

With a Capital B Contemplative

"When I was on the boat coming back from the service at the end of World War II, I did a lot of thinking. I had worked 11 years in a factory before entering the military, and I just wasn't happy with that hectic way of life. So I thought to myself, there must be a better way," said Brother Joseph Hornek, SVD.

"The religious life interested me. So when I got back to the States, I went to a Legion of Mary meeting. I told a Sister there, that I wanted some information about different religious orders. She suggested I try the Society of the Divine Word," he said.

Brother Joseph did and he now works at the Divine Word Seminary in Conesus which originally trained men for missionary work.

Upon arriving at the seminary in 1947, Brother Joseph was assigned to the dairy. "I had no idea what working with dairy cows was like but I learned pretty fast," he said.

Now the dairy is gone. It was discontinued in 1968 because of the enrollment decline at the seminary. Brother Joseph, however still drags himself out of bed on icy winter mornings to start his morning chores.

The seminary houses 12 men now in contrast to the hundreds of young seminarians who used to bustle through the halls of the four-story building.

The nine brothers and three priests are determined to bring the seminary back on its feet by turning it into a retreat house.

The goal of a self-sufficient seminary begins at the farm. Brother Joseph is on a campaign to raise his own grain, oats, hay, and corn to feed the 20 pigs and three beef cattle that they own.

"We now buy the baby pigs and raise them. But I'm hoping that we'll be breeding our own in the near future and perhaps even buy some more beef cattle," he said.

Besides raising the seminary's livestock and organizing their food supplies, Brother Joseph takes care of 40 future dairy cows. He feeds, cleans and watches over them for two years. Then the owner sells them to dairy farmers as milk-producing stock. "Raising these young cows is a burden for the farmer. I am payed by the hour to manage the animals until they are old enough to be useful, money producing cattle," he said.

When he is working late into the night, Brother Joseph sleeps in a small room off the barn. "It can get pretty cold so I burn wood in the pot-bellied oven beneath the room. You would be surprised how well it heats the room," he said.

During the Summer months, Brother Joseph also works as a deacon at St. Margaret's Chapel on Conesus Lake on the weekends.

Text By Molly Judge
Photos by Susan McKinney



Among Brother Joseph Hornek's winter chores is feeding cattle with the hay he has harvested during the summer.

of Ministries in the Diocese

at Moreau Hall on the campus of Easton, Mass. There, he will attend an assembly of his choice. Those with a family spend the one or two years living in the Community.

two years, the candidate is in the training. After being further acquainted with the life of the program, he would make his decision. If renewed annually until final vows are

age 25 and has completed two years of training, the candidate can make his profession of poverty, chastity and obedience. The postulant is permitted to complete his college education in Christian service.

Society of Jesus

Brothers reside at McQuaid Jesuit High School in Belgrade. A stationary engineer, Brother Garvey teaches and coaches.

For the brotherhood include a high school education and the capacity to obtain a master's degree. First vows are taken after completing two years of training. The Brother can then enroll in college. When he reaches 10 years, the final vows of poverty, chastity and

Trappists

Our Lady of the Genesee in Piffard, 19 Trappist priests follow the contemplative Cistercians of the Strict Observance.

They live the stringent forms of discipline. Throughout the day, which begins with meditation, alone or at specified daily intervals.

Their main diet is vegetarian — fresh vegetables and bread. A strict fasting period before Easter is also observed.

At 6 a.m., the monks participate in a prayer. They communicate only through letters. They have few contacts with the outside world. They are permitted to write letters and receive visitors but never view television or

self-sufficient, with Brothers performing

maintenance and domestic chores. Income also is received from the distribution of their bread.

A majority of the men remain in the abbey and each has a private room which holds only the basic wood bed, desk and chair. Some men choose to live as hermits in the 1,700 acres that surround the abbey, attending the daily community prayer services.

Few are accepted into the strict order. If a man gains admission, he would begin 2 1/2 years of novitiate training followed by the monastic promises. Final vows are taken after another three to four years.

The Trappists make vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, stability and conversion of manners, which is a promise not to transfer to another cloister.

Society of the Divine Word

St. Michael's, the Divine Word Seminary in Conesus, used to be a formation and training center for hundreds of young men wishing to become missionaries. The high school, college and novitiate programs have been discontinued because of low enrollment. Currently nine brothers and three priests are in the process of converting the huge four-story building into a retreat house.

Men desiring to join the 5,000-member missionary order should obtain a high school education. The training period follows with eight months as a postulant, two years as a novice, three years as a junior brother and three years as a post-junior brother. Some of the men are chosen for missionary work while others remain to help maintain the seminaries.

Brothers are encouraged to follow a profession. And they are found in such positions as teaching, farming, medicine, catechists, mechanics, architects and carpenters.

Congregation of Christian Brothers

The Christian Brothers teach at 24 schools in the U.S., including Bishop Kearney High School. At Bishop Kearney, 17 Brothers assist 22 Sisters of Notre Dame, 44 lay people and two priests in the education of 1,800 students.

Since the Brothers are primarily in the educational field, a college education is necessary. A young man desiring to enter the order must have a high school education before he begins his novitiate training at West Point, N.Y. The Brothers complete one year of postulancy along with their college education and novitiate.

Franciscan Friars

In 1949, the Franciscan Friars of the Province of the Assumption moved into St. Anthony of Padua Friary in

Watkins Glen. Maintaining the grounds are Brother Casimir Orleanski, OFM, and Brother Valarian Klodginski, OFM.

Candidates must have a high school education. Brothers are educated in the seminary and after two years, they receive their novitiate training and may go on to college. Brothers take their solemn vows when they reach 25 or 26 years of age.

Order of St. Benedict

The contemplative Order of St. Benedict was brought to the Rochester diocese by Father Damasus Winzen in 1951. He founded the monastery outside Elmira and named it Mount Saviour.

Members of the order are called Brothers, even those who are priests. At the monastery, eight men have received Holy Orders and the remaining 15 have not. All work together as members of one class.

They participate in the upkeep of the 250 acres surrounding Mount Saviour which is mainly cultivated for hay and grass silage. The community owns a dairy farm of Holstein cattle as well as a fruit orchard and bee hives. Brothers also share the responsibilities of kitchen work, a book and religious articles shop, arts and crafts, a library and maintenance work.

Candidates usually spend at least two months in the Summer living with the community. If the man desires, he returns in the Fall to complete six months of postulancy. The novitiate training follows and after one year, the candidate makes simple vows. Solemn vows are taken three years later. The monks take the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience along with stability and conversion to the monastic way of life. By the vow of stability, the Brothers are not allowed to be transferred to another community.

Novices receive religious instruction in the community to help them reconstruct their lives according to the scriptures.

Order of Friar Minor, Capuchin

Although the Capuchins or the Friars Minor of the Order of St. Francis are mostly priests, Brothers also serve in the community. For instance, Brother Seraphin is the cook and handyman at the Capuchin friary in Interlaken.

A high school education is not a necessity but is advised for candidates for the brotherhood. Brothers must complete a postulancy program ranging from six months to one year. This period is followed by the novitiate year and then the temporary vows. Within three years, or at age 21, the candidate is eligible for the final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Brothers can go on to further their education in line with their natural talents.