sunday Eucharist at Crosier Village weekly, monthly or bi-monthly for **several years.** Each cultural group celebrates using prayers, readings, rituals and songs in their native language. That is



potentially the best spiritual language, capable of reaching most deeply into one's being. Usually, a meal with traditional food and snacks fosters community-building after the liturgy, further strengthening the group to welcome and help newcomers and guests from their country of origin.

Our gatherings are not just for adults. They provide a unique opportunity for children and youth, many of whom were born

in the U.S., to connect with and learn about their parents' and grandparents' religious backgrounds.

The elders of each group generously volunteer their time to train the younger members in singing and reading in their family's native language, ensuring the preservation of their rich cultural heritage.

Fr. Efron. osc. enjoys the fellowship These occasions offer benefits and blessings for Crosiers who have had previous contact

with these respective cultures. We can reconnect with and nurture our respective religious-social competencies and sensitivities. Other Crosiers who have never had contact with such groups can enjoy great hospitality and acquaintance as these communities visit Crosier Village.

Our collective efforts are not just about building a multicultural church, but about fostering a sense of unity and support among all members of the Diocese of Phoenix. As we

come to know one another, we can provide mutual support, particularly during times of death, whether here in the U.S. or in the members' respective countries of

origin. Celebrations of anniversaries, house blessings and birthdays further strengthen our groups, turning them into vibrant, supportive communities.

The importance of these regular gatherings can be seen in the groups' growth and enthusiastic participation in preparing and executing various events. An active

"WhatsApp" group has become a crucial platform to plan events and exchange sacred and secular ideas, images and information. Members of these groups remain active in their own faith communities and use the monthly or bi-monthly gatherings as special moments to celebrate events unique to their cultures.

For instance, Indonesians celebrate Chinese New Year by giving traditional gifts to children and wearing the customary festive red garments. Games, singing and dancing usually accompany the post-liturgy meals for major church feasts, family anniversaries and special occasions. **Their enthusiastic** participation as a community is inspiring! *

> Fr. Virgil Petermeier, osc, is a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Phoenix.





CROSIERS BID ADIEU TO Fr. Jean-Marie Vianney Mukoka, osc

By Fr. Kermit Holl, osc

In 2020, before his priestly ordination. Fr. Jean-Marie Vianney Mukoka, osc, was consulted by Fr. Tsongo Anselme, osc, proprovincial of the local proprovince in Congo, for an upcoming assignment in the **United States.** After Fr. Vianney accepted, Master General Laurentius Tarpin, osc, sent him an official letter of assignment to the U.S. Conventual Priory of the Holy Cross, where he could participate in and support the Global Development Office that serves Order needs worldwide.



Fr. Vianney recalls his first feeling:

"My, how FAR this assignment will be," but he also sensed a joy about this opportunity to learn about a new continent and the mission of the Church in the United States. Of course, he also sensed some fear, but a brief international experience he had in Indonesia as a part of his Crosier formation gave him a steady confidence that he could further succeed in his study of English and endure the work of cross-cultural living.

Thus it was that Fr. Vianney was ordained a Crosier priest on Oct. 22, 2020, and readied for his transfer to the U.S.

Upon arrival, some of his first year was spent in formal English studies, and Fr. Vianney remembers those early days of not being able to converse, yet people wanting to speak with him! Their conversational speed, use of idioms and the difference from the British English accent common in Africa all were particular challenges that took time and practice.

What surprised him about U.S. culture was that development and fundraising here are very personal endeavors as we approach individuals face-to-face and talk to them about who we are, what we do worldwide and invite them to support us.

Also, the expected daily schedule of prayer and community presence are significant, and there is also a lot of energy spent on "boundaries," which typically place a bit more distance between Church ministers and the people whom they serve, particularly among the young.

Now, as Fr. Vianney has concluded his four-year assignment among us, he has come to appreciate the "loveliness" of the American people and their great generosity with their many resources. The energy and vitality shared among the confreres is also rich and joyful.

