



Moreau Day

By Thérèse Martin, CSC



Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Holy Cross Family, Sisters, Priests, and Brothers,

"I am the vine; you are the branches." (John 15, 5)

The image used by Fr. Moreau about Holy Cross becoming like a mighty tree together with Joyce Kilmer's poem on the beauty, the loveliness of a tree stayed with me for a long time when preparing to write a reflection for the special Moreau Day celebration this year. Tips of roots seek water, seek nourishment deep in the soil. They create a path towards whatever they can absorb that will give the tree life; the nourishment is brought to where it is needed. The aim is the same always: leaves, buds, blossoms must be fed there at the very tip of branches and twigs...so that the tree can bear fruit... The tree needs to bear fruit; it must bear fruit; it is called to bear fruit.

For the fruitfulness and beauty to be at their fullest, trees need good care. Reading UISG President's words on **care** struck me. Examples then came to mind of how each one of us, in fact, actively, concretely, personally cares for the Holy Cross tree. And today, a "Holy Cross Joyce Kilmer" might write: I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as **that** Tree.

Reflection after the Gospel on January 20, 2023

CARING FOR A TREE

By Thérèse Martin, CSC



"Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree...and constantly shoot forth new limbs and new branches...nourished by the same sap and endowed with the same life"... wrote Fr. Moreau in Circular Letter #65. He wrote this more than 150 years ago. And long before that, Jesus had said: Those who live in me (the vine) and I in them (the branches) will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing.



But how do we take care of a tree...a tree meant to shoot forth new limbs and new branches?...a tree meant to glorify God by its bearing of much fruit that Jesus is talking about. What do we do to take care of the tree of Holy Cross? How do we do this? Fr. Moreau had written in one of his meditations: "You are a tree, planted in the garden of the Church. Now a tree is known by its fruits. If the sap of grace flows...you in me and I in you;" Jesus says—its branches should produce leaves first, then buds followed by blossoms and finally fruits of a supernatural flavor."

So how do we take care of a tree...? Well, here are the three steps the arborists say will help a mature tree to thrive:

First: the number one thing you can do for mature tree health is to make sure that the amount of water supplied is appropriate for your tree.

Second: prune wisely. Mature trees need to be pruned regularly to remove dead or diseased wood...(whatever) compromises the health of trees.

Third: Learn about tree pests and diseases that may affect your tree.

And so, is the Tree of Holy Cross watered appropriately?

- ◆ Does this mature tree get the deep watering it needs...?
- ◆ Is it pruned wisely? Is the dead or diseased wood removed at the appropriate time and in appropriate ways?
- ◆ What are the pests and diseases that may affect our Holy Cross Tree? Do we watch the tree carefully and catch early signs of ill health and begin care and treatment?

We remember again the words of Fr. Moreau's meditation on this Tree. "If the sap of grace flows in the veins of this living tree, its branches should produce leaves first, then buds followed by blossoms and finally fruits of a supernatural flavor."

Now we **all** care about the Tree of Holy Cross. We care that it be well watered and healthy; that it be pruned wisely, and that it be well guarded against diseases. We all care **about** this Tree. We have rules and regulations **about** its care. We have Constitutions, we have Rules, we have

Chapters; we have Zooms.

And how do we care **for** or **take care** of the leaves, the buds, the blossoms, and the fruits that Fr. Moreau talks about?

The new President of the International Union of Superiors General, Sr. Nadia Coppa, spoke last month of a "Culture of Care", a "Spirituality of Care" that she sees emerging more and more in Consecrated Life. She speaks of care for our interiority, our "spirit" ...care for our relationship with God, for our connection with the source of life...care for others...care, too, for the social fabric itself. Care, she said, is also "a concept with a deep political dimension... Care, she adds, "should also affect our intra-ecclesial relationships."

As I reflected on this, it spoke more and more to me about us and our caring for the Tree of Holy Cross; about our concrete care for the leaves, the buds, the blossoms, the fruits.

