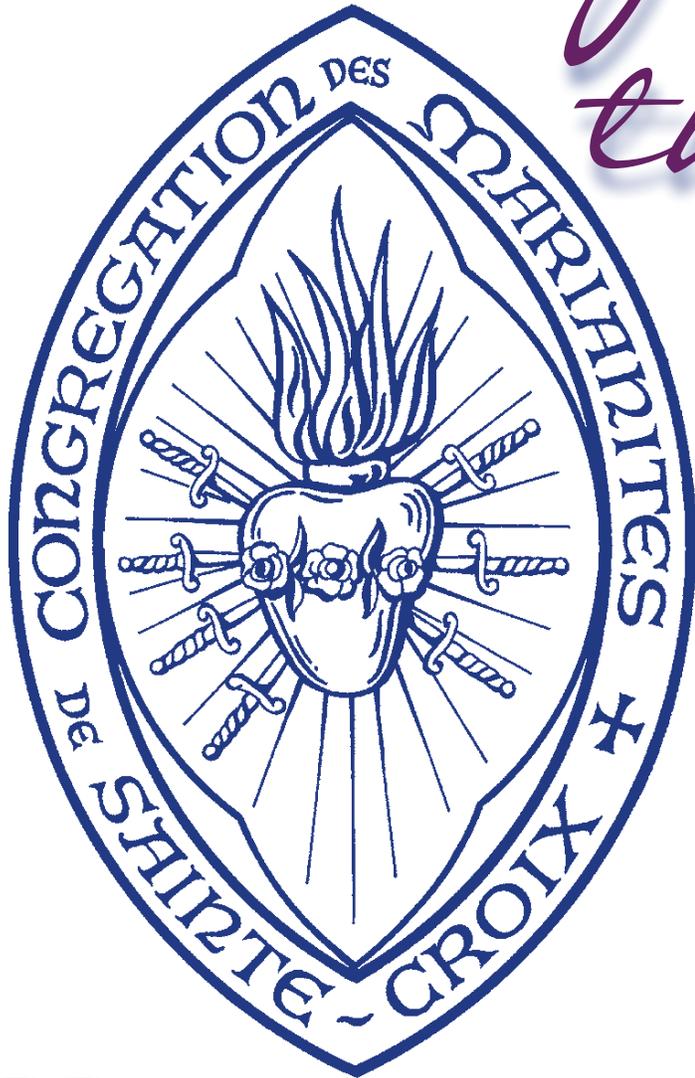


Capturing the Wind



**UPLIFTING
HOLY CROSS**

INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate the Decade of Days, remembering Blessed Basil Moreau and Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, we recall Pope Francis' emphasis on our call to Consecrated Life. So it is fitting that we gratefully remember members of our Holy Cross family, CAPTURING THE WIND: UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS.

We begin with our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, who was **INVADED BY THE SPIRIT**. A model of the apostolic life, he is our example of fidelity and our inspiration as we strive to be followers of Jesus. It was Moreau who said we must be ready "to undertake anything, to suffer anything and to go anywhere that obedience may call us" to **EXTEND THE RAYS OF THE CROSS**.

Father Jacques-François Dujarié was a forerunner of Basil Moreau. When he became ill he offered his resignation to the Bishop and requested that Moreau be named to succeed him as director of his Society. Moreau accepted and became Superior of the Brothers of Saint Joseph of Ruillé. Hence, we call Dujarié the **GIVER OF THE GIFT**.

Blessed Moreau saw great potential in Father Sorin, CSC, and sent him to America. Moreau knew he had **COMPETENCE TO SEE AND COURAGE TO ACT** and he placed great trust in him.

The First Elected Superior General for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Mother Mary of Saint Augusta, C.S.C., Amanda Anderson, was a **LIBERATED RISK-TAKER** filled with courage and fortitude. Sister Mary of Saint Augusta put her Sisters first and worked and prayed constantly for their freedom and independence.

There are many holy, unnamed saintly members of Holy Cross but St. André Bessette, CSC, is our saint. Countless times, he was **AN OCCASION OF GRACE** for all who came into his presence.

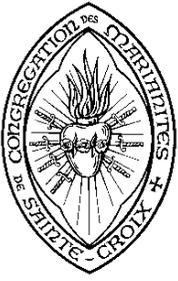
The First Superior General for the Sisters of Holy Cross, Sr. Marie de Sainte-Basile, C.S.C., was a devoted daughter of Basil Moreau. Sister Marie de Sainte-Basile lived a life of dedication to Holy Cross and was a **BEACON OF LIGHT** for her Holy Cross sisters.

Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, was an advocate for Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, preaching family unity through praying the rosary. His slogan "the family that prays together, stays together" influenced family life around the world. A servant of God, Father Peyton was a **TRUE MESSENGER OF HOPE**.

The family of Holy Cross has a long and storied history in how we serve the poor, the outcast and the abandoned people. Today we are called to have an even greater **ZEAL FOR THE MISSION** and to wake up the world.

Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, Léocadie Gascoin, MSC, First Superior General of the Marianites of Holy Cross, was **FAITHFUL TO THE CALL**. There was no limit to what she was willing to do for the greater glory of God and to further the work of our visionary founder, Blessed Basil Moreau.

United in prayer during the Decade of Days, January 20, (death of Blessed Moreau, 1873), until January 29, (death of Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, 1900), "know that the wind comes at you full force. Abandon yourself to it. The wind is not your enemy. Nothing in life is. Go where the wind takes you – higher, lower, backwards. The wind to carry you forward will find you when you are ready, when you can bear it." (Margaret J. Wheatley) Go then and capture the wind and uplift Holy Cross!



MARIANITES OF HOLY CROSS

1011 GALLIER STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117 • WWW.MARIANITES.ORG

January, 2015

Dear Sisters,

The Year for Consecrated Life began on November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, and concludes February 2, 2016. Through various initiatives in the coming months, Pope Francis asks consecrated men and women in his message that their “*shining witness of life will be as a lamp,*” placed where it can “**give light and warmth to all of God’s people.**” Pope Francis renewed his call made in a message to Superior Generals a year ago to “**wake up the world,**” **illuminating it with their “prophetic and counter-current witness!”**

We believe that the Prayers of our Decade of Days are an opportunity for each Marianite to reflect on those who have gone before us and have been light. These are days that challenge us to look at our own life and to seek ways to spread light in the day to day of life. How can I/we be light as local community? What am I doing to “wake up the world”?

This year’s Reflections were developed by our On-Going Formation Committee – Sisters Kateri Battaglia, Marie Noel, Judy Gomila and Marlene Labbe. To each of them we say , “THANK YOU,” for the time, thought, prayer and creative ways in which they call us to reflect. Each of them is a gift time and again!

This year we have sent the prayers to our sisters and brothers in Holy Cross around the world. We have invited them to join us in these 10 days of prayer that we might build on the past to awaken the present and build a joy-filled future.

In a very practical way, we encourage you to hold on to this booklet as it will be our source of reflection for **DECADE of DAYS** for **2015 and 2016**. This collection is rich in resources and can serve us for the coming two years.

You are remembered daily in our prayers! May we continue to be **LIGHT** for the world!

