

*Fr. Bob Rossi, osc,*

## INVITES US TO REFLECT ON THREE COMINGS OF CHRIST



*By Fr. Bob Rossi, osc*

**Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, inviting us to contemplate Christ's three comings: his birth in Bethlehem, his presence among believers today and his promised return at the end of time.**



### The Silent Warrior

The Book of Wisdom (18:14–15) offers a powerful image of Christ's First Coming: "While gentle silence enveloped all things... your all-powerful word leaped from heaven...into the midst of the land that was doomed, a stern warrior." This striking passage captures the Incarnation—God's Son vaulting into our world's darkness as savior. He entered "the land that was doomed," our broken world stained by original sin, a place far removed from Eden's beauty and growing darker through human sinfulness. Yet Christ made this troubled world his home, becoming a brother to all who suffer—physically, mentally, relationally and spiritually. He came as a warrior to confront and conquer the evils that plague us.

### The Divine Conservator

Isaiah's prophecy (11:6–9) gives us a second vision: "The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid...and a little child shall lead them... They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain." Through his death and Resurrection, Christ planted a new paradise. The Kingdom of God, once reigning in

Eden, has broken into our doomed world. Salvation is not merely future—it is already here. A new humanity can now become the family it was meant to be, reunited with its Creator and be one with all creation. Despite lingering sin and sorrow, Christ's spirit actively cultivates this new garden in the hearts of believers, whose transformed lives flow outward into the darkness like living sacraments. Christ comes today.

### The Final Restorer

The Book of Revelation (21:1–4), points us toward Christ's ultimate coming: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... See, the home of God is among mortals...he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more...for the first things have passed away." Between Christ's Resurrection and his Second Coming lies our present moment—a pilgrimage marked by Eucharistic joy, patient hope and mutual love. Though we don't know the hour, Christ is sure to return to complete the new creation already begun.

These three biblical images—Silent Warrior, Divine Conservator and Final Restorer—proclaim Advent's annual pre-Christmas message to the Church and world. They remind us that Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again! Maranatha: Come, O Lord! ✠

*Fr. Bob Rossi, osc  
is a member of the Crosier Fathers  
and Brothers in Onamia.*

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### PAGE 3

National Shrine of St. Odilia receives hundreds of pilgrims

#### PAGES 4-5

Fr. Tom oversees Hispanic ministry in new role at Crosier Village

#### PAGE 7

Crosiers call for compassion, dignity for immigrants

#### PAGE 8

Faith-filled friendship spans decades





# DISCERNMENT HOUSE SERVES AS PLACE TO LISTEN AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S CALL



By Fr. Alex Juguilon, osc

Last January, as my council and I met for a weekend of strategic planning, one of the areas we addressed was vocation recruitment. Part of our challenge was finding a way to help young men hear the quiet call of God inviting them to a life of deeper purpose, to a life as a Crosier religious. We ultimately decided to dedicate a space on the Crosier Village campus for prayer, reflection and discernment. It is a house where young men thinking about a call to Crosier Religious Life can be accompanied. In a world increasingly marked by noise, distraction and uncertainty, this discernment house is essential to the future of the Order in the United States.

**We began receiving applications in September, and the first discerner moved in October.** Discernment, as you may know, is not a quick decision. It is a journey that requires some silence, support and space. Many young men are open to the idea of religious life but find themselves without the environment or tools to truly explore it. Our discernment house offers a unique living arrangement where men with full-time jobs or schooling can come home after work or school and intentionally engage with the question: **What is God calling me to?**

Unlike a retreat or a “come-and-see” visit that lasts less than a week, living in the

discernment house is full time. The men reside on our campus for up to a year with the possibility of renewing for another year. Though they are not living Crosier life full time, they have the opportunity to see and experience Crosier life day in and day out. They can participate in the rhythms of our life in a low-pressure, welcoming setting. This includes praying with us, recreating with us and eating meals with us.

**Young adults seek mentors, spiritual guides and authentic relationships as they navigate our complex world.** Our discernment house is under the supervision of a director who walks with these men on their journey. The house becomes a place of mutual discernment—not just evaluating the suitability of candidates for the Crosiers but helping them grow into mature Christian men, regardless of their final decision.

This model fosters both vocational clarity and spiritual formation. It is not only about recruiting new members but also about accompanying men toward deeper discipleship—some of whom will hopefully go on to join the Crosiers, and others who will take what they have learned into their lay vocations.

There is often a gap between initial curiosity about religious life and the significant commitment required to enter formation. A discernment house acts as a bridge between these two points. It allows men to live, pray and work alongside Crosiers and others in discernment without the formal obligations of postulancy.

This kind of intermediate experience helps candidates understand the charism, mission and communal life of the Crosiers in a personal and practical way. It gives space to explore Crosier spirituality—particularly the Order’s devotion to the Triumphant Cross, its

commitment to healing and reconciliation, and its ministry among the suffering.

**The Church is renewed through the witness of consecrated life.** Opening a discernment house is an investment in both the future of the Crosiers and in the Church as a whole. Men formed in this environment—whether they continue in our way of life or not—are more likely to become engaged parishioners, deacons or leaders in their communities. They carry the seeds of Crosier Religious Life into the world.

Additionally, our discernment house is a visible witness to the possibility of a different way of life. It reminds young men, as well as the wider community, that Crosier Religious Life is not a relic of the past but a living, breathing path open to them today.

