On September 14, 2007, Venerable Basil Anthony Moreau, C.S.C. will be beatified by Pope Benedict XVI at LeMans, France. This issue of Pillars is dedicated to his gifts, vision, and legacy.

In my work as pastor of St. Joseph – a parish and school founded by Father Sorin in 1853 with a rich heritage of worship, service, and education in the heart of South Bend – I am privileged to witness, first hand, the influence that the priests, brothers, and sisters of Holy Cross have had on generations of believers in this community. An ocean and a continent away from the town of Sainte Croix, France, and spanning nearly two centuries of time, the legacy and faith of Basil Moreau – founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross – endure and prosper even unto today for the glory of God and the good of the people who continue to call St. Joe their spiritual home. Considering the influence Basil Moreau and the community he founded has had on the lives of so many over a span of 154 years, one is moved to ponder how, by the grace of God, the vision and values of a humble 19th century French priest continue to live in the hearts of men and women today.

In a letter to the religious of his congregation dated September 1, 1841, Father Basil Moreau referred to himself as a “simple tool” and one “which the Lord will soon break that He may substitute for it others...” The priests, brothers, and sisters of Holy Cross and those lay men and women who are inspired by the faith of Father Moreau are the “simple tools” of today, at work in the Lord’s vineyard.

see A Simple Tool, pg.3
Greetings, my brothers and sisters!

If you are a long time reader of Pillars, you undoubtedly have noticed our new look. We decided to change the format of Pillars, to hopefully make it still more readable, enjoyable, and relevant to you. The goal remains the same, however, to bring information to you, our partners in Holy Cross. As always, we welcome your comments.

Our focus in this issue of Pillars is Fr. Basil Anthony Moreau’s vision, values and spirituality and their relevance for the Holy Cross community and you, our friends, today. Vision is described as “the ability to think about the future with imagination or wisdom.” For Fr. Moreau, vision was combined with a complete trust in God’s will, and a passion to serve God’s people in holiness.

As we approach the beatification of our founder, we reflect on this man and the ways in which his inspiring spirituality blesses our lives and ministries right now. I believe that, through the following pages, you will come to understand more about Fr. Moreau and why we are so grateful to celebrate his upcoming beatification.

In this issue you will read of ministries essential in keeping Moreau’s vision alive — Parish, Education, Missions. Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C. provides a wonderful overview of Fr. Moreau’s guiding principles and how we in Holy Cross live them today. We also introduce to you a new column in Pillars — written by Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C., who many of you know from your support of the Holy Cross Association. We also celebrate with you the anniversaries of Holy Cross priests and brothers who have reached milestones of 25, 50 and even 60 years in service to the Lord.

Today, we strive to hold to the virtues which have shaped Holy Cross over the past 150 years — community, hospitality, Divine Providence, hard work, partnership with the poor and marginalized, and an undying focus on the Cross — our only hope.

As you read the articles, please keep in mind that we would be nowhere without you — you sustain us in all we do. Fr. Moreau realized the importance of collaboration between the laity and religious, a value we still hold. You are truly a partner in the work of Holy Cross. We can never thank you enough for your prayerful support and encouragement.

In closing, I just want to say, while I do not know each of you personally, I do know something about you. I know you desire a better world. I know you long for all to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. We share this goal and with God’s help, we will move toward it with a clear vision and zeal to make God known, loved and served.
A Simple Tool

In parish, mission, and education, the dream of Father Moreau is alive and well. Since the community’s inception, Moreau envisioned priests and laity working side-by-side, collaborating together as they respond with zeal to the need and call of the Church. In the early days, this took the form of educating youth and preaching the Gospel in an effort to re-evangelize the French countryside. Today, across the globe, it is much the same. Priests, brothers, and sisters, along with their lay collaborators, work together to educate youth in schools and universities and preach the Gospel through word and deed at home and abroad. As our predecessors labored to re-evangelize France, ours is the task of the new evangelization: proclaiming Christ to all people for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Father Moreau recognized the strength of unity for the sake of mission. As God is one and as the Holy Family of Nazareth is one, so Moreau desired that his religious of Holy Cross would be united as one so that, as a “powerful lever,” they could “move, direct, and sanctify the whole world” (Circular Letter 14 – 1841).

One is moved to ponder how, by the grace of God, the vision and values of a humble 19th century French priest continue to live in the hearts of men and women today.

