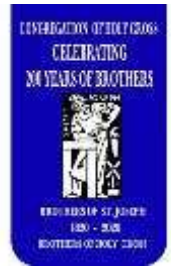


# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

March 24, 2021



## Prayer to Saint Joseph

Happy and blessed are you, O Joseph, in whom it has been given not only to see and hear but also to bear in your arms, to embrace, to clothe, and to watch over God himself, whom many kings have desired to see but have not seen, and to hear but have not heard.

Pray for us, O blessed Joseph.  
*--That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.*

**Directory of Devotional Prayer – pg 6**



[Ite Ad Joseph: Go to Joseph! - YouTube](#)

**March  
Week 4**

**Weekly Spiritual Reflection  
from the Early Brothers of  
St. Joseph**

God keep us from putting our hope in earthly shields when we can put it in Divine Providence which led us here in so admirable a manner. (Brother Andre Mottais 7/11/1840)

## Vows Ghana, West Africa

Click picture for larger view:



**A few of the 101 pictures sent in by Brother Kenneth Haders, C.S.C.**

Congratulations to Brother Tom Dillman on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee!

Congratulations to the following Brothers who made their Perpetual Profession:

Brother Aaron Aleniabaghr, CSC  
Brother Augustine Amissah, CSC  
Brother George Asare, CSC  
Brother Patrick Mbroh Baidoo, CSC  
Brother Gabriel Yaw Koi, CSC  
Brother Evans Damiah Mensah, CSC  
Brother Martin Yabang, CSC

Congratulations to the following Brothers who made their First Profession:

Brother Emmanuel Osei Bonsu, CSC  
Brother Frederick Cudjoe, CSC  
Brother Louis Oppong, CSC

## Lenten Lecture Series – 2021

### 2:00 PM in Geenen Hall - Wednesdays

Personal meeting ID: 891 491 9777 for Zoom  
Passcode: 54515

And, for those who live at Holy Cross Village, on TV at  
Touchtown Channel 86/951

**March 24**

**Brother Douglas Roach, CSC**



**“In the midst of the turmoil, what is God calling us to be?”**

Presently celebrating his 67th year in the Congregation of Holy Cross, Brother Doug Roach is the superior at Columba Hall, a Brothers’ retirement facility on the Notre Dame campus. Prior to Columba Hall, he was involved in high school teaching and administration; a mental health counselor in a state prison; administrator of a priest-less parish; and director in a Brothers’ formation program.

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## Midwest Holy Cross Associates

**Flyer sent out to all Holy Cross schools:**

“... We invite all those in our Holy Cross schools to submit an essay or short film reflecting on how the virtues of the Brothers of Saint Joseph impact and motivate you.

This contest is endorsed by the Brothers of Holy Cross Midwest Province and the Holy Cross Institute. ...”

Click link to view entire flyer -- [Contest Flyer](#)



## The Logic of the Cross

### Lenten Presentation Talk by Brother Ben Rossi, C.S.C.

The founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Moreau, was a highly intuitive human being who, in his mystical way, was constantly putting the pieces together and deepening his understanding of life. As a seminary professor, he was tasked with synthesizing large bodies of information, collating ideas, and integrating concepts. As a pastor of souls, he was always looking for access to human hearts, angles for inviting his flock into the sacramental life and new ways to present the Good News. As the founder of a religious community, he had to organize personnel, manage personalities and negotiate with any number of stakeholders in order to nurture his fledgling congregation. In this talk, I would like to suggest that we should not be surprised that Blessed Moreau specifically held up the Cross - *Ave Crux, Spes Unica!* - as the key to keeping things together among the many commitments and responsibilities in his complex life as a priest, scholar, pastor, and founder. Further, I will suggest that the Cross - especially during Lent - can be a powerful lever for conversion for us as we, in our own intuitive and mystical way, seek to put the pieces together and understand the meaning of our lives.

To begin with, it is important to realize that the way that people commonly speak of the Cross in pop-spirituality - even in the Church - is *not* what Blessed Moreau meant by the Cross. Folks will think of the Cross as some exterior thing which, like a ball and chain, oppresses us and which we drag around as we go through the motions of life. Perhaps we have heard people talk this way about family members, spouses, community members, jobs, etc.: “That guy is my Cross” or “I love this job but it is such a Cross for me” or “This Christmas party is my Cross every year!” In this way, the Cross becomes this stranger whom we have inexplicably latched onto and struggle forward with through life. There is no integration in this. There is no conversion in this. All we are doing is setting ourselves up for massive resentments down the road! This is clearly not what Moreau had in mind for his religious community of women and men whom he hoped to lead to sanctification through their life in Holy Cross. In fact, in one of his letters, Moreau famously exhorts one of the nuns, “Don’t drag your Cross, Sister, carry it!”