**This new opportunity strengthens us Crosiers as well.** It invites members of the Order to engage with seekers, to share our stories and to rediscover the vitality of our own vocation. It fosters intercultural and intergenerational dialogue and deepens our commitment to formation, hospitality and outreach.

**In the end, our discernment house is more than a building—it’s a sanctuary of possibility.** For young men seeking to answer God’s call and for the Crosier Order seeking to accompany them, it offers a space where Crosier vocations can be sought, nurtured and ultimately embraced. Please pray for the success of this new endeavor. Pray that it will bear fruit in new vocations for our Order. In this sacred work of discernment, we continue our mission of healing, community and service, one life at a time. ✠

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

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**Crosier Village campus hosts new opportunity for young men discerning their vocation journey.**





# Hundreds of pilgrims visit National Shrine of St. Odilia as sacred site



*Br. Christopher Erran, osc*

As the Church continues its journey through this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, the Crosier Fathers and Brothers have been blessed to witness this spirit of renewal and pilgrimage come alive at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia, Minn. This year, hundreds of pilgrims have come through the Shrine's doors, each carrying stories of faith, gratitude and hope.

More than 550 pilgrims have visited the Shrine so far during this jubilee year, with 200 arriving independently and more than 350 participating through organized pilgrim groups. Their ages have ranged from newborns to centenarians, reflecting the universality of the call to hope. Some have come seeking quiet reflection; others have arrived in joyful community, carrying their own burdens, hopes and prayers of thanksgiving.



*Students from St. John's Area Catholic School in Foley, Minn., process into the priory church.*

Our visitors represent a true national pilgrimage map. While most have come from across Minnesota, many have traveled long distances, from North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, South Dakota, Arizona, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, California, New York, Nebraska, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Oregon, Iowa, Indiana, Colorado and Montana. The farthest pilgrim

recorded in our guest book so far this year came from California, visiting while on a cross-country journey of healing and faith.

Many pilgrims have shared their personal stories of devotion to St. Odilia, patroness of those suffering from illnesses of the eyes and other infirmities and patroness of the Crosier Order. Her intercession continues to inspire hope for physical and spiritual sight, reminding all who visit that God's healing light is never far away. The Shrine's peaceful shrine, chapel, relics and tranquil surroundings provide an encounter with the sacred that touches the heart deeply.

## Several large pilgrimage events have highlighted the year's vibrant activity:

- St. John's Area Catholic School from Foley, Minn., brought more than 80 students (kindergarten through 6th grade) and staff members, filling the Shrine with youthful energy and devotion.
- Twenty parishioners from St. Odilia Parish in Shoreview, Minn., a community sharing her name and legacy, made a prayerful journey to reconnect with their patroness.
- Fifty parishioners from the Diocese of St. Cloud's Area Catholic Communities (ACC) in Wadena/Staples, Minn., came together in a day of reflection and renewal, celebrating faith and community.
- The largest gathering of the year welcomed 120 pilgrims from the pilgrimage sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, whose prayers and devotion filled the Shrine with the unmistakable joy of shared faith.



*Onamia Crosiers welcome pilgrim groups to National Shrine of St. Odilia.*

Each of these groups joined the Crosiers for Midday or Evening Prayer in community, lifting their intentions in prayer, song and silence. Every pilgrim also received a special blessing with the relic of St. Odilia, a moment many described as deeply moving and healing. As they departed, each was presented with a pilgrimage bag containing prayer cards; devotional materials; information about the Crosier community; a Crosier pen and a Christmas ornament, small keepsakes to remember their sacred time at the Shrine.

Each visit, whether by one individual or a bus filled with pilgrims, reflects the mission of the Jubilee Year of Hope to rekindle trust in God's promises and rediscover the power of mercy and communion. The Crosiers, as stewards of the Shrine, have sought to make every encounter a moment of welcome, prayer and accompaniment.

As the Holy Year draws nearer to a close, we continue to look forward with hope to even more pilgrims crossing the threshold of the National Shrine of St. Odilia. Each visitor, each story, becomes part of a living testimony that faith still moves hearts, heals wounds and unites us as one people of God.

In the spirit of St. Odilia and the Jubilee call, may we continue to walk together as Pilgrims of Hope. ✠

*Br. Christopher Erran, osc, is in post-novitiate formation and a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Onamia.*



*Fr. Johnny Fleischhacker, osc, blesses a pilgrim with a St. Odilia relic.*



# HISPANIC MINISTRY EXPANDS SIGNIFICANTLY AT CROSIER VILLAGE



By Fr. Tom Enneking, osc

**Upon my return from a three-month sabbatical in late 2024—after completing 13 years of service as major superior for the Crosiers in**

**the United States—my successor, Conventual Prior Alex Juguilon, osc, asked me to consider an appointment as director of Hispanic ministry at Crosier Village.** He noticed how the various programs and activities that serve the largely Hispanic community surrounding Crosier Village were continuing to grow and expand. He saw the need for a Crosier to serve in a unifying role to strengthen and coordinate the various initiatives. Those who know me are aware of my deep appreciation and affection for the Hispanic community and the diversity of cultures that it comprises, so it did not take me very long to say “yes!” to the assignment.

Hispanic ministry at Crosier Village has grown to include a beautiful mosaic of services that serve the pastoral, spiritual and social needs of the community. The heart of things is our bilingual Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. We have seen regular and consistent growth in participation as more people become aware of our community, requiring us to use a screen and sound system in Campo Hall to accommodate all those who join us. It is a blessing to serve the people and witness their deep devotion and faith in God as they sing and worship together.

