

305 Ostemo Place  
South Bend, IN 46617  
March 12, 1997

RECEIVED IN ARCHIVES  
13 MARCH 1997  
FROM B LAWRENCE MILLER

Dear Brother Lawrence:

Enclosed is a letter from Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C. written in June 1918. I thought you might like to have it. It was sent to my father, E. Perrin Schwartz, a newspaper reporter in Lansing, MI, who had written to Brother about my cure. You probably have hundreds (1400+?) in your files---but here's another.

In 1916, at the age of two, I became a victim of the World War polio epidemic. For two years, 1916-1918, most of me grew into a normal child, but my paralyzed left leg remained a bent, shriveled version of a two-year old appendage.

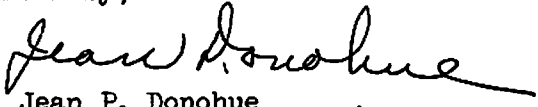
My parents sought out specialists from everywhere for a medical reprieve from my destiny as a cripple. The verdict was always the same: cut the chord and the leg will hang--leave it alone and the foot will never touch the ground. Their only guarantee was that I would be a cripple. I already was. Hence no surgery.

When I was four, my father learned of a Brother at Notre Dame---a cobbler who made shoes for the religious community and for area cripples who needed special supports. He was said to have a supernatural devotion to the Sacred Heart and there were known to have been "some cures." So we traveled to Brother Columba's workshop behind the Golden Dome. The room had walls filled with crutches and braces from persons who had been cured after he had prayed for them.

Brother patted my head and said simply: "the little girl will be all right." He suggested, since there had been no growth in more than two years, that I be taken to a chiropractor in Lansing to have the leg stretched until it got to be the length of the other one.

As my father lifted me onto the seat of the train back to Lansing, he noticed that my left leg was no longer bent. It was shorter, but it hung straight like its mate. In less than a year, as Brother had said, the little girl was "all right."

Sincerely,

  
Jean P. Donohue  
(NÉE SCHWARTZ)

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