

usually signifies a whole new chapter in your life

For Brother Dan Eisenman, C.P.P.S., it happened when he was 13 years old. He set off by train, alone, from his hometown of Center Line, Mich., just north of Detroit, to Canton, Ohio. It was 1945 and he was going to Brunnerdale, the high school seminary of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

There were other boys on that train bound for Brunnerdale, but they didn't know each other. "We all got off the train in Canton and were standing there on the platform, looking at each other," Brother Dan said. The car arrived from Brunnerdale and they climbed into it, and that was the start of a whole new life for young Dan Eisenman.

Brother Dan is now 88, the oldest brother in the Cincinnati Province. He looks back on his life and can see the Lord's hand at work, through his own hands, which he used willingly always to help his religious Congregation.

When Brother Dan arrived at Brunnerdale in 1945, he had hoped to become a priest. When he went on to further studies at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., he met the religious brothers who did all the behind-the-scenes work at the college. They were carpenters, electricians and mechanics. They took care of the grounds. "I admired the brothers and their way of life, and I started thinking about that. I'm not one for pomp and ceremony. The brothers lived a much simpler life," he said.

He spoke with his novice master about becoming a brother. "He told me, 'That's the Holy Spirit talking to you. Listen to the Holy Spirit?' So I said, 'Okay, that's it.' I was professed as a brother on September 8, the birthday of the Blessed Mother, in 1952."

Religious life takes many forms. Most Catholics know what a priest does: a priest presides at Mass, hears confessions, perhaps is the pastor of a parish. But religious brothers take on many



Brother Dan in Assumption Chapel,
his favorite place at St. Charles.