



CONGREGAZIONE DI SANTA CROCE

Curia Generalizia

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September 9, 1999

Dear sisters and brothers in Holy Cross,

The *Intercongregational Committee for the Cause of the Servant of God, Basil Moreau, CSC*, established by the Superiors General of our four Congregations to give oversight to the ongoing process of the Cause of Basil Moreau, met at Our Lady of Holy Cross, New Orleans, USA, September 3-6, 1999. Attending the meeting was Father James FitzPatrick, OMI, Postulator of the Cause of Basil Moreau.

In working with the Committee, he spoke of the process of beatification/canonization as an act of the Church, by the Church and for the Church attending to our human need to recognize and honor those among us who evidence great virtue and holiness. When this process is engaged on behalf of the Founder or Foundress of a religious community, as with Basil Moreau, CSC, it reaffirms the identity of the followers as women and men bonded with the Founder and it becomes a spiritual exercise, a process of spiritual renewal for all. In effect, it is celebrating the reality of God's grace in the life of the Founder.

We were reminded by Father FitzPatrick that the Church declared Father Moreau *Servant of God* in 1955. All the research on his life has been completed and is currently under review by the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. The next step in the process is the Church declaring Father Moreau *Venerable*. We await the Church's decision.

The Cause of a Founder or Foundress is very different from others. As a Founder, the Church will lift Father Moreau up and examine him: he is alive if we are alive as we are the living memory of the *Servant of God, Basil Moreau, CSC*. What is our fidelity to his charism?

We have submitted a proposal to promote and advance the Cause of Basil Moreau to the leadership of our four Congregations. They will be meeting at St. Mary's, Notre Dame, in February 2000. The renewed efforts of our family of Holy Cross on behalf of the Cause of Father Moreau is an occasion for all of us to deepen our knowledge of and devotion to this *Servant of God* in whose steps we walk today.

We encourage you to pray to him for your needs and the needs of others, and to take every opportunity to promote devotion to him within our respective communities and among the faithful.

United in his name, we are,

Intercongregational Committee for the Cause of the Servant of God, Basil Moreau, CSC

Sister Kathryn Callahan, CSC

Sister Lucie Germain, CSC

Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC

Sister Madeleine Sophie Hebert, MSC

Brother John Gleason, CSC (Liaison to the General Administrations)

NEWS from HOLY CROSS TODAY – GHANA

October-November 1999

[A summary of news contained in the District of West Africa's newsletter, *Holy Cross Today – Ghana*. The newsletter's motto is: "Communicating the life and mission of the men and women of Holy Cross in the District of West Africa." It is regrettable that its length and its many photos prohibit our direct reproduction of it for all province members.]

Blessed Brother Andre Novitiate Receives Its First Novices

On September 8 at Brafuyaw five novices were received in the newly reopened novitiate program in Ghana: Brothers John Badu, John Asiedu, Benjamin Biney Mensah, Patrick Osei Bonsu, and Matthew Sabogu.

Br. Joseph Tsiquaye is the novice director, and Br. Richard Johnson* assistant.

Great festivity surrounded the reception ceremony.

Fr. Robert Malone (EP) Returns to U.S.

Fr. Bob Malone, who had volunteered last year to assist as chaplain to the brothers at St. John's School in Sekondi, had to return to the U.S. for health reasons. The article says, "Bob joined this community and participated fully in all activities. We will miss him and hope and pray his health problems will not hinder his work for the church in America. We all feel happy that we have lived with another Holy Cross member who supported us greatly during the short time he was with us in Ghana."

Chapter Preparation Gets Into Full Gear

The triennial district chapter will be held at Brafuyaw at the Continuing Formation Centre from December 17-23. Br. Ken Haders will moderate the chapter, and Br. Don Gibbs will represent the provincial administration. Br. Raymond Papenfuss, in E. Africa on an evaluation assignment for the Koch Foundation at the time, will be present as Mission Promoter for Ghana.

Three main committees have been formed for the chapter and have been working hard to present concrete proposals to the chapter to "usher the District into the next millennium."

On the Move....

An article described the peripatetic nature of the pre-novitiate program in Ghana, "which has had three different homes and is soon to move to its newest home at recently renovated premises at Butumagyebu, a village not more than four to five kilometres from Sekondi."

Starting at St. Joseph's Hall on the St. John's campus, the pre-novitiate then moved as numbers began to grow to the Old District Residence at Brafuyaw in Cape Coast. When the novitiate came back to Ghana, the pre-novitiate program was moved again temporarily to the New District Administrative Centre on the same grounds, while waiting for the Butumagyebu house (years ago the district novitiate and retreat house) to be renovated and enlarged.

The moves have been inconvenient, but when the reasons for them are considered, everyone is more than ready to make whatever sacrifices are necessary, according to Fr. Bob Gilmour, director of the program.

Holy Cross Organizes Youth Leadership Workshop

23 young men and women from three dioceses participated in a Youth Leadership Workshop sponsored and conducted by the Brothers of Holy Cross. Brothers Joseph Tsiquaye, Michael Amakyi, Joseph Annan, William Gates, Emmanuel Mino, and Paul Mensah, and Fathers Bob Gilmour and Bob Malone staffed the five-day program, which covered topics such as Holy Cross in Ghana, leadership and its qualities and styles, the proper use of meetings, communication, awareness of self and others, conflict analysis, and decision making. Mary Afia Gyima and Albert Agyeman Tontoh, participants, wrote the article expressing their delight with the program.

Sister Esther Adjoa Entsiwah, C.S.C., Wins Best Teacher Award

Sr. Esther, who has visited St. Mary's in the United States, "was adjudged the overall best teacher for 1998-99 academic year in the Western Region of Ghana." She also won the best teacher award in the Sekondi-Takoradi metropolis.

Sr. Esther teaches at Archbishop Porter Secondary School in Takoradi. She is a science teacher with biology as her special field.

The school administration said of her, "She is a conscientious teacher and a very dependable member of staff." They add that her students see her not only as their teacher but as their friend.

*Health Note: At the time this was written, Br. Richard Johnson was hospitalized in Accra at Korle Bu Hospital being treated for bleeding ulcers. A phone call November 30 from Br. Richard and Br. Michael Amakyi, district superior, to Br. William Geenen indicated that Richard was to be released around December 2 or 3 and would be returning to Cape Coast (Brafuyaw) for recuperation.