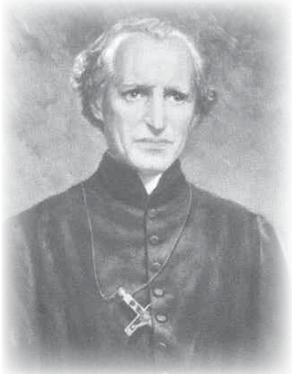
United with Mary,

Sisters Ann, Stephanie, Chris, Noel



Moved by the Words...
*How many souls we would win for Jesus Christ
by the eloquence of our actions, many times
more persuasive and powerful than the mere
eloquence of words. (Letters)*
Inspired by the Mission

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



“Only the Holy Spirit can make us real religious, as He alone has made us Christians. Likewise, He alone can form and reform religious congregations as He formed the Church.” – *Blessed Basil Moreau*

Invaded by the Spirit

Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau was born on February 11, 1799, in Laigné-en-Belin, a small village near Le Mans, France. He grew up in the midst of the turmoil of the French Revolution. As his parents were devout Catholics involved in the underground Church, the aspect of the Revolution which most affected him was the suppression of the Church.

The turmoil, uncertainties and danger experienced by the people in the aftermath of the French Revolution greatly concerned Moreau. In 1814, he entered the diocesan seminary. At the age of 22, Basil Moreau was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Le Mans. Invaded by the Spirit, Moreau was so united to God that he was strongly influenced by the Spirit of God, and left no stone unturned in carrying out the mission entrusted to him.

Blessed Basil Moreau is our founder who allowed the Spirit to invade his entire life for the greater honor and glory of God.

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Gracious and Loving God, we come together to honor our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau. Give us the grace to follow in his footsteps and allow ourselves to be invaded by the Spirit as he was. We know that this commitment will ultimately lead to the foot of the cross where we trust that you will inspire and give us strength. We pray this in the name of our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 61:1-3

READING: BASIL MOREAU, Sermons

In whatever interior dispositions you may be and in whatever life situation you may find yourself, look at the Lord Jesus, the example for your life, and apply yourself to imitate him... our movement toward glory depends on our resemblance to Jesus Christ. Walk then in his footsteps and may all your sentiments be conformed to those of the heart of Jesus himself.

A READING FROM *CONSECRATED LIFE*

Side 1: Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the Crucified and Risen one. To take on Jesus' way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brothers and sisters. (23)

Side 2: It is a call to take up his way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by his Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes. (24)

All: Be guided by the humble yet joyful certainty of those who have been found, touched, and transformed by the truth who is Christ, ever to be proclaimed. (24)

LITANY OF BLESSED BASIL MOREAU

Response: Pray for us.

Blessed Basil, person of prayer
Blessed Basil, invaded by the Spirit
Blessed Basil, man of vision and action
Blessed Basil, apostolic missionary of urgency and steadfastness
Blessed Basil, devoted to Mary, Mother of Sorrows
Blessed Basil, faithful to God's call in spite of crosses
Blessed Basil, holy man of God and mentor of us all
Blessed Basil, evangelizer, eloquent in word and deed
Blessed Basil, founder of the family of the Holy Cross
Blessed Basil, adorer of the Blessed Sacrament
Blessed Basil made service to the poor a priority

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. Which other invocations would you add to the litany?
2. Can you think of ways and incidences when Moreau seemed invaded by the Spirit?
3. Have you had experiences when you felt the Spirit invading you to act in a certain way and you had to say "yes" to the Spirit?

CLOSING PRAYER

LEADER: Come, Holy Spirit! You are the source of love, joy and hope. Take flesh again in me in order to glorify God in me and to continue your presence in my heart... may it be Jesus Christ who speaks through my mouth, prays with my lips, acts through my hands. Amen. (Adapted from Moreau Exercises)

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: HYMN TO BASIL MOREAU, Michael Joncas



personal reflection

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



The members of the Association are to form but one same family united by bonds of mutual charity and the three vows of religion. In this way, Notre Dame de Ste. Croix will grow like a mighty tree and constantly shoot forth new limbs and branches, which will be nourished by the same life-giving sap. – *Moreau: CL 65*

*Extending the Rays of
the Cross*

Blessed Basil Moreau predicted that Holy Cross would grow like a mighty tree if its members would cultivate the spirit of mutual love and cooperation, and have at heart the welfare and success of the Association as a whole rather than the private interests of egoism and self-love. Relying on Providence, Moreau sent members from Le Mans, France to other countries. As more and more men and women became interested in joining Holy Cross, the roots of faith grew deeper and allowed the rays of Holy Cross to be extended to other parts of the world. Gradually, missions were established and today Blessed Moreau remains an inspiration to those who live his vision of “bringing hope to others” in more than fifteen countries throughout the world.

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of Holy Cross in the world and in our lives. We have seen the many gifts you have given through the initiatives of our forefathers and mothers. Grant that we may continue to embrace the rays of the cross as our ancestors did, realizing more fully that the cross always precedes “resurrection” even in our daily lives.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

RESPONSE:

Side 1: We immerse ourselves in puzzling paradoxes; the potential for new beginnings born from the loss of treasured pasts;

Side 2: The grief of dreams dying with exhilaration of what now might be;

Side 1: The importance and rage of failed ideals and the power of new aspirations;

Side 2: The horrors inflicted on so many innocents that call us to greater compassion;

Side 1: The challenge is to refuse to categorize ourselves as either optimists or pessimists;

All: We are people of hope.

(Adapted from an essay, “Dwelling in Uncertainty” by Margaret J. Wheatley)

THE DIRECTION STATEMENT FOR THE FAMILY OF HOLY CROSS

READER: While globalization has changed our world and our Congregation, the Family of Holy Cross is and always will be a sign of hope as we go about the work of resurrection. Recognizing this reality we are called to greater interdependence with one another and with the world around us. Fidelity to unity, collaboration and zeal, essential elements of our charism, are the foundation on which we build the future.

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. In the midst of today's reality, where do we see signs of hope?
2. The challenge for us in the twenty-first century is to be that "new glory for the Church of God." This is our heritage and this is the horizon before us. (Joel Giallanza, CSC)
3. How do we become the new glory of the Church of God extending the rays of Holy Cross?

LEADER: Loving God, we seek to walk in hope, as people of hope, serving the world you made. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you,

ALL: So that we may overflow with hope.

LEADER: May we receive your strength to defend the poor and the weak, so the poor have hope. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you,

ALL: So that we may overflow with hope.

LEADER: Give us your grace always to remember those who are in need; to stand alongside them so the needy will always be remembered. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you,

ALL: So that we may overflow with hope.

LEADER: We pray for the church, the family of God in every nation and in every village, town and city. We pray for those close to us in the faith and those who express their faith in ways strange to us. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you,

ALL: So that we may overflow with hope.

LEADER: We commit ourselves to walk together as the family of Holy Cross in the spirit of our founder. With God's help we will continue to be people whose hope in God is seen in our words and our actions together. God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you,

ALL: So that we may overflow with hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS:

I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST, Tom Booth, *Spirit and Song, Disc J*

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS, INVITATION MUSIC, *The Worship Collection, Vol. 10*

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



“I am a priest in order to be a comfort to the widow, the father of the orphan, the protector of the poor, the friend of the sick.” – Fr. Jacques-François Dujarié

Giver of the Gift

Fr. Jacques-François Dujarié was born in France on December 9, 1767. He was secretly ordained as a priest in Paris on December 26, 1795 during the height of the Revolution, celebrating his first Mass in the middle of the night in a barn outside of Ruillé-sur-Loir. He would celebrate many Masses this way, forced by the Revolution to become an “underground priest.” During this time, Church property was being seized, priests were being arrested and executed, and religious communities were being expelled from France. Eventually, an agreement in 1801 between Napoleon and Rome resulted in the slow reemergence of religious institutions to France. By January 1803, Fr. Dujarié was able to become a pastor of Ruillé-sur-Loir.