As he looks to his next decades of Crosier life, Fr. Vianney is open to almost any assignment, particularly with some of the new insight he has gained into living Crosier Religious Life. He does worry about the war-torn regions that exist in Congo yet says, people are there, and so we must be there, too."

Fr. Vianney's advice to a confrere asked to take up any similar international assignment is to really work at accepting the **experience.** In return, one will receive confirmation of seeking to follow God's will in the life offered by our profession of vows. Surely there come difficult experiences in living among many different cultures and personalities, yet with the proper mindset, all of them can be helpful challenges on one's way to perfection—that is, losing one's self to grow in the Lord.

> Fr. Kermit Holl, osc, is a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Phoenix.

NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. ODILIA selected as pilgrimage site for jubilee year

The Crosiers look forward to welcoming pilgrims to the National Shrine of St. Odilia, which is located in our filial priory church, Holy Cross Catholic Church, in Onamia, Minn. The theme of this Jubilee Holy Year is near and dear to us as it aligns with our mission to touch suffering with hope.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

A jubilee year is a holy year of the forgiveness of sin, conversion and joyful celebration. Each year has a central theme that reflects the world's challenges and needs at the time.

Jubilee 2025 was proclaimed a holy year by Pope Francis in the papal bull "Spes Non Confundit" ("Hope does not disappoint"). The Holy Father declared the extraordinary year to begin Dec. 24, 2024, and end Jan. 6, 2026.

"The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation" (Pope Francis, Spes Non Confundit 25).

In honor of this holy year, Diocese of St. Cloud Bishop Patrick Neary, CSC, selected the National Shrine of St. Odilia as one of the designated places of pilgrimage within the diocese inviting the faithful to experience grace and reconciliation as they rediscover joy in the mercy of God.

The Shrine

St. Odilia has promised her intercession on behalf of the Crosiers and all those who invoke her aid. Known for her legacy of healing and hope, St. Odilia offers us a profound symbol of God's enduring love and mercy. Many have been cured through her intercession.

In 1952, a major relic of St. Odilia was brought to the Crosier community in Onamia and a shrine was established in her honor. The Crosiers have served as guardians of the shrine.

There are three stations in the National Shrine of St. Odilia: the religious icon and two of her relics help pilgrims



"look through" the icon designed as a window into heaven; the stained-glass windows that tell the story of her life and martyrdom; and the altar reliquary, a replica of the original one in Belgium that honors St. Odilia's memory and remains.

The Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform
us into tireless cultivators of the seeds
of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,

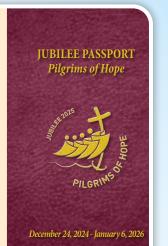
To you our God, eternally blessed be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.



The Passport







In the papal bull announcing the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asks the faithful to find "suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity."

The Diocese of St. Cloud has created the "Jubilee Passport: Pilgrims of Hope," sponsored by Catholic United Financial. Each of the designated places have these special passports available for the faithful to obtain and begin their jubilee indulgence activities which can be completed individually, as a family or as a group.

By participating in these holy pilgrimages and practices, participants may be eligible to receive plenary indulgences.

(Read the bishop's decree to learn more about plenary indulgences)

The Logo

The official logo of the Jubilee Year 2025 depicts humanity coming from the four corners of the Earth in the act of clinging to the Cross. The cross is in the shape of a sail, one of the signs of Christian hope that carries with it the certainty of the victory of good over evil. (a sail that imposes itself on the sea moved by



This logo was chosen by the Vatican for the Holy Year 2025.

the happenings of life.) The cross ends in the shape of an anchor, another symbol of hope that brings confidence and security in life.