The Cross indeed is not a stranger we have to awkwardly spend time with, nor an enemy that we have to fight against, nor a punishment we simply

have to put up with as we trudge through life, but it is rather a gift that has the power to change us and make us new people. There is this definite interior dimension to the Cross in our lives. We have a relationship with the Cross. The Cross meets a certain spiritual, psychological, emotional and intellectual need that we have as human beings. The Cross is dynamic. The Cross is a necessary companion on our journey through this life as we become new people, fully conformed to the Lord. We get a glimpse of this deep meaning of the Cross in the writings of St. Paul, a disciple and missionary of Jesus, who, like Blessed Moreau, had encountered the Lord in a profound way in his life and was on fire to invite others into that same relationship. Listen to the language of deep feeling in the following passages as Paul describes his relationship with the Cross:

- “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” (Gal 2:20)
- “Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.” (Romans 6:8)
- “But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Galatians 6:14)
- “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24)

From this Paul perspective then, other people, places and things, are not the Cross! The Cross is rather the shape that our souls must arrive at in order to be fully alive. Indeed, when we, like Paul, have been crucified with Christ (literally “made into a cross-shape”), we will be totally disposed to the living God and at the total service of our fellow human beings. This Cross shape is our destiny and our human vocation, the eternal form that all souls shall have in the kingdom, as we, with the slain lamb, worship God and love each other forever.

The question, therefore, is: how do we go from these out-of-shape and weak and compromised and corrupted souls to those finely-tuned Cross-shaped souls that offer us true and lasting life? Here is where the other people, places and things come into play: they are all *the circumstances* that challenge us and pressure us, like Blessed Moreau, a man who was rejected and expelled from the very religious community he established, to dig deep and find that crucified form within us. There is a certain greenhouse effect here, where the heaviness of our immediate environment - relationships, personalities, emotions, responsibilities, etc. - force and facilitate inner growth. This is where the Cross is revealed to us, this is

where we are made aware of our fundamental dignity, this is where we become our best self! No longer a treasure buried in a field - under heaps of attachments, resentments, old emotions, memories, fears and anxieties - the crucified form, the Cross, sounds forth in our lives, and we walk boldly and unmistakably with the Lord, trusting, with nothing to hide and nothing to lose. Life-giving eucharist flows from the side of Christ's body and thus we feed and nourish others all along the way, inviting them into this same spiritual posture of bold risk-taking and the constant hope of intimacy with the Lord. Perhaps *this* is what Jesus meant when he said "Take up your Cross and follow me." Perhaps this is the logic of the Cross.

Lent can be an excellent occasion to reflect on the role of the Cross in our lives. Where are we on this journey? Do we falsely accuse other people, places and things of being "our crosses"? Do we really believe that the Cross is a gift and the key for us to become the best version of ourselves? Are we willing to take the risk of looking inside and confronting all of that stuff that gets in the way and obscures that glorious crucified form that is just waiting to be revealed? Are we willing to accept challenges, enter into difficult circumstances, take on new responsibilities, and stay engaged in all manner of relationships for the sake of drawing nearer to the Cross? Most folks will settle for that bogus narrative about the Cross being some exterior thing, all the while drowning inside as they reduce other human beings, who have their own human dignity and their own crucified form to unveil and their own journey to intimacy with the Father, to some object or appendage that we are using to become "holy people." You and I are instead called to be disciples of Jesus, Christians who really and actually do the work of dying to self on a daily basis. Here are some practical ways to make these forty days count and, with Basil Moreau and St. Paul, become a resurrection people who experience the transforming mercy and love of God precisely through an awareness of our deep need for the Cross in our lives:

### **Pray seriously.**

A human being is a worshipping machine. Everyone is worshipping all of the time. The word "worship" literally means "worth-ship," that is, what is the most worthwhile thing in our lives, how we organize our lives. As Christians, we should simply organize our lives around God. Making an hour long prayer period the anchor of our day - immediately when we wake up in the morning or at night before we go to bed - is vital for our spiritual health. Why not also go to daily Mass, pray the rosary for fifteen or twenty minutes before dinner, do an examination of conscience, write in a prayer journal, make the

name “Jesus” a mantra to be repeated under our breath when we find ourselves between activities throughout the day. Simply put - we need to pray! Praying makes our lives worthwhile! The discovery of that inner crucified form, the Cross, depends upon our daily prayer discipline.

### **Read the Bible.**

In the world of technology, it is so easy to fill our senses with irrelevant and unnecessary bits of information or news here and there. We put that phone screen in front of our faces and just fill our minds and imaginations and emotions with a bunch of random images and words! We should not let idleness or anxiety, however, lead us down this path! We should instead become engaged in our religious tradition by entering as fully into the narrative as possible. We can find a Bible around the house or pick one up at the library, then sit down at the kitchen table and choose a book to read. In fact, we can ask the Spirit to lead us to the book of the Bible that we need to hear and then become fully immersed in the Word. By reading and studying and praying with the Bible, we will start thinking of our lives in terms of the drama of sin and salvation, mercy and forgiveness, darkness and light, death and new life, and the Cross will emerge as an obvious and necessary aspect of our journey of discipleship.

