

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

January 31, 2024



**Mother Marie-Léonie (Élodie-
Virginie) Paradis, C.S.C.
(1840-1912)**

Article by Brother Philip Smith on page 6.

Winter

Day after day the snow comes down, the white
transforming every branch of every tree.
It covers land, and it covers me—
mystic virginal affinity.

We can't be so offended by the sight
of this presumptive camaraderie—
it tightens to a oneness larger than He,
then in me, a tense bond, heavenly.

World, look on it and understand
you can't compare this miracle of two-
in-one unfathomable, like three-in-one,

as gentle as the snow that mighty can
blanket this and that, me with You,
beneath the winter crystals and the sun.

—**Brother George Klawitter, CSC**



Associates Conference 24



On a cold Saturday in January, one hundred plus people from the USA and around the world chose to attend this conference on zoom. The theme was “Resiliency: Reclaiming the Legacy of Blessed Basil Moreau for Our Times.” It was a celebration of Moreau’s 150th anniversary sponsored by the Midwest Holy Cross Associates and the Midwest Brothers’ Province.

There were three main speakers: Father Karl Romkema, csc, Doctor Richard Bautch, president of the Holy Cross Institute, and Sister Maryanne O’Neill, csc.



Father Karl stressed the fact that Moreau’s spirituality came from many sources in our Catholic tradition. He began by showing slides of the many architectural influences in St. Julian’s Cathedral, so close to our Holy Cross Church in Le Mans, France. He used these photos as a vivid metaphor for how Moreau brought a unity out of diversity, an important Holy Cross charism. He also described the abundant love God has for each of us which enables us to trust God’s divine providence.



Doctor Bautch, a Scripture scholar, shared through Scriptural passages how Moreau’s mission was to make God known, loved, and served by means of the head and the heart. It became the contribution Moreau makes to today’s teachers in Holy Cross Schools. It is the privilege of teachers to draw out of each student their “star quality” aided by God’s abundant love to reach this lofty goal.



**Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.,
Vice-Chairman -
Midwest Holy Cross Associates**



Sister Maryanne shared part of her life's story and how a reluctant young sister found herself amidst a war in El Salvador and drew her into a deepening trust in God's providence. This enabled her to have an enriched life in the many ministries into which she was able to give a wholehearted response.

The conference was also blessed with contributions of essays and videos from students of our Holy Cross Schools on Moreau's legacy. It was a day to relish the connection Father Moreau has had to bring resilience to our lives during these messy and turbulent times.


Thanks to all who made it possible.

Above message from Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.

Bridging the Mind and the Heart

- "We shall always place education side by side with instruction."
- "The mind shall not be cultivated at the expense of the heart."
- "While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven."

Blessed Basil Moreau's
Circular Letters, 36 (1849)



Photos are blurred due to collecting them directly off a TV Screen.



Ignacio Martinez



Paul Acampora



Jessica Plaspohl




Brother James Spooner, C.S.C.

Sorry not to be able to show all pictures taken.


brj

Brother Columba O'Neill, C.S.C.
Servant of God

Website
<https://brothercolumba.com/>



Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C.
Postulator of the cause for Brother Columba



Click Link

**Mother Marie-Léonie (Élodie-Virginie) Paradis, C.S.C.
(1840-1912)**



Marianite Sister of Holy Cross and founder of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family, she was born in L'Acadie, Lower Canada. In the mid 1840s Élodie Paradis' father moved to the concession of La Tortue, near the village of Saint-Philippe-de-Laprairie, in order to support his family.

When Élodie was nine years old, her mother sent her to a boarding-school run by the Congregation of Notre-Dame in La Prairie. Having heard that there was a community of nuns within the Holy Cross family, Élodie presented herself at the novitiate of the Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross in Saint-Laurent, near Montreal in 1854. She was not yet 14.

Under the name of Sister Marie-de-Sainte-Léonie she was accepted as a novice. In 1857 she made her vows. In 1862 she was sent to New York, where the Marianites operated an orphanage, a workroom, and a school for poor children in the parish of St. Vincent de Paul. Eight years later she joined the American branch of Holy Cross and went to Indiana to teach French and needlework to the nuns who were slated to become teachers.