FR. JERRY SCHIK, OSC,

OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

By Kathy Lundeen, guest contributor

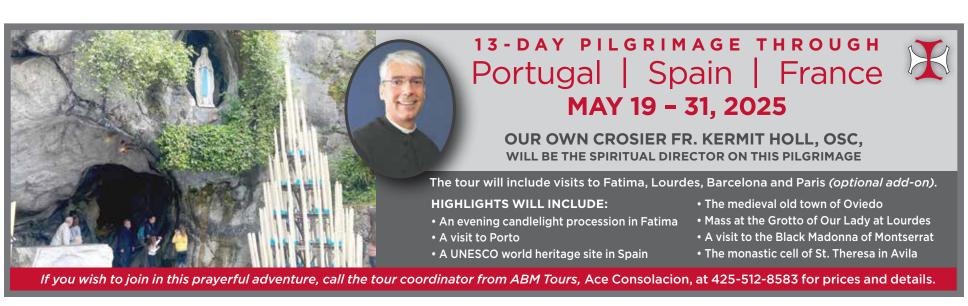
In November 2001, Crosier Fr. William McNiff, osc, hired me as the part-time secretary/bookkeeper of Holy Cross parish in Onamia, Minn. I worked with him until 2004, when Fr. Greg Poser, osc; Fr. Jude Verley, osc; and Fr. Dave Gallus, osc, took the reins. Then in 2009, Fr. Jerry Schik, osc, entered the scene. I thought to myself, "Well, another new trainee!"

As it turns out, he's been stuck with me for the past 15 years, and they have sure flown by! There have been a lot of changes, but I do believe our collaboration, friendship and sense of humor have remained intact. Fr. Jerry's commitment to people is evident through his time in ministry. He supervises the food pantry by keeping it stocked, counsels those in need and visits and anoints the homebound. He is passionate about sharing his faith with the youth of our WOHVn in Faith Area Catholic Community (comprising the parishes in Wahkon, Onamia, Hillman and Vineland) as well as with those of Mille Lacs Academy.

I feel blessed and fortunate to work in collaboration with this generous man and look forward to more time together (especially when he has to tell me that I'm right!!) *

> **Congratulations Fr. Jerry** on 50 years of blessing us all!

Kathy Lundeen is a friend and benefactor of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers. She resides in Onamia, Minn.





Phoenix couple shares love of FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • FOOD

By Elisabeth Wisthoff



Pat and Regina Edwards

Regina and Pat Edwards knew they were on to something special when they first met Fr. Bob Rossi, osc, at their parish, St. Joseph **Catholic Church in Phoenix.** That was some years ago, but like the proverbial pebble's outbound ripples in a pond, their relationship has continually expanded and they truly esteem the Crosiers as dear friends!

The Edwardses' route to Phoenix from their home state of Nebraska was fairly circuitous—upon getting married out of college, the two Cornhuskers first moved to Hawaii, where they swapped corn fields for trade winds. Daughter Emmi was born there and then in 1993, they headed to Arizona, where they welcomed their son Will. Since their arrival in the Grand Canyon State, the Edwardses have supported causes close to their hearts, and chief among those is their faith, which is where the Crosiers come in. Some years ago, when the parish was without a priest, Fr. Bob provided pastoral assistance at St. Joseph's. Given the couple's active engagement—today, Pat is on the finance council and Regina on the parish council—it was only a matter of time before they met. Pat says, "I didn't know anything about the Crosiers until I met Fr. Bob; what an advocate! When I asked him how we could help, he responded by inviting our involvement with the Crosier Village campaign. While our contributions began as an acknowledgment of his pastorate at St. Joseph's, we quickly came to appreciate all the Crosiers and what they do to live their mission of touching suffering with hope. Their appeal extends past traditional faith boundaries, reaching and caring for those truly in need."

Regina agrees, remarking, "I am so impressed with how the Crosiers see needs in the community. From veteran support and citizenship classes to direct assistance for low-income seniors, they are sensitive to specific community issues and respond so well. Also, I will never forget when a friend's mother died during COVID, there was no one to support her grieving family. I called Fr. Tom Enneking, osc, who immediately offered assistance; he went to the funeral home and then the cemetery, providing immeasurable comfort to the family."