One of the blessings we have experienced is having Hispanic lay people step forward with significant leadership gifts to bring their ideas and initiatives to life here at Crosier Village. Cynthia Corral approached us to facilitate a grief support ministry titled *Abrazo Agape* (A Loving Embrace). She facilitates a 10-session process that helps participants to process the many kinds of losses people experience in their lives, including loss of a loved one, loss of employment and divorce.

Her ministry has given rise to other programs and services as participants, upon finishing the *Abrazo Agape* process, often indicate a desire to continue growing in their faith and human development. That dynamic has given rise to *Retazos* (Patches), a sewing club in which women experience the weaving together of fragments of their lives by coming together to learn how to sew and make clothing for their families. One of their projects will be to make the uniforms for *Danza Guadalupeana Cruzada*, a Mexican dance troupe that will begin practicing for the celebrations of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December. In addition, a new marriage ministry was initiated as people requested a different kind of marriage support and growth process than what is offered at various parishes. This ministry has a team that accompanies and facilitates conversations between couples to heal issues in their relationship. The process is limited to five couples at a time to provide the time necessary for sharing, which is a key element in the program.

**Another ministry that enriches our life here is *El Buen Sembrador* (The Good Sower).** The group was established in 2016 by a man from Mexico who had completed the lay formation programs offered by the diocese. He wanted to learn more about his faith, so he began meeting in his home with some neighbors to study the Bible. By 2020, they were no longer able to accommodate the number of people who were part of the movement and came to Crosier Village to request use of Campo Hall for their gatherings. The benefit of our campus is its central location, so people come from the eastern and western parts of the greater Phoenix area as well as from our local neighborhood to be part of the group. Their mission is evangelization, education and formation. They meet every Friday evening for



*The Abrazo Agape ministry helps participants find healing.*

two hours to pray the rosary and engage in Bible study to prepare themselves for evangelizing others. They live by the dictum that we cannot give what we have not received, so they keep working on learning more of the word of God as part of their own formation to better share their faith as they reach out to people in need of encountering Christ.

Having realized the value of partnering with others in the Hispanic community who have gifts and talents that the Crosiers do not, we established a partnership with a local non-profit organization just three blocks from Crosier Village, asking them to take over our service to the immigrant community. Due to our limitations, we Crosiers were only able to offer citizenship classes. The organization provides a full range of immigrant services from citizenship classes to English as a Second Language classes to assisting with citizenship applications and consulting about the various immigration situations in which people find themselves. The organization is here every Thursday evening from 6p.m.–8 p.m., and there is never a lack of participants.

**Finally, from the Crosier side, we continue to operate our *Escuela de Santa Escucha Cruzada—ESEC* (Crosier School of Holy Listening) through which we prepare Hispanic lay people to serve as spiritual directors.** I serve as director of the school; Karina Peñaranda provides invaluable administrative support. The group meets monthly for two years to study

## EL MINISTERIO HISPANO SE EXPANDE SIGNIFICATIVAMENTE EN LA VILLA DE LOS CRUZADOS

Por el P. Tom Enneking, osc

A mi regreso de un período sabático de tres meses, el prior conventual Alex Juguilon, osc, me pidió que considerara el nombramiento como director del ministerio hispano en la Villa de los Cruzados. Se dio cuenta de cómo los diversos programas que prestan servicio a la comunidad mayoritariamente hispana que rodea nuestro recinto seguía creciendo y expandiéndose, y vio la necesidad de que un Cruzado desempeñara una función unificadora para fortalecer y coordinar las diversas iniciativas. Quienes me conocen saben de mi profundo aprecio y afecto por la comunidad hispana y la diversidad de culturas que la componen, por lo que no tardé mucho en aceptar la asignación.

El ministerio hispano en la Villa de los Cruzados ha crecido hasta incluir un hermoso mosaico de servicios que atienden las necesidades pastorales, espirituales y sociales de la comunidad. El corazón de todo es nuestra misa bilingüe a las 10:30 a. m. los domingos.

Una de las bendiciones que hemos experimentado es que laicos hispanos hayan dado un paso adelante

para aportar sus dones de liderazgo, ideas e iniciativas aquí, en la Villa de los Cruzados. Cynthia Corral se acercó a nosotros para dirigir un ministerio de apoyo al duelo llamado *Abrazo Ágape* (Un abrazo amoroso). Su ministerio también ha dado lugar a *Retazos*, un club de costura en el que las mujeres experimentan el entrelazamiento de fragmentos de sus vidas al reunirse para aprender a coser y confeccionar ropa para sus familias.

En la Villa de los Cruzados ofrecemos un Ministerio Matrimonial, ya que la gente solicitaba un tipo diferente de apoyo matrimonial y proceso de crecimiento al que se ofrece en otras parroquias de la diócesis. Este ministerio cuenta con un equipo que acompaña y facilita las conversaciones entre las parejas para sanar los problemas en su relación.

Otro ministerio que enriquece nuestra vida es *El Buen Sembrador*. El grupo fue fundado en 2016 por un hombre de México que había completado los programas de formación laica ofrecidos por la diócesis. Su misión es la evangelización, la educación

y la formación. Se reúnen todos los viernes por la tarde en la Villa de los Cruzados durante dos horas para rezar el rosario y luego dedicarse al estudio de la Biblia.

