In Celebration of Vocations

By JOAN M. SMITH

This Saturday, Cardinal Mooney High School along with the Brothers of Holy Cross are having a celebration. The reason? Two members of the faculty, Brothers John Davies and James Roth are celebrating 25 years as members of the Holy Cross Order. They took time from their busy schedule to reminisce with the Courier-Journal about their lives since entering their vocations.

Brother Davies' interest in the religious came about through a fellow classmate whose brother was a member of the order. He smiled, remembering the few times during his novitiate when he wondered about what he was doing but the doubts were fleeting.

Brother Rolf, talking about his vocation said, "I could read the handwriting on the wall." He referred to his sojourn with a fighter command squadron (4th Air Force) during World War II. There had been many close calls he said and singled out two in particular — his squadron was due to leave Africa for the Normandy beaches when a last minute decision cancelled the move; after V-E Day, the squadron was preparing to leave California for a Pacific island when Japan surrendered. "It really made me stop and think,' he stated.

-Brother Rolf, a native of Buffalo, considers himself "a rookie" because he's only been at Mooney for three years. As a member of the faculty he not only teaches Math but is chairman of the department as well. Brother Rolf has a degree in electrical engineering from Manhattan College and took his novitiate (as did Brother Davies) at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, Previous teaching assignments have taken him to South Bend. New York City, Albany and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

In his 25 years of teaching he noted the most drastic change in education was the switch to coeducational institutions. Also, he has witnessed a de-emphasis of the rigid classroom procedure with a more give and take type of exchange between students and teachers.

"The day of the teacher being the font of knowledge is going into an eclipse," he explained. "Now the teacher, I hope, is willing to allow the students to express their reactions."



Brothers John Davies and James Roth

Both Brothers enjoy their association with young adults and relish their teaching duties — with one exception which seems universal among educators — "If it weren't for the paper work," groaned Brother Rolf, "teaching would be pure happiness."

Brother Davies wholeheartedly agreed saying, "Teaching is a fulltime job."

Brother Davies, from Utica, N.Y., has been at Mooney for 11 years, nine of them as head of the European and American History Department. History along with politics is his forte and his intense interest in these subjects comes through loud and clear in his classes. Along with keeping abreast of domestic politics and current legislation (reading Congressional Quarterly is a favorite pastime) Brother enjoys classical music.

He has a BA in Education from Notre Dame University and a Masters in History from Siena College in Albany. Before coming to Mooney he taught 11 years at Vincentian High School in Albany.

Brother Davies also noted co-educational facilities as the big change during his 25 year teaching career. He observed that in recent years there has evolved a more natural classroom atmosphere with more rapport with the students then ever before.

Between September and June these gentlemen are kept moving with their teaching duties and they don't slow down when summer vacation arrives. Brother Davies heads for Hartford, Conn., where for the last seven years he's given his time and energies

"Belle" to Play At Mercy High

"The Belle of Amherst," the three-act monologue based on the life and writings of poet Emily Dickinson which has achieved critical acclaim, will be performed by Joan Reichart Erbin, Saturday, Nov. 25, at 8 p.m. in Our Lady of Mercy High School Auditorium.

Mrs. Erbin's portrayal has been highly lauded by the the press in Utah, where she makes her home. Mrs Erbin is an alumna of Mercy, and is the sister of Sister Jacqulyn Reichart, vice principal of the school. Following the performance, the Alumnae Association will host a reception for the actress.

to a senior citizen community. Brother Rolf takes off for Cleveland where he assists at a day camp for boys.

What are their thoughts on this their 25th year? For Brother Davies it's a time for stocktaking — to find out "Where I'm at spiritually," he said — and to examine God's grace in accepting and living the vocational life."

Brother Rolf sees the 25th not so much as a celebration for the individual but rather as a celebration of the manifestation of God's sustaining a vocation.

"A celebration of God's graces in beginning the novitiate and supporting it through the years."

SKK

Volunteers Sought

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Spencerport is looking for volunteers to work in classrooms with handicapped children. Volunteers will be trained to help the special education teachers and provide more attention to the children. The program is in its second year. Persons interested in joining

may call Ms. Diana Jensen at 352-2443, or write to her at BOCES 2 Volunteer Program, Office of Special Education, 3599 Big Ridge Road, Spencerport 14559.



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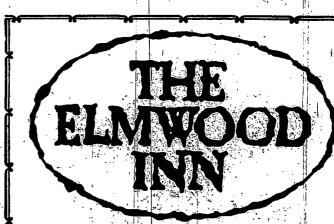
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