Thus today, as religious of Holy Cross bound by our common vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, “we serve the Lord Jesus in mission not as independent individuals but in a brotherhood” (Constitution 4, 33). We remain united in our efforts to build the kingdom of God while standing in solidarity with those whom we serve. The spirit of unity and communion that we share as the family of Holy Cross invites others to participate in the mission with us. It is also a spirit that characterizes the ministries in which we move and work — ministries often marked by a welcome environment and a family-like atmosphere.

Raised in a rural French peasant environment, Moreau also knew the value of hard work. As a priest, he was consumed with what he called “a flame of burning desire to make God known, loved, and served” (Christian Pedagogy, I, art. 4 – 1856) and thus save souls. Moreau encouraged this virtue among the members of his community. He believed zeal for mission to be essential to responding to the need and call of the Church.

Today, the religious men and women of Holy Cross remain consumed with the same desire. Our love of the Lord and of those whom we serve compels us to labor intensely in the harvest. We pray that, true to the longing of our holy founder, we may be animated by this virtue in order to “fulfill [our] duties with eagerness, affection, courage, and perseverance” (Christian Pedagogy, I, art. 4 – 1856).

The spirituality of Basil Moreau was also characterized by an abiding trust in Divine Providence. Indeed, it is a theme that Moreau often returned to in the letters he wrote to his congregation. In an age marked by distress and uncertainty, Moreau saw all as guided by the hand of God. He even welcomed the cross of suffering as a path to God and as a way to being more fully-conformed to Christ. In our world today, marked by its own distress and uncertainty, the religious of Holy Cross continue to proclaim Ave Crux, Spes Unica – Hail the Cross, [our] Only Hope! The men and women of Holy Cross and all who have been inspired by the message of this man from Sainte Croix, “see in the face of every human being who suffers…the face of Jesus who mounted the cross to take the sting out of death” (Constitution 8, 114).

Moreau’s compassion for the suffering was directed in a particular way to the poor, the troubled, and the marginalized. He counseled his “dear sons and daughters in Jesus Christ” that, if they were ever to have a marked preference for some over others, it should be for “the poorest, the most abandoned, the most ignorant, and the least gifted by nature,” firm in his conviction that “it is only justice to give more to those who have received less” (Christian Pedagogy, I, art. 4 – 1856).

Today’s religious of Holy Cross, in fulfillment of the hope of our founder, strive to be “fluent in the language of the Cross,” so that whether in parish, mission, or education, we may move with ease among the poor and those who suffer (Constitution 8, 118).

see A Simple Tool, pg.4
Plane Speaking
Your questions answered by Rev. Herbert C. Yost, C.S.C.

If you’re at all familiar with Holy Cross through our publications, or through contact with Holy Cross men and women, you’ll know that we consider our primary mission to be “educators in the Faith.”

This takes place in many different ways, from one-on-one contact in hospital rooms, through parishes, through educational institutions, through overseas missions. For me, it’s been through writing and preaching – this is the gift that God has asked me to use to help others on their journey of faith and life.

I’ve worked for nearly 22 years with Holy Cross Association, and in that time have read and answered hundreds, if not thousands of letters telling me about the strength you draw from your faith, as well as your fear that you may be weak in faith. You’ve asked about prayer, about your relationship with God, and God’s with you. You’ve worried about what you must do to save your soul, or fretted that your children and grandchildren weren’t doing enough in the area of living their faith.

You’ve worried that maybe someone you love is still in purgatory, or asked if a beloved pet was in heaven. There’s been the pain of disillusionment: how can God permit this or that to happen? How can Church leadership permit this or that to happen? How do I find God’s will for me? These are all questions at the core of human life and meaning.

A Simple Tool
continued from page 3

In this (as in all things) Our Lady of Sorrows, who stood by the Cross of her Son, is our special patroness – calling us to stand by those in need while witnessing to the hope and promise of resurrection’s dawn (Constitution 8, 120).

Above all, Basil Moreau’s most ardent goal for himself and for the community he founded was to be one with the Lord. Already a man of prayer and a true son of the Church thanks to his upbringing in a devout Catholic family, Moreau’s later openness to Sulpician piety and spirituality during his seminary studies encouraged in him the desire to be conformed to Christ in all things. He yearned to make Christ’s attitudes, virtues, thoughts, and affections his own, so that he might say with the blessed apostle, “it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). As sons and daughters of Basil Moreau, the men and women of Holy Cross strive for the same. We desire “to have formed in us by God’s enablement the living likeness of Jesus Christ” (Constitution 6, 58), so that purified of our selfishness, we will be made wholehearted in the service of God’s people (Constitution 6, 59).

