

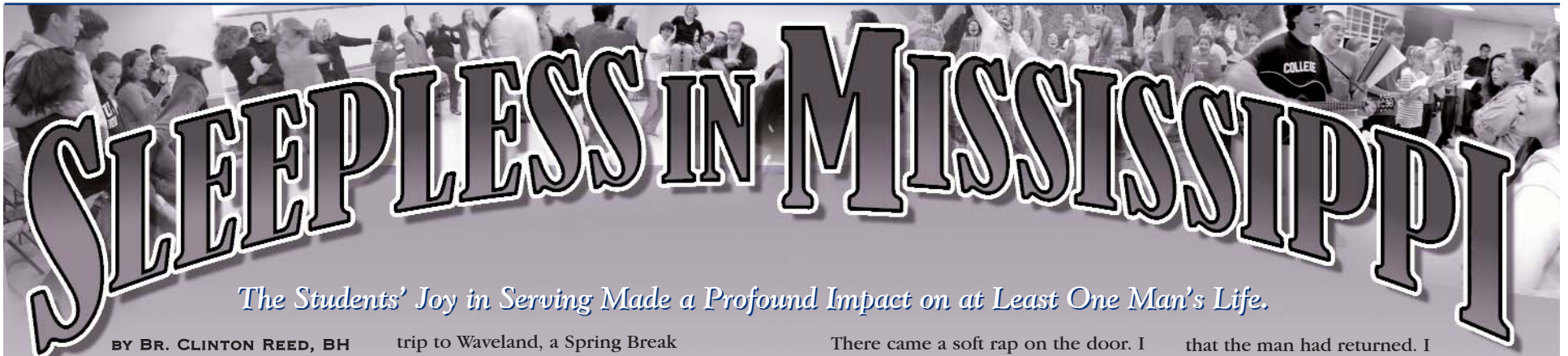


BROTHERHOOD of HOPE™

PRIMUM DEUS • DEUS SOLUM

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008



The Students' Joy in Serving Made a Profound Impact on at Least One Man's Life.

BY BR. CLINTON REED, BH

Thunderstorms crept over the ocean and banged against our hanger. I tried to sleep, but the storm raged. Our second story loft resembled a kettle drum, perched as it was inside a cavernous warehouse. Downstairs in the make-shift kitchen, twenty college students fraternized late into the night, singing songs and sawing on guitars, breaking my thoughts with occasional cheers and laughter.

The place was Waveland, Mississippi – a little southern town outside of New Orleans. It had been devastated by Katrina. Three years after the hurricane, attempts at rebuilding the town were far from complete, and the local economy had yet to recover.

I lay sleepless in my hot, dark room. It was the Brotherhood's third mission

trip to Waveland, a Spring Break Challenge for students from Northeastern University. As one of the campus ministers responsible for the trip, my body ached from the week of hard, manual labor. That day was spent chain-sawing down trees and clearing the land for future reconstruction. But the students still managed to talk into the early-morning hours. I had parted with them around 2:00 am, when my eyelids were too heavy to keep open.

“Over the years I’ve seen lots of groups come down and stay here... but they’ve never been like yours.”

There came a soft rap on the door. I hesitated, hoping it might have been my imagination. The tap continued. It was two student leaders who informed me that a ‘situation’ had developed downstairs (a campus minister’s nightmare). They said that outside the main room, a strange man stood and was staring at them. He wore an odd grin on his face. After he temporarily moved from the door, the students hurried upstairs to awaken me.

Once I reached the ground floor I saw

that the man had returned. I crossed myself quickly and stepped forward, but he was the first to speak. “I had to listen. I just had to stay and listen to them.” Puzzled, I motioned the other students away.

“Let’s talk about it...” I pointed toward some benches about a hundred yards from there. Once seated, his story poured out. His name was Gary, and he was the caretaker of the warehouse. His life had been marred by a fatherless childhood and later by a broken marriage. He presently owned little more than the one-room apartment adjacent to our kitchen. A series of rough knocks left him in this condition, as well as some troubles with the law and with alcohol. Although he had put down a couple drinks that night, he was fully cognoscente when we spoke.

“What do they have?” he said, “because I want it!” All week he himself

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SLEEPLESS

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had lain awake listening to our students sing and pray during our nightly meetings and fellowship. Their sounds of joy and peace struck him to the core.