In 1806, Dujarié had founded the Sisters of Providence and later the Brothers of St. Joseph in 1820, both with the mission of reestablishing education institutions to the region. However, the Sisters of Providence were established as their own order in 1831. Because of Fr. Dujarié’s failing health, Bishop Jean-Baptiste Bouvier asked young Father Moreau in 1835 to take over the brothers moving them to Le Mans. At the invitation of Moreau, Dujarié lived the last years of his life in Sainte-Croix until his death on February 17, 1838.

(Published: February 17, 2012 by Lucha Ramey)

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: In truth, God must have extended a glad welcome to this priest after his own heart,
ALL: whose memory is held in benediction by the little ones of Christ’s flock.

LEADER: In truth, God must have extended a glad welcome to this priest after his own heart,
ALL: and revered by the sick who are tended by the Sisters of Providence.

LEADER: In truth, God must have extended a glad welcome to this priest after his own heart,
ALL: and whose benefits to his dear Brothers, will be worthily appreciated only in eternity.”
(Adapted: Moreau, CL 7)

SCRIPTURE: 2 Cor. 9: 6-9

LETTING GO TAKES LOVE, Author unknown

Antiphon: If you love something, let it go.

Side 1: To let go does not mean to stop caring, it means you care enough.
To let go is not to cut myself off, it’s the realization I cannot control.

Side 2: To let go is not to enable, but allow learning from natural consequences. To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

Side 1: To let go is not to care for, but to care about. To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

- Side 2: To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being. To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their destinies.
- Side 1: To let go is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality. To let go is not to deny, but to accept.
- Side 2: To let go is not to nag, scold or argue, but instead to search out what is best. To let go is not to adjust everything to my desires, but to take each day as it comes and cherish it.
- Side 1: To let go is not to criticize or regulate anybody, but to try to become what I dream I can be.
- Side 2: To let go is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.
- Side 1: To let go is to fear less and to love more. To let go and to let God, is to find peace!

Antiphon: If you love something let it go.

REFLECTIONS:

READER 1: Then said a rich man, "Speak to us of Giving." And he answered: You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow? And tomorrow, what shall tomorrow bring to the over-prudent dog burying bones in the trackless sand as he follows the pilgrims to the holy city? And what is fear of need but need itself? Is not dread of thirst when your well is full, thirst that is unquenchable? There are those who give little of the much which they have - and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome. And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty. There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward. (Excerpt from the Prophet by Kahlil Gibran)

READER 2: The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come. (1)

The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ. (2) (Excerpts from the Gospel of Joy by Pope Francis)

SHARING

1. Compare and contrast the excerpts from Gibran and from Pope Francis.
2. What has been your experience of giving and receiving both tangible and intangible gifts?

INTERCESSIONS

RESPONSE: Giver of all gifts, hear our prayer.

- That God's people may be lifted up in times of persecution, we pray...
- That God's power may shine in the suffering of the Church, we pray...
- That justice and peace may prosper among the nations, we pray...
- For the sick and those who serve them; for all who follow God's wisdom in suffering, we pray...
- For the family of Holy Cross, that we might live the legacy that is ours, we pray...

OUR FATHER

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG:

BLESS THE LORD, Ken Canedo and Jesse Manibusan, Love Never Fails



personal reflection

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS

For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see
and the courage to act.

— *Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross 2:14*



Competence to See and Courage to Act

Father Edward F. Sorin was among the first members of the Congregation of Holy Cross, which was founded near Le Mans, France, in 1837. On August 15, 1840, Sorin officially took vows in the name of the Congregation of Holy Cross. At the appeal of the Célestine Guynemer de la Hailandière, Bishop of Vincennes, for clergy in a predominantly French Indiana, Moreau offered to send six brothers led by a young priest – Edward Sorin. As would echo throughout his life, Sorin saw this assignment as a direct mission from God and he threw himself into the idea with unabashed zeal. Before he even left French soil, Sorin declared his allegiance to America, which to him was a relatively blank canvas upon which he could help build the Catholic Church:

“How happy I am to be able to assure you that the road to America stands out clearly before me as the road to heaven... Henceforth I live only for my dear brethren in America. America is my fatherland. It is the center of all my affections and the object of all my thoughts... At the present time I see clearly that our Lord loves me in a very special manner as has been told me many times.” (Sorin to Hailandière, summer 1841, as quoted by O’Connell, page 52.)

No doubt, Father Sorin gave his all to the call. He had the competence to see and the courage to act. As founder of the University of Notre Dame du Lac, he said, “this college will be one of the most powerful means for doing good in this country.” Today, Notre Dame University keeps Father Sorin’s vision alive.

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Creator God, help us to understand that we are being called to a newer, even deeper commitment than the one before now. Give us the courage and strength to remain open and responsive to the needs of your people and the working of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
AMEN.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-13

READER: THE CONSECRATED LIFE

We have been given the special invitation to live the consecrated life. This means that we renew our existence in accordance with the Gospel, not in a radical way understood as a model of perfection and often of separation, but by adhering wholeheartedly to the saving encounter that transforms our life. “It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. No I do not want to say ‘radical’. Evangelical radicalness is not only for religious: it is demanded of all. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women able to wake the world up.” (The Joy of the Gospel, #2)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What does following a prophetic way mean to you?
2. How will you wake up just one person in the world?

THE ONGOING CHALLENGE OF RENEWAL IN CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS

READER 1: “There is nothing that we can do as a Religious that we cannot do as a lay person. “Religious” denotes a way of being, not a role or function in an institution. Religious life is a free response to a personal and compelling vocation to a particular kind of relationship with Jesus Christ (namely, that expressed in consecrated celibacy) and a particular kind of participation in his mission (namely, full-time prophetic ministry).

READER 2: We do not need to do or produce anything in particular to justify our vocation in the Church in order to understand the specificity and distinctiveness of our vocation and life form. We do not need any special “props” – clothes or dwellings or practices – to tell us or others what our life means and why we choose it. And we do not need the permission or approval of anyone to follow where Jesus leads. In other words, I think Religious who have lived through the transition from the pre-Conciliar hybrid form of “apostolic Religious Life: lived in the cloister and expressed in institutional “works,” to the Conciliar form of “ministerial Religious Life” that I have just described, have come to a firm sense of identity that emerges from within rather than being conferred from without.

READER 3: This identity is deeply rooted in a mature spirituality nourished by personal and communal prayer, and expressed in personally and communally discerned corporate, ministry. Suffering has wrought a kind of maturity in those who have stayed that is neither self-satisfied on the one hand, nor apologetic on the other. We do not claim to know what is going to happen in the immediate or long-term future, in the world, in the Church, or in Religious Life, but we do know in Whom we have placed our trust. “Staying” is not just a matter of not having left because there is nowhere else to go. It is a genuine relationship-based perseverance in a relationship and a mission even in the face of darkness and opposition.

(Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM, April 25, 2014)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

What confuses, challenges, and comforts you about this reading?

LIVING THE CONSECRATED LIFE

- LEADER:** In the words of Pope Francis,
- Do you have a heart that desires something great, or a heart that has been lulled to sleep by things?
 - Has your heart preserved the restlessness of seeking or have you let it be suffocated by things that end by hardening it?
 - God awaits you, he seeks you; how do you respond to him? Are you aware of the situation of your soul? Or have you nodded off?
 - Do you believe God is waiting for you or does this truth consist only of “words”? (The Joy of the Gospel, #73)

QUIET REFLECTIVE TIME

INTERCESSIONS

LEADER: Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, for he promised to be with his Church until the end of time. With confidence in his promise we pray:

ALL: Stay with us, Lord.

LEADER: In all things we are victorious through your love; take us into your care today.

ALL: Stay with us, Lord.

LEADER: Let the love of your Holy Spirit be in our hearts; so that we may consecrate this day to you.

ALL: Stay with us, Lord.

LEADER: We pray for all those who minister in colleges and universities; instill Christian values in the minds and hearts of the students.

ALL: Stay with us, Lord.

LEADER: You may now mention your own personal intentions.

OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER

LEADER: Gracious God, in your wisdom you have called us to a life of special consecration so that in prayerful observance of a lifestyle of poverty, chaste celibacy and obedience, we might be witnesses to your people. Give us the grace of joy and perseverance in our holy vocation, we ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: OPEN MY EYES, LORD, Jessie Manibusan, *Choose Christ*



personal reflection

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



“I have asked God for only one thing. What I have had to suffer does not count... I have asked him to fix my sisters so that no man can ever lay his hand upon them. I asked nothing more. He has done all I have asked.”

— Mother Augusta, CSC

Liberated Risk-Taker

Mother Mary Augusta entered the Congregation in 1854, at age twenty-four and after her novitiate in France was assigned as seamstress and a teacher. At the start of the Civil War, she and two novices were sent to a hospital to care for the soldiers. They were horrified at the conditions and looking at her whimpering companions “pityingly,” Mother Augusta told them, “Now stop! You are here and must put your heart and soul into the work. Pin up your skirts.”

Following the approval of the constitutions from Rome and 20 years since the separation from the Marianites, Mother Augusta was elected the first Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1882. Certainly she was a force behind the establishment of numerous houses, schools, and of getting the work done, but most affectionately she was known as a superior who was always concerned with the well-being of her sisters, putting them first and standing for their freedom and rights as women religious. She took over where Mother Angela left off, and built an independent congregation that was well-situated to continue to grow and thrive.

Mother Mary Augusta is recognized for her deep love for the congregation and willingness to sacrifice all for the good of the congregation. To many she was and still is remembered as a builder of houses and most importantly, a builder of her sisters, a liberated risk-taker.

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Who shall find a Liberated Risk-taker?

Side 1: Look! We are all around you: In the work rooms of industry, and of every functioning enterprise. Unheralded, invisible, some say nonexistent, but we know otherwise.

LEADER: Who shall find a Liberated Risk-taker?

Side 2: Look! We are around you: contributing, setting standards, changing the course of history, preparing, supporting, and challenging those resentful of our collegial claims and capabilities.

LEADER: Who shall find a Liberated Risk-taker?

Side 1: Look! We are all around you: women of courage, compassionate, patient. Our numbers are legion, our gifts diverse, our goals one and the same that history may hear, that history is cognizant of, that history will one day recall our names.

LEADER: We honor the liberated risk-takers of our time.

Side 2: Who nudges us back on track; who reminds us of the promises of Christ? Who claims the Gospel for women, too; who preaches the reality of wholeness; who strains against a patriarchal church? Who challenge us to grow?

ALL: We are those risk-taking women, giving leadership and contributing to our community, working for change at all levels of society, crying for justice and mercy, living the Gospel, understanding theology, practicing our faith, and remaining true to the Word.

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. Who were liberated risk-takers in the history of our congregation?
2. Who are the liberated risk-takers of today? How have they inspired and motivated you?
3. Can you name a time when you have been a liberated risk-taker?

REFLECTION: JESUS THE RISK-TAKER AND INNOVATOR

READER: Jesus lived in a time that was similar to our own in the sense that it was a time of great change. A large segment of the Jewish population in Palestine was eager to rise up in violence and throw off Rome's imperial grip. Others were more progressive thinkers; others were rigid conservatives. One thing was sure, change was in the air and people knew it and Jesus was not afraid of risk or innovations. He didn't exhibit the controlling behavior that is associated with rigid ideological movements. On one occasion the crowds began to abandon Jesus because they found his teaching too innovative for their taste. (John 6)

After the crowd left, he turned to his core team and said: "You do not want to go away also, do you?" (John 6:67). Jesus took a risk of having his disciples walk away. Jesus was offering the twelve an exit because he knew that in order to have commitment from his followers, he had to risk giving them the freedom to leave.

If we are overly concerned about security and consistency we are likely to miss amazing opportunities that present themselves in our path. On the other hand, Jesus understood His mission. He described his enterprise as "new wine" that required "new wineskins." (Matt. 9:17)

Jesus broke centuries of racist and gender segregation by walking into the heart of Samaria and speaking to a Samaritan woman (John 4:-26). He allowed a prostitute to wash his feet (Luke 7:37-38). Perhaps the riskiest thing Jesus ever did was turn his mission over to the feeble hands of his disciples. Clearly, Jesus Christ merits a place among the great risk-takers and innovators of history.

(Excerpts from Dr. Greg Waddell: "Jesus Innovator /Risk-taker" Lead Strategic, August 2013)

THE CHALLENGE

READER 1: We are called to undertake an exodus out of our own selves, setting out on a path of adoration and service. (52) “We must go out through that door to seek and meet the people! Have the courage to go against the tide of this culture of efficiency, this culture of waste. Encountering and welcoming everyone, solidarity and fraternity: these are what make our society truly human. Be servants of communion and of the culture of encounter! Be almost obsessed about this. Be so without being presumptuous.” (53)

READER 2: “The ghost to fight against is the image of religious life understood as an escape and consolation in the face of an ‘external’ difficult and complex world.” Pope Francis urges us to “leave the nest” (55) to live the life of the women and men of our times, to hand ourselves over to God and to our neighbor.” (80) (*Letter to Consecrated Men and Women*, Pope Francis)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What challenges and prompts you to undertake a risk-taking action or innovation?
2. Pope Francis urges us to “leave the nest.” What does this mean to you?
3. An authentic faith always involves a profound desire to change the world. The question we must ask ourselves: do we have a great vision and impetus? Are we also daring? Do our dreams fly high? Does zeal consume us?

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LEADER: As followers of Christ, we are called to a willingness to put aside our plans, schedules and activities, embracing the challenges of our brothers and sisters in need....

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, open our hearts so we may be free to give.

LEADER: As followers of Christ, we are called to step out of our comfort zones and walk in faith...

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, stretch and mold us into stronger, more empowered believers.

LEADER: As followers of Christ, we are called to sling a couple of stones at a giant...

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, remind us that we stand on the Rock and are able to do immeasurably more than we imagine because of the Power that works with us.