Establecimos una asociación con una organización local sin fines de lucro y les pedimos que se hicieran cargo de nuestro servicio a la comunidad inmigrante. Debido a nuestras limitaciones, los Cruzados sólo podíamos ofrecer clases de ciudadanía. La organización ofrece una gama completa de servicios para inmigrantes. La organización está en la Villa de los Cruzados todos los jueves por la tarde, de 6 pm a 8 pm.

Seguimos dirigiendo nuestra Escuela de Santa Escucha Cruzada (ESEC), a través de la cual preparamos a laicos hispanos para que ejerzan como directores espirituales. Yo soy el director de la escuela y Karina Peñaranda me presta un apoyo administrativo inestimable como coordinadora del programa. El grupo se reúne mensualmente durante dos años para estudiar diversas facetas de la vida espiritual y desarrollar sus habilidades de escucha.



various facets of spiritual life and to develop their listening skills. We are in our fifth cohort with 17 students who will finish the course in August 2026. We already have a waiting list of others who wish to prepare themselves to serve as spiritual directors as the awareness of the importance of spiritual direction, especially among Hispanic leaders, has grown significantly in recent years.

**An outgrowth of ESEC is Directores Espirituales Laicos (Lay Spiritual Directors), known by the acronym DEL.** The group is dedicated to the ongoing formation of the graduates of ESEC as spiritual direction is an art that requires ongoing study, reflection and development to meet the changing needs of the people seeking spiritual direction. DEL is coordinated by a Hispanic couple, both of whom are ESEC graduates.

Last but not least, we have begun offering the Crosier Spiritual Exercises in Spanish this fall. The exercises were developed by Fr. Bob Rossi, osc, and provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on their experience of the Cross in their lives. We plan to offer the exercises at least twice a year. We could not do this without the assistance and participation of ESEC graduates as the exercises call for each participant to meet with a spiritual director during the five-session process. It is extremely gratifying to see our Spanish-speaking ESEC graduates have the confidence and experience to walk with Hispanic brothers and sisters to explore the experience of the Cross in their lives in light of Crosier spirituality of the Cross.

I hope this overview of Hispanic ministry at Crosier Village inspires you as much as it inspires me. I am grateful to God to see the vitality of faith, hope and love in the people we serve, all of whom are signs of tremendous hope during this Jubilee Year of Hope. May God bring to completion the good work begun in us all! ✠

*Fr. Tom Enneking, osc, is the director of Hispanic ministry and a member of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Phoenix.*



*El Buen Sembrador meets weekly at Crosier Village for bible study and faith sharing.*

Estamos en nuestra quinta cohorte, con 17 alumnos que terminarán el curso en agosto de 2026. Ya tenemos una lista de espera de otras personas que desean prepararse para servir.

Una ramificación de ESEC es Directores Espirituales Laicos (DEL). El grupo se dedica a la formación continua de los graduados de ESEC. La dirección espiritual es un arte que requiere estudio, reflexión y desarrollo continuos para satisfacer las necesidades cambiantes de las personas que buscan dirección espiritual. DEL está coordinado por una pareja hispana, ambos graduados de ESEC.

Por último, pero no menos importante, comenzaremos a ofrecer los Ejercicios Espirituales Cruzados en español a partir de este otoño, con la ayuda y participación de los graduados del ESEC. Los ejercicios fueron desarrollados por el P. Bob Rossi, osc, con el fin de brindar a los participantes la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre su experiencia de la Cruz en sus vidas. Es muy gratificante ver que nuestros graduados tienen la confianza necesaria para acompañar a sus hermanos y hermanas hispanos.

Espero que esta visión general del ministerio hispano en la Villa de los Cruzados inspire tanto como me inspira a mí. Doy gracias a Dios por ver la vitalidad de la fe, la esperanza y el amor en las personas a las que servimos durante este Año Jubilar de la Esperanza. ¡Que Dios lleve a término la buena obra comenzada en todos nosotros! ✠

## YOUNG MEN'S FAITH SHARING GROUP GROWS IN POPULARITY



*By Fr. Daniel Hernández, osc*

**Responding to the growing need for authentic spaces of encounter and faith formation among young people, Crosier Village has launched a new ministry dedicated to accompanying young men on their spiritual journey.**

In May, a new ministry was born at Crosier Village, emerging from meaningful conversations among the Crosiers as part of our ongoing commitment to reading the signs of the times.

**A growing concern within the Church is the spiritual lives of today's youth.** We Crosiers, too, have observed that many young people are being consumed by the influences of secularism and relativism—forces that often weaken the core values and Christian faith instilled within them by their families. According to recent studies by the Pew Research Center, “A growing number of individuals who were raised in a religious tradition now identify as unaffiliated. This trend of religious disaffiliation, or leaving one's childhood faith, has greatly contributed to the rise of the so-called ‘nones’.”

**This reality prompted us to ask the difficult but necessary question: What are we doing and what are we not doing to truly engage our youth?** As a community, we Crosiers have always sought to offer our presence, liturgical life and accompaniment. Yet we recognized that this is not enough if we first do not meet young people where they are.

We have also come to realize that we cannot do this work alone. We need the help of young people themselves, those who can relate to their peers' experiences, realities and language.

**The mission of the Church reminds us that evangelization is the responsibility of all the baptized.** Each of us is called to go out and encounter others without prejudice, judgment or assumption, but instead with awe, curiosity, openness to surprise and a willingness to share our faith.

