



Moreau Moment

March 19, 2007

From his earliest years as a priest, Father Moreau was a popular preacher, much in demand. One of the Brothers said of him: *There was energy and fire in his preaching, and he never did so well as when he was called on to preach unexpectedly and without preparation.* People remembered sentiments he aroused or certain details of his sermons decades later. The parish missions he preached were usually marked by numerous and lasting conversations.

People found God in the way Father Moreau behaved and in the way he lived. After having supper with the Holy Cross founder one evening in 1846, the French writer Louis Veillot wrote this interesting text about Moreau, when he was 47 years old and had been superior of Holy Cross for more than a decade:

He has...the manner of one of those peasant priests from whom you do not really expect very much, and this impression is hardly offset by his Le Mans accent, in which he makes statements of the greatest simplicity...

After you have spoken with him for a little, you see that he has eyes full of delicacy, a mind which is simple, solid and fertile, a heart eaten up by love. He is a man of noble character and a saint. God has supported him wonderfully. ...

In 1868 even Bishop Fillion of Le Mans, who had taken sides with Moreau's opponents and persecutors, had to admit that there might some day *be question of canonizing Father Moreau, as his friends seem to think there will be.* Among the witnesses for his cause in the 1940's were two ladies in their 80's who remembered having seen Father Moreau when they were children. They recalled how many people were then calling him a saint. One of these ladies said that he was *like a grandfather* to the little ones, that the children *would run after him and kneel down to get his blessing*, and that while his body was viewed before burial, people touched their rosaries or other religious articles to his remains. The other remarked that, when she met him, she *was struck by his appearance, which betrayed intense interior life, a profound humility and a limitless condescendence and charity for his neighbor.*

God was real for Father Moreau, really present and at work throughout his entire life, a God with whom and for whom he lived, a God others found through him.

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.**



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HIGH SCHOOL

Moreau