This Crosier spirit of faithful compassion has moved Regina and Pat to support and connect with the community on other levels. Pat reflects, "The Crosiers create the light, and we are drawn to it." Thus, the tradition of Pat and Regina's Saturday night suppers evolved! It began innocently enough: when Fr. Tom and Fr. Stephan Bauer, osc, enjoyed one of Pat's home-cooked dinners about

eight years ago, Emmi suggested that her father, Pat, cook for the Crosiers at the priory. He said, "Sure," and that's exactly what happened. Today, Pat laughingly states, "Don't ever say what you don't mean in front of a Crosier," but goes on to say, "The truth is, I love making dinner for them—it's like a big family meal. They think we're giving them a gift, but the real gift is for us; we always come away with a real pearl of wisdom to contemplate." Regina, who serves as Pat's sous chef on these occasions, adds, "Don't forget: they all sing! We stand there listening to grace being sung in the most wonderful, uplifting way. It gives us great hope and joy to be a part of the evening."

It is that very hope and joy which inspire Pat and Regina's ongoing generosity to the Crosiers. They supported both the first Crosier Village campaign and the recent Crosier Priory campaign, where Pat served on the building committee and Regina continues to serve on the Crosier Village of Phoenix's board of directors. In addition, they are actively engaged Apostolate members and regularly participate in special events and programs. The Crosiers' example of lived and lively faith, personal connection with all they encounter and abiding kindness is what motivates their support. "There is no scenario when you walk away from the Crosiers not uplifted, not supported," Pat reflects. He goes on to say, "Giving is the easy part—what the

Crosiers do, day in and day out, that's the hard part." Regina concurs, stating, "I encourage people who don't know them to come meet the Crosiers at Crosier Village; I don't think anyone who attends a Crosier Mass—especially a Healing Mass—could walk away not being touched deeply. In and of itself it is so powerful, but when you consider that Crosiers have been doing this for 800-plus years, there is a timelessness that only makes your personal faith clearer and richer."

This special recipe of faith, friendship and yes, good food, continues to feed the hearts and souls of the Crosiers and the Edwards family in myriad ways. In turn and in tandem, they generously serve the least among us.

Elisabeth Wisthoff is the chief development officer for the conventual priory.



Crosier mysticism, prophecy foundational in everyday life

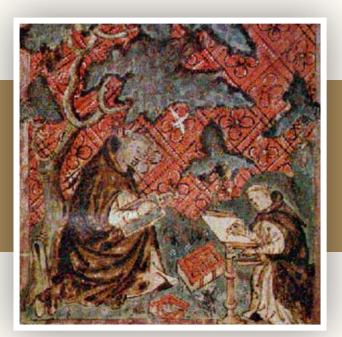
By Fr. Pierre-Paul Walraet, osc, guest contributor

The mystical writings of Augustinian canon Blessed John Ruusbroec were copied and made available in libraries of Crosier monasteries as sources for spiritual guidance.

Community life, the vowed life and prayer life—the first three chapters of the Order's Constitutions—are among the religious foundations of the life of the Crosier Order. Chapters five and six—of Part I—focus on the apostolate and formation. One could call these the mystical and prophetic foundations of Crosier Religious Life.

They are mystical in the sense that they point to the heights and depths of our Crosier Religious Life identity. By our genuinely lived Crosier Religious Life: fraternal, liturgical and fully dedicated to God in the intentionally lived profession of our vows, we assume a prophetic function amid the life of the Church and society.

The fourth chapter deals with "Other Aspects of Daily Life." This chapter consists of two parts: general guidelines (18.1-2) and specific guidelines (19.1-15). These guidelines touch upon various areas of our daily life as Crosiers. They are concrete and practical items, if you wish, and at the same time valuable and indispensable for living out our Crosier vocation in response to God's call.



From these guidelines, we have chosen five topics as concrete impulses to reflect upon the mystical and prophetic dimension of Crosier Religious Life, showing how God the Father is at work in and through us in simple acts and gestures, how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and how the Holy Spirit never ceases to move us into oneness of mind and heart, intent upon God.

In order to foster work and reflection, it is proper that there be an atmosphere of peace and quiet in the place where we live. In this way, too, members of the community must express Christian love by being considerate of one another (Const. 19.8).

