



Moreau Moment

February 5, 2007

The Miracle Responsible for Beatification

The miracle presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on January 21, 2005 as evidence to support Father Moreau's holiness involved a twenty-eight year old Canadian named Mrs. Laurette Comtois. She gave premature birth to a stillborn baby on June 6, 1948. A week afterwards she began to have a dry cough, fever and pain and was diagnosed as having double pleurisy. The condition persisted for a week and her health quickly deteriorated.

Her doctors prepared Laurette for a medical procedure to remove the liquid building up in her lungs but were surprised to find that the liquid had disappeared by itself. Her fever left her and the pain ceased very rapidly. Mrs. Comtois' recovery occurred on the night between the 17th and 18th of June, 1948. It was rapid, complete, lasting and scientifically unexplainable.

At the start of his daughter's illness the young woman's father visited his niece, Sister Juliette Beauchemin, C.S.C., a novice for the Sisters of Holy Cross in Saint-Laurent, Canada, to ask for her prayers and those of her novitiate community. He explained to his niece that his daughter, her cousin and friend, was very ill and seemed to be dying of pleurisy. He said that she could not possibly live much longer and asked for prayers on her behalf.

Sister Juliette gave him a relic of Father Moreau to be placed on the body of his daughter at the place where she was experiencing the most pain. The Sisters at the novitiate began a novena to Father Moreau asking his intercession for Mrs. Comtois' healing. On the 5th day of the novena the patient's pleurisy disappeared. Mrs. Comtois' mother had placed the relic of Father Moreau over the lungs of her daughter. The relic adhered to the skin and could not be removed. It only separated at the time the fever left her.

The family and the doctor who treated her believed that there was no medical explanation for the healing and they believed it to be a miracle through the intercession of Father Moreau. They gave certified statements to Church authorities. On January 21, 2005, the Vatican medical commission, studying the reports of the healing concurred that Mrs. Laurette Comtois had recovered miraculously through the intercession of Father Moreau.

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