SENDING FORTH

LEADER: O Living and Loving God let us go forth in the power of Your Presence deep in our hearts.
Let us go forth

- EMPOWERED in Your Presence overflowing in our communities,
- CONFIRMED and strengthened in our call to consecrated life,
- NAMED in Hope and Love, and sustained in these challenging times,
- LIBERATED RISK-TAKERS in justice and peace. Amen.

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: BLESSINGS, Laura Story, *Blessings*

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



“This is not my work; it is the work of St. Joseph. Put one of his statues in the middle of the building. If he wants a roof over his head, he’ll take care of it.” – Brother André

An Occasion of Grace

Brother André Bessette, CSC, (1845-1937) was canonized on October 17, 2010, by Pope Benedict XVI. He is the first publically proclaimed saint of the family of Holy Cross. St. Brother André — who battled sickness for much of his own life — humbly devoted his life to prayer, serving the Lord and comforting the sick and afflicted. Through his intercessory prayers to St. Joseph, many received God’s healing graces. He became known as the “Miracle Man of Montreal” while he was assigned as the doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, a post he held for nearly 40 years.

Work and prayer, prayer and work - the two seemed to flow so naturally one into the other. Those who encountered the saintly little brother – peers, passers-by, the sick, fund-raisers, architects, pilgrims and friends – encountered an occasion of grace.

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Extravagant and loving God, we recognize that we, too, are called to be an occasion of grace for others, wherever we find ourselves. Like Jesus and St. André you invite us to be the visible presence of your love and compassion for all humanity.

SCRIPTURE: COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

READING: CONSECRATED LIFE

Antiphon: **André accepted the little he had and turned it into a holy act.**

Side 1: Recall your own personal story and scrutinize it in the light of God’s loving gaze...a vocation is always God’s initiative, it is up to us freely to accept the divine-human economy as a relationship... the path of discipleship, the beacon on the Church’s journey.

Side 2: Life in the spirit is never completed, but is always open to mystery...When God calls us he lets us enter into his rest and invites us to repose in him, in a continuous process of loving understanding.

Side 1: We hear the Word you are worried and upset about many things (Lk 10:41). On the path of love we go forward through rebirth: the old creation is born anew. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation (2Cor 5:17).

Side 2: “This path has a name and a face: the face of Jesus Christ. He teaches us to become holy. In the Gospel he shows us the way, the way of the Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:1-12). This is the life of the Saints, people who for love of God did not place conditions on him during their life”.

Antiphon: **André accepted the little he had and turned it into a holy act.**

Side 1: Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the crucified and risen one, to take on “Jesus’s way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to God and in relation to the brothers and sisters.”

Side 2: It is a call to take up Jesus’ way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by his Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes.

Side 1: Be guided by the humble yet joyful certainty of those who have been found, touched and transformed by the Truth who is Christ, ever to be proclaimed.

Side 2: Remaining in Christ allows us to grasp the presence of the Mystery which lives in us and expands our hearts to the measure of his Son’s heart.

Antiphon: André accepted the little he had and turned it into a holy act.

Side 1: Christ is the seal on our foreheads, he is the seal on our hearts: on the forehead because we always profess him; on the heart because we always love him; he is the seal on our arms because we are always working for him.

Side 2: Consecrated life is in fact a continuous call to follow Christ, and to be made like him. “Jesus’ whole life, his way of dealing with the poor, his actions, his integrity, his simple daily generosity, and finally his complete self-giving, all this is precious and relates to our personal lives.”

Side 1: When we put Christ at the centre of our life, we ourselves don’t become the centre! The more that we unite ourselves to Christ and he becomes the centre of our life, we are, so to speak, ‘relocated’. We are at the service of Christ and of the Church.

Side 2: Glory to you Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now...

Antiphon: André accepted the little he had and turned it into a holy act.

(Consecrated Life, Found, Touched, Transformed, Section5)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. Identify moments in your life where you have been FOUND, TOUCHED, TRANSFORMED by God’s grace?
2. Recall specific times God has used you to be a Christ presence, a gift of grace, in the life of another person.

SPONTANEOUS INTERCESSIONS – OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER:

LEADER: St. André said, “People who suffer have something to offer to God. When they succeed in enduring their suffering that is a daily miracle.” Gracious and loving God, we have experienced many miracles of grace – large and small - through your generosity. “Let us be grateful to the obligation of gratitude every day of our lives. Let us demonstrate it in the humility of our obedience, by our detachment, by the generous sacrifice of ourselves to God since it is God who chose us...as helper to our holy Founder.”

(Adapted MMSD, C.L. 60, 1884)

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: SIMPLE GIFTS, Yo-Yo Ma, *Classic Yo-Yo*

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS

In her great desire for fidelity to our Founder, Mother Mary of Sainte Basile worked toward a deeper relationship among the family of Holy Cross. “My great desire is to embrace in one same thought all branches of the Holy Cross Family; to unite them at least spiritually, but developing closer relationship, by more intimate knowledge of our venerated founder, most Reverend Basile Anthony Mary Moreau.”

— *Mother Mary of Saint-Basile, CSC*



Beacon of Light

Faithful to her roots in Holy Cross, two principles guided the life of Mother Mary of Saint-Basile, and were like beacons by which she could chart her journey. One was the order of faith: “to see God in the person of the superior and God’s Holy Will in all that was asked. The other was of the order of love – consecrated love: to consent generously to the sacrifices one had to make to belong totally to God.” This woman for whom everything appeared to succeed, who with a steady hand led the destiny of the Canadian community knew the constant presence of the cross. Every phase of her journey was touched by a mystery of death and resurrection. At the age of thirty-three, as temporary superior general, she took charge of the community that hoped for stability of its organization allowing for a renewal that coincided with the ideas of apostolic religious life as proposed by Basil Moreau, the founder. It was her given destiny to be called to live the exodus and the passage that gave the Sisters of Holy Cross its proper future on American soil.

Mother Mary of Saint-Basile was remarkable as a religious, richly gifted by God, who did not reject the passage through the desert, nor the little Easters that buoyed her up on her way. “In all justice, we must state: that, what Mother Mary of Saint-Basile accomplished in her time we cannot repeat; but we have much to learn from her life of dedication to Holy Cross, the manner in which she lived her personal call to holiness in the spirit of Basil Moreau, and the manner in which she left a mark on the young community.”

(From the writings of Soeur Graziella Lalande, C.S.C.)

CALL TO PRAYER

ALL: O God of Light, through your grace Mother Mary of Sainte-Basile was a beacon of light to her congregation “...the greatest figure after the Founders, to give lustre to the Institute” (Biography). We pray that we who have been told by You to let our light shine and “...be ready to undertake anything... to be disposed to suffer and to go anywhere that obedience calls us.” (Father Moreau). May we through the example of Mother Mary of Sainte-Basile’s faith count on You, our Light, Truth and Way. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS: 34

Antiphon: A valiant woman knows what she needs and reaches out to Jesus for it.

Side 1: She is a faith-filled woman; her roots are firmly planted. The kingdom is within; her heart treasure-filled.

Side 2: She is a joyful woman for when laughter is no stranger, a song to sing, a smile to give, a hand clasp or embrace.

Side 1: She is a strong woman, her heart and arms withstand the pressures and the worries that each day unfolds.

Side 2: She is a patient woman waiting through storm and night for new life, new growth, rich harvest.

Side 1: She is a loving woman ever giving and forgiving, ever caring and concerned.