**This conviction led to the creation of the young men's faith sharing group at Crosier Village—a space where young men come together to pray, learn, support one another and, above all, listen to their own hearts and to the hearts of others.** Crosier Village now offers a place of dialogue, trust and spiritual formation, strengthening these men to live out the promise of their baptism.

The group meets every other Wednesday from 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Participation has been enthusiastic, and the invitation remains open to more men who wish to grow in faith and brotherhood. One participant shared, “So far, I enjoy it. No session is the same, and I like seeing new faces whenever we have meetings. It helps me connect more with my faith, seeing others participate too.”

**We pray that this ministry may continue to inspire authentic responses to God's call, whether through the vocation of marriage, single life or a life of consecration in service to the Church.** ✠



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



# FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF HOSPITALITY SHAPES CHARACTER | COMMUNITY | COMPASSION



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

**Hospitality is multifaceted and transcends mere acts of service or accommodation. It is an embodiment of generosity, compassion and connection that reflects deeper spiritual and moral principles. Hospitality means making room in our heart and mind for others.**

## Hospitality in our Order

From the onset of our Order, Crosiers have aspired to the best practices of hospitality. Almost all of our monasteries have had hospitium (which is a Latin term for hospitality that stems from ancient Rome) for welcoming and accommodating travelers and pilgrims. Our guests have been welcomed and provided with what they need. This practice continues today so that whoever visits our communities is welcomed as our guest. “Guests must always be welcome among us. We must learn to receive them cordially and cheerfully put aside our own individual comfort for them. Hospitality requires freedom and flexibility and is to be practiced with sensitivity” (Const. 19:12). Such hospitality calls us to be altruistic, cordial and cheerful people who respect the dignity of our guests. We need to be sensitive to the needs of our guests so that they feel at home and comfortable. One family who stayed with us expressed their remarkable impression, “We felt welcomed, trusted and free.” We have a commitment to implement hospitality in our way of being, of behaving, of welcoming and of serving people. Hospitality can be understood through social, mystical, prophetic, moral and spiritual lenses, each revealing a profound understanding of what it means to be truly hospitable.

## Social dimension builds relationships

The social dimension of hospitality refers to the role that welcoming and generosity play in building relationships, fostering community and promoting social cohesion. It highlights hospitality to create and strengthen social bonds. Through acts of hospitality, individuals and communities can create a culture of encounter, kindness and support, fostering connections that enrich lives. We need to cultivate environments where everyone feels valued, accepted and empowered to contribute to the greater good. Hospitality transforms the stranger into a guest and can even become a friend. The experience of hospitality can inspire people to be hospitable themselves, welcoming and accepting others.

## Mystical dimension fosters human interaction

From a mystical perspective, hospitality goes beyond the physical act of welcoming others; it delves into the sacredness of human interaction. Mystics often emphasize the presence of the divine in every encounter. In the Hebrew Scriptures, there is the story of Abraham who entertained the three strangers. He welcomed and provided a banquet honoring those men. As an expression of gratitude for Abraham’s hospitality, they prophesied that “Sarah will give birth to a child” (Gen. 18).

In the Christian tradition, the act of hosting a stranger is seen as an invitation to welcome Christ Himself. “For I was a stranger and you invited me in” (Matt. 25:35). This passage highlights the belief that in serving others, especially those in need, we encounter and serve Jesus himself who identifies with the little ones. Hospitality means making room for others, so that they are not unwanted or rejected. Every act of hospitality is an opportunity to connect with God. This understanding transforms hospitality into a mystical experience, where every guest represents a potential divine encounter. “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels....” (Heb. 13:2). We are to recognize the sacred in our relationships and our interconnectedness with others. By welcoming strangers as our guests, we are welcoming the Divine, who blesses us in these encounters.

## Prophetic dimension emphasizes compassion

The prophetic dimension of hospitality emphasizes the call to justice, compassion and community. Prophets throughout history have championed the rights of the marginalized, calling for societies to extend hospitality not only to friends and family but also to the stranger, the poor and the oppressed. In the Hebrew Scriptures, the commandment to “love the stranger” is a recurring theme, emphasizing that true hospitality includes the marginalized and vulnerable, “The Lord... loves the foreigner residing among you...And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt” (Deut. 10:19).



This prophetic call urges us to examine our societal structures and ensure that hospitality is extended to all, particularly those who are often excluded. By embracing this dimension, hospitality becomes a transformative force that can challenge injustices and connect authentically with others. Spiritual hospitality fosters an environment where individuals can express their beliefs, share their stories and grow together in understanding. It encourages us to see hospitality as a sacred practice that nurtures mutual spiritual growth. Hospitality becomes an act of grace, a way to create sacred spaces where love, acceptance and spiritual exploration can flourish. We welcome guests in our liturgical prayer so that they can taste the spiritual atmosphere that could help them to experience an encounter with God.

## Hospitality enables encounter with God

Hospitality is a rich and multifaceted concept. Each of these dimensions deepens our understanding of what it means to be hospitable and challenges us to embrace the transformative power of welcome and connection. By recognizing the sacredness in our encounters, advocating for justice, embodying ethical principles and nurturing spiritual growth, we cultivate a more compassionate and inclusive world.

Ultimately, hospitality is not just an act of generosity; it is a way of being that reflects the essence of our humanity, created in God’s image and likeness. By welcoming others as the image of God, we encounter and experience God’s presence. ✠

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



# CROSIERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR IMMIGRANT BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The Crosier Fathers and Brothers' mission is to touch suffering with hope and to welcome Christ in every person, especially those who are suffering, displaced or in need of refuge.