“Over the years I’ve seen lots of groups come down and stay here” - he started to get emotional - “but they’ve never been like yours.” Gary’s statement reminded me of similar words shared by a retreat hostess several years ago when I was on a student retreat with the Brothers. Only now I was one of the Brothers and one of the campus ministers.

I told him that he was seeing the power of the Holy Spirit in the students’ lives. While many college students are partying heavy during spring break, these students are doing charitable work and daily prayer. He was seeing them experience the obvious results: Christ’s presence, deeper conversion, spiritual unity, and profound joy. I then used Scripture to share with him the basic gospel message, and the invitation to repentance and conversion brought tears to his eyes. He expressed a desire for Jesus to enter his life, and accepted my offer to pray with him. We prayed there on the spot.



MISSISSIPPI MUD. NU students tackled every task, like uprooting this muddy stump, with a joyful spirit that inspired our hosts.

Before leaving, he gave me a hearty and tearful embrace, and I encouraged him to pray daily and to seek out a supportive community of faith. He knew that he needed these since he couldn’t change his life by his own efforts.

Tired but grateful, I crawled back to bed at about 4:00 am. But thoughts about this unusual encounter kept me awake for some time. It was now my turn to be struck to the core. I was deeply moved by Gary’s words. His prayerful response to the

gospel echoed like a mantra to match the Mississippi thunderstorm: Jesus, I want it. Jesus, I want it. Jesus, I want it. †



FANS OF FRASSATI

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

Reason #3: *He was a friend to the poor.* Like all saints, this man had a deep love for others, especially the poor. He was fond of saying, “Christ comes daily to visit me in the Holy Eucharist. I return the visit by going to find Him in the poor.” He came from a middle-class background in Turin, Italy, yet he often gave away money to care for his special friends: the poor of that city.

Reason #2: *He was deeply prayerful.* Although Pier Giorgio was a “man on the move” he always took time for prayer. Rising early he often would hike to his favorite shrine on a small mountain in order to attend Mass and pray upon the heights. “I left my heart on the mountain peaks; ... I would spend whole days admiring in that pure atmosphere the magnificence of God.”



“INFECTIOUS LAUGH”
A friend of Pier observed, “he exercised a sort of magnetic attraction which created innumerable friendships.”

Reason #1: *He was a clever evangelist.* Pier Giorgio modeled what we Brothers do and teach on campus: evangelism through friendships and creativity. People responded well to Pier because he first befriended them and then led them to know Christ. On skiing and mountain climbing expeditions, he’d convince his companions to stop for mass beforehand or to spend an hour in adoration afterwards.

Through his holy ingenuity, he led many friends to new life transformed by God’s grace.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was called “the Man of the Beatitudes” by John Paul II. He has been a sign of hope to millions of people in the Church - including our Brotherhood and the students in our campus ministries. As another school year begins, please join us by invoking Pier Giorgio’s intercession for the new students that we seek to evangelize. †

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

The Brotherhood of Hope gets its support through the monetary earnings of its members and from the donations of benefactors. Since most of us work for sacrificial wages or for no pay at all, please consider becoming a financial sponsor so that our fruitful missions can continue. Our website offers convenient electronic giving options. Your prayers and support are greatly needed in our evangelization.