Side 2: She is a sharing woman with arms outstretched.

Antiphon: A valiant woman knows what she needs and reaches out to Jesus for it.

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 5: 14-16

CONSECRATED LIFE

In Isaiah, 65, 66, “the theme of the past is evoked, sometimes with crude imagery, as if to invite them to forget it because God wants to make a *New Light shine out*, a trust that will immediately heal infidelity and cruelty. and would always be an act of remembrance.(6) Yet this remembrance is not fixed on past events but, as the memory of a promise, it becomes capable of opening up the future, shedding light on the path to be taken.”(19) God is about to make Jerusalem a delight and its people a joy.” (Letter to Consecrated Men and Women, Pope Francis)

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

LEADER: Our light shines when we act or react to life in ways that contrast the ways of the world. Jesus said that He is the “The Light of the World. (John 8:12) The things He said and the things He did were in stark contrast to the act of others. For us, the world around us provides the greatest opportunity to demonstrate the difference that having Christ in our lives makes. When we act or react in ways that are consistent with His actions and teachings and ways, our light shines. It is noticed.

OUR LIGHT SHINES

READER 1: When we turn the other cheek when attacked... When we respond in kindness to our enemies or competitors... When we give erring employees another chance, when the world would not... When we tell others that the most important thing in our life is Jesus Christ and not success, and live so they may see it's true...

Response: **Our Light Shines**

READER 2: When we go the second mile when others would not... When we risk looking the fool for Christ where others dare not... When we would rather see people saved than to make a profit from them... When we honor all peoples, even those of much lower place, creed, race... When we don't demand the privilege that our position affords us in the eyes of the world...

Response: **Our Light Shines**

READER 3: When we take no advantage for ourselves even when we could... When we use our money to build people, rather than our people to build money... When we do just what Jesus would do in the same circumstances... When we act God's Word on Monday as if it were Sunday...

Response: Our Light Shines

REFLECTION AND SHARING

If you were to describe yourself as a light, which light would you be and why? (for example, a street light, night light, candle, etc.)

ALL: For we were once darkness, but now we are Light in the Lord. Live as Children of light. (Ephesians 5:8) We are called to be beacons of God's light. We are called to glow like candles allowing God to decrease our self-centeredness in the flame of Jesus' love. We are called to follow Christ's example and reflect his light and love in the world by spreading His message of love by the way we live the lives God gave us. As we reflect God's love like a lighthouse we can light the way for others. We can be Beacons of God's Light. We can pledge to shine for God and reflect His light.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

RESPONSE: Strengthen us as a beacon of Your Light.

May the light of God surround us

May the love of God enfold us

May the power of God protect us

May the presence of God watch over us

...and what else shall we pray for?

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, Elizabeth Mitchell, *You Are My Flower*



personal reflection

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS



“The family that prays together, stays together.” – *Patrick Peyton, CSC*

A Messenger of Hope

Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC (1909-1992), the “Rosary Priest” and candidate for sainthood, was a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross and a graduate of the Notre Dame University. Believing himself cured of tuberculosis through the intercession of the Blessed mother, his devotion to Mary and Rosary prayer were the most important elements in his life.

As a way to bring honor and glory to Mary, he began the Family Rosary in 1942 by writing every bishop in the United States, asking them to promote the family Rosary in their dioceses. He coordinated Rosary events in more than 40 countries, gathering more than 28 million people worldwide in Rosary prayer and has influenced generations for decades.

Recognizing the power of the media to influence society, he founded Family Theater Productions in 1947, which has produced over 900 radio programs, films and TV specials.

Father Peyton dedicated his life to serving God by bringing a message of hope to families around the world. His love for Mary and Jesus fueled his desire to share the fruits of family Rosary prayer every waking moment of his priestly-life.

CALL TO PRAYER

SUGGESTED OPENING SONG: MARY THE DAWN, Kathleen Lundquist, *Light In Our Darkness*

SCRIPTURE: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

THE LITANTY OF HOPE

LEADER: God, Our Father and Mother,

ALL: open our minds to hear your word.

LEADER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

ALL: open our hearts to live your word.

LEADER: Holy Spirit, Flame of Love,

ALL: open our lips to proclaim your word.

READER 1: Our Response: Pray for us.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Vessel of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Fount of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Model of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Flower of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Humble Servant of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Bride of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Garden of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Beacon of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Bearer of Hope

Blessed Virgin Mary, Nurturer of Hope

READER 2: Our Response: Pray for us.
Saint Joseph, Protector of Hope
Saint Joseph, Believer of Hope
Saint Joseph, Guide of Hope
Saint Joseph, Teacher of Hope
Saint Joseph, Shelter of Hope

READER 3: Our Response: Hear our Prayer.
Our Lord, Most Loving Shepherd
Hope of parents
Hope of sinners
Hope of the homeless
Hope of all who despair
Hope for all clergy
Hope for the lonely
Hope of mercy
Hope of redemption
Hope of peace
Hope of forgiveness
Hope of health
Hope of the lost
Hope of all virgins
Hope of prisoners
Hope of the church
Hope of unity
Hope of the aged
Hope of life

READER 4: Our Response: Pray for us.
Hope for the dead
Hope in crisis
Hope in suffering
Hope of love
Hope of leaders
Hope of laborers
Hope of mourners
Hope of the poor
Hope of the hungry
Hope of the naked
Hope of the persecuted
Hope of the misunderstood
Hope of the abused
Hope of saints

(“Approved for use in private, all prayer groups, and Rosary.
Not for forwarding or church formation.” Bishop Alvero
Corrada, Diocese of Tyler, January 7, 2009.)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

Pope Francis, in his Exhortation, “*The Joy of the Gospel*” speaks to us:

- We are victims of this culture. I would like you to think about this: how can I be free, how can I break free from this “culture of the temporary”? (74)
- Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness. (288)

What COMFORTS, CHALLENGES, CONFUSES you about Pope Francis’ statements?

A CLOSING PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY OF HOLY CROSS

God, we are the family of Holy Cross.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We support the ministry of one another.
We pray together.
We worship together.
Together we use God’s Word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all God’s people.
Together we hope for eternal life with the Divine.
These are our ideals and hope.
Help us to attain them, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS

“Zeal is that gift from the Lord by which the convictions of our heart are translated into the actions of our hands and directed toward the good of others.” – *Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC*



Zeal for the Mission

INTRODUCTION

READER: Zeal is about works more than words. We can speak forcefully about our concern for social issues and the poor and those who suffer because of the unstable economy or inadequate housing or insufficient nutrition and the many others needing various kinds of assistance. Zeal, however, becomes evident only when those convictions within our hearts are translated into the actions of our hands and directed toward the practical good of others. This is the living legacy and lasting wisdom that Basil Moreau has passed on to us.

(A Work of Resurrection by Joel Giallanza, CSC)

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: Let us praise God who called us in Baptism and now unites us in Holy Cross.

ALL: We remember God's past promises and God's present faithfulness.

LEADER: Let us praise Jesus, who modeled for us a burning zeal for the mission.

ALL: We remember and embrace Jesus in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

LEADER: Let us praise the Holy Spirit who inspires us to be about the mission.

ALL: We remember the Spirit alive in the midst of our life and ministry.

LEADER: We remain united with one another.