In this year of prayerful rejoicing and spiritual renewal in anticipation of Basil Moreau’s beatification on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, we give thanks to God for raising up this man of outstanding holiness and heroic virtue. As a “simple tool” in the hand of the Lord, Father Moreau entrusted to his spiritual family of Holy Cross, and to all who would find inspiration in his example, a path to sanctity, a way of love, and a mission to embrace. As we are helped by his prayers and sustained by his friendship, he spurs us on still, that we too, following the witness of his life, may be “simple tools” in the Lord’s faithful service. 🙏
About twelve years ago, when I was a new pastor at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Indiana, I engaged the parishioners in a planning process in the parish. In a series of town hall meetings, parishioners continually mentioned that there was something different about a Holy Cross parish. When I probed them as to exactly what they meant by that, they never were able to quite put their fingers on what that difference was. As we talked more about it, several themes emerged; themes that I think were directly related to the spirituality of the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Venerable Basil Moreau, C.S.C.

**Family**

The first theme that came to the surface was Family. Fr. Moreau based his vision of the Congregation on the Holy Family with the Priests consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the brothers to St. Joseph and the sisters to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our parishes the religious ministering there live together, work together, eat together, pray together and enjoy leisure together. I think that we, as Holy Cross, bring that sense of family to the parishes in which we serve.

Parishioners see that despite our differences in personality, gifts and talents, we are united in making God known, loved and served in the parish. As one of the parishioners at St. Joseph put it, “It is like your family serving our family.” People see the Holy Cross religious in regular human relationship with one another, which enables us to be in relationship with them, understanding the joys and strains of ordinary family life. They see that we are all in this together.

**Hospitality**

Another theme noted was Hospitality. Right from the very beginning of the Congregation, Fr. Moreau sent missionaries out to foreign lands far from France. He insisted that Holy Cross religious be open and accepting of all cultures. He also said that Holy Cross should show preference to “those who have no one else to show them preference, those who have the least knowledge, those who lack skills and talent.” Our religious were to “continue our tradition of hospitality to confreres, to those who labor with us, to our relatives and neighbors and to the poor.”

In those town hall meetings, parishioners continually mentioned that they just felt welcomed at St. Joseph and a large part of that welcome was the atmosphere of hospitality nurtured by the Holy Cross religious, from the parish new comer dinners, to the impromptu soirees on the front porch of the rectory after parish meetings, to the way we met the school children every morning as they were dropped off by their parents, to the time we spent just talking to everyone after Mass on Sunday.

**Divine Providence**

A third theme spoken of was Divine Providence. Father Moreau challenged his religious to be people of hope, convinced that God was ever present and active in our world. As he wrote, “Divine Providence never fails to provide for all of the necessities of those who abandon themselves to its guidance in accomplishing their duties.” At St. Joseph, parishioners mentioned that the Holy Cross religious have a real “can do” attitude and that nothing ever seemed to daunt them, from the need for raising money to add on to the school, to getting everyone to work together to start a new ministry.

*see Parish, pg. 7*
Mexico - Reflecting Moreau’s Missionary Spirit

Rev. John S. Korcsmar, C.S.C.

The Congregation of Holy Cross has had a presence in Mexico for the past 35 years. Father Fred Schmidt C.S.C. went to Ahuacatlán, San Luis Potosi in 1972 to be pastor of the Parroquia Jesus Padre. He remained in that parish until his death in 2003 at the age of 92. Fr. Jim Irwin C.S.C. also went to Mexico in 1972 and served in Cd. Obregon in Sonora, Mexico until 2006.

In 1987 Holy Cross made a community commitment to work in Mexico. From the very beginning, collaboration among apostolates and among Holy Cross religious has been a mark of Holy Cross in Monterrey. The plan was to help Holy Cross Religious be more effective in Hispanic Ministry, especially in Central Texas, by living and working in Mexico in order to improve their Spanish and learn about the culture. Therefore, Fr. Jack Keefe C.S.C. who was pastor of San Francisco Javier Parish in Austin, Texas, proposed that the Congregation of Holy Cross accept a parish in the Monterrey area because there were many Mexican-Americans in the Austin areas with roots there. Some of them frequently returned to Monterrey to visit family.

Since 1987, a good number of Holy Cross religious have gone there to learn. Fathers Bruce Cecil C.S.C., Barry Cabell, C.S.C., Pete Logsdon, C.S.C., Joe Moyer C.S.C., Joe Tomei, C.S.C., and Dan Kayajan, C.S.C. are among those who were there for an extended time.

