



On vacation with family.

each student quickly answered "Yes!" for fear of not upsetting Father. Later that evening over supper at the rectory, Fr. Dan commented on how edified he was with our students. He just couldn't get over the fact that every student he interviewed was considering a vocation to religious life or priesthood! I quickly changed the topic!

The truth, however, is that when you really got to know Fr. Dan . . . and he liked you . . . he had a most wonderful way of showing it. He had such an expressive face that would simply light up in recognition. His eyes would widen and his grin would extend from ear to ear. He often commented that his parents were from Ireland. Fr. Dan certainly had the Irish smile and twinkle in his eyes. Following our time together at Christ the King, I would always search

him out on my return visits to the South Bend area. And each time, I was always the recipient of the twinkle and smile that would simply light up his face.

Fr. Dan grew up in a strong, Irish Catholic family in Boston. He was the middle child, with two older brothers and two younger sisters. He would comment later in life that it was the support of his family, especially his sisters, that served as his inspiration throughout his priesthood. It's interesting to note that Fr. Dan attended the same public high school in Boston attended by our own, Fr. Walt McInerney . . . soon to be 102 years of age!



Wearing Mission Band Cross.

When asked how he joined Holy Cross, Fr. Dan said he had often thought about becoming a priest, but held off doing anything about it. One day a diocesan priest from his parish asked if he had ever thought about becoming a priest? That question moved him to answer the call. He said he wasn't certain what led him to Holy Cross. At the time, he was working for the Boston

Police Department as a civilian clerk. He read about Fr. Dan Gleason leaving the New York Police Department to be ordained a Holy Cross priest. He thought that if someone from the New York Police Department could make it in Holy Cross, certainly someone from the Boston Police Department could, as well!

He was ordained a priest on June 6, 1950, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Dan spent nearly 18 years on the Holy Cross Mission Band preaching parish missions. In fact, he was quite the preacher! We had the system at Christ the King where one man would preach all the Masses on a Sunday. I always appreciated when it was Fr. Dan's turn to preach. His sermons . . . they were sermons not homilies . . . were always well-prepared and delivered. He could certainly scare the devil out of you! A masterful preacher . . . he reminded me of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He even had the look . . . the stare!

Dan was assigned to Holy Cross House in 2001. His nephew, Gary Cunniff, wrote:

Residing at Holy Cross House gave him great comfort, excellent care, the companionship of some of his fellow classmates, and it afforded him the opportunity to walk and pray along the paths surrounding St. Mary and St. Joseph Lakes. Long walks were a life-long practice with Fr. Dan and an opportunity he undertook with clockwork regularity . . .

As I would visit him at Holy Cross House, I knew I could always find him either walking the lakes . . . praying the Rosary . . . or in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.



Steering a straight course.

As increasing dementia settled over him these past two years, Fr. Dan never seemed to lose touch with his love for Eucharist and the Rosary. These would continue to provide points of recognition and comfort for him.

Our Constitutions in Holy Cross remind us that our vows ". . . are an act of love for the God who first loved us. By our vows we are committed to single-hearted intimacy with God, to trusting dependence upon God and a willing surrender to God." (C5:43)

No truer description could ever be said of Fr. Dan Coughlin. He possessed a simplicity and self-discipline motivated by a sincere desire to do God's work. His life was centered in Christ. For his 50th Jubilee, he wrote: "Offering Mass and hearing confessions—the work of a priest. I thank God for it and thank the many who have helped me do God's work."



At Holy Cross House with Fr. Jim Mannis (EP).

Now we, in the name of the Congregation of Holy Cross, express our gratitude to Fr. Dan . . . for his witness and years of faithful service to the People of God. We thank his family for his life with us. We are confident that he is now hearing the greeting: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter the Kingdom of God!"

The next day in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Fr. David Tyson, provincial superior, presided at Fr. Dan's funeral Mass. Fr. Richard Conyers, who lived with Fr. Dan for many years, gave the following homily.

In our liturgy these days there are two major themes which dominate others at this time of year. As we approach the end of another Liturgical Year of Grace, as always we look to "the 4 Last things," Death, judgment, heaven and hell. The readings in our masses seem set on, as my aged mother would say, "scaring the devil" out of us. After another whole year of work, we ought to be making some progress in overcoming Satan and all his pomps and all His works. Our lives ought to be moving closer and closer to our expected "Promised Land," that is heaven. The second theme is tomorrow's most significant feast of Thanksgiving, which for all is a civic feast, but for us and our community of faith, is the paradigm feast of our relationship with God, through Jesus and the Paschal meal and mystery.

