

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross –Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460



January 26, 2011

## Brothers Host an Elegant Moreau Celebration



The Midwest Province hosted the Annual Moreau Celebration for the Holy Cross Congregations of Priests, Brothers and Sisters from the South Bend area. Blessed Basil Moreau's feast day is celebrated on January 20. The Brothers, due to the meticulous planning of **Brother Joseph Fox, C.S.C.**, conducted a celebration with a touch of elegance. Sunday evening, January 23, began with Solemn Vespers to celebrate the life of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau in St. Joseph Chapel of Holy Cross College.

**Brother John R. Paige, C.S.C.**, President of Holy Cross College, presided over the Solemn Vespers and gave the homily. **Brother Joseph Fox, C.S.C.** was Master of Ceremonies. The choir made up of 63-members, included Brothers, Sisters, sister novices, seminarians, members of the Holy Cross Associates and residents of Holy Cross Village. The choir was directed by **Mrs. Barbara Ziliak** and the organist was **Carrie Eowie**.



**Brother Chester Freil, C.S.C.**, Provincial of the Midwest Province, began the Solemn Vespers by welcoming all of the guests. **Father Peter Rocca, C.S.C.**, Rector of Sacred Heart Basilica, did a reading from the *Christian Meditations* of Blessed Basil Moreau. **Sister Mary Louise Full, C.S.C.**, Councilor of the General Administration of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, read the petitions at the conclusion of the Solemn Vespers.

Following Vespers the 250 guests took part in an elegant grazing reception held in Andre Place at Holy Cross Village. Besides Priests Brothers and Sisters, guests included members of the Holy Cross

Associates, residents of Holy Cross Village and Holy Cross College. The culinary staff of Andre Place is to be congratulated on the wonderful reception.

## Solemn Vespers to celebrate the life of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau CSC

St. Joseph Chapel at Holy Cross College

Sunday, January 23, 2011

Homily: Brother John R. Paige, C.S.C.



When the Church officially declared Father Basil Moreau to be “Blessed,” she publically declared that this holy man of heroic virtue should be honored and venerated by those most associated with him and his works:

- the people of the diocese of Le Mans, and indeed all of France;
- those associated with the apostolic works of his spiritual sons and daughters;
- and the religious and associates of the Congregations of Holy Cross

We belong to the latter two groups and that is why we gather here to celebrate the life of Father Moreau. Actually, that is the way I prefer to address him: FATHER Moreau.

A number of you present here this evening were also participants at the Centre Antares in Le Mans in September 2007 for the beatification ceremony. One particularly striking point in the proceedings occurred just after the Cardinal-delegate of the Pope officially declared Basil Moreau blessed: a huge banner depicting the face of Father Moreau was unfurled high over the main altar of the center. What a moving moment: our dear father founder, who suffered so much—particularly from the actions of some of our Holy Cross forbears, his sons and daughters—looked down loving and serenely on us all. There was no blame in

that face, or recrimination, or resentment; only the loving glance of a father who knows and loves his children, who understands our weaknesses, who knows that the Cross—suffering—is inevitable in our lives. However, that inevitability of suffering is not just something to be endured; rather, Moreau’s face shows what serenity and reward there is in embracing the Cross as Our Only Hope. Hence, when we hear in the reading from *Christian Meditations* today some advice from our father, it is well that we listen with open ears and open hearts.

Father Moreau counsels that our duty and our glory and our happiness come from imitating Jesus Christ; Jesus is to be our tutor, our mentor and our model. Moreau also reminds us that imitating Christ is not something we do on our own—it is by virtue of our baptism (quoting Saint Paul) that we are transformed into Christ, that we become a single body of living members where Christ himself is the head. It is as if “the virtues of this divine savior in some way serve us as clothing.” So how might we be clothed with Christ and, imitating Him, be tutor, mentor and model to others?

The first thing I notice is that for Father Moreau, “it’s not about himself!” Moreau doesn’t say “imitate me,” although the Church now recognizes that he is a man of heroic virtue and “imitate-able,” so to speak. He says “imitate Christ.” We have the actions of the Incarnate Word to imitate. Perhaps that wristband that I see young people wearing —“What Would Jesus Do?”—might serve as a reminder for each of us that imitating Christ is “not about me, it’s about Jesus.”

