



Moreau Moment

November 27, 2006

Our Lady of Sorrows: Our Model and Patroness

Father Moreau chose Mary the Mother of Sorrows as the patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross to teach the wisdom of divine love born in suffering. He believed it takes deep faith to trust in the power of the Cross. The Cross is redemptive when we open our hearts to its life-giving mystery. Hope in the Cross points to love's power to endure in every circumstance. In experiencing Christ's crucifixion Mary pondered in her heart the meaning of her sufferings and agonies wondering if her love would endure through the death of her Son. It is written in Constitution 8 of the Congregation of Holy Cross:

"There stood by the Cross of Jesus his mother Mary, who knew grief and was a Lady of Sorrows. She is our special patroness, a woman who bore much she could not understand and who stood fast."

Father Moreau was inspired by Mary, the faithful Woman of Sorrows, who found within her heart the love that endures. Moreau learned faithful love conforming himself to the Crucified Christ. He wrote in his *Meditations*:

"Mary held His sacred body in her arms with unspeakable reverence... This was grief ineffable and it was also ineffable love—for Jesus and for us. ... Mary is our loving Mother; she desires only that the passion and death of Jesus may bear its fruit in our souls; that in His visible wounds, as Saint Bernard says, we may see the invisible wound of His love."

Although our own suffering, our own crosses, are instructive in the ways of redemption, Father Moreau, through Mary, would teach us that standing at the suffering side of those we love in their time of need inspires us and gives us the courage to stand at the side of all the afflicted. Standing at the side of those who suffer for justice, peace and mercy, brings us to the side of the saints in the eternal communion of Divine 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.

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.



Moreau