ALL: We are committed to the vision of Blessed Basil Moreau, “not a human work but God's very own.” (Moreau, CL 140)

SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF BASIL MOREAU

READER: God's providential fidelity to us and our fidelity in response to his loving providence do not form a closed system. They are an exchange of love that is directed toward the continuation of Jesus' mission. “The aim of the Congregation is to work, not only at one's own salvation, but also at the sanctification of others by ministering to them.” (1847 Rules) By God's Providence we are called to mission through our religious life in Holy Cross.

The apostolic quality with which Fr. Moreau most frequently characterizes our life of mission in Holy Cross is ZEAL. It is “that flame of burning desire which one feels to make God known, loved and served; and thus save souls...Apostolic activity is therefore the essential character if this virtue (Joel Giallanza, CSC)

SCRIPTURE: MT 28: 19-20

RESPONSE: (alternate readers, slowly and reflectively)

- “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses... to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).
- “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (Jn. 20:21).
- “Go throughout the whole world; and preach the Gospel to all creation” (Mk. 16:15).
- “And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them” (Mk. 16:20).
- “Here I am, Lord! I am ready! Send me!” (Is. 6:8).
- “The pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature.” (Ad Gentes, 2)

A CONTEMPORARY READING, FACES

Antiphon: Zeal is about works more than words.

- Side 1: When I look into their faces, Lord, and see your light: sparkling, working there, reborn again, alive;
- Side 2: When I look into their eyes and see your life: the goodness, beauty, wrestled-with beliefs and time-worn hopes;
- Side 1: When their wrinkled brows and mustered smiles, their sun-burnt trusting hands reveal their clay-kept treasure:
- Side 2: Loving, aching, yearning hearts; in all of this I see what blood-shot eyes are often blinded to: You.
- Side 1: You are present, Lord, working there in each of them and sneaking out in constant unexpected revelations.
- Side 2: Never the right time. Never the right place. Never the looked-for way. And so, you all too often escape our fragile, frazzled, easily distracted gaze.
- Side 1: We call you in anger, in hope, in disillusion and in joy. We lift our hands and beg you to come and gift us all with your presence and your love. (Michael E. Moynahan, SJ)
- Side 2: Glory to you Source of All Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit

Side 1: As it was in the beginning, is now...

Antiphon: **Zeal is about works more than words.**

READER: The Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy. The seventy-two disciples felt it as they returned from their mission Jesus felt it when he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and praised the Father for revealing himself to the poor and the little ones. It was felt by the first converts who marveled to hear the apostles preaching “in the native language of each” (Acts 2:6) on the day of Pentecost. This joy is a sign that the Gospel has been proclaimed and is bearing fruit. Yet the drive to go forth and give, to go out from ourselves, to keep pressing forward in our sowing of the good seed, remains ever present. The Lord says: “Let us go on to the next towns that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out” (Mk 1:38). Once the seed has been sown in one place, Jesus does not stay behind to explain things or to perform more signs; the Spirit moves him to go forth to other towns.

(The Gospel of Joy by Pope Francis, 21)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. In the above scripture passages, quotes and prayers, what do you identify with on a regular basis?
2. At this stage of your life, how do you express your zeal for the mission of Jesus?
3. What challenges do your Constitutions on MISSION place before you? How do you respond to those challenges?

SPONTANEOUS INTERCESSIONS

A COMMISSION:

LEADER: “RELIGIOUS LIFE ought to promote growth in the church by way of attraction. The church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!...

It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up! (Pope Francis to Union of Superiors General, November 19, 2013)

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONGS:

GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, Steve Angrisano, *Choose Christ*

SOMOS EL CUERPO DE CRISTO/WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, *Choose Christ*

— CAPTURING THE WIND — UPLIFTING HOLY CROSS

“The spirit of our institute is primarily a spirit of faith, of complete abnegation. This makes it possible to spend ourselves wholly in God’s service in whatever work God’s providence and our Constitutions assign to us.”

— *Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors*



Faithful to the Call

Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors, Leocadie-Romaine Gascoin, was born a humble peasant girl in Montenay, Mayenne, France, of Michel Jean Gascoin and Rosalie Renée Chardon on March 1, 1818. Her childhood was a simple one. At an early age she felt the call to the religious life and, by what may be considered a special intervention of Divine Providence, came to be the first Superior General of the female branch of Father Basil Moreau’s “Congregation of Holy Cross.” Ever devoted to the sufferings of her Divine Spouse, and dedicated to the service of his Church, she gave fifty-nine years as a follower of his Mother, even bearing her title, “Mary of the Seven Dolors.”

CALL TO PRAYER

LEADER: O loving God, as we meditate on the life of Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors. We give you our all as she did – our hands to do your work, our feet to go your way, our eyes to see as you do, our mouth to speak your words. Above all, we give you our hearts that you may grow in us as we seek to incarnate Christ in our ever-changing world. Amen.

FAITHFUL TO THE CALL

Mother Mary was a woman of fidelity. She recognized that she had been called to this way of life in Holy Cross in response to that call, her passion for completing God’s will in all things remained unwavering even in the most difficult, or apparently hopeless situations. Fidelity was for her a simple reality. It was to live the constitutions, to live all that God and the community asked of her; it was a graced determination to do what she had promised through her commitment to life in Holy Cross.

To sustain that fidelity, she was a woman of prayer. Beyond the formal times of personal and communal prayer, her life was marked by a prayerfulness that made her sensitive to God’s presence and activity. She nurtured her life of prayer with the scriptures, the constitutions of the congregation, the writings of Father Moreau, and the *Imitation of Christ*, a work regularly recommended to the women and men of Holy Cross by Moreau. She encouraged the sisters to do the same; she wrote to one, “How much good it does to pray; how God loves to answer prayer” (Personal Letter, 1857).

Mother Mary was also a woman of the church. She understood the important contribution that Holy Cross could make to the life of the church. Though she might have preferred, at times, to take an approach other than that insisted upon by the Vatican Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith; nevertheless, she trusted that God’s will would be done through whatever transpired. She was convinced that the Holy Spirit worked through the church for the good of Holy Cross, however mysterious the means may have appeared. (Taken from the *Introduction to the Revised Edition of the Circular Letters of Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors*, by Joel Giallanza, CSC)

FIDELITY AND FAITHFULNESS

- Side 1: We are experiencing a crisis of fidelity, understood as a conscious adherence to a call that is a pathway, a journey from its mysterious beginnings to its mysterious end.
- Side 2: Faithfulness is the awareness of a love that points us towards the “Thou” of God and towards every other person, in a constant and dynamic way when we experience within ourselves the life of the Risen One. “Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness.” (34)
- Side 1: Faithful discipleship is grace and love in action; it is the practice of sacrificial charity. “When we journey without the Cross, when we build without the Cross, when we profess Christ without the Cross, we are not disciples of the Lord, we are worldly. We may be bishops, priest, cardinals, popes, but not disciples of the Lord.” (35)
- Side 2: Fidelity in discipleship occurs through and is demonstrated by the experience of community, a theological reality in which we are called to support each other in our joyful ‘yes’ to the Gospel. “It is the Word of God that inspires faith and nourishes and revitalizes it. And it is the Word of God that touches hearts, converting them to God and to his logic which is so different from our own. It is the Word of God that continually renews our communities.” (42)
(Pope Francis, *Letter to Consecrated Men and Women*, February, 2014)

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 2:26

CONTEMPORARY READING: HEART PRINTS

READER: Whatever our hands touch—we leave fingerprints on walls, on furniture, on doorknobs, dishes, books. As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, please wherever I go today, help me leave heart prints -- heart prints of compassion, of understanding and love; heart prints of kindness and genuine concern.

