



Moreau Moment

November 20, 2006

Crux Spes Unica: The Cross, Our Only Hope

That is the motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross. It is a true reflection of Basil Moreau's conviction and his devout faith. Father Moreau was a realist. He believed in the inevitability of suffering and that it can offer redemption if carried in love. Suffering can reveal love's strength, its durability. Jesus' death on the Cross was because of his love for us as well as for our redemption. Some members of the Congregation of Holy Cross believe that the Congregation's origin in Sainte-Croix, which means Holy Cross, was providential, in that the mystery of the Cross was to occupy a large place in the life of Father Moreau and in the history of so many foundations of the Congregation.

Moreau often demonstrated in his Circular Letters how convinced he was that any participation in the Cross of Christ is proof of divine blessing. He never abandoned his belief that the crosses, which plagued his Congregation, were signs of divine favor. He was confident in his belief that the trials, which beset Holy Cross, were evidence of the new Congregation's divine and not merely human origin. The crosses and trials were many. Often disease, inadequate resources, insufficient personnel, and untimely deaths plagued the early foundations of the Congregation. Yet in the face of such setbacks Father Moreau remained convinced that God's providence would see the community through all these trials, purifying the members of the Congregation in the process.

The Cross --along with the anchors representing hope-- forms the original coat-of-arms of the Congregation of Holy Cross. "Spes Unica" is an eloquent expression of Father Moreau's conviction that our true and sole hope is in the Cross. It is a means of transformation, a means of grace following upon redemptive grace and a means of love growing through love.

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