

Bulletin Article for the Eighteenth Sunday in OT

August 2nd, 2020

GREAT NEWS FROM THE ROCKIES!! This weekend, Saturday Aug 1, to be exact, was a great day for the Congregation of Holy Cross. EIGHT Novices made their First Profession of Vows in a Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs. My Community is blessed, indeed!

In Formation for joining a Religious Community, the Novitiate year is a year of prayer, discernment, some apostolic ministry, and learning in depth about Religious Life, the vows, and in particular, learning about the life and history of (in our case) the Congregation of Holy Cross. The "goal", if you will, is for the Novice to discern if they feel called to be a Professed Member of the Community, and if, through various evaluations the Community feels that the Novice is a worthy candidate for membership in the Community. The original class of Novices was 10, and throughout the course of the year, two Novices discerned the decision to leave.

At the ceremony, after the homily, each Novice knelt before one of our Assistant Provincial Superiors and read (publicly professed) their vows: making to God for one year the vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience according to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross (our Rule of Life). It was a big day for the now Newly Professed, and it was a big day for the entire Congregation of Holy Cross around the world!

The only disappointing part of the day was, because of COVID-19, no one could have their families there to share in this great day. The Mass was livestreamed on the web, and that was the only way for families and friends to participate in the day.

The Newly Professed's first assignment as Holy Cross Religious is "studies", and so all will be traveling back to Indiana to begin graduate studies in Theology at the University of Notre Dame, and to continue their Formation in Religious Life and Ministry.

There is actually a St. Andre Bessette Parish connection with the Newly Professed!! Noah Junge, csc and Alex White, csc served at St Andre's last Summer for two months. Aaron Morris, csc and Br. Bobby McFadden, csc served at Holy Redeemer Parish and helped out at Hospitality a few times, and in January, Ricky Bevington, csc and David Murray, csc were here in Portland for three weeks, and frequently came downtown to help with Hospitality at St Andre's! That is literally ALL of the Newly Professed for the US Province!! All of our weekend Masses will be offered for the intentions of these eight Newly Professed Holy Cross Religious. With thanksgiving for God's Call in their lives and for their generous response to that Call, let us all keep these young men in our prayers as they continue to discern the Will of God in their lives. ~Fr. Tom Gaughan, csc