

The Work of Resurrection

-September 2021-

“Hurry then, take up this work of resurrection, never forgetting that the special end of your institute is, before all, to sanctify youth.”

-Basil Moreau, Christian Education, 1856

It is no secret that religious life has been evolving in drastic ways over the past sixty years. While there was a time when each Holy Cross school included a residence packed with twenty, thirty or forty brothers who organized their whole lives around the mission of the schoolhouse, it is rare today to find a Holy Cross Brother in full time ministry at one of the community's educational apostolates. Some may see this shift as tragic and sad, but from a Christian point of view, such circumstances invite us to look for the opportunities buried within: Could ordinary folks like you and me be entrusted with the awesome responsibility of making God known, loved and served? Could we be personally challenged to develop a deep spirituality that enables us to preserve the charism for future generations? Could we each be called to grow in our human vocation by taking risks for the sake of the gospel?

Holy Cross Educators do not profess canonical vows and are not bound to the same structures and inner-logic of membership in a religious community, but the Spirit cannot be confined to such institutional mechanisms anyway! Indeed, we are women and men who rise in the morning with hearts filled with hope; we make our commute to the school building as if it were our own home; we greet students and colleagues with the hospitality of Christ; we pour ourselves into creating resurrectional spaces in our classrooms, hallways, gymnasiums and cafeterias; we pray and meditate in the Holy Cross tradition; we integrate our families and home lives into the rhythms of the school community; we are constantly looking for creative ways to educate both the mind and heart of each and every young person whom we encounter in a given day. Something exciting is happening in these schools, and we are a part of it!

I can remember my first contract at a Holy Cross high school. I was familiar with the tradition - Blessed Basil Moreau, the University of Notre Dame, missions in Bangladesh, St. Andre Bessette - and immediately felt the weight of that glorious heritage as I signed my name on the dotted line. There on the school seal was the cross and anchors; I talked about Fr. Moreau's zeal for ministry during the application process; the hallways were lined with quotes and images of the founder; kids were going on a service trip to a Holy Cross mission site - what an honor it was to be welcomed into that place where ministry and life resonated so well with the charism that was already dwelling so deeply in me.

Perhaps your spirit has been aching to belong to this same mission, and perhaps you have been called in this same way: “We heard a summons to give over our lives in a more explicit way. It was a call to serve all people, believers and unbelievers alike. We would serve them out of our own faith that the Lord had loved us and died for us and risen for us and that he offers us a share in his life, a life more powerful and enduring than any sin or death” (*Constitutions*, 3).