Our Brother Dan has finished the race just days before his 93rd birthday. In this "end time" season, he gives occasion to



Visiting with sister Barbara and nephew Gary.

take stock and check on the progress of our "earthly journey." Sunday evening when Tony Szakely called to ask about the homily, I was reading the readings for the week, and had just finished the reading for Tuesday from the Book of Maccabees. I thought that the person of Eleazar was quite like Fr. Dan, a man "of advanced age and noble appearance." "Eleazar made up his mind in a noble manner, worthy of his years, the dignity of his advanced age, the merited distinction of his grey hair and the admirable life he had lived from childhood, that he would be loyal to God."

That Maccabees reading would have been a most appropriate reading for this liturgy, but we all heard it yesterday. Eleazar certainly reminded me of Dan who was such a prayerful and dedicated religious. As far as nobility of age is concerned, I realized that he received the habit before I was born and that was in the last century, for that matter, in the last millennium. I was also thinking of the life and visage of Blessed Father Moreau and thought that Dan, in his devotion, his gaunt severity, his dedication to our rule of life and his faithfulness to both common and private prayer, certainly might be a modern example as we all might be of a "Faithful son of Blessed Basile." Holy Cross was Dan's life and his devotion to the Charism of Fr. Moreau must have well prepared him for the particular judgment.



With his young relatives.

Fr. Moreau invented us as "auxiliary priests" and Dan Coughlin was a fine example of a religious who served where he was called and was called to where God's Word was carefully and passionately preached. It is clear that Dan's interior life was richly nourished by God's Word and focused on The Blessed Sacrament. When not in Adoration he would most often be seen walking with his rosary in hand, mind and heart fixed on The Lord and His Mother. Nothing, it seemed "took his mind off the goal." Being so personally disciplined, so humbly modest, and so focused of the "things that are above," we might have much confidence that "he has run the race well and has merited the crown."

The first reading is from the apocalyptic prophet after whom Dan was named. It is a vision of "The End Time" when "Many

of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall wake . . . And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

In death we pass from the temporal order to the timeless dimension of the afterlife. It consoles us that Dan now might be fully alive and fully awake. And having "lead many to justice" with his preaching and example that he "shall be like the stars forever."



Resembling Bing Crosby and visiting his sister.

Our second reading from Revelation provides us with an image of what is to come. Another apocalyptic vision, a new heaven and a new earth, the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. All things made anew. Might we presume that our brother is "the victor who will inherit these gifts." The vision is that "I will be his God and he will be my son." Dan in his faithfulness and prayer was certainly one who might be called God's son.

And look at today's Gospel. The image of the grain of wheat falling into the ground and dieing so as to produce much fruit is the picture of Dan ever dieing to self and producing abundantly for the kingdom of God. Dan has served and followed, and so the promise: "The Father will honor whoever serves me." There is cause for us to hope in the memory and the stories of our brother Fr. Dan Coughlin, because he has lived and died as a devoted religious, priest and Son of Blessed Basil.

Going back to the four last things, Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell, Death for Dan is a past event, judgment is well passed, heaven is a splendid reward and Hell is a distant fear overcome. As far as thanksgiving is concerned, we know that among the blessings for which we are grateful will forever be the life and example of our faithful brother Fr. Dan Coughlin.



Silver Anniversary



Distributing Holy Communion.

† Rest in Peace †

- Mrs. Lois Smith, mother of Fr. Doug Smith
- Mrs. Margaret Rose Majewski, sister of
Bro. Clarence Breitenbach
- Mrs. Cecilia Wasowski, step-mother of
Fr. Ron Wasowski
- Mr. Louis Riehle, brother of Fr. Jim Riehle
- Mr. Pat Lies, uncle of Frs. Bill and Jim Lies
- Bro. James Madigan (EP)
- Mr. Lucien Jacques, brother of
Bro. Reginald Jacques (SW)
- Bro. Marius Wittner (MW)
- Sr. Kathryn Rita Mulligan, C.S.C.
- Sr. Mary Camilla (Emelia) Cilinski, C.S.C.
- Mrs. Alice Andrade, sister of Fr. John Dias (EP)
- Fr. Arthur M. Schoenfeldt