



Moreau Moment

October 30, 2006

The Congregation of Holy Cross got its name from the small town of Sainte Croix (Holy Cross), eighty miles south of Paris, near Moreau's birthplace. From the beginning, the primary role of the priests, brothers, and sisters was in education and their philosophy was, as it remains today, to promote the education of the whole person -- spiritual, intellectual, artistic, physical, and social.

Father Moreau's congregation flourished and expanded into other countries from their headquarters in France. A young Holy Cross Priest, Edward Sorin, was sent to the United States in 1840, with him came six brothers and they helped him found the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana. The sisters of Holy Cross followed the priests and brothers to the United States a short time later and the Congregation began to spread its work in America. In 1879 Holy Cross School was established by the Brothers in New Orleans as the Priests built Sacred Heart Parish, and the Marianites of Holy Cross began a girls' high school called The Academy of Holy Angels. In 1881 Father Sorin and the Holy Cross Brothers founded St. Edward's University in Austin while the Priests took over the responsibility of St. Patrick's Parish in Austin, Texas, renaming it St. Mary's. As the Congregation was establishing the Catholic Church community for the entire Central Texas region, the Sisters of Holy Cross were also beginning Catholic elementary education for the same area.

At the age of seventy-four, Basil Moreau died in France on January 20, 1873. However, his Congregation continued to grow and to expand their teaching around the world. Today, approximately 3,000 Congregation of Holy Cross members are providing education to more than 50,000 students in France, Italy, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Ghana, Uganda, India, Pakistan, and Mexico. They continue to provide the "excellence" in education which was a major motive of Father Moreau's in founding the Congregation over one hundred and fifty years ago.

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