These are a few examples that came to mind:

- If you care, especially at this time, about the political situation where our Sisters live in Peru, you are caring for the Tree of Holy Cross.
- If you care about the health and education projects of our Sisters in West Africa, you are caring for our Tree.
- If you care about the safety of our sisters in their day-to-day life in Haiti, you are caring for the tree of Holy Cross.
- If you care about getting to know the Novices and Junior-Professed sisters in the young mission of Vietnam, you are caring for our Tree
- If you care, here in this house (Manor).
 - about knowing the culture of the young sister we live with.
 - or about listening to a companion who is painfully experiencing the aging process;
 - or about preparing actively for your own end-of years, you are caring for the Tree of Holy Cross.

As you reflect on whatever specific ways you are called to care for our Tree...may you be blessed ever more deeply with all aspects of the gift of care. And, today, on this 150th anniversary of the death of the Founder of Holy Cross, may we all be blessed with “caring about”, “caring for”, “taking care of” the Holy Cross Tree. ... Take **good** care! ... And “Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree and constantly shoot forth new limbs and new branches which will be nourished

by the same sap and endowed with the same life”. ...
(Circular Letter #65)
Now, let us take time—
together — to care for a
new blossom on our Tree.
Sister Adeline Nadembèga
who will renew her vows..



Renewal of Vows

Diane Villeneuve, CSC



Pictured above is Sr. Adeline Nadembèga, a young sister of Holy Cross from Burkina Faso, a country of Western Africa. She is renewing her vows at St. George Manor in Manchester for another year. We are happy for her, pray for her, and look forward to the day she will pronounce her final vows to God through Holy Cross. She will be here with us for 2 ^{1/2} years mastering the English language which is an important goal. She is living community life with the sisters at St. George Manor and rendering multiple services. She is already greatly appreciated by our entire family and already we are aware of how much we will miss her when she will have to leave to go back to Africa.

Just as an aside, Sr. Adeline adjusted very well to the winter, the first time in her life, which, of course, is unknown in Africa. She loved the snow and mastered the art of snowman making as well as that of snow angels.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 JUBILARIANS



Anne Hoffler, CSC
60 years



Joann Apicelli, CSC
65 years



Louise Auclair, CSC
65 years



Jeanne Boucher, CSC
65 years



Jacqueline Brodeur, CSC
65 years



Lucille Gravel, CSC
65 years



Suzanne Payette, CSC
65 years



Cecile Provost, CSC
65 years



Louise Audette, CSC
70 years



Estelle Neveu, CSC
75 years



Berthe Viens, CSC
80 years

Give Thanks and rejoice with us as we celebrate and thank God for the gift of these dedicated women as they celebrate their jubilee.



In Loving Memory

**Sr. Therese Rioux,
(Mary Clement)
April 29, 1927—August 25, 2022**



Sister was born in Nashua, NH, entered the community in 1943, and made her final profession in 1950. She served the Congregation for 76 years.

Sister Therese earned a BA from Notre Dame College and an MA from Providence College. She taught in elementary parochial schools and high schools under the direction of the Sisters of Holy Cross in North Grosvenordale, CT, New Bedford, MA, Manchester and Nashua, NH. Sister Therese was involved in Religious Education in St. Albans, VT and Norwich, CT. In her later years, Sister

Therese served the community as a CNA at Holy Cross Health Center.

Sister retired to St. George Manor in 2004 and, due to declining health to Holy Cross Health Center in 2008.

She will be remembered for her great love of God and her faithfulness to her Holy Cross Community and to her family.

