



Moreau Moment

April 23, 2007

The fact that our Holy Cross schools celebrate *Being Family* should not be a mystery to any of us since family was clearly important to Father Moreau. We know from earlier Moreau Moments that the founder made the connections to the heart through family – specifically, the Holy Family.

It was through the Holy Family that Father Moreau set out to unify the hearts of the members of his religious congregation. He initially employed the symbol of three hearts to express the unity he sought in the Congregation: the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of his mother Mary, and the pure heart of St. Joseph, her spouse. In that unity which bound together the hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the members of Holy Cross found the model for the unity of mind and heart that prevails among them.

Father Thomas Barrosse, who served the Congregation as Superior General, reflected a great deal about the founder and his commitment to unity and family. He wrote the following in one of his reflections on Father Moreau:

“In his Circular Letter NO 14, dated September 1, 1841, a document which we might well call the Congregation’s Magna Charta, Father Moreau at the community’s very beginnings outlined in great detail his original plan for Holy Cross. In it he explains that he intended...a Congregation of three societies dedicated to the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – their hearts because he wanted the religious to imitate and be marked no so much by the lowliness, the simplicity, or the fervor of their life in Nazareth as by their union (as a family). Drawing upon this letter a passage (article 70) in the present Holy Cross Constitutions expresses Moreau’s ideal for Holy Cross exactly: all the religious are encouraged “to reproduce in their mutual relationships the charity which unified the members of the Holy Family, in order to emulate the union of the three Divine Persons of the Adorable Trinity.”

Please stand for our Moreau Monday Prayer...

And so together, let us pray: In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Lord Jesus, Source of all that is good, you inspired Basil Moreau to found the religious family of Holy Cross to continue your mission among the People of God. May he be for us a model of the apostolic life, an example of fidelity and an inspiration as we strive to be followers of Jesus.

May the Church be moved to proclaim his saintliness for the good of all people. Lord Jesus, you said "Ask and you shall receive." I dare to come to you to ask that you hear my prayer. It is through the intercession of Father Basil Moreau that I ask...

May I learn to imitate his holiness and service and look to him confidently in times of need. Amen.



Moreau