



Moreau Moment

December 11, 2006

THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

In the mystery of the Holy Family, Basile Moreau found the model for the unity he sought in his own religious family: a unity of thought, of sentiment, and of action that would reach beyond the religious themselves to embrace all those with whom and for whom they ministered. It is ironic that the founder who set such a high value on unity within his foundation was to soon find his institute split by divisions, sometimes imposed, sometimes born of the will of some of the membership.

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.

Today the religious remain dedicated to the heart through this model-- the Priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Sisters to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Brothers to St. Joseph. Although the Congregation of Holy Cross maintains its commitment to the heart, use of the symbol of the three hearts was abandoned by Father Moreau as he understood that there was objection to it by the Pope. The symbol was replaced by the Cross and Anchors which continues to be used today along with the motto-- *The Cross, Our Only Hope.*

The sense of unity and family that Fr. Moreau sought to inculcate in his religious has followed the Congregation of Holy Cross around the world. Its members have shown an exceptional capacity for living wherever they have been sent to minister as trustworthy friends and brothers and sisters. Whether in North America or in Bengal, in East and West Africa, Latin America or Europe, the Congregation has sunk deep roots in the native soil. Whatever border the religious may have crossed, they have been able to become family with the local people among whom they minister.

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.



NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL

Moreau