It wasn’t long before young men asked to enter the Congregation. Fr. Len Collins, C.S.C., the provincial at the time, asked Fr. Dan Panchot C.S.C. to leave Peru and go to Monterrey to work on vocations and formation. In 1997, after completing his 9 year term as Provincial, Father Collins joined the formation team in Monterrey. In 2003, the first Holy Cross priest, Father Marin Hernandez, C.S.C. was ordained in Mexico. On June 30, 2007, Father Paulino Antonio Ines, C.S.C., will be ordained. There are also 7 temporarily professed seminarians studying in Monterrey.

In the 1994 the Holy Cross Sisters went to work in Monterrey. There were three Sisters of the Holy Cross and one Mariane of Holy Cross. They have been and continue to be very collaborative with the priests and the lay people. The staff, including the priests, sisters, and lay people, meets each week to review their work and to plan for the future. The Holy Cross religious in Monterrey also meet once a week. The Holy Cross men now have two houses of formation: a candidate house and a professed house. Although their first priority is studies, they all have some apostolic work in the parish. The seminarians have spent parts of their summer visiting and working at Dolores Parish in Austin, Our Lady of Soledad in Coachella, CA, and St. Adalbert’s in South Bend, IN. It is important for them to see how the Church lives and works in the U.S.

But they don’t look only towards the north. Besides their work in Monterrey and in the U.S., they go every year to give missions in the area around Tamán, San Luis Potosí, a rural area with few of the modern conveniences.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross have also established two houses of formation. One is a pre-candidate program, and the other one is the candidates’ house. They too work in the parish and have participated in the missions in San Luis Potosi.

Although the Holy Cross men live in three different houses, and the Sisters live in two houses, they work well collaboratively. Their interests and shared apostolic efforts extend from San Luis Potosi to the south, Coachella to the west, and Texas and South Bend to the north.

Father Moreau would be proud of his Holy Cross family in Monterrey. 😊
Parish
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The optimism and trust that the Holy Cross guys had was imbued in the parishioners and together anything was possible.

Apostolic Zeal
The last theme that came out of those discussions was Apostolic Zeal. Fr. Moreau wrote that “By zeal is understood that flame of burning desire which one feels to make God known and served and thus save souls. Our zeal is always guided by charity, everything is done with strength and gentleness; strength because we are courageous and unshakable in the midst of pain, difficulty and trials… and with gentleness because we have the tenderness of our Divine Model.”

Parishioners were amazed at the energy that the Holy Cross religious had in proclaiming God’s Kingdom. They mentioned the hours that we spent in the school, the joy we took in preaching, the care we gave to the sick, the compassion we showed when parishioners dealt with difficulties in their lives, our availability to be part of their lives and our desire to speak with them about what matters most. Holy Cross religious didn’t hide away in the rectory, but were out with the people.

“As we prepare to celebrate the Beatification of Fr. Moreau this September, I am grateful to be a member of his religious family. Although Fr. Moreau didn’t write much specifically about parish ministry, he left us a legacy of spirituality and zeal for the gospel that allows us to serve our parishes well.”

Be Part of the Beatification

Join Holy Cross in France for the Beatification of Our Founder, Basil Anthony Moreau, C.S.C.
September 13, 2007 to September 23, 2007

Tour the birthplace of the Congregation of Holy Cross on this 11–day journey from LeMans, France to Versailles, France!

You’ll attend the celebration of the beatification of our founder, Fr. Moreau, with members of the Holy Cross family from around the world.

Then, enjoy visiting many of the great tourist and religious sites of the region, including Lisieux, to The Little Flower of Jesus Basilica, built for St. Therese; the Normandy D-Day Beaches; and the Benedictine Abbey at Mont St. Michel. This magnificent tour also offers you a guided tour of Paris, the “City of Light,” where you’ll enjoy a visit to magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre.

For more information contact:
Mr. Bob Hannon at 508 / 565-1776 or bhannon@stonehill.edu.
Education - The Heart and Mind of Basil Moreau

Rev. Christopher W. Cox, C.S.C.

“Thus, wherever through its superiors the congregation sends us we go as educators in the faith.” from the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Since 2003, the Congregation of Holy Cross has served at St. Adalbert Parish on South Bend’s west side. St. Adalbert, the Krakow parish and a home to Poles for almost one-hundred years, has seen a tremendous shift in its demographics as the neighborhood has become significantly Hispanic.

As with many ethnic parishes, the 1950s were the heydays. Six priests lived in the rectory, perhaps as many as a dozen Felician Sisters in the convent. A giant school of 900 children produced good Catholics, good students, and, especially at St. Adalbert, good football players. Then everything changed. For the past twenty years, rumor circulated that the school at St. Adalbert might close. In 2003, we had just 93 students.

