



Moreau Moment

February 26, 2007

The Significance of Providence

Father Moreau was a person of God. This means that he was a man of faith and a man of prayer. He regularly saw God everywhere and in everything. At the start of each new year he wrote what is called a circular letter to the members of the congregation and in it reflected on the events of the preceding twelve months. He described to the membership how Holy Cross had grown, its successes, and what had been accomplished by particular works, houses and religious. He indicated also the difficulties Holy Cross had faced and failures or setbacks. The important thing is that he saw every one of these things in reference to God. Either each event was a blessing provided by God, or it was a failure on the part of Holy Cross to correspond with God's grace but, even then, having its place in God's providence. Each event was something for which to thank God or something about which to ask the question, "what does God want us to learn from this?" One of the most impressive things about these letters is how Father Moreau sees the crosses – even, or especially, extremely heavy ones – as divine blessings. In earlier circular letters he often asks whether particular crosses are not God's corrections or a way of calling the religious to greater fervor. But in 1865 when the future of the Congregation of Holy Cross looked darkest shortly before he resigned as Superior General, Father Moreau wrote:

For my own part... I am not the least surprised by all these trials. Thanks be to God, they have only increased my confidence in Him who alone has founded and maintained this Congregation... Bear in mind and do not forget... that just as Divine Providence has willed its greatest works to begin in humility and abjection, it has also decreed that they should expand only at the price of difficulties and contradictions, trials, crosses, contempt, calumny, and detraction... Rejoice, then, instead of being worried or discouraged when you find temptation striking at the Congregation or at yourselves... Thus it follows that the many different trials to which we have been subjected are indubitable marks of the divine will in regard to our congregation, and of the presence of the Lord in our midst... Be glad... that you have been found worthy to suffer in body and soul and to share in the tribulations, since these trials are a sure guarantee of the divine will towards us and the work whose instruments we are.

-- Circular Letter 179

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