



IN KIND LOVE

The Road to Sainthood

Brother Columba O'Neill, CSC (1848-1923)

Volume 2, Issue 7

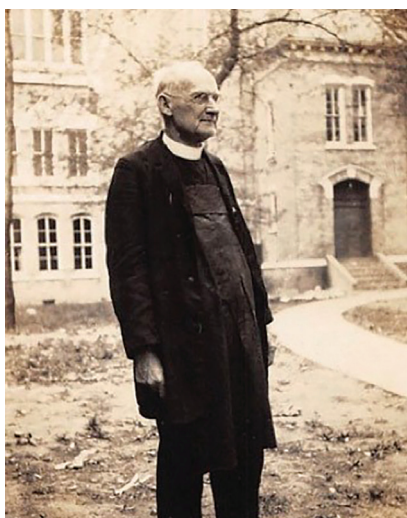
Our goal is to encourage devotion to the Sacred Heart for our needs

BY: EDWIN V. DONNELLY, CSC—EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest issue of *In Kind Love*, a newsletter dedicated to illuminating the life, spirituality, and enduring legacy of Servant of God Brother Columba O'Neill, CSC. As we begin Volume II, we move away from a bi-monthly schedule to publishing a more rolling schedule—highlighting when significant updates on Brother Columba's Cause for Sainthood or compelling reflections on his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus inspire us to share.

This issue, rich with contributions from our



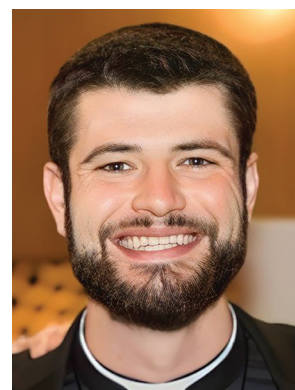
Brother Columba at the University of Notre Dame

dedicated columnists, aims to deepen your connection to Columba's holiness and the merciful love of Christ.

On April 27, 2025, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Inquiry into Brother Columba's holiness was formally opened

during Vespers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, Indiana, led by Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Rhoades, bishop of Fort Wayne-SouthBend, Indiana. This milestone marks a significant step in the Cause, as historians now undertake the sacred task of examining Columba's writings and life to affirm his heroic virtue. Brother Philip Smith, CSC, shares a detailed reflection on this progress, inviting us all to pray daily for Columba's beatification.

Our contributors this issue weave together themes of the Sacred Heart, social justice, and the spiritual legacies of Pope Leo XIV and his predecessor Leo XIII. Andrew Copp, CSC, reflects on his ministry in Stanford Hall at Notre Dame, drawing parallels to shepherding souls within the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Timothy Wymore, CSC, delves into Pope Leo's personal commitment to this devotion, while Nicholas Tarini, an undergraduate seminarian at Old College, explores the enduring devotion to the Sacred Heart. Brother Bobby McFadden, CSC, joins



Edwin V. Donnelly, CSC

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He would lead thousands of individuals to experience intimately the healing love of "these Two Hearts: The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary."



us with a new column, highlighting how Columba's devotion to the Sacred Heart fosters trust in divine providence and God's unconditional love, carried forward by those inspired by his life. We also include intercessory prayers and a new prayer card designed by Rev. Ronald P. Raab, CSC, to encourage your continued devotion to Brother Columba and the Sacred Heart. Our hope is that these reflections and resources strengthen your faith and inspire you to seek Columba's intercession for your needs.

Thank you for joining us in this journey to honor Brother Columba O'Neill, the "Miracle Man of Notre

Dame." May his example of humility, sacrifice and love guide us more deeply into the Heart of Jesus.

In Kind Love,
Edwin V. Donnelly, CSC
Editor, *In Kind Love*

• *Edwin V. Donnelly, CSC, is a Holy Cross religious and seminarian from Cranford, NJ. A 2021 undergraduate alumnus of the University of Notre Dame (Theology and Classics), he also holds a Master of Theological Studies in History of Christianity from the same institution. He is presently in his third year of Notre Dame's MDiv program.*

Pope Leo XIV

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Leo XIV, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.