In Memory Of

Nora Kish

Bill Holley

Mary Ann Bissaillon, CSC

Emile & Rebecca Levesque

Monique Chambliss

Robert Watson

Jacqueline Delage, CSC

Noella Goulet, CSC

Carol Poehler

Robert Antil

Louise Tarpey, CSC

Bertha Richard, CSC

Kilda Roy, CSC

Frances Lessard, CSC

Arthur & Virginia Delage

Lucille Cantin, CSC



**Mass is celebrated on the 26th of each
month for you, our benefactors.**

Holy Cross Family Learning Center

By Janet Valeri Director of the Center



Our 2021-2022 year-end celebration featuring students and our volunteers

Seated far left; Priscilla Letendre, Marsha Bill, Sr. Anne Hoffer, CSC, Sr. Mary Thomas Lesniak, SM, Sr. Norma Comeau, CSC

Standing far right; Sr. Pauline Maurier, CSC, Mary Douglas

Standing back row, left to right; Joan Poro, Mary McDonnell

Standing middle row; Janet Valeri

A small gem exists on the West Side of Manchester at 438 Dubuque Street. Holy Cross Family Learning Center has been a haven for adult immigrants, refugees, and others wishing to learn English and the ways of life in America for the past thirteen years.

Founded in 2010 by Sr. Jacqueline Verville, CSC, the Center is housed on the first floor in a building shared with the Southern New Hampshire Planning Center. Almost fifteen years ago, Sr. Jacqueline saw a need in Manchester; many new immigrants and refugees were arriving from other lands, and language services were hard to find. In response, she began her work in a small corner of the West library with several friends and colleagues helping her out. Sr. Pauline Maurier, pictured at the far right, was one of those friends. Sr. Pauline is still volunteering today. The student population grew at such a rate that Sr. Jacqueline ran out of space at the library, and with the help of community leaders she was able to secure the place that the Center still calls home today.



In 2010 Holy Cross officially became a registered non-profit organization, and has since educated over 1,000 adults through the gifts of over 40 volunteer teachers. The Center operates Monday through Thursday in the morning hours and offers classes at all levels of English proficiency; from the very basic to the most advanced. Registration for classes is done through our website and rigorous testing is conducted at the beginning, middle and end of each program year. In addition to teaching students English, we also offer computer classes once a week to all students. Citizenship and workforce development activities are embedded into daily classroom activities.

In the spring of 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, our school doors were shuttered and we moved to remote learning. Although this was a challenge for everyone, we have made the most of it and have carried many of the positive impacts of the crisis forward. Today, our classes are offered in-person, through a hybrid model, and also fully remotely. Our volunteers have embraced the new normal and are at ease with using computer-based learning with their students. Digital equity for our students has been made possible through funds available from the Adult Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the Xfinity Affordable Connectivity Program. Because we offer different options for students, our enrollment during the 2022-2023 school year has almost tripled.

Through the generosity of the City of Manchester Community Improvement Program, the New Hampshire Department of Education, Sisters of Holy Cross, and numerous corporate and private donors, we are able to offer free programming to adults needing our services in the Greater Manchester area. The Center is well connected to many of our neighbors including Catholic Medical Center, St. Anselm College, Rivier University, Manchester Community College, University of New Hampshire at Manchester, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department, the Manchester School District, and New Hampshire Employment Security. These connections provide opportunities for our students in the ways of healthcare, post-secondary education, safety, and employment. We are proud of the connections we have made.

Today, Holy Cross Family Learning Center is a place where students learn and grow together. The isolation felt by many during the pandemic was even worse for our clients. With limited opportunity to practice speaking and listening English their worlds became very small. Now that we have been able to offer in-person classes again, our students are flourishing even more than before. Staffed with an Executive Director and nine volunteers, the Center prides itself on helping each client fulfill their goals of improving their English skills in an effort to secure better employment, affordable housing and becoming United States citizens. Just this year alone, our students have joined us coming from over 45 countries around the world. We are delighted to watch them grow and learn.



To learn more about our programs, become a volunteer, or to help a student register for classes, visit our website at <https://hclearningcenter.org>



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called home to God?
Put a notice in the paper sug-
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of the deceased do the same.
Your loved one will be
included in the daily
prayers of
the Sisters of Holy Cross.

Sr Memory of

Therese Caron, CSC	Claire Perreault	Jeanne Theoret, CSC
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