



**HOPE BEYOND
BORDERS**
CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

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Year of Mission

Discernment Guide





Dear members of the Holy Cross Family,

Each day, in schools, parishes, and social service centers across the globe, our Holy Cross family bears witness to the Gospel through education, pastoral care, and works of mercy. We are united in the mission first entrusted to us by our founder, Blessed Basile Moreau: to be people with hope to bring, especially to those most in need of it.

In this spirit, the General Council has recently called us into a **Year of Mission** — a sacred time set apart for renewed reflection, discernment, and action centered on the life of our Founder and our Holy Cross charism. This year coincides with the **Year of Jubilee**, where every 25 years the Church invites us to a spiritual renewal of deepening our relationship with God focusing on forgiveness and reconciliation. As the late Pope Francis invited us to be “Pilgrims of Hope” during this Holy Year, we, in Holy Cross, are also “Crossing Borders in Hope” during this Year of Mission. Both the Jubilee and our Year of Mission together promote the primacy of the virtue of hope which is integral to our Christian faith and Holy Cross charism.

Inspired by this special year, I ask every Holy Cross institution to take **one specific and concrete step** that will bring hope to those on the margins in your local community.

This is not a call to add more activity for activity’s sake. Rather, it is a call to **focus intentionally** on the heart of our mission: to make the hope of the Gospel real and tangible for the poor, the excluded, and the forgotten — those who, in a particular way, bear the cross of Christ today.

After the conclusion to our Year of Mission, it is my desire to collect brief descriptions of each apostolate’s action step and to present them to Pope Leo XIV to show how we, in the Congregation of Holy Cross, have “crossed borders” and become “pilgrims of hope” during this Jubilee Year.

In light of this, we are simply asking how your ministry is currently bringing hope to others and what more may the Spirit be calling you to do.

Hope is not passive. It is not wishful thinking. Hope is a courageous stance — a quiet strength rooted in faith and lived out through acts of love and justice.

When we accompany those who suffer, we stand at the foot of the Cross. And when we choose compassionate action over indifference, we become signs of the Resurrection.

To support your discernment, I offer two simple tools, which are based on the synodal path of “journeying together,” so close to the heart of our late Pope Francis:

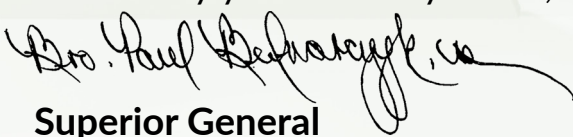
- One is a simple process to help identify the specific step or initiative your ministry might take during this Year of Mission to bring hope to others.
- The other draws on our Holy Cross charism, and is a more detailed guide in discernment to assist further your institution in moments of future decision-making.

In all things, we trust in the Spirit to lead us as it once led Blessed Basile Moreau in establishing Holy Cross and its mission of evangelization with a marked preference for the poor.

May this invitation strengthen the bonds of our shared mission and renew our commitment to be signs of God’s love and hope in our world. As our Holy Cross Constitutions say, “For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act” (2:14).

With gratitude for your faithful witness, and with prayers for your discernment, I remain

Fraternally yours in Holy Cross,



Superior General

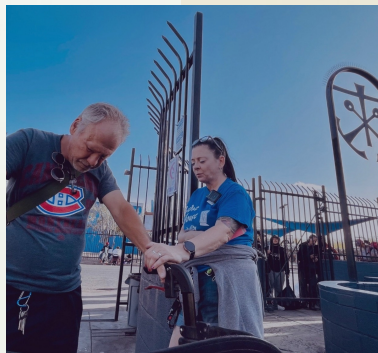
**During this Year of Mission and in the spirit of synodality,
we ask each Holy Cross apostolate to:**

1. Reflect on the Mission

Re-engage the Holy Cross charism with your constituents (school boards, faculty, parish councils, parishioners, etc.) through prayer, conversation, and study. How are you currently living the call to be “educators in the faith” and “people with hope to bring?” In what ways has your ministry 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? Who needs to be invited to participate in this conversation? Who in your community is in urgent need of hope?

2. Discern with Intention

Gather as a community to listen to the voices of the poor, marginalized, and those who live on the “peripheries” of your neighborhood or society. What borders must be crossed in order for you to reach them? What are their pressing and unmet needs? What barriers to dignity or hope do they face? How is the Holy Spirit calling your community to respond?



3. Act with Courage and Compassion

Choose one new, concrete action step that responds to a real need. This action should:

- Directly benefit people who are poor or on the margins
- Be achievable within your means and context
- Embody your identity as a Holy Cross ministry that brings hope to those who need it the most.



Examples might include:

- Launching or expanding a program for food security, housing support, or educational access;
- Advocating alongside migrants, refugees, or those impacted by injustice; or
- Creating opportunities for students or parishioners to encounter and accompany the poor in meaningful ways.

At the end of the Year of Mission, the General Administration will ask for the results of your discernment to see how the Spirit has led you to cross borders in hope.



YEAR OF MISSION PRAYER

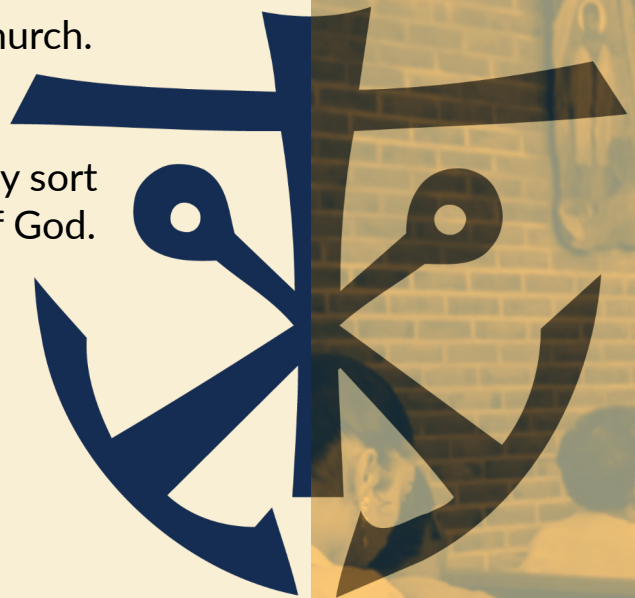
Lord God, source of all goodness,
in your divine Providence
You entrusted Blessed Basile Moreau
with the task of sending missionaries
to spread the light of truth
in response to the needs of your universal Church.

We thank you for those faith-filled religious
who risked going beyond the borders of every sort
to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

Enkindle in us all,
members of the Family of Holy Cross,
a renewed missionary zeal.
Grant that we may sow the seeds of faith
and be heralds of hope to all peoples,
especially among the poor,
the oppressed, and the marginalized,
that you may be known, loved, and served.

Through the intercession of
Servants of God Flavian Laplante and Vincent McCauley,
co-patrons of our Year of Mission,
give us the grace to respond
generously and wholeheartedly
to the urgent call of evangelization.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.





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www.holycrosscongregation.org/yearofmission