



Celebrating the Eternal Life of Blessed Basile Moreau, C.S.C.

1799 - 1873

Opening Song: Hymn to Blessed Basile Moreau

Opening Prayer: Loving God, 150 years have passed since the entrance into eternal life of Blessed Basile Moreau and yet his legacy lives on in the family of Holy Cross and in the Church. Supported by his prayers and example, may we have the strength to boldly confess in words and action the Cross of Christ as our only hope.

Reading: A reading from the *Christian Meditations* of Basile Moreau

(Méditations chrétiennes à l'usage des fidèles, au Mans, 1872 p. 258)

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...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!

Leader: To live faithfully in conformity to Christ, our life in Holy Cross must be marked by certain characteristics or common values that flow from our spirituality, mission, and community life:

(Leader)

(All)

Trust in Divine Providence that makes us dependent upon God in all things.

Union of hearts that recognizes the presence of Christ within and among us.

Compassion	that shares, even as Jesus and Mary did, in the lives and sufferings of others.
Courage	that risks all for the kingdom of God.
Zeal	that sets our hearts on fire, the audacity to make all things new, to make Christ known and loved.
Competence	that marks every aspect of our ministry.
Promotion of justice	and concern for the poor.
Closeness	to the people we serve and our lay collaborators.
Family spirit	that binds our minds and hearts, in joys and sorrows, so that people will “see how they love one another.”

(Congregation of Holy Cross International Commission on Consecrated Life, adapted for the booklet prepared for the beatification of Blessed Basile Moreau in 2006).

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (16:24-27)

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father’s glory, and then he will repay each one according to his conduct.” The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection and Sharing:

When have you observed the values/characteristics of Fr. Moreau alive in your local community? In the Congregation? Of these values/characteristics which one(s) are you most in need of at this time in your life?

Closing Prayer: Provident God, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed and guided the family of Holy Cross through the years. We pray in gratitude for the vision of Blessed Basile Moreau and we ask that one day the Church will officially proclaim that Fr. Moreau is a Saint. Amen.