



Moreau Moment

March 5, 2007

Father Moreau was truly a Man of Faith. He wanted all the religious of Holy Cross to share his sense that God is present and at work in everything and always. He wrote of faith in the Rules for the Congregation:

The religious will try to have a faith that is so simple, solid and lively that it will not only enlighten their minds but animate their thoughts, their affections, their words, and their actions... To put this virtue into practice, they will walk in the presence of God and fear to offend him and to incur his judgments more than any evil on earth. They will adore him as the absolute master of all things; they will love him as a father; they will pray to him with respect, attention, fervor, and confidence; they will undertake all things out of obedience for his glory and the salvation of souls; they will have pure intentions, an ardent zeal, a burning charity.

Moreau expected the members of the congregation to be persons of prayer. He modeled this expectation of prayer defined in the constitutions. Father Moreau did not limit himself to the prescribed prayer. He wrote numerous hymns or poems, many for use by others but some extremely personal, a number of which express the desire to spend hours alone with God, a desire that surely was his and that he satisfied when he found moments or hours of leisure time during his retreats, when traveling, and especially in his last years when he was no longer superior general. He spontaneously turned to God whom he saw always at work in all that was taking place. In his most difficult moments, like Jesus in his agony in the garden, he *prayed all the more earnestly* (Luke 22:44). He explained how, in one of his greatest trials in the year 1855:

...when the community had retired, I remained in the chapel for long hours. I went from station to station... searching for an inspiration... and I found nothing, absolutely nothing. I came back to the sanctuary, went up to the altar, and knocked on the door of the tabernacle. I waited... and received not the least encouragement. At that moment I understood our Lord's abandonment in his agony as he went from his Father to his disciples without finding any consolation... I would have yielded to the temptation (to flee) had I not kept my eyes on the crucifix... Finally, convinced more than ever that everything was crumbling around me... I said, "My God, I consent, provided that the congregation be saved and that you be glorified."

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.***



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HIGH SCHOOL

Moreau