



Moreau

September 14, 2007

We have a special Moreau Moment today since it is the eve of Father Moreau's Beatification. The Rite of Beatification in LeMans, France will begin in less than twenty-four hours, at 7:00 A.M. our time. As a result of this ceremony Venerable Father Moreau will formally become Blessed Father Basil Moreau. As I speak religious and lay delegates representing all schools and ministries related to Holy Cross are gathering for a Prayer Vigil in the Church of Notre-Dame de Sainte-Croix, Le Mans built by Father Moreau and consecrated in 1857.

The delegations that are witnessing the beatification activities are being lead by four religious congregations who attribute their founding to Father Moreau: the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Marianites of Holy Cross, the Sisters of Holy Cross, and the Sisters of The Holy Cross. Joined by lay men and women, together, they form the Holy Cross Family which has grown and spread throughout the world. The men and women of Holy Cross have begun and still maintain educational institutions as well as important social and pastoral ministries in North and South America, Africa and Asia. It is through their commitment to the vowed life, their zeal for the mission and the diversity of ministry that the priests, sisters and brothers of Holy Cross continue to live out the vision of Venerable Basil Moreau, who saw his religious family as a "a mighty tree that constantly shoots forth new limbs and branches and is nourished by the same life-giving sap" (Moreau, 1854) and as visible manifestation of the union and interdependence of both the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family. It is for this reason that he dedicated the priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the sisters to the heart of Mary and the brothers to St. Joseph and the entire congregation to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Please stand for our morning 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 Christ.

Amen.



Moreau