**With deep concern, we witness the ongoing struggles faced by immigrants and asylum seekers in the United States.** Many families who are fleeing violence, poverty and persecution continue to encounter barriers that deny them the dignity and compassion they deserve as human beings. Current immigration policies often prioritize deterrence over mercy, separation over unity and fear over love.

The Crosiers echo the call of the Catholic Church to protect human dignity, preserve family unity and create pathways to safety and stability. Our faith teaches us that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and that our response to the stranger is, ultimately, a response to Christ himself.

**We urge policymakers and citizens alike to support reforms that**

- Uphold the God-given rights and human dignity of migrants and refugees
- Offer humane and just processes for asylum and immigration
- Ensure that families are not separated
- Provide avenues for lawful residence and eventual citizenship

We Crosiers are committed to our ministries of hospitality and healing for all. Standing with migrants, we strive to be signs of hope and instruments of Christ's peace, walking together toward a future where no one is a stranger. ✠

*We call for compassion,  
unity and justice  
for all who seek safety  
and a place to belong.*

## LOS CRUZADOS SE SOLIDARIZAN CON NUESTROS HERMANOS Y HERMANAS INMIGRANTES

La misión de los Padres y Hermanos Cruzados es aliviar el sufrimiento con esperanza y acoger a Cristo en cada persona, especialmente en aquellos que sufren, se ven obligados a huir o necesitan refugio.

**Somos testigos, con profunda preocupación, de las continuas dificultades a las que se enfrentan los inmigrantes y los solicitantes de asilo en los Estados Unidos.** Muchas familias que huyen de la violencia, la pobreza y la persecución siguen encontrando barreras que les niegan la dignidad y la compasión que merecen como seres humanos. Las políticas de inmigración actuales suelen dar prioridad a la disuasión sobre la misericordia, a la separación sobre la unidad y al miedo sobre el amor.

Los Cruzados se hacen eco del clamor de la Iglesia Católica para proteger la dignidad humana, preservar la unidad familiar y crear vías hacia la seguridad y la estabilidad. Nuestra fe nos enseña que cada persona está hecha a imagen y semejanza de Dios y que nuestra respuesta al extranjero es, en última instancia, una respuesta al mismo Cristo.

**Urgimos tanto a los responsables políticos como a los ciudadanos a que apoyen reformas que**

- Defiendan los derechos otorgados por Dios y la dignidad humana de los migrantes y refugiados.
- Ofrezcan procesos humanos y justos para el asilo y la inmigración.
- Garanticen que las familias no sean separadas.
- Proporcionen vías para la residencia legal y la eventual ciudadanía.

Los Cruzados estamos comprometidos con nuestros ministerios de hospitalidad y sanación para todos. Al lado de los migrantes, nos esforzamos por ser signos de esperanza e instrumentos de la paz de Cristo, caminando juntos hacia un futuro en el que nadie sea un extraño. ✠





## Bond of enduring friendship, faith spans 45 years

By Elisabeth Wisthoff

On Feb. 1, 1980, Olivia Benson first walked into her classroom as a new teacher of sophomore English at Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix. Little did she know that right next door, the freshman English teacher Linda Pilon would soon become her dearest friend! From that initial introduction, their friendship grew to encompass their husbands John and Chuck, and the foursome have been virtually inseparable since. They travel together, attend special events together and, most importantly, share their faith together at Mass, pilgrimages and other liturgical celebrations.

**Dr. Charles (Chuck) Pilon, Arizona native, retired professor of sociology and No. 1 fan of the University of Notre Dame, is also a tremendous champion of the Crosiers!** He and Linda first attended Mass with the Crosiers at the St. Joseph's Hospital chapel, where he recalls, "Br. Jim Scher, osc, spotted us in the back, invited us up front to the choir stalls and introduced himself with a hug! We were so drawn in by all the Crosiers' warmth and kindness." Linda then heard Fr. Tom Enneking, osc, speak about the Crosiers' Congo mission, and as she says, "That was it... we found our spiritual home." The Pilon regularly attended Crosier Sunday Masses at Mt. Claret Retreat Center for years before Crosier Village and the priory church became a reality.

They invited the Bensons, who are also parishioners at St. Thomas the Apostle, to join them for Mass one Sunday. Olivia and John immediately sensed there was something special about the Crosier community. As John reflects, "They were—and are—so friendly and welcoming... They know our names, they care about us, and it is wonderful to see how they live the Gospel." From that initial encounter, the Bensons got to know the Crosiers better, attending a retreat led by Fr. Stephan Bauer, osc, and participating in various liturgies and events.

**Since those early days, the Pilon and the Bensons have been consistently supportive friends of the Crosiers.** They contributed to two Crosier Village campaigns, give generously to the Sunday collection and are current members of the Apostolate, the annual giving program that supports Crosier life and ministry. As Olivia says, "It is so easy to support the Crosier mission of touching suffering with hope because I agree with all they do. They help people who are desperate—those in jail, immigrants, the poor and the hungry. At our age, we realize that what matters is that we must embrace our faith and reach out to help people in need... and we can do that by supporting the Crosiers."



*left to right: John and Olivia Benson share a laugh with their dear friends, Chuck and Linda Pilon.*

Linda wholeheartedly agrees, saying, "These are our guys! I am so thankful for the Crosiers, who move and inspire us all the time. We feel so close to the Crosiers, and they are a joy."