BROTHERHOOD OF HOPE

P. O. Box 440118, West Somerville, MA 02144

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AROUND THE BROTHERHOOD



“OLD IRONSIDES” INVOCATION

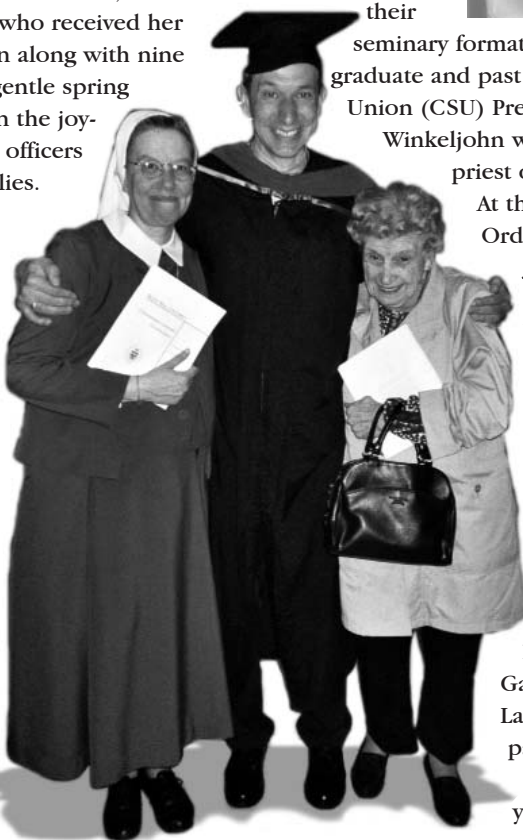
We brothers never know what we'll be asked to do next! Another “first” in our Brotherhood's history happened in front of an important piece of our nation's history. On May 18th, just yards away from the U.S.S. Constitution, Br. Sam Gunn offered the invocation and benediction at the commissioning ceremony for Naval Officers from Boston University's NROTC. The invitation came through one of our BU Catholic Center student leaders, Rebecca Conti-Vock, who received her commission as ensign along with nine other candidates. A gentle spring rain couldn't dampen the joyful spirits of the new officers nor their proud families.

10 YEARS, 10 DEGREES

Over the last ten years, ten brothers have graduated from various universities with advanced degrees – mostly in theology. Today these studies are being put to good use in our

BR. JUDE

LASOTA with his mother Clare and his sister, Sr. Donna Marie Lasota, SJH after receiving his hood.



apostolates. Equipped with an enriched grasp of the Church's wisdom combined with years of evangelistic experience, these brothers are developing fruitful tools, techniques and materials for the New Evangelization. Br. Jude Lasota is the latest to attain an advanced degree by receiving his Masters in Systematic Theology from Seton Hall University this May.

A BLESSING FOR THE BROTHERS

It's not every day that the brothers have the privilege of a first priestly blessing from an alumnus. Soon it will be a regular occurrence as men influenced by the brothers' campus ministries finish their



seminary formation. Florida State graduate and past Catholic Student Union (CSU) President, Chris

Winkeljohn was ordained a priest on June 7, 2008.

At the Mass of Ordination, Bishop

John Ricard publicly thanked the Brotherhood for their work in Father Chris's formation during his years in CSU. Two other CSU alumni were also ordained as transitional deacons this year,

Deacons Will Ganci and Paul Lambert, thus anticipating more priestly blessings in the years to come.

MEETING OF THE MINISTRY MINDS

Brothers from our four campus outreaches joined together for two days of meetings to discuss various aspects of our ministries. At this biennial “Campus Ministry Summit,” brothers take time to present various topics, review common areas of concern in our missions and inform each other of new approaches to the work of university evangelization.



BEGINNINGS AND RENEWALS

This summer four young men advanced in the stages of initial formation in the Brotherhood of Hope. Brs. Adam Neri and Clinton Reed renewed their temporary vows, while Br. Brandon Frank made his first profession of vows of chastity, poverty and obedience lived in fraternal common life. On the same day, Parker Jordan began his prenovitiate Candidacy which will include further formation and serving as a campus ministry intern at Northeastern University.



AUGUST 8TH: A JOYFUL DAY. Their faces reflect the Brotherhood's joy and their own at the deeper ‘yes’ they've made to Christ's call. Pictured from left to right: Parker Jordan, Brs. Clinton Reed, Brandon Frank and Adam Neri.

SHARING OUR VISION



Pursuing Paul

BY BR. RAHL BUNSA, BH

As part of our yearly tradition, the Brotherhood of Hope makes a week-long community retreat in July. These times of extra prayer and teaching have enabled us to benefit from wise masters of the spiritual life, such as Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Fr. Francis Martin, and Fr. Thomas Dubay. This year we were very honored to hear Dr. Daniel Keating, an Oxford trained theologian, an assistant professor at Sacred Heart Seminary, and “a brother like us in every way.”¹ Let me explain.

In addition to his impressive credentials, Dan Keating is a consecrated brother and regional leader in the Servants of the Word: the international, ecumenical brotherhood that inspired Fr. Philip in founding our community. These brothers continue to inspire us with their holiness, wisdom, evangelization, music, and friendship - all of which Dan shared during the retreat. Moreover, it was tremendous to hear one of the Servants of the Word teach us from The Word about a “fellow servant”²: Saint Paul.