### **Stop Gossiping.**

One of those most destructive forces in any community is gossip. We all know what this is. We have all done it to some degree. Most of us have been victims of other people’s gossip. Gossiping is living at the exterior. Seeing things and engaging in relationships in a very superficial way. The judgments we make when we gossip about others are really rooted in our own insecurity, our unwillingness to trust God at that deep level. The lever to take control of our gossiping tendencies or inclinations is the Cross. In that moment - that split second! - when we feel the impulse to make that uncharitable statement or we feel our hearts welling up with jealousy for someone else, we can instead choose the humility and poverty of Christ crucified. This habit will in fact make us become children of God.

### **Serve others.**

The best way to get outside of ourselves and our selfish me-centered patterns of living is to start serving other people. When we give of ourselves, take the risk of encountering others on their terms, make sacrifices that cost us something, or simply make ourselves available to those we find ourselves living with and around, we are imitating the Cross.

Buried beneath all of our “stuff” really and truly is this great need to be of service to others and be connected to all other people as sisters and brothers on our common journey to God (again, I think of the Eucharistic blood flowing from the side of Christ on the Cross – we feed others and empower their own spiritual journeys through our willingness to serve). This might mean stopping in the hallway to see how somebody is doing, or making the quiet decision to financially support someone whom we know is in need, or actually turning to smile at the person who is asking for money at the intersection where we are stopped, or reaching out to a person we have a strained relationship with, or saying “yes” when somebody asks us to volunteer for something, or simply practicing presence to others at a social gathering.

We might also pay attention to our relationship with the environment, do little things with great love, look for opportunities to practice humility or charity in the course of our daily lives, go to confession, practice centering prayer each morning, seek out a spiritual director, literally carry around a Cross in our pockets and take hold of it throughout the day as we converse with others or complete our tasks, practice active listening in all of our interactions, meditate on the Gospel reading for the day, actually discern what comes out of our mouths, carve out time each day to pray by name (mentally or in writing) for family members, friends, enemies, people in the news, etc., visit the tabernacle, make some small sacrifice in the course of the day, take up some spiritual reading, sing a hymn of praise to God when the Spirit moves us, or simply learn to live from a place of gratitude, even amidst hardship. How could the Cross not be born out of such a life?

When our lives become ruled by the logic of the Cross, we will begin to breathe easily, to sleep deeply, to pray naturally and to serve wholeheartedly. We will remember who we are and, like children, rejoice in the miracle of a new day again and again and again. The Lord’s presence will be obvious to us and we will take pleasure in the little details of our daily lives. We should not forget, however, that the risen Christ bears the marks of the crucifixion - we know this from his encounter with Thomas whom he invites to touch his wounds. Like Blessed Moreau, we must learn to seek after those graced circumstances that enable us to proceed on this inner journey, that allow us to encounter the true Cross and make it the center of our daily operating systems. In this way, we will become like Blessed Basil Moreau whose life as administrator, sacramental minister, preacher, teacher, religious, superior, and steward bears fruit to this day and offers us a compelling picture of an authentic Christian life. We too are called to



welcome the complexity and drama of it all as an opportunity to grow close to the Lord and nourish others who are still stuck in that “ball and chain” mode. We too shall run the way of the Lord’s commands by finally taking ownership of that glorious crucified form within. Our hearts will be free and our lives will proclaim a constant, “Ave Crux Spes Unica!” for all who care to listen.



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### Committee Chairmen for MWP Chapter 2021

Resources committee—Brother William Dygert, CSC  
Ministry to Others—Brother Robert Livernois, CSC  
Ministry to Ourselves—Brother Philip Smith, CSC  
Governance Committee—Brother Chester Freel, CSC

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## Dujarie House on Saint Patrick's Day



Brother Roger Berg, CSC



Brother Lawrence Stewart, CSC





Brother James  
Newberry. CSC



Brother Robert  
Fontaine, CSC



Brother Thomas  
Moser, CSC



Brother Ronald  
Christenson, CSC



Brother Donald  
Allen, CSC

Photos by Chris Torrijas. CSC

## Gibault – Highest Standard



The Council on Accreditation (COA) announced Gibault, Inc. achieved accreditation meeting the highest standard in professional performance. Michele Madley, Gibault CEO, poses for a photo with Gibault's Tyra Trueblood and Ashley Nicoson. Ashley and Tyra worked countless hours with COA committees and our staff who all made this recognition possible.