However, true to the zeal of Basil Moreau, we are “men with hope to bring” as our Constitutions call us. St. Adalbert Parish serves one of South Bend’s poor neighborhoods. We aspire to be a beacon of hope to our neighbors. One place where we fulfill those hopes is in the classroom. St. Adalbert School has the highest diversity and serves the lowest income students of any school in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. More than 80% of our children come from below poverty line. That means that a family of four might live on about $19,000 per year, and they will contribute perhaps 10% of their income toward their children’s education in our Catholic school.

Parents sacrifice because we make a difference. Research done by Notre Dame shows that our students typically transfer into St. Adalbert two years below grade level. For example, a fourth grader reads and writes on a second-grade level. The research indicates that within two years, the same child is reading and writing at grade level. Thus, that same child, now a sixth grader at St. Adalbert is reading and writing at a sixth-grade level. Our school has been recognized under Indiana’s version of the No Child Left Behind Act as an “exemplary” school each of the past two years. As a consequence, we hope to have 180 children this fall—almost double where we were four years ago.

Our situation requires partnership and creativity. St. Adalbert Parish cannot afford its school alone. A unique partnership with the University of Notre Dame, which designated St. Adalbert a Magnificat School, has helped bring the tools of the university to improve the quality of education at St. Adalbert. Generous support from the diocese, especially twinning from St. Pius Parish, as well as from benefactors makes possible what we do.

Fr. Mike Couhig, C.S.C. with students at St. Adalbert
I come from a family of four generations of teachers, dating back to my great-grandmother. My father has taught in higher education for forty years. I came to the Congregation of Holy Cross because it does what my family does: teach. I find myself in a very different ministry than what I expected two decades ago when I entered Holy Cross. I always thought that God was leading me to higher studies and teaching at one of our universities. In time, God led me down a different path which has brought me here.

We think of our vocation as our gift to God, yet what we find is that our vocation is God’s gift to us.

As I read the histories, I see that what I do is not all that different from the work of pastors one-hundred years ago. Faithful Catholic immigrants come to the United States, and the job is to get them educated.
Holy Cross Jubilarians - 1000 Years of Service

Sixtieth Anniversary of Ordination

“"I can truly say my life as a priest of Holy Cross has been of service to others in many different ways, and for that I am very thankful for having been chosen for the most interesting, fulfilling and enjoyable career I could expect to have.” Fr. Dorsey

Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination, continued
Rev. Leroy E. Clementich, C.S.C.
Rev. Harry B. Eichorn, C.S.C.

Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination
Rev. James T. Banas, C.S.C.
Rev. John R. Birkmeyer, C.S.C.
Rev. Robert L. Plasker, C.S.C.
Bro. J. Rodney Struble, C.S.C.

“"This is the story of a dream that continues to unfold. It is the dream of the founder of Holy Cross, Basil Moreau, who dreamed that his Holy Cross family would work together. This dream continues thanks to the working together of my brothers and sisters in Holy Cross, dedicated faithful collaborators, and my devoted and loving family.” Fr. Plasker
Holy Cross Jubilarians - 1000 Years of Service

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Ordination

“"My life in Holy Cross has been incredibly blessed, and I have had remarkable experiences and opportunities that would never have otherwise been available to me."

Fr. Beauchamp

We remember our deceased Jubilarians

Sixtieth Anniversary
Rev. J. Clifford Atwood, C.S.C.
Rev. John J. Corcoran, C.S.C.
Rev. Thomas Engleton, C.S.C.
Rev. Chester Schneider, C.S.C.

Fiftieth Anniversary
Rev. John Gerber, C.S.C.
Rev. John Schuneman, C.S.C.
Rev. Jacob Smith, C.S.C.

Plane Speaking
continued from page 4

Mr. James Kramer, our Director of Development, has asked me to do a “Question and Answer” column which will appear in each issue of Pillars. So folks...this is your chance!! You ask the questions, and I’ll do my best to answer some of them in each issue. This will be a collaborative work.

Now bear in mind that I’m not a professional theologian or liturgist or whatever...I’m not a professional anything. I’m just an ordinary human being like yourself who happens to be a priest, and who reflects on life’s questions so that I can share the fruit of those reflections with you. Let’s focus on everyday spirituality, prayer, living out our faith, being ministers to other people.

This can be a lot of fun for everyone, but also inspirational.

So send your questions to:

Plane Speaking
c/o Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province
P.O. Box 765
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765
indcscdv@nd.edu

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I would like more information about the Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province (please specify):

I would like to Make a Gift (please make checks payable to the Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province).

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Thank You.