Our retreat intentionally reflected the Church's theme during this unique Pauline Year, which extends through June 2009. Pope Benedict established this theme so that Catholics would grow in (Paul-like) zeal for the gospel, and plumb the depths of his writings. The Brotherhood is pursuing these goals



DR. DAN KEATING sees the year dedicated to St. Paul as a season of grace that will leave a lasting mark on those who study his epistles.

within our student outreaches, and we're implementing the following “Pauline Plan” for our own community.

- ◆ center our household retreats in Advent and Lent on St. Paul
- ◆ exhort each other using Pauline texts during our weekly Lord's day talks
- ◆ pray daily for deeper zeal for evangelization
- ◆ focus our daily spiritual reading on the epistles of St. Paul

Hopefully these Brotherhood decisions will prompt you with ideas for your own life. We want to encourage you as our friends, relatives, and benefactors to make some concrete decisions to pursue Paul and his writings during this special Church year. Doing so will link you spiritually with countless other Christians, and (in Paul's own words) will foster both “unity of faith and ... maturity in Christ.”³ †

¹ Hebrews 2:17
² Colossians 1:7
³ Ephesians 4:13



Fans of Frassati

We'd Like to Tell You About a Good Friend of Ours.

BY BR. JASON ZINK, BH

You've heard it said that “it pays to have good connections in life.” Well, the same holds true in the spiritual life and in our missionary life.

For over twenty years the Brotherhood of Hope has been reaching out to college students at secular universities. It's hard work so we need all the help we can get! That's why we rely on the saints for their friendship, example, and especially their prayers as we evangelize.

One of our favorite heavenly comrades is Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. He's the spiritual patron of our college apostolates, and we'd like to share our top seven reasons why.

Reason #7: He was a college student. It's fairly easy for our own students to identify with this fellow collegian. He too had to buckle down to study after classes. At university he mainly took engineering courses to pursue not money, but a job that would

help him share his vibrant faith.

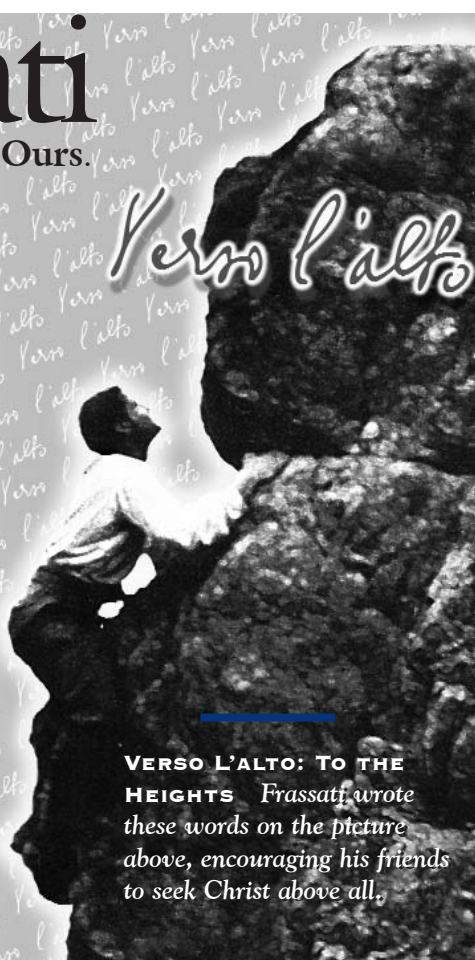
Reason #6: He was fun to be with.

Far from being a somber saint, Pier Giorgio was full of joy and laughter. At times he was loud and even boisterous (but they say he couldn't sing to save his life). He often pulled pranks on his closest buddies, a group nicknamed the ‘Shady Characters.’ Everyone loved spending time with Pier Giorgio because he was usually the life of the party.

Reason #5: He was an athlete. This saint was a well-built man, and he definitely enjoyed the outdoors. He was a hiker, a skilled climber and skier,...basically a true “jock!”

Reason #4: He was young and handsome. Besides being young in heart, he was young in age. He died in 1925 at the age of 24. Our students enjoy seeing pictures of this very photogenic man. One picture shows him laughing hysterically with his other young friends.

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VERSO L'ALTO: TO THE HEIGHTS Frassati wrote these words on the picture above, encouraging his friends to seek Christ above all.