Crosier mysticism and prophecy are not situated in the realm of the extraordinary or the exceptional, but close to each of us. *

Fr. Pierre-Paul Walraet, osc, is a general councilor to the master general in Rome.

50-YEAR REUNION PLANNED

for Crosier High School Class of '75 and Crosier College Class of '77!



The Crosier High School Class of 1975 and the Crosier College Class of 1977 are currently planning a 50-year high school/ college reunion for late spring or early summer 2025. If you were ever a student in these classes, regardless of whether you completed your studies at Crosier schools, we would like to invite you to attend this celebration! We are currently using email to reach as many fellow students as possible.

If you have NOT heard from us and are interested in attending, please email:

BERNIE HESSE

bernie.hesse@gmail.com

JOHN DONLIN

donlin.john@gmail.com or call 320-980-0565

CRAIG HOLL

craig.holl@outlook.com

Spouses/significant others are welcome to attend as well!





CROSIER WORLD NEWS

Here are the latest news highlights from the Crosiers around the world.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

On Feb. 28, the Priory of St. Helena in Butembo elected its new prior, Fr. Kasereka Takwa Benoît, osc, and his councilors,

- Fr. Kasereka Kataliko Augustin, osc;
- Fr. Kambale Siluhwere Faustin, osc; and
- Fr. Kakule Kahandukya Modeste, osc. *



From left: Fr. Modeste, osc; Fr. Benoît, osc; Prior Fr. Augustin, osc; and Fr. Faustin, osc.







The Crosier Apostolate

We are pleased to welcome the newest members of the Crosier Apostolate Dec. 24, 2024 — March 12, 2025. We hope you will consider adding your name.

Tony Balder, Minot, North Dakota

Esther Arvizu Castillo, *Phoenix*, *Arizona*

Harry & Barbara Doerflein Scottsdale, Arizona

Dick DollWheat Ridge, Colorado

Bob & Jeanne Fleischhacker *Cleveland*, *Ohio*

Mary Krieger
New Hope, Minnesota

Michael & Lenore Leigh

Bargersville Indiana

Rocco & Cheryl Miceli *Armonk*, New York

Rev. Theodore Parker *Livonia*, *Michigan*

Paul & Roxanne Perreault
Waconia, Minnesota

Robert & Sheila Roe Scottsdale, Arizona

Charles Routh
Scottsdale, Arizona

Rev. Regis J. Ryan
McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

Sylvia Yason
Sun City, Arizona

Alvin Yono Scottsdale, Arizona

Dave & Karen Zabor *Tempe, Arizona*



Fr. James "Jim" Hendrikus Engelbertus Remmerswaal, osc 1938 — 2025

The Crosier Fathers and Brothers mourn the loss of our confrere.

Fr. James "Jim" Hendrikus Engelbertus Remmerswaal, osc, was born Sept. 1, 1938, in Dordrecht, Holland, to Engelbertus Remmerswaal and Cornelia Tillemans. He was one of three children. Fr. Jim died peacefully at Mille Lacs Health System in Onamia, Minn., on Feb. 7, 2025. He was 86.

He attended St. Joseph grade school in Heerlen, the Netherlands, before attending Crosier Seminary in Uden, the Netherlands, from 1950–1958. He entered the Crosier novitiate in 1958 and completed his philosophy studies at the Crosier House of Studies in Zoeterwoede, the Netherlands, and his theological studies at the Crosier House of Studies in Diest, Belgium.

He made his first profession of vows on Aug. 28, 1959, and after his solemn profession on Aug. 28, 1962, he moved to the United States to continue his studies in theology at the Crosier House of Studies in Fort Wayne, Ind., and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Francis College in Fort Wayne.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 19, 1965, in his home parish in Heerlen and worked for a number of months in a large parish there. In 1966, he returned to Indiana to serve on the faculty of the Crosiers' Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Syracuse. He taught there for six years.