In Kind Love

A periodic newsletter to enlighten readers of the life and spirituality of Brother Columba O'Neill, CSC

Mr. Edwin V. Donnelly, CSC, Editor

Mr. Andrew Copp, CSC, Columnist

Brother Bobby McFadden, CSC, Columnist

Mr. Nicholas Tarini, Columnist

Mr. Timothy Wymore, CSC, Columnist

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For more information see brothercolumba.com



With Hearts Ablaze

By: Mr. Tim Wymore, CSC

Compassion of Jesus sets our hearts ablaze

“Let us pray together that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from His Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.”

— Pope Leo XIV's June Prayer Intention

September marks a day that was important for Brother Columba. It was on September 8, 1874 at the University of Notre Dame that a 25-year-old John O'Neill formally entered the novitiate with the Congregation of Holy Cross. On that day he received the novice's habit and took the name of Columba.

In remembrance of this providential beginning—and as many of us embark upon new academic years—we are grateful for the formal beginning of the diocesan phase of Brother Columba's cause for beatification and canonization this past spring. But we also give thanks that Brother Columba's great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus lives on in our Church today.

Even as the late Pope Francis's last encyclical letter *Dilexit Nos* meditates beautifully on the love of the Sacred Heart, our recently chosen pontiff has continued to proclaim this devotion in his own way. Consider Pope Leo XIV's June prayer to the Sacred Heart, which invoked Jesus' compassion upon our own hearts. Associated with this intention is his complete prayer, which merits printing here in full:

Lord, I come to your tender heart today, to you who have words that set my heart ablaze, to you who pour out compassion on the little ones and the poor, on those who suffer, and on all human miseries.

I desire to know you more, to contemplate you in the

Gospel, to be with you and learn from you and from the charity with which you allowed yourself to be touched by all forms of poverty.

You showed us the Father's love by loving us without measure with your divine and human heart. Grant all your children the grace of encountering you.

Change, shape, and transform our plans, so that we seek only you in every circumstance: in prayer, in work, in encounters, and in our daily routine. From this encounter, send us out on mission, a mission of compassion for the world in which you are the source from which all consolation flows. Amen.

God willing, it is this prayer which will provide the inspiration for future articles in this column. I hope to bring my own recent experience of ministry, and that of others studying and working in Holy Cross and around Notre Dame, in conversation with these words of the Holy Father. In the meantime, as you pray with the words above, you might consider how God can and does set your “heart ablaze,” through the compassion that Jesus brings us. ✠

• Mr. Tim Wymore, CSC attended the University of Notre Dame after growing up in Madison, Wisconsin. Before entering formation with Holy Cross he taught high school theology for eight years in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is a third year professed seminarian.

Intercession Requests

In all future issues of *In Kind Love* any requests for prayers for individuals in need of the grace of the Sacred Heart through the intercession of Brother Columba will be included. You may be as specific as you wish when writing your request for prayer. Please send all intentions to Brother Philip Smith psmith@brothersofholycross.com by Nov. 1, 2025 to be included in the Volume 2 Issue 2 of *In Kind Love*.



The Hope of the Sacred Heart

By: Brother Bobby McFadden, CSC

Inspiration allows us to come to Christ's beating heart

Pope Benedict XVI has eloquently written that the human being needs the unconditional love of Christ (*Spe Salvi*, 26); it is only in this love that a person can ever truly find peace.

In order to receive this love, one must trust in the hope of the Sacred Heart's mercy. And yet, I find this difficult as we are often afraid to trust in Christ's love for us. It is perhaps inspiration that allows us to come to Christ's beating heart, inspiration like that of an old cobbler named Brother Columba and those brothers who built the apostolate of the Sacred Heart.

Brother Columba loved the Sacred Heart, and through thousands of badges and letters, he brought the hope of Christ till the end of his days. Individuals were so filled with this hope of the Sacred Heart that they even took dirt from Columba's grave in order to be physically or spiritually healed by his intercession.