May my heart touch a lonely neighbor, or a runaway daughter, or an anxious mother, or, perhaps, a dear friend!

I shall go out today to leave heart prints, and if someone should say “I felt your touch,” may that one sense be your loving touch through me, O Lord.

Let us pray:

ALL: Dear God, please help me today and every day so that my life will reflect your likeness. May the people I rub shoulders with see your love shining through me, so that I will leave heart prints on them from You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen. (Anonymous)

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. As a member of Holy Cross, how do you demonstrate fidelity, prayerfulness and service to the people of God?
2. Who left a recent heart print on you? What’s a recent heart print you left on someone?
3. The ancient Chinese character for perseverance is a knife poised over the heart. What does this mean to you?

LITANY OF MOTHER MARY OF THE SEVEN DOLORS

RESPONSE: Pray for us.

Mother Mary, woman of prayer
Mother Mary, clothed in strength and dignity
Mother Mary, who placed herself in the loving heart of Jesus
Mother Mary, a mother who ached for her daughters in turmoil
Mother Mary, whose mouth opened in wisdom and kindly counsel,
Mother Mary, recognized as a woman of exquisite charity
Mother Mary, who harbored no regrets
Mother Mary, humble and faith filled companion of Basil Moreau
Mother Mary, who urged her daughters to be “humble as dirt”
Mother Mary, holy woman of God and mentor of us all

REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What admiration do you personally hold for Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors?
2. What has this Decade of Days, Capturing the Wind: Uplifting Holy Cross, offered you?

SUGGESTED CLOSING SONG: FIND US FAITHFUL, Steve Green, *Find Us Faithful*



personal reflection

SONGS

1. HYMN TO BASIL MOREAU, Michael Joncas

You knew the working of God's providence,
God's spirit acting in the world.
Teach us to trust God's love;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

With holy passion you reached out to God;
With burning zeal you sought to serve.
Set our own hearts ablaze;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

(Refrain)

Let us glory in the Cross, our one and only hope, as we
honor one who walked God's ways.
Let us glory in the Cross, Our one and only hope, as we
sing his praise. (repeat)

You lived the mystery of the Cross of Christ.
Your journey led through death to life.
Help us embrace the Cross;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

Touched by the blessings of God's faithfulness,
So faithful to your God you lived.
Bless our fidelity: Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

(Refrain)

To those afflicted by the pains of life,
You showed the face of Christ. Make us compassionate;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

You called your children to be one in Christ,
To live a union strong and true. Shape our community;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

In Joseph, Mary, and the Holy Child
You saw a vision for our lives. Make us one family;
Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau (repeat)

You taught the goods of all should serve each one.
The gifts of one should serve us all.
Teach us to share our lives: Come intercede for us:
Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau *(Refrain)*

2. I WILL CHOOSE CHRIST, Tom Booth

(Refrain)

I will choose Christ. I will choose love.
I choose to serve.
I give my heart, I give my life. I give my all to you.

How many times must He call my name, and show to
me that He is God. And as a servant He calls to me:
"You must serve too."

Christ my teacher and healer, teach my heart and heal
my soul. And as I walk this road with you: teach me to
love. *(Refrain)*

And as I look upon your cross, so too must I die with
you. With the death of my own desires, I'll rise with
you. *(Refrain)*

3. LIFT HIGH THE CROSS, Invitation Music

Refrain

Lift high the cross
The love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adores His sacred name.

4. BLESS THE LORD, Canedo and Manibusan

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul; bless God's holy name.

Remember the kindness of our God, who showers us
with blessing all our days. *(Refrain)*
Remember the justice of our God, who stands with
those forgotten and confused. *(Refrain)*
Remember the healing love of God, who calls us to be
whole and to be free. *(Refrain)*

5. **OPEN MY EYES**, Jessie Manibusan

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes Lord. Help me to see.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened, and we'll hear like never before. And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

6. **BLESSINGS**, Laura Story

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace.
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand to ease our suffering and all the while, You hear each spoken need yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

Refrain

'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops.
What if your healing comes through tears? What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know you're near? What if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?

We pray for wisdom, your voice to hear.
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near. We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love as if every promise from Your word is not enough and all the while, You hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe. (*Chorus*)

When friends betray us, when darkness seems to win; we know that pain reminds this heart that his is not, this is not our home, It's not our home. (*Chorus*)

What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life? Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy. What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
are your mercies in disguise?

7. **SIMPLE GIFTS**, Yo-Yo Ma

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we will not be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

8. **THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE**, Elizabeth Mitchell

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)
Let it shine. (3x)
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine. (3x)

9. **MARY, THE DAWN**, Kathleen Lundquist

Mary the Dawn, Christ the Perfect Day;
Mary the Gate, Christ the Heav'nly Way!
Mary the Root, Christ the Mystic Vine;
Mary the Grape, Christ the Sacred Wine!
Mary the Wheat-sheaf, Christ the Living Bread;
Mary the Rose-Tree, Christ the Rose Blood-red!
Mary the Font, Christ the Cleansing Flood;
Mary the Chalice, Christ the Saving Blood!
Mary the Temple, Christ the Temple's Lord;
Mary the Shrine, Christ the God adored!
Mary the Beacon, Christ the Haven's Rest;
Mary the Mirror, Christ the Vision Blest!
Mary the Mother, Christ the Mother's Son.
Both ever blest while endless ages run. Amen.

10. **GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, Steve Angrisano

Refrain

Go make a difference, we can make a difference.
Go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference we can make a difference
Go make a difference in the world.

We are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see
the love of God in you and me.
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be
seen. Go make a difference in the world. (*Refrain*)

We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in
need; the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.

11. **SOMOS EL CUERPO DE CRISTO/WE ARE
THE BODY OF CHRIST**, Jaime Cortez

Refrain:

Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
We are the body of Christ.
Hemos oído el llamado;
we've answered "Yes" to the call of the Lord.
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
We are the body of Christ.
Traemos su santo mensaje.
We come to bring the good news to the world.

Dios viene al mundo a través de nosotros.
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
God is revealed when we love one another.
We are the body of Christ.
Al mundo a cumplir la misión de la Iglesia,
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Bringing the light of God's mercy to others,
We are the body of Christ.

Cada persona es parte del reino;
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Putting a stop to all discrimination,
we are the body of Christ.
Todas las razas que habitan la tierra,
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
All are invited to feast in the banquet.
We are the body of Christ.

Que nuestras acciones reflejen justicia;
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Stopping abuse and relieving the hungry,
we are the body of Christ.
Vamos al mundo a cuidar su rebaño.
Somos el cuerpo de Cristo.
Serving each other we build up the kingdom;
We are the body of Christ.

12. **FIND US FAITHFUL**, Steve Green

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
And those who've gone before us line the way
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses;
Let us run the race not only for the prize;
But as those who've gone before us
Let us leave to those behind us
The heritage of faithfulness passed on
through godly lives.

Refrain:

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe;
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind
May the clues that they discover and the memories they
uncover become the light that leads them to the road we
each must find. (*Refrain*)

Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful



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