



A boy named Guido approaches and says, "You got anything you want me to do Father? Anything?"

"About every three months we have formal confession and it's always humbling for me," says Father Crews. "It blows me away what they say, they are just brutally honest. At that age, I would no more confess to my school principal... not even my name."

You get the feeling that among the many virtues modeled in the daily life of Father Crews, the endless opportunity for personal redemption is front and center.

The Crews years have witnessed countless achievements, including dramatic growth into the community, participation in local events, expansion of the curriculum so that now Hanna is a real high school. And soon a major expansion will begin with a capital building campaign to fund a new welcome and visitors center, a multipurpose auditorium and new playing fields. Marking the Center's Diamond Anniversary is a gala celebration on April 25, under the dome of San Francisco's Beaux Arts City Hall rotunda.

But while the litany of Father Crews' objective achievements would fill pages of praise, it is the little human miracles he prefers to talk about. Miracles like George Kobernus, of Traverse City, Michigan, who turned his troubled teenage life around at Hanna, worked his way through college with a \$40 monthly stipend from Msgr. O'Connor, and became a decorated Air Force colonel.

In a Christmas letter to Father Crews, Kobernus said that, despite a lifetime of achievements, degrees, awards and citations, "My proudest moment is when I presented Msgr. O'Connor with my college diploma."

Attached to his letter Kobernus included a list he titled, "Just a few of the things I learned at Hanna Center." There are 49 lessons on the list and here are a few worth remembering:

**How you can make a kite out of flour glue, sticks from the woodshop and newspaper.**

**How to clean tables, operate a dishwasher and peel potatoes.**

**How to make a bed and clean up after yourself (my wife thinks this is the best thing I learned at Hanna).**

**How to catch 100 ducks that got out of the pen.**

**How to set a hundred or so railroad ties in the ground to make a fence.**

**How it is impossible to start a fire by rubbing two sticks together.**

**How it feels to get something new, like a shirt or a pair of pants. (Toys are neat, but clothing is something that becomes a part of you.)**

**How to speak in public.**

**How to get seeds from the kitchen and plant a garden to grow cantaloupe and watermelon.**

**How great it feels when you sell the fruit and vegetables back to the Kitchen Sister.**

**How to control your temper and stay out of fights.**

**How it feels to get praise for something you did.**

**How  $6+12+23+94$  never equals 134 no matter how many times you add it up.**

However you add up 60 years at Hanna Center, the only number that ultimately counts is 3,548, the number of boys whose lives have been opened, expanded, changed. Which brings us to a kid named Guido and a man named Crews.

Standing in the cafeteria kitchen hunting for a bite of dinner, Father Crews is surrounded, as always, with boys and conducting his continual, casual outreach. A boy named Guido approaches, shakes Crews' hand and says, "You got anything you want me to do, Father? Anything? I'll do anything. Really."

Witnessing the exchange, you are struck by the thought, "When was the last time one of my kids said that to me? Ever?" Is there some profound mystery going on here?

Ultimately, says Father Crews, Hanna works to restore the lives of young boys, "because the boys allow it. We have the authority because the boys allow us to. That's the mystery of it."

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