After becoming a U.S. citizen in August 1971, Fr. Jim was called to further missionary service. He served in Papua, Indonesia, from 1972–1981. He returned once again to the United States and

ministered at several parishes in Michigan (St. Monica in Kalamazoo, St. John and St. Theresa in Benton Harbor, Immaculate Conception in Three Rivers, Holy Angels in Sturgis and St. Joseph in Kalamazoo). In 1985, the Order called him to serve in the headquarters in Rome; he was the assistant to the master general and secretary from 1985–1997. In 1998, he returned to the United States permanently and spent the next two decades in parish ministry in Minnesota as well as six years as prior of the Crosier Community of Onamia.

Fr. Jim was a member of the Crosier Community of Onamia from the time of his election as prior until his death. He served as pastor of St. Mary parish in Milaca, Minn., and St. Louis Bertrand parish in Foreston, Minn., until his retirement in 2019.

In addition to his many years of pastoral ministry, Fr. Jim provided invaluable assistance translating some of the Order's historical materials from Dutch to English to make them available to a wider audience.

He had an immense passion for history and did well in learning languages. Fr. Jim spent time working on three continents while living in five countries. He appreciated the opportunity to travel and to work in various roles and in interesting places and cultures. Most importantly, he had a great love of God, our Crosier Order and all of the people he worked with over the years. When asked before his 65th jubilee (as a Crosier) to sum up his amazing life in five words or less, without the slightest hesitation he said, "To God be the glory."

Fr. Jim is survived by his brother,
Martin Remmerswaal, and sister-in-law,
Clara Remmerswaal-van Poll; his sister,
Nelly Loop-Remmerswaal; his niece,
Yolande Schonewille-Remmerswaal and her
husband, Eric Schonewille; his nephews
René Remmerswaal and his wife,
Kath Remmerswaal-Mc Ivor, and Carlo Loop;
and his Crosier confreres in Phoenix and Onamia
and around the world. He was preceded in death
by his parents.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. Jim took place Feb. 18 at the Crosier filial priory in Onamia. A private inurnment is planned for the priory cemetery columbarium.





About The Crosier Apostolate

The Crosier Apostolate is the annual giving program that sustains the life and ministry of the Crosiers in the United States. You may join at any time—membership is for 12 months from date of commitment. Members are invited to special events like Apostolate Day and Apostolate Tea and receive commemorative Crosier cross lapel pins, and their special intentions are remembered at a weekly Mass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT **Elisabeth Wisthoff**, *chief development officer* at **602-443-7100** or at **ewisthoff**@**crosier.org**.

The Crosier Fathers and Brothers

Bearing our gifts of community, prayer and service to the Church and world for more than 800 years



Living Together for God Alone

OUR NEXT GENERATION OF CROSIERS:

FROM BACK LEFT: Br. Christopher Erran, osc; Br. Rio Lefaan, osc; Fr. Efron Lumban Gaol, osc; Fr. Moïse Kisonia, osc; Fr. Zawadi Sambya, osc; Fr. Daniel Hernández, osc FROM FRONT LEFT: Fr. Herry Sailon, osc; Fr. Jean-Marie Vianney, osc; Br. Salama Vivalya, osc; Fr. Alex Juguilon, osc; Fr. Hubert Kavusa, osc; Fr. Marcos Leles, osc



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CROSIERS, PLEASE CONTACT US

602-443-7100 • crosier@crosier.org • www.crosier.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!









For more information or to register for our upcoming events, please visit our website, www.crosier.org.

REST IN PEACE

Please join us in remembering in your prayers the following Crosier alumni and relatives who recently died. We send our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

Note: The Crosier Fathers and Brothers founded and operated Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota (1922-1989), Sacred Heart Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (1939-1948), and Our Lady of the Lake Seminary and Wawasee Prep in Syracuse, Indiana (1948-1975).

