

**Commissioning
of New Board Chairs
for Holy Cross Schools**



Provincial: May the grace, peace, blessing and joy of the Holy Spirit be always with us.

All: Blessed be God who lives forever.

Provincial: In the *Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross* the Constitution on *Mission* we read:

God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that we might have life and have it abundantly. In the fullness of time the Lord Jesus came among us anointed by the Spirit to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, love and peace. His rule would be no mere

earthly regime: it would initiate a new creation in every land. His power would be within and without, rescuing us from the injustice we suffer and also from the injustice we inflict. (§ 9) Thus, wherever through its superiors the congregation sends us we go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom. (§12)

The needs of the Church are many and varied but God shows his goodness by sending men and women to care for the Church. Today we ask God to bless N. who has declared his/her willingness to collaborate with the Brothers and Priests of Holy Cross in their ministry of Catholic education in the Holy Cross tradition.

All: Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus. He has given us gifts and called us his sons and daughters.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (4:14-21)

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Provincial: Let us respond to God’s word with one voice:

All: I sing of love and justice;
To you, Lord, I sing praise.
I follow the way of integrity;
When will you come to me?
I act with integrity of heart...

I look to the faithful of the land;
They alone can be my companions.
Those who follow the way of integrity,
They alone can enter my service.
(Psalm 101:1-2,6)

Reader: From Circular Letter #36 of Father Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, dated April 15, 1849:

We can state in a word the kind of teaching we hope to impart. We do not want our students to be ignorant of anything they should know. To this end, we shall shrink from no sacrifice. We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do out utmost to prepare citizens for heaven.

Provincial: And so we pray with one voice:

All: I sing of love and justice;
To you, Lord, I sing praise.
I follow the way of integrity;
When will you come to me?
I act with integrity of heart...
I look to the faithful of the land;
They alone can be my companions.
Those who follow the way of integrity,
They alone can enter my service.
(Psalm 101:1-2,6)

Provincial: On September 1, 1841, Father Moreau wrote to the members of the Congregation:

What is true of a palace whose foundations have been laid and which is rising gradually to completion is verified, likewise, in a great work of charity. It is not one person alone who builds; nor is it one stone, or one single beam of wood which forms it. Each laborer contributes something from his own trade; each stone is cut to fit into its one appointed place; and each piece of wood is arranged and placed so as to enhance the general effect of the entire building. Union, then, is a powerful lever with which we could move, direct, and sanctify the whole word....

In the spirit of Father Moreau and in the name of the Congregation of Holy Cross, (*Eastern Province of Brothers/Midwest Province of Brothers/Indiana Province/South-West Province of Brothers*) N., I ask you:

Are you willing to share in the mission of Jesus as lived out by the Congregation of Holy Cross at

(Institution)? Are you willing to lead this school and those involved in it in “seeking to build a kingdom of justice, peace and love”? Are you willing to be an “educator in the faith” with us?

Board Chair: I am.

Provincial: Will you be attentive to the mission in the life of this School? Will you lead others to be attentive to educating the minds and hearts of the young people who come here?

Board Chair: I will.

Provincial: I thank you for your willingness to share the treasure of your talents and your time with us for the benefit of the young people who come here each day. Your ministry as Chair of the board of **(Institution)** is a gift to the Congregation of Holy Cross and to the Church.

As sisters and brothers of the same loving god, let us pray together, **Our Father....**

Provincial (extending his hands): May the Spirit of God descend upon you and fill you with holy wisdom. May your faith be strengthened with proofs of God’s love so that you may persevere in good works. May you walk in charity and peace. May you, through the intercession of Basil Anthony Moreau, be filled with zeal for this ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross and in bringing about the Reign of God.

And may God bless you and all of us, + in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

