

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Br. Adolf Mugume, C.S.C.
Director of Communications
Congregation of Holy Cross, Roma - Italy
Email: communications@holycrossroma.org

Congregation of Holy Cross Announces Year of Mission to Begin 28 April 2025

Rome, Italy - In honor of our Founder Blessed Basile Moreau, the Congregation of Holy Cross joyfully announces a Year of Mission with the theme “**Hope Beyond Borders**” to commence on 28 April 2025. This date marks the 185th anniversary of Fr. Moreau's historic sending of the first Holy Cross missionaries to Algiers in 1840.

The public announcement of the Year of Mission was made in an [open letter](#) from Superior General, Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., addressed to Holy Cross religious, colleagues, and friends on 11 February 2025. [Listen to the accompanying video message by Br. Bednarczyk.](#)

“The theme we have chosen for this year, Hope Beyond Borders, beautifully coincides with the theme of the current Holy Year, Pilgrims of Hope,” wrote Br. Bednarczyk. “Our *Constitutions* state, ‘our mission sends us across borders of every sort’ (2:17). This year encourages us to reach out and cross not only the physical borders that separate nations and states, but all borders and walls we construct between ourselves and others, whoever those ‘others’ might be.”

A significant milestone this year will be the launch of the Holy Family Mission in Bougainville, [Papua New Guinea](#), reviving the Congregation's pioneering missionary spirit. In Papua New Guinea, eight missionaries will embark on a journey to spread the message of God's love in a region previously untouched by Holy Cross.

Additionally, Br. Bednarczyk announced that the Congregation will have two co-patrons for the Year of Mission: [Servant of God, Br. Flavian Laplante, C.S.C.](#), who served as a missionary in Bangladesh and [Servant of God Bishop Vincent McCauley, C.S.C.](#), who served as a missionary in Bangladesh and [East Africa](#). These Holy Cross religious exemplify lives dedicated to the mission of spreading hope beyond borders.

The Superior General outlined four goals for the Year of Mission:

1. Reflecting on the mission entrusted to us by our founder in light of the urgent needs facing our Church and the world.
2. Renewing our missionary spirit and discovering fresh ways to embody our roles as “educators in the faith” with a focus on the marginalized.
3. Cultivating the freedom and commitment to respond wherever our mission leads us.
4. Encouraging our ministry partners to deepen their engagement with the Holy Cross mission.

The Congregation's founding charism of “educating in the faith” emphasizes evangelization, with a preferential option for the poor. Although Holy Cross religious have remained steadfast to this

mission and the spirituality of “the Cross as Our Only Hope”, our understanding of our charism and mission has evolved in response to contemporary challenges. Today’s world presents complex issues of religious extremism, societal polarization, climate change etc., all of which compel us to act with charity, prayer, and creativity as men with hope to bring.

“It is my hope that this year would provide the impetus for all Holy Cross jurisdictions, ministries, and apostolates, not only to reflect on how we currently carry out our Holy Cross mission, but also to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning new pathways forward in mission,” wrote the Superior General. “The goal is for our reflection to lead to action, whereby we might provide hope to those who remain on the periphery and who are most in need.”

To engage in that discernment and action, Br. Bednarczyk presented three questions that he asked each Holy Cross jurisdiction, ministry, and apostolate to respond to during the year:

1. In what ways has your jurisdiction/ministry/apostolate (school, parish, social service center, etc.) traditionally been effective in its mission of evangelization and outreach to the poor? How has your ministry been a source of hope for the people you serve?
2. What are the pressing and unmet needs of the neighborhood or society in which you live? Who are those who remain on the “peripheries” and who might benefit from the mission and hope your ministry brings? What are the borders must you cross in order to reach them?
3. What action(s) will your jurisdiction/ministry/apostolate undertake in order to meet the pressing needs you have identified? How do you foresee these actions as bringing hope to those who need it the most?

“At the end of this year, whether we take small or big steps forward in our mission is inconsequential. What is important is that we take some step as a hopeful sign of the kingdom, ‘supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere’ (C2:12),” wrote the Superior General.

To support this initiative, the General Administration has created a [website for the Year of Mission](#), featuring various resources, including prayers, logos, a hymn titled “[Let Us Be People of Hope](#)”, and [biographies of the co-patrons](#). There will also be a series of [webinars focusing on mission](#), starting with Br. Joel Giallanza, C.S.C., on 8 May 2025.

For more information about the Year of Mission and upcoming activities, please visit our [website](#) or contact Br. Adolf Mugume, C.S.C., Director of Communications, at communications@holycrossroma.org

About the Congregation of Holy Cross

The Congregation of Holy Cross, founded in 1837 in Sainte-Croix, France, is an apostolic religious congregation composed of two distinct societies of religious brothers and religious priests “bound together in [one indivisible brotherhood](#).” Founded by [Blessed Basile Moreau](#), our mission is to share in the Church’s mission by serving as educators in the faith educating hearts and minds and building communities of the coming kingdom. The Congregation of Holy Cross consists of over 1,300 professed religious brothers and religious priests. Today, under the leadership of Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., the 14th [Superior General](#) in the history of the Congregation. Along with his assistants on the General Council, they oversee the [16 Provinces, Districts, and Vicariates](#) that constitute the Congregation.