After a short stay in Michigan, in 1874, She was chosen to direct a group of novices and postulants at the College of St Joseph in Memramcook, New Brunswick. There she would heed what she considered her calling at that moment: to be an auxiliary and assistant to the Holy Cross Fathers in the mission of educating young Acadians. Fourteen Acadian girls taken into the workroom that she directed began wearing their own unique habit in 1877. In 1880 the general chapter of the Holy Cross Fathers accepted the idea of a new foundation for the needs of the colleges, the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. Sister Marie-Léonie helped "to save the Acadian nationality,

threatened and doomed to anglicization” as much by Irish Roman Catholics as by Protestants. In 1895 she met Bishop Paul Larocque who agreed to receive the mother house and the novitiate of the Little Sisters into his diocese and to give them his approval. In 1895, after 21 years in Acadia, Mother Marie-Léonie returned to Quebec. In 1896 Larocque granted canonical approval, and Mother Marie-Léonie then applied herself to the tasks of giving her institution a rule of life and helping the nuns develop a spirit of cheerful simplicity and sisterly generosity.

Mother Marie-Léonie died on 3 May 1912. In the course of her life she had overseen 38 establishments in Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, and the United States, most of them in colleges and a few in episcopal households. At the time of her death, the Little Sisters of the Holy Family had some 635 members. Élodie Paradis was beatified in Montreal on 11 Sept. 1984, during Pope John Paul II’s visit. The church thereby recognized an “avant-garde woman” who had met the needs of her time by founding the first institute to help priests in their educational work. Without this assistance, some colleges would have been unable to survive, since they did not have the means to hire lay personnel.

On January 25, 2024, the Vatican announced that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Marie Léonie Paradis, which will lead to her canonization.

Above article by Brother Philip Smith, C.S.C., Holy Cross Archivist



Mother Marie-Léonie Monument

[Mother Marie-Léonie Monument - Village de Memramcook](#)





Guess Who's Out to Dinner?

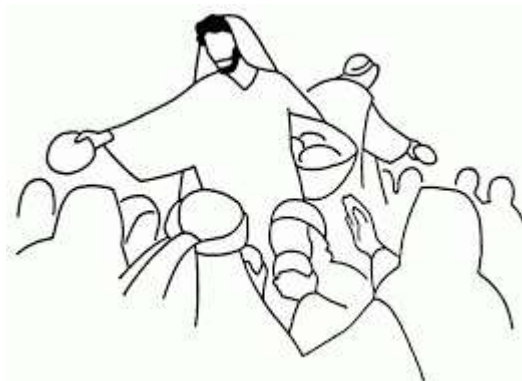
“The Son of Man [Jesus] came eating and drinking” (Matthew 11:19). He did so readily because he recognized the practical social value mealtime offered for a more personal contact with other persons.

The Gospels provide us with the numerous occasions Jesus accepted invitations out to dinner with the following:

- Levi (later Matthew), the tax-collector
- Simon, the Pharisee
- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
- Zecheus, the Jerico tax-agent
- Twelve Apostles (Last Supper)
- Seven disciples (fish-fry breakfast on the Sea of Tiberius shore)
- Two disciples on the road to Emmaus

“I will enter his house [human's] and dine with him.” (Rev 3:20)

Throughout his preaching Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God often in terms of a banquet.



Holy Cross Roads Writings for the Journey

Acceptance

We are the beloved of God. God created us. God sent Jesus to show us the kind of love that lasts even through death. However, one of the things we must accept is that we are not perfect. As we grow older, we more and more must come to grips with our limitations. Once what was easy to accomplish now may not be so reachable. We sometimes go through a crisis of our limitations. This may take time to accept, but it also may be an opportunity for spiritual growth. As one door closes, a window may open up to a new vision of the world. Some have said that retirement is getting a new set of tires. God does not abandon us but leads us forward. There is a freedom to discover new ways of living out God's call. It is the pattern Jesus undergoes in his life, death, and resurrection.

What lies ahead? Maybe it means sharing the gifts that were dormant but now have an opportunity to flourish. We are unique persons who process something that the world needs at this moment in history. Now there might be time to reflect on what that could be accepting God's call to develop and share these newly found gifts.

- Have you experienced an awareness of your limitations?
- Have you been able to let go accepting the life that God is calling you to now?
- Are there new possibilities that you would like to explore?

O God, help me accept my life as it unfolds.

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



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



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



**Providence
Health Care**
How you want to be treated.

Attention is the rarest and
purest form of generosity.
~ Simone Weil

This reflection is courtesy of Mission, Ethics & Spirituality + Providence Health Care -
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. providencehealthcare.org

January 25, 2024

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