Brother Ernest Ryan, CSC did not write a narrative of Columba's life entitled *These Two Hearts* to eulogize the faithful cobbler. Rather, he wrote about Columba to promote our need to hope in the heart of Christ's unconditional love. Brother Sabinus, CSC worked tirelessly to fulfill Brother Columba's dream of promoting the love of the Sacred Heart. Sabinus founded an apostolate in the cobbler's name and

distributed 13,000 Sacred Heart badges in one year! Tragically, Brother Sabinus died of a massive stroke at the age of 37. Thus, because he was the inspiration behind the Columba cause for canonization, any further movement on the Cause died with him.

Yet, we can see the hope of Christ's unconditional love and what it means to trust in his providence. Brother Sabinus and Brother Ernest saw in Brother Columba the image of the Sacred Heart. This witness of the old cobbler moved them so much that they actively practiced the virtue of hope and spread Columba's devotion worldwide.

Indeed, Columba's legacy might have been hidden for a while, but not even time and death can conquer the love of the Sacred Heart. Today, others now continue the work of Brother Columba because they can see the hope of Christ's love in those like Brother Ernest and Brother Sabinus. Yes, it is difficult to trust in God's providence, but it is the inspiration of saints that moves our fearful hearts. So, let us take courage and believe in the Sacred Heart! ✠

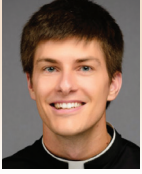
• *Brother Bobby McFadden, CSC is an Assistant Professor of Theology and Literature at Holy Cross College. He strives to be an Apostle of the Sacred of Heart and seeks to continue the legacy of Brother Columba.*

Let us Pray to the Lord

† For Leo, our Pope. May all who search for Christ surrender to the love of God and the call to humility and compassion. We pray to the Lord.

† For Christian unity in our search for the face of Christ. May we all seek to become loving believers on earth. We pray to the Lord.

† For people who feel they do not belong in society. May their hearts flourish in Christ's kindness and presence. We pray to the Lord.



The Heart of the Matter

By: Mr. Andrew Copp, CSC

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Come to Me

Though Brother Columba has not walked the campus of the University Notre Dame in over one hundred years, his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus still permeates the mission of Our Lady's University. Eyes are naturally drawn to the sheen of the Golden Dome bearing aloft Our Mother as she crushes the serpent of Genesis. Gazing up toward Mary is her Son Jesus, occupying the center of the heart-shaped walk of God Quad. Here is the Heart of campus. This statue of the Sacred Heart has arms outstretched and bears the inscription, *Venite, ad me omnes* — Come to me, all.

In his time, Brother Columba responded to the unceasing stream of letters with encouragement to seek refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of Mary's Immaculate Heart. Students pass by this serene statue often, walking between Jesus and Mary. Whether offering a quick prayer, pausing for a photo on a clear day, or simply hurrying along their way, the arms of Jesus constantly beckon Our Lady's students back to Him.

In recent weeks, I have had privileged opportunities to minister to two hundred of these students as an assistant rector in Stanford Hall. Even after four weeks, I am convinced that the heart of this university's mission is revealed in its residence halls. The walls of Stanford Hall are an extension of Jesus' loving embrace.

Within these cinderblock walls, men find refuge in times of distress and joy in moments of success.

Conversations range from fantasy football lineups to games of Twenty Questions to discernment of internships and vocation. On the wall of each hallway hangs the Stanford crest. The section identifier as "4 North/South" or "2 East/West" matters, but far more important is Stanford Hall's motto: "Men of Virtue." Majors, minors, sports, clubs, and a thousand other commitments and opportunities matter. More important than the things we do as a community are the people we become: men of virtue.