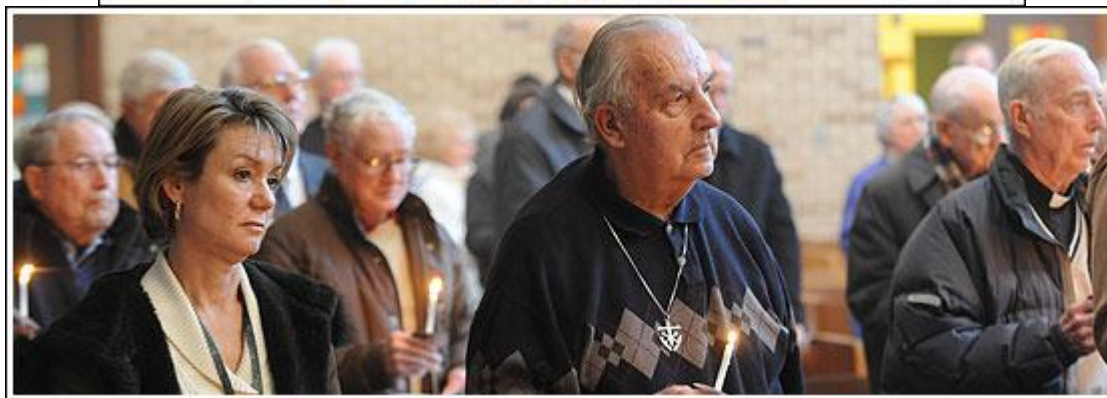
But to imitate Jesus Christ, we must know Him. I believe that we do know the Truth of Jesus and that we would not be here today if we did not know and love Him. I also believe that His example is the Way that has guided our path of service. In this we are true children of Moreau: that we have made God known, loved and served. But knowing, loving and serving God is not a one-shot deal, as we also know, and as Moreau knows. Hence, our founding father reminds us to “gaze on this divine model” so we may imitate Him within the context of our vocation.

Gazing. The verb is defined as “to look earnestly and steadily, as in scrutiny, admiration, or concern;” the noun describes “a continued or intense look.” Brother Andre had a simpler definition: “I look at Him and He looks at me.” So perhaps we should be asking ourselves, in light of Moreau’s fatherly advice, “how much time do I spend gazing on our divine model” —looking earnestly, steadily, intently, continually? This query causes me some discomfort because I find myself quite willing to work hard, quite willing to sacrifice time and effort for the apostolate, and quite willing to dedicate myself to making God

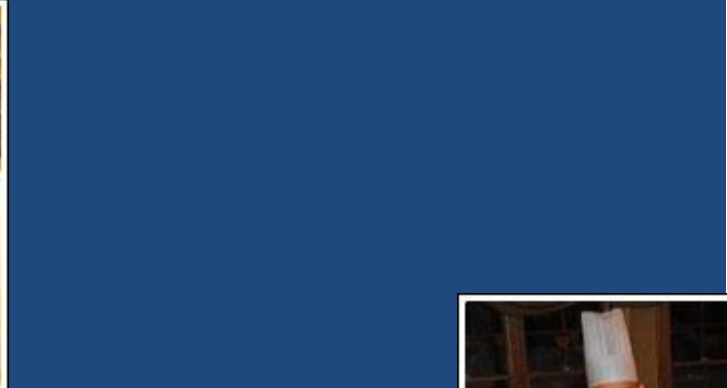
known, loved and served in the context of my vocation. But I find myself not quite as able to spend a proportional amount of time gazing on the divine model; and/or allowing the divine model to gaze on me! Is it possible for me that in imitating the divine model, my imitation has become more about me than about Jesus? More about making time for doing than making time for gazing?

Good fathers are adjured to encourage their children, not to nag them, according to St. Paul. So I take Moreau's loving advice to gaze on the divine model in order to imitate Him as encouragement, not nagging—although sometimes my failures in making sufficient “gaze time” for the Lord do nag me. Be that as it may, I believe that the reading chosen for our reflection on this Moreau Day offers us the opportunity to renew this practice of our founding father with all due solicitude. From that renewed and/or improved practice will flow a true knowledge of Jesus, our divine model, and an imitation of Christ that has power to renew us, renew Holy Cross, and renew the Church in these times.

May our patron St. Joseph, who is especially honored in this chapel, and our Blessed Mother Mary assist us in gazing on our divine model. After all, they had many opportunities to do just that in the context of the Holy Family. Amen.







More Pictures at:

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com>

and

<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/CurrentEvents.htm>

## Congratulations!

There are 40 Brothers who are celebrating the anniversary of their first profession today, January 26. The Brothers began the first profession ceremony on January 26 in 1955. **Brother Joseph Ballard** was the first to make his first profession on that day. The last Brother to make his first vows on January 26 was **Brother Charles Henning**, in 1968. The changes in the date for first vows ceremony was tied to the date the University of Notre Dame began its second semester. In June, two Brothers who made their first vows on January 26, will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of first profession; they are **Brothers Edward Foken** and **Edward Libbers**.

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