- Tyra Trueblood is the Director of Compliance
- Ashley Nicoson is the Compliance Coordinator
- This year Michele will be with Gibault 27 years, She has officially been the CEO since January 2013, but acted as Interim CEO from July 2012 until she officially became CEO.

**Baby Shower at Columba Hall!  
Saint Gerard - Patron of Expectant Mothers – Pray for Her**



Staff and Brothers gathered March 19 at 2:00 PM to hold a baby shower (It is a first) for CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) Brianna.

Kitchen staff prepared small treats with cake and ice cream.

We look forward to seeing Brianna back at work in a few weeks and viewing pictures of her first child.



Note: The color has surprising changed from pink to blue!



Pickles!



## Brothers of Holy Cross, Venice Diocese, Celebrate Feast of St. Joseph

Our Brothers of the Venice Diocese gathered together in the St. Andre social center in Sarasota on the eve (March 18, 2021) of the Feast of St. Joseph for evening prayer, social and dinner. This communal observance provided the perfect opportunity for our six CSC members to assemble to honor our patron saint more especially as we continue to celebrate the 200 years of Brothers!



**Brothers Francis Boylan, Peter Nault, William Dygert, Michael Brickman (M), James Bagans, and Larry Skitzki.**



On an additional note we had four Michiganites around the table, representing the *snow-birds*, for which Florida is so well known.

**Michiganites Peter Nault, Francis Boylan, William Dygert, & James Bagans**

**Article and photos by Brother Michael Brickman, CSC**

## Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

### Cherish What You Have Been Given

Dear Associates and Friends,

In Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*, Emily, who has just died, asks the stage manager if she could go back to earth to spend one more day. He grants her wish but advises that she choose an ordinary day rather than a significant day because it might be too much for her. She chooses a day in which her mother is making breakfast for her. She sees the love in her mother's eyes, the beauty of the morning sun, the joy of just being alive and living an ordinary life. It moves her to tears.

We need to cherish the ordinary blessings of life like the warm water for washing, the clean air we are breathing, the love of our family, friends and fellow associates, the food and shelter that we enjoy. That might help us to experience gratefulness. In doing so we will be open to an experience of the mystery of life we are blessed to live. Gratefulness also lets us be open to the grace that God wants to give us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- What are some of the gifts that God has given you that you often take for granted?
- How will you remember the ordinary gifts of life in your prayers of thanksgiving?
- Are you open to sharing your gifts with others as part of your legacy?

**O God, help me to cherish what you have given me and find ways of passing it on to others as part of my legacy.**



**Brother Carl Sternberg,**

For more reflections to grow spiritually please visit our new blog  
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



From the *Voice of Moreau Website*

The website features a Holy Cross sister, a brother, or a priest, with a weekly story on the blog. Check the following link below.



Website: <http://www.voiceofmoreau.org/>



**Brother  
Philip  
Smith**



**Brother  
Ben  
Rossi**



Spring Teleconference Sponsored  
by the Midwest Holy Cross Associates

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Click below for the conference program and registration:

<https://holycrossassociates.org/chapters/national-and-regional-conferences/>





Reflection  
Reflection sent in by  
Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



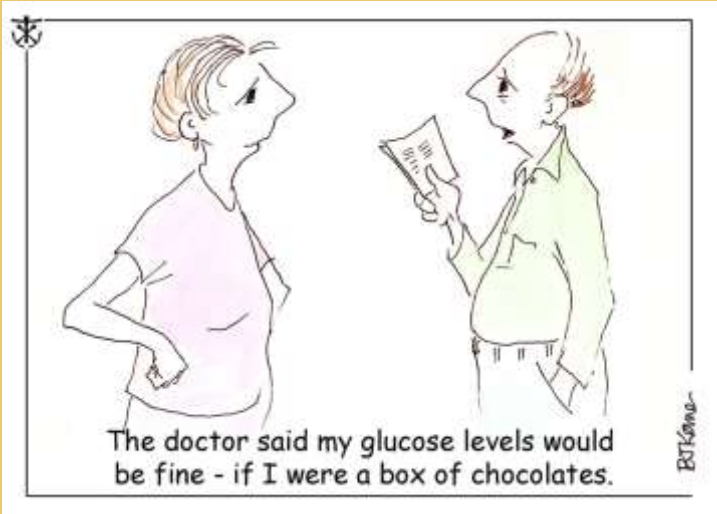
SORROW looks BACK, WORRY looks AROUND,  
FAITH looks UP.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Emmanuel Care...With you on your journey toward health, healing and a better quality of life.

[emmanuelcare.ca](http://emmanuelcare.ca)





Brother  
James  
Kane,  
CSC



## Past Copies of *Midwest-Midweek*

Since February 2006

Past copies of *Midwest-Midweek* may be viewed by scanning the icon or clicking on the link below.

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