



Moreau Moment

December 4, 2006

ZEAL FOR THE MISSION

Basile Moreau was tireless in zeal. He conceived zeal as a fire burning within, as passion. He made Jesus' words (found in the Book of Luke, chapter 12, verse 49), as his own: *"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already."* He desired fervently to help rebuild the Catholic Church of France, so decimated by the ill-conceived excesses of reform imposed by the civil leaders of the French Revolution.

Father Moreau's zeal matched, and more likely surpassed, that of the secular revolutionaries of his day. His heart burned with fire to establish the Lord's reign. In 1856 Moreau wrote:

"Zeal is understood as that flame of burning desire which one feels to make God known, loved and served and thus save souls. Apostolic activity is therefore the essential character of this virtue. (Those) who are animated by this virtue will fulfill their duties with eagerness, affection, courage and perseverance."

(Christian Pedagogy, I, art. 4 – 1856)

Along with the Brothers of St. Joseph founded by Father Jacques Dujarie, Basile Moreau developed a mission plan for the religious of Holy Cross to educate the minds and hearts of the young in the context of Christian faith and to initiate a new evangelization through the preaching of parish missions and retreats.

Teaching and preaching are visible hallmarks of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Not only did the first religious respond to pressing needs throughout France, but they also went to the ends of the earth. Father Moreau responded eagerly and generously to urgent requests from the Church to send missionaries to far-flung places of the globe. Though he was required to administer the Congregation from Saint-Croix, Father Moreau sent sisters, brothers and priests to serve the needs of the universal Church, even when the numbers and resources of the young Congregation were strained to the breaking point. The zeal of Moreau and the members of the Congregation carried them through hardships and sufferings of every kind. Hope in the Cross sustained their zeal.

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.

Provident God,

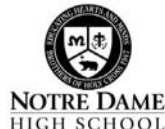
We give you joyful thanks for the life of your servant and our Founder, Venerable Basil Moreau. His vision of service to the Church and the world is enlivened in us today and calls us to continue the works entrusted to us.

Grant us your generous grace to meet the challenges of this day with zeal and generosity.

May our family of Holy Cross, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, grow in unity through ever-stronger bonds of love and service.

We ask this grace through your Son, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.



Moreau