That closeness was only reinforced when Chuck and Linda lost their son Terry to COVID-19 in 2020. The Crosiers walked with them during that sad time and ever since, holding an annual memorial Mass to remember Terry and the gift he was to his family. Along with the Pilon, the Bensons always attend this meaningful liturgy to support their dear friends.

Olivia says, "We treasure those who are still with us and with whom we can spiritually grow... I pray every day for Chuck and Linda, whose faith in facing the loss of a child has only become stronger, and we will always be there for each other, in good and bad times. The Crosiers' love for them is a big part of that, too." Chuck concurs, saying, "Olivia and John are always so caring, attentive and present at Terry's memorial Mass, and the Crosiers equally so. While this situation is personal to us, I have to say that I can't understand why anyone wouldn't return after attending any Crosier Mass... they are so considerate and warm; I have never encountered anything like it, anywhere else."

**Not only does this encapsulate the richly faithful spirit of the Crosiers, it exemplifies the bonds of friendship that continue to deepen between them, the Pilon and the Bensons.** True friendship is surely a living thing, as these two couples and their connection to the Crosiers demonstrate—always growing, always enriching and always weathering life's vicissitudes with trust, hope and abiding faith together. ✠

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

### 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 the date of commitment and not calendar year. Members are invited to special events like Apostolate Day (*Onamia*) and the Apostolate Tea (*Phoenix*), receive special 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 602-443-7115 or at [ewisthoff@crosier.org](mailto:ewisthoff@crosier.org).



# NEWS FROM ROME



## A Year of Pilgrimage and Renewal in the Eternal City

Holy Door — St. Peter's Basilica in Rome



In this Jubilee Year 2025, 24 million pilgrims have already passed through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica—a remarkable testament to faith and renewal. From the very first weeks, when more than 545,000 pilgrims crossed the threshold, the numbers grew steadily and surpassed 1.3 million by early February. As the year progressed, millions more continued to arrive from every corner of the world, culminating in this extraordinary total. Rome has truly been alive with prayer, song and community, welcoming believers on a scale not seen in decades and reminding all of the Church's universal spirit of hope and unity.

Amid this sacred tide of pilgrimage, the Crosiers in Rome were delighted to welcome friends and supporters from the U.S. Their visit offered a chance to share in the spirit of the Holy Year in a personal way—without the formality of a large pilgrimage group, but with the same warmth of fellowship and solidarity. The guests joined in prayer, tours of sacred sites and moments of connection over meals and conversation, strengthening bonds across continents.

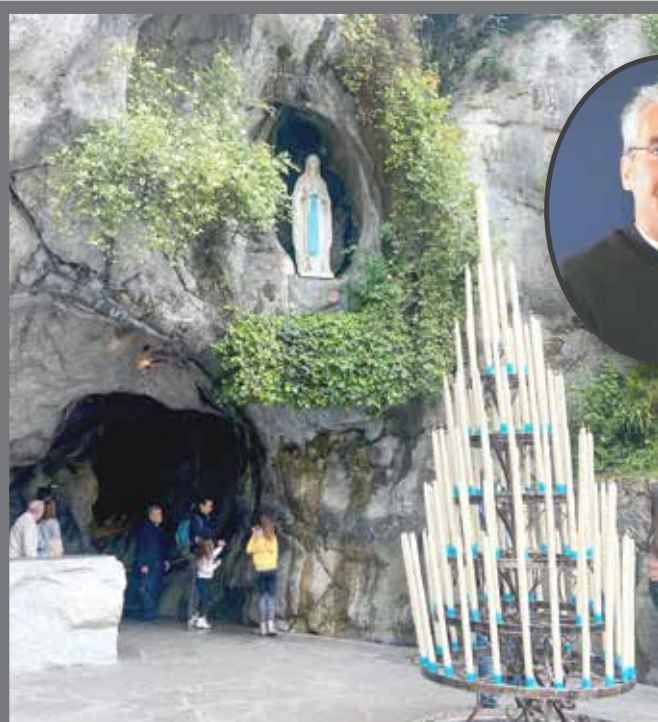
As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, the Crosiers in Rome look ahead to 2026 with hearts full of gratitude and renewed purpose. The experiences of this year—*welcoming visitors, sharing faith and celebrating unity*—will continue to inspire their mission in the months ahead. The spirit of pilgrimage doesn't end when the Holy Doors close; it lives on in every act of hospitality, every prayer shared and every friendship formed. The Crosiers invite all to carry that same spirit forward into the new year—*remaining connected in faith and hope, wherever the journey leads.* ✠



The Crosiers welcome guests at San Giorgio in Velabro in Rome.

### THE CROSIERS IN ROME WELCOME GUESTS.

Contact Fr. Rosa ([rome.community@crocigeri.it](mailto:rome.community@crocigeri.it)) if you plan to visit the Eternal City!



**FR. KERMIT HOLL, OSC,**  
will serve as chaplain on a Marian Pilgrimage tour to  
**France | Spain | Portugal**  
from **OCT. 2 - 15, 2026**



You are invited to join him and other pilgrims in this prayerful and exciting journey to Paris, Lourdes, Barcelona and Fatima!

Highlights will include a visit to Notre Dame Cathedral, a Blessing of the Sick at Lourdes, a tour of Sagrada Familia and the Chapel of Apparitions in Cova da Iria.

