

Moreau Moment

October 16, 2006

In 1821 Father Basil Moreau was ordained as a priest when he was only twenty-two years old. He remained and taught at the Seminary in LeMans. Father Moreau was the assistant superior in LeMans when he assumed the direction of the Brothers of St. Joseph in 1835 as their founder, Father Jacques Dujarié, became too ill to continue their direction. In addition to this group, Father Moreau began his own society of priests dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1837 he united the brothers and priests into the Association of Holy Cross.

In 1838 he gave a rule of life to a group of devout laywomen. These women assisted the priests and brothers at first by doing domestic work, then in teaching and nursing. These women became the Marianites of Holy Cross. Today, the women of Holy Cross form 3 distinct congregations: Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of the Holy Cross, and Sisters of Holy Cross.

The members of the Association of Holy Cross professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in 1840. In response to the appeals from bishops, Fr. Moreau sent his religious in teams of brothers, priests, and sisters to minister in Algeria and the U.S. (1841), Canada (1847), Italy (1850) and India (1853).

Today, men and women religious of Holy Cross minister in Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia, engaged in a variety of ministries fulfilling their commitment to continue the mission of Jesus in the spirit of Fr. Moreau.

Please stand for our Moreau Monday Prayer...

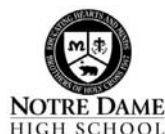
And so together, let us pray: In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

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