Brother Columba's life of holiness and witness to Jesus Christ are excellent examples as I encourage these young men to virtue, holiness, and love for our Lord. I will be trying to live Brother Columba's own model of holiness: recognizing and returning to that Heart which ardently burns with love for us. Jesus implores all of the sons of Stanford Hall: *Venite, ad me omnes*. I pray daily that the men of Stanford have listening hearts and that Brother Columba continually intercedes for all of Notre Dame's students as they discover the Heart that yearns for them. ✝

• *Mr. Andrew Copp, CSC is a seminarian in his fourth year of temporary vows and theology studies. A lifelong Catholic school student from the suburbs of Chicago, he met Holy Cross priests who ministered to him as an undergraduate at Notre Dame. Andrew currently serves as an assistant rector in Stanford Hall.*

Let us Pray to the Lord

† For a new generation of seminarians within our church. May they learn bountiful love, the beauty of faith and dedicated service. We pray to the Lord.

† For all who resist change. May reconciliation and peace be constantly on our lips. We pray to the Lord.



History and Lore of the Sacred Heart

By: Nick Tarini, University of Notre Dame Collegian.

Brother Columba prioritized prayer as essential to his ministry

Healings, miracles and saintly are all words that come to mind when thinking about Servant of God Brother Columba O'Neill. The exterior signs and wonders of his ministry are increasingly well-known, as is his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from which these miracles came. The badges he would give to those he would meet are a notable physical sign of his humble reliance on the Sacred Heart.

What is less known, however, is the richness of Brother Columba's interior life that enabled him to minister to the thousands of people who came to him throughout his life. In his years before he joined Holy Cross, he was an itinerant cobbler, traveling across the country making shoes for people in various parishes. During the few years he did this work, Brother Columba would often attend daily Mass, a relatively uncommon practice for the laity at that time. His Eucharistic devotion grew during this time, and these years of contemplative work and prayer were the roots for his later, much more active ministry in Holy Cross.

Brother Columba continued to foster his spiritual life even decades later as his fame grew. He invited others into long periods of prayer to the Sacred Heart. On Sunday afternoons especially, he would use the Log

Chapel at the University of Notre Dame and invite students and residents of South Bend alike to come pray with him. Long afternoons spent in prayer helped him grow in his interior life, which then allowed his zeal for outward ministry to grow.

Brother Columba's identity as an apostolic religious took root in his deep devotion to the Sacred Heart, and he prioritized prayer as being essential to his ministry.

Even as his fame grew and letters were pouring in from around the country and world, Brother Columba did not let his ministry grow to be more important than his interior life, and this quality helped him to be all the more present to his apostolate.

He not only reflected the infinite love that pours forth from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, but he let it fill him as water would fill a reservoir. The outpouring of this love fueled his ministry. Those who knew Brother Columba knew him to be a saintly man, both because of the miracles attributed to him and because of his rich spirituality that allowed the Sacred Heart to work through him. ✠

• Nick Tarini is a senior in Old College studying at the University of Notre Dame pursuing a double major in psychology and philosophy.

Let us Pray to the Lord

† For people who ache to discover God in their daily lives. May we surrender in our prayer to the healing love of Christ Jesus. We pray to the Lord.

† For all imprisoned by joblessness. May we all find work to enhance our gifts and adequate pay to support our families. We pray to the Lord.

† For people living in severe pain and emotional loss. May all who know the threats of agony discover the healing power of Christ Jesus. We pray to the Lord.



Take Courage and Believe in the Sacred Heart

By: Brother Philip Smith, CSC, Ed.D.

Sainthood Cause begins for “Miracle Man of Notre Dame”

On April 27, 2025, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Inquiry into the holiness of Servant of God Brother Columba O’Neill, CSC began during Vespers in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Rhoades ordinary of the South Bend-Fort Wayne diocese presided. The Bishop and representatives from the Congregation of Holy Cross, the diocese and the University of Notre Dame took oaths promising to be faithful to providing the truth as the cause progresses.

Bishop Rhoades gave a short address to those present in the Basilica.