The tour operator is ABM Tours ([www.abm-tours.com](http://www.abm-tours.com)), and the host is Ace Consolacion (425-512-8583 or [ace7881@gmail.com](mailto:ace7881@gmail.com)). Our Number: EW 10 02 26.



# Welcome

## The Crosier Apostolate



We are pleased to welcome the newest members of the Crosier Apostolate who joined Aug. 26 — Oct. 27, 2025.  
*We hope you will consider adding your name.*

Ray & Sue Herold  
*Pierz, Minnesota*

Alan & Mary Kaeding  
*White Bear Township,  
Minnesota*

Joanne Lahr  
*Sauk Centre, Minnesota*

Dennis & Jan  
Sowada  
*Rice, Minnesota*

Dennis & Margaret  
Hitzemann  
*Onamia, Minnesota*

Marie Kondzielsk  
*Simi Valley, California*

Curt & Kay  
Sheldon  
*Signal Mountain, Tennessee*

Luis Ramirez  
*Phoenix, Arizona*



## CROSIER WORLD NEWS

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

### BRAZIL

The Priotato da Santa Cruz in Campo Belo (Brazil) hosted the 2025 Crosier Encounter on “Mysticism and Prophecy: Waking Up to Our Mystic and Prophetic Call.” The retreat took place Oct. 6–15, 2025. This gathering was held in response to the 2022 General Chapter directive to “deepen and promote the mystical and prophetic dimension of Crosier religious life throughout the Order.” Crosier leadership and formators from the worldwide Order participated.



*Crosier members actively participate in the topics discussed each day.*



*Fr. Alex  
Juguilon, osc,  
engages with  
the presenter.*



*Fr. Daniel  
Hernández, osc,  
raises a question  
for discussion.*

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In September, Master General Laurentius Tarpin, osc, visited our Crosier communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, accompanied by his councilor Fr. Pierre-Paul Walraet, osc. Twelve new candidates started the first step of their formation in Mulo. Also, we have been blessed with 18 novices. In the city of Butembo, four confreres were ordained deacons. In Kinshasa, three Crosiers were ordained priests. Praise be to God for his goodness to our Order. ✠

## 50-YEAR REUNION PLANNED

*for Crosier High School Class of '76*

**CLASS**  
*of*  
**1976**

**The Crosier High School Class of 1976 is currently planning a 50-year high school reunion.**

If you were ever a student at Crosier Seminary in Onamia, regardless of whether you completed your studies, we invite you to attend this commemorative celebration! **Significant others are welcome to attend as well!**

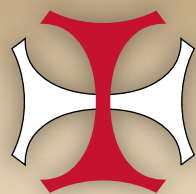
*We are using emails to reach as many fellow students as possible.*  
We will contact you via email with a specific date and planned activities.

**If you have not heard from us and are interested in attending, please email  
Pete Sherrard at [pmoose76@yahoo.com](mailto:pmoose76@yahoo.com) or Steven Mehr at [Steve.mehr@yahoo.com](mailto:Steve.mehr@yahoo.com) with your contact information.**



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](http://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).

Fr. Thomas F. Foley, CSP  
Crosier High School, 1965

Clement C. Kroll  
Crosier College, 1948

Charles “Chuck”  
A. Krekelberg  
Crosier College, 1965

John D. Lauer  
Crosier College, 1965  
(former Crosier)

Correction: In the Summer 2025 issue of Crossview, Richard “Dick” Cyr Widelski was listed as a deceased former Crosier. We humbly apologize for this error. His brother, Victor, is the former Crosier brother who passed away earlier this year.

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

How? If you are at least 73 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 73, 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](mailto:ewisthoff@crosier.org)

SUGGESTED MAXIMUM GIFT ANNUITY RATES [SINGLE LIFE]

AGE	% RATE	AGE	% RATE
5-11	3.8	69	6.2
12-24	3.9	70	6.3
25-31	4.0	71	6.4
32-37	4.1	72	6.6
38-41	4.2	73	6.7
42-44	4.3	74	6.8
45-47	4.4	75	7.0
48-49	4.5	76	7.2
50-52	4.6	77	7.4
53	4.7	78	7.6
54-55	4.8	79	7.8
56-57	4.9	80	8.1
58	5.0	81	8.3
59	5.1	82	8.5
60	5.2	83	8.7
61	5.3	84	8.9
62-63	5.4	85	9.1
64	5.6	86	9.3
65	5.7	87	9.5
66	5.8	88	9.7
67	5.9	89	9.9
68	6.1	90+	10.1

CROSIER GIFT ANNUITY APPLICATION, WILL AND STOCK INFORMATION

☐ I wish to apply for a Crosier Annuity\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST ANNUITANT SS# \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND ANNUITANT SS# \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

ANNUALLY \_\_\_\_\_ SEMI-ANNUALLY \_\_\_\_\_ QUARTERLY \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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

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.





Crosier Fathers and Brothers

## IN THE CROSS, SALVATION

*All are invited* to join the Crosiers at special programs this Advent season as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord.  
*It is a time of hopeful expectation, prayer and reflection.*



### The Crosier Discernment House is officially open!

It is designed to help young men reflect on their vocational journey and assess whether God is calling them to consecrated life.

Visit our website [www.crosier.org](http://www.crosier.org)

## THE CROSIER APOSTOLATE

is an annual giving program for people who share the mutual call to discipleship with the Crosier Fathers and Brothers.



We invite you to join the **Crosier Apostolate** and become a part of this special community.

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**CROSSVIEW**

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