Steve App

Crosier House of Studies, Former Crosier

James J. Brigl

Crosier College, 1971

Fr. Michael T. Cotone, osc Crosier High School, 1963

Jerome August Feltz

Former Crosier

James J. Fisko

Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, 1954

William "Bill" L. Fortin

Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, 1956

Rev. Anthony S. "Tony" Kill Crosier High School, 1964

Thomas E. Lamping

Crosier College, 1974

Lawrence E. Lavigne Crosier High School, 1965

Fr. James Remmerswaal, osc

Crosier House of Studies

BIRTH DATE

An IRA Charitable Distribution — the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

How? If you are at least 70 ½ years of age and considering a gift to the Crosiers, consider making one from your traditional IRA. Why? Because gifts made directly to a qualified charity are recognized as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) and can be given tax-free, up to \$100,000 per person, per year through 2025. Once you reach 70 ½, you must take the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA. These of course, are taxed. But a QCD serving as your RMD, is not! (While you can't claim a QCD as an itemized deduction, you can make a positive difference and avoid additional taxation.)

It is worth remembering that itemizing charitable deductions is hampered by the fact that the standard deduction has increased dramatically, but making a tax-free QCD from a traditional IRA is the equivalent to a 100% deduction—because you will never be taxed on the amount given directly to the charity.

So, if you are thinking of a year-end gift for the Crosiers, ask your tax advisor if a QCD from your IRA might be right for you... it could be a wonderful opportunity to support the life and ministry of the Crosiers and take advantage of personal tax benefits, too!

This is not to be considered as tax advice; always consult your professional advisor before making any financial decisions.

For more information, please contact Elisabeth Wisthoff, chief development officer, at

> 602-443-7115 or ewisthoff@crosier.org

SUGGESTED MAXIMUM GIFT ANNUITY RATES

[SINGLE LIFE]

AGE % RATE	AGE % RATE
5-113.8	696.2
12-24 3.9	706.3
25-314.0	716.4
32-37 4.1	726.6
38-414.2	73 6.7
42-444.3	746.8
45-474.4	75 7.0
48-494.5	76 7.2
50-524.6	777.4
534.7	78 7.6
54-554.8	79 7.8
56-574.9	808.1
585.0	818.3
595.1	828.5
60 5.2	838.7
61 5.3	848.9
62-635.4	85 9.1
64 5.6	86 9.3
655.7	87 9.5
66 5.8	88 9.7
675.9	899.9
686.1	90+10.1

CROSIER GIFT ANNUITY APPLICATION, WILL AND STOCK INFORMATION

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NAME

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ADDRESS	
CITY/STATE/ZIP	
PHONE	
FIRST ANNUITANT SS#	_ BIRTH DATE

If you wish to take out an Annuity, please indicate payments desired.

ANNUALLY	 SEMI-ANNUALLY				QUARTERLY								
_ 5:		. •						_					

- ☐ Please send me more information about including the Crosiers in my will.
- ☐ I would like a representative from the Crosiers to contact me about including the Crosiers in my will.
- ☐ Yes, I have already included the Crosiers in my will.
- ☐ I would like to make a gift of appreciated stock. Please call me.
- ☐ I am interested in making a direct gift from my IRA account. Please call me.

Make checks payable to the

SECOND ANNUITANT SS#

Crosier Fathers and Brothers and send to:

Crosier Fathers and Brothers attn: Annuities PO Box 500 · Onamia, MN 56359-0500

^{*} Currently, Charitable Gift Annuities are not available in Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee or Washington.

The Lenten season offers numerous opportunities for deep reflection and prayer.



Whether through Taizé prayer services or a Lenten Healing Mass, the Crosiers encourage everyone to use this sacred time to prepare for the Resurrection and embrace the promise of eternal life.

The multicultural celebrations at Crosier Village have grown in popularity and regularity. Members of the Indonesian-, French- and Spanish-speaking communities enjoy worshiping with the Crosiers.

FR. ALEX JUGUILON, OSC, offers a modern perspective on religious life.



FR. MARCOS LELES, OSC, **WAS ORDAINED**

to the priesthood in his home country of Brazil! This blessed celebration was witnessed by his Crosier confreres, family and friends.

K

May God continue bless Fr. Marcos in his journey as a Crosier priest.

Nonprofit Organizatior U.S. Postage

Label not correct? Moving? [Please return labels to our address $(above\ left)$ for correction]