“Brother Columba was a great believer in the merciful love of Jesus and so had a deep and fervent devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and spread that devotion by his words and his deeds,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“It seems quite appropriate that we are officially initiating the cause

on this Divine Mercy Sunday. The devotion to the Divine Mercy is inseparable from devotion to the Sacred Heart.”

Among the persons who took the oath, are three Catholic historians. Rev. Richard Gribble, CSC, Ph.D., the chairman of the historical commission and Peter Cajka, Ph.D. and Michael Skaggs, Ph.D. of the University of Notre Dame and members of the historical commission. It is their task to catalogue all of Brother Columba’s personal writings and to read and review them to determine if he lived the Evangelical Councils to a



Bishop Kevin Rhoades presides during Vespers.

heroic degree. They will also read most of the thousands of letters written to Columba for his intercessory prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for favors for the suffering.

At the conclusion

of their investigation, they will compose a report on their conclusions that will be sent to the Dicastery for the Causes of the Saints in Rome for their review.

Everyone is asked to pray each day for Brother Columba’s beatification. A suggested prayer can be found at the conclusion of this article for your convenience. ✠

• *Brother Philip is the archivist for the Midwest Province of Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross. After 50 years in secondary education, he became archivist in 2019. In 2020, he began his work in the archives on the materials related to Brother Columba.*



Rev.. Andrew Gawrych, CSC, Third Assistant to the Superior General takes his oath.

For the Beatification of Brother Columba O’Neill, CSC

God our Father, your Servant of God, Brother Columba upheld the faith by his life of self-sacrifice for all who appealed to him for relief from physical and spiritual pain. May his loyalty to Christ and the Church, and his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus be known throughout the world. I pray that you grant the favor of his beatification so that his humility and holiness may be recognized and imitated by all. ~Amen.



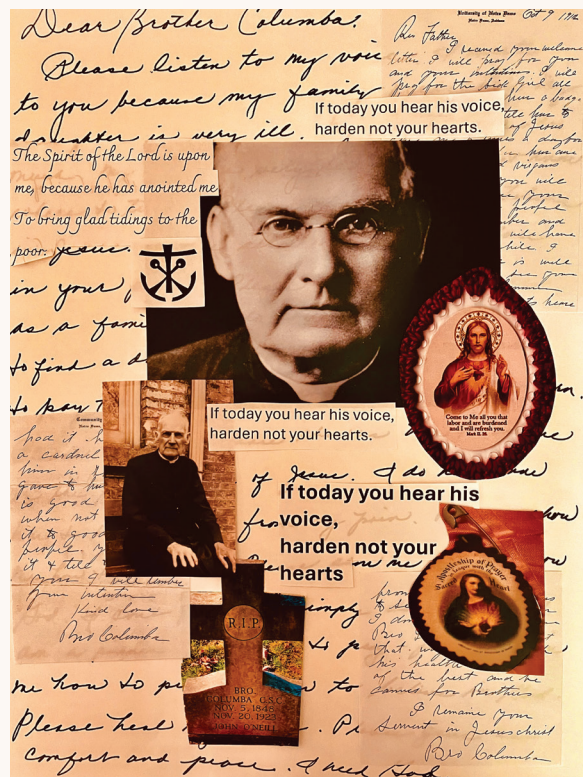
IN KIND LOVE

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Here

If today you hear his voice
Harden not your hearts. Psalm 95

O Sacred Heart of Christ Jesus. . .
Let me hear your voice of comfort,
When my stories of despair overwhelm me.
Let me hear your voice of love,
When my words speak of violence and revenge.
Let me hear your voice of forgiveness,
When my heart is filled with sin, doubt and worry.
Let me hear your voice of encouragement,
When my mind is filled with regret and selfishness.
Let me hear your voice of kindness,
When my life is shattered with anger.
Let me hear your voice of hope,
When my family needs your saving grace.
Let me hear your voice of peace,
When war and hatred stifle our future.
Let me hear your voice of mercy and consolation,
When my voice tires from crying out in the night.



—Text and art by Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC