

# Moreau Moment

November 6, 2006

Though Father Moreau first intended his community to serve the renewal of the Catholic Church in the devastated parishes and rural schools of post-revolutionary France, he was eager to respond to the urgent needs for personnel in the Church's international mission as well. Within sixteen years of its founding, The Congregation of Holy Cross had stretched its mission beyond the borders of France to four different countries: Algeria in 1841, United States in 1842, Canada in 1843, and Bengal, India in 1853.

There are now 1,670 Holy Cross Priests and Brothers and 1,710 Holy Cross Sisters that live and work in 16 countries on four continents. They have worked in schools, hospitals and parishes from the beginning and still serve everywhere as educators in the faith, wanting to reach out in a preferential way to the poor and the oppressed in a wide variety of ministerial contexts. Wherever they work, they try to help people develop their own gifts - and to discover the deepest longing in their lives. They come not just as servants, but also as neighbors, to be with the people and of them.

Service to the international mission of the Church continues to characterize the Congregation of Holy Cross today, when over 750 Holy Cross religious seek to be "people with hope to bring" in some of the world's poorest countries. The large majority of Holy Cross religious now serving in these places of overwhelming need are young Asian, African and Latin American men and women of deep faith and zeal for ministry. The Congregation Holy Cross rejoices in the blessing and challenge of their rich and diverse internationality.

The international commitment of the Brothers and Priests of Holy Cross is best expressed in their Constitutions, which serve as the guide by which the members of the Congregation live:

*"Our mission sends us across borders of every sort. Often we must make ourselves at home among more than one people or culture, reminding us again that the farther we go in giving, the more we stand to receive."*

Since we are celebrating French Week at Notre Dame, our prayer today will be in French...

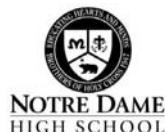
## *Prière*

*Seigneur, source de tous bien, nous te rendons grâce avec joie pour la vie de ton serviteur et notre fondateur, le Vénérable Basile Moreau. Sa vision du service de l'Eglise et du monde se ranime en nous aujourd'hui et nous appelle à continuer les oeuvres qu'il nous a confiées.*

*Accorde-nous ta grâce en abondance, afin que nous répondions avec zèle et générosité aux défis de notre temps.*

*Que notre famille de Sainte-Croix, par l'intercession de Marie, Notre Dame des Douleurs, grandisse dans l'unité par les liens toujours plus forts d'amour et de service.*

*Nous te demandons cette grâce par ton Fils, Jésus le Christ. Amen.*



*Moreau*