

LIVING OUR HOLY CROSS MISSION IN SOLIDARITY FOR A JUST, EQUITABLE, AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

(adopted 9/11/2021)

Since the founding of the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1837 by Blessed Basil Moreau, we have pursued a mission as disciples of Jesus to "stand side by side with all people. We are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weakness; We are made new by the same Lord's love; We hope for a world where justice and love prevail" (Constitution 2 Article 12)

Basil Moreau founded the Congregation based on the principle of equality. In the poor and all people, Basil Moreau said we must see "the image of God imprinted within them like a sacred seal that must be preserved at all costs" (Christian Education).

Grounded in Catholic tradition and guided by Catholic social teaching, we, the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province, believe:

- All persons are created in the image of God and therefore have equal and inherent dignity.
- We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.
- Regardless of our national, racial, ethnic, economic, or ideological differences,
- We are one human family.
- We stand in solidarity with those to whom we minister, especially those experiencing prejudice, violence, and injustice based on race, cast, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.
- We believe diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion are crucial to living our mission.

"Our concern for the dignity of every human being as God's cherished child directs our care to victims of every injury: prejudice, famine, warfare, ignorance, infidelity, abuse, natural calamity...". (Holy Cross Constitutions, 2:16)

"Racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that because all humans share a common origin, they are all brothers and sisters, all equally made in the image of God. When this truth is ignored, the consequences prejudice and fear of the other and -- all too often -- hatred." (Bishop's Letter "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love")

As Holy Cross Brothers, we call on those who join with us in Gospel living and mission to recognize:

- Jesus lives in every person,
- Everyone holds implicit prejudice and has room to grow,
- Growth comes with vulnerability,
- Humility, patience, honesty, and accountability are at the core of challenging ourselves and each other and social institutions.
- The common good requires a firm, ongoing individual and collective commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, solidarity, and justice.

US Catholic Bishops recently published a statement, "God Is on Your Side: A Statement from Catholic Bishops on Protection of LGBT Youth." As Brothers of Holy Cross, we support this statement by the Bishops: "**all people of goodwill should help, support, and defend LGBT youth, who face many challenges, including harassment, bullying, and violence.**"