

Every religious congregation has its own particular charism: that special something which sets it apart from all others. Blessed Basil Moreau envisioned his new congregation of priests, brothers, and sisters as a family – as branches of a mighty tree. Its members would stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross and go forth throughout the world to bring the message of God's love and mercy.

Today, the priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of Holy Cross and Sisters of the Holy Cross and each of their Associates hold that vision as a sacred trust. Though forever united in heart and spirit, this summer members of the family gathered on three occasions for the purpose of ...

Takin' Care of Family Business

We carry on a tradition of Lay Associates within Holy Cross

It was Pentecost weekend 2011, that the leaders of the Holy Cross Associate Leadership Group convened in New Orleans at Holy Angels Congregational Center. They gathered to discover, discuss and discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding them as leaders of Associates called to the Family of Holy Cross.

Early on it became evident that all held the foundational belief that association is in the "DNA" of Holy Cross. Very early in the formation of the new congregation, Blessed Basil Moreau formed the Associates of St. Joseph for lay women and lay men who were called and invited to participate in the charism and gospel-based spirituality of his growing community.

The Associate leaders discussed how the Second Vatican Council embraced Father Moreau's vision of Church. The Council proclaimed that charisms of religious institutes do not belong solely to the vowed members; rather, they belong equally to the people of God and that religious institutes be encouraged to find ways to share their faith and vision with the laity. Moreau had come to these conclusions over 175 years ago!

Everyone shared their successes and challenges as Associate leaders. They discussed how to become better instruments to facilitate, in step with their congregational leaders, the Spirit's call leading lay men and lay women to embrace the cross and to provide them with opportunities for deeper spiritual connections with the Family of Holy Cross. They resolved to stay in touch and to discuss with their congregational leaders ways of configuring and promoting lay association as Moreau might have envisioned it in our times.

Joe Connell

Learn more about the Marianite Associates at <http://www.marianites.org/associates>.

We honor the lives and ministries of our family members

For the past thirty years, representatives of the congregations which comprise the Family of Holy Cross have gathered annually to honor members of their communities and their ministries. Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio was the setting for this year's Holy Cross History Conference which was held June 2-4. Among the participants were Sisters Barbara Marie Dupuis, Archivist, Clarita Bourque and Judy Gomila. The lives and ministries of three priests, three brothers, and two Marianites were presented to the audience of twenty-six participants. Sr. Judy Gomila presented a paper, written by Sr. Mary David Hecker, on Sr. Clarita Bourque entitled "Here I Am, Send Me". "A Holy Cross Version of St. Paul", the life and times of Sr. Judy Gomila, was presented by Sr. Clarita. Brother Larry Stewart, CSC, President of the Holy Cross History Association and Archivist for the Midwest Province, served as chairperson. During the course of the conference, the participants visited three schools operated by the Holy Cross Brothers in the Cleveland area.



The Holy Cross Associate Leadership group pauses for a photo. Front row: Judith Plummer, Shirley Brien, Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC. Back row: Sr. Louise Auclair, CSC, Chris Laughlin, Joe Connell



At the business meeting, Sr. Judy was elected Vice-President of the Association and Sr. Clarita to the Board of Directors. Marianites who have held office in the Holy Cross History Association in the past include Sisters Madeleine Sophie Hebert, Margaret Cronley, Joel Spierier, Barbara Dupuis, Evelyn Eason, David Hecker, and Kathleen Farrell. The Holy Cross History Association sponsors the annual conference and publishes a newsletter, *Holy Cross History*, which appears twice a year. The 2012 conference will take place at the University of Portland, Portland, Oregon. The 2013 gathering is scheduled for New Orleans.

Sr. Clarita Bourque, MSC
(A photo of History Conference participants can be found on page 11.)

We walk in the footsteps of our Founder

Since 1983 the Marianites of Holy Cross have organized and hosted the International Session in Holy Cross Spirituality in Le Mans, France. The tradition continued in June of 2011 when forty-seven sisters, brothers, laity and priests from Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Haiti, Ghana, Uganda and the United States came together to begin our walk in the footsteps of our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau.

Opening day excitement was in the air as we gathered at the Centre de l'Etoile to meet one another and to embark on our ten-day pilgrimage. This special time apart from our daily routines afforded us the opportunity to deepen our knowledge about our roots, to listen to one another's experiences of life and ministry in different parts of the world, to pray, reflect and share, as well as enjoy one another's company in the midst of the vibrant French culture and history that shaped our beginnings in Holy Cross.

The session days alternated between conference days and travel



Participants at the International Session visit the parish church at Laigné-en-Belin where Blessed Basil Moreau was baptized

days. During conference days we listened, learned new insights and discussed our Holy Cross heritage. A sampling of topics: *The Four Pillars of Holy Cross Spirituality; The Sarthe and France in the 19th Century; Beginning Foundations in Canada and Indiana, Moreau Spirituality: A Contemporary Way to Holiness; Holy Cross in France Today.*

"We remain united with one another by our commitment to the mission of Holy Cross in fidelity to the Church."

MSC Constitutions, Article #10

During the days of pilgrimage we traveled through numerous villages and miles of beautiful countryside to places that brought our history to life. Our travels took us from Laigné-en-Belin, the simple birthplace of Fr. Moreau, to the Gothic architectural marvel that is the Cathedral in Chartres; from the ancient Benedictine Monastery in Solesmes to the simple Trappist Monastery of La Grande Trappe in Normandy. Within Le Mans, we walked the same route used by our Founder to go from the Church of Notre Dame de Sainte Croix up the hill to our cemetery and onward to

the Solitude, the Motherhouse of the Marianites. Integrated into the schedule of each day were times for Prayer, Eucharistic Liturgy, and Theological Reflection where we highlighted our internationality in ritual and song.

Life changed for all of us, however, when in the early morning hours of June 25, Sister Marion Teresa Gomes, CSC died very unexpectedly. Shock and disbelief rippled through the group as word spread. Our hearts were touched. We bonded deeply in our grief. As we gathered together in prayer and shared highlights of Sister's life in Holy Cross, her peaceful manner and the joy she expressed the evening before her death were recalled. "I am so happy to be here in Le Mans for this Session.

This is such a special time for me!" A beloved wisdom figure of the Sisters of the Holy Cross from Bangladesh had made her ultimate journey HOME!

Our pilgrimage to Le Mans was indeed a journey of transformation. The many rhythms of grace manifested along the way helped us to uncover new pathways to our future, a clearer understanding of our roots and a deeper appreciation of our gifts as women and men of Holy Cross—religious and laity together in our mission to bring hope and justice to the world!

Sr. Regina White, MSC

