

January 20

**BASILE-ANTOINE-MARIE MOREAU, PRIEST**

**Memorial**

**LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

**INTRODUCTION**

For the Liturgy of the Hours, the following should be noted:

**Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer**

1. At Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, the psalms, canticle, and antiphons are taken from the current week of the Psalter.
2. The reading may be taken from either the Common of pastors or of holy men: for religious, or of the weekday.
3. The antiphon for the Gospel canticle is taken from the Common.
4. The intercessions may be taken either from the Common or from the weekday.
5. The prayer is proper to the memorial.

**Office of Readings**

6. The psalms and antiphons are taken from the current weekday.
7. There are two readings. The first is the biblical reading with its responsory, taken from Ordinary Time. The second reading is taken from the *The Christian Meditations* of Basile Moreau, with its responsory. For convenience, the second reading for the Office of Readings for memorials of Holy Cross Blesseds and Saints may be found below.
8. The prayer is proper to the memorial.

**Daytime Prayer**

9. The memorials of saints are not celebrated at this hour. The psalms and antiphons of the current psalmody are said and the reading is taken from the Psalter.
10. The concluding prayer is as found in the Psalter.

Born in Laigné-en-Belin, France, on February 11, 1799, Basile-Antoine-Marie Moreau was ordained a priest of the diocese of Le Mans on August 12, 1821, at age 22, and served as a seminary professor of philosophy, dogma, and Sacred Scripture. Seeking to respond to the pastoral needs of his time, he sought to establish a community of three societies (priests, brothers, and sisters), modeled on the Holy Family. In 1857 Rome officially granted approbation to the Congregation of Holy Cross and, in 1867, to the Marianites of Holy Cross. Placing his complete trust in Divine Providence, he endured many trials and sufferings, officially resigning as superior general in 1866. He resumed his former ministry of preaching and assisting rural parishes in need. He died in Le Mans on January 20, 1873. Today the family of Holy Cross also includes the Sisters of the Holy Cross (1869) and the Sisters of Holy Cross (1883). He was beatified September 15, 2007.

Antiphons and psalms from the current weekday. For the rest of the Office, either from the current weekday or from the Common of pastors or of holy men: religious, except for the following:

## Office of Readings

### Second Reading

From the *Christian Meditations* of Basile Moreau

*(Méditations chrétiennes a l'usage des fidèles, au Mans, 1872, pp. 258-261)*

### *Unless you imitate Jesus Christ, you cannot be a Christian*

Your duty, your glory, and your happiness come from imitating Christ. The Eternal Word became incarnate in order to reconcile the world with the Father and free it from bondage to evil but that was only one part of God's mission. One of the main purposes of the Incarnation was to give human beings a tutor, a mentor, and a model of all virtues. Jesus Christ himself declared this when he said that he is not only the truth because of his doctrine; the life, because of his death and the sacraments; but that he is also the way because of his example. That is why, is it not, that he decided to live through all the stages of human life: to be born, live, suffer, and die like all the children of Adam? Thus, in God's plan each action of the Incarnate Word is an aspect to be imitated. His life is such a faithful mirror of what our own must be that Jesus Christ can say this about all the actions that made up his life: "I have given you the example so that you might do what I have done." Gaze then on this divine model; imitate it within the context of your vocation and imagine that he is saying to you: Follow me!

Unless you imitate Jesus Christ, you cannot be a Christian. The first disciples of the Gospel received this name from the pagans only because they professed to follow Christ and his doctrine. In becoming Christians, we become children of God through grace, just as Jesus Christ himself did by his very nature... Since the image of God cannot be seen, we are able to express it in ourselves by visibly resembling his Son, who is God's substantial image made visible for us. In Baptism we have received a seed of spiritual life that must grow and become strong until Jesus Christ is formed within us. Then, steeped in his outlook and adorned with his virtues, we are another Christ, and his life is revealed in ours.

Finally, if we imitate Christ, then we are predestined. Saint Paul teaches that through Baptism the faithful are transformed in Jesus Christ and form a single body with him so that they are living members of a body where he himself is the head. Now in this wonderful masterpiece of divine wisdom, everything must exist in proportion. Thus, the holiness of the head shines forth in its members, just as in the human body. The same divine principle links together all of the parts composing it. Therefore, Saint Paul adds, "All of you who have been baptized, you have

put on Jesus Christ.” It is as if he were saying, “The virtues of this divine savior must in some way serve you as clothing.” From this it follows that the whole Christ is formed spiritually by the God-Man and the faithful incorporated in him; in this same way, the branches attached to the trunk, carried by the same roots and nourished by the same sap, form one and the same tree. Then all who belong to Jesus Christ are saved by living from this same life and imitating it: God has predestined his chosen ones to be conformed to his Son’s image.

If the imitation of Christ is your duty, it is also your glory.

### **Responsory**

**see Phil. 2:1-2; Eph. 4:3**

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all,  
-- make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

With a common purpose and a common mind  
-- make every effort...

### **Prayer**

O God,  
who in your ineffable Providence chose your priest, Blessed Basil,  
to imitate the virtues of the Holy Family and respond to the needs of the Church, grant, we beseech you, that, supported by his prayers and example, we may have the strength to boldly confess the Cross of Christ as our only hope.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.