



MESSAGE FROM THÉRÈSE DEMBÉLÉ

My personal commitment

Dear Sisters, Dear Brothers of the Extended Holy Cross Family,

I invite you to taste a little of what I lived, together with those of the entire community gathered in Lima, Peru, on this great day of celebration of my first profession in the Congregation:

After three years of formative process, seeking to deepen my relationship with God, listening to what **God** wants from me, I am convinced that God is present everywhere, in each and every one of us. It is with a vision of faith that we must know how to discover God and to announce God.

I have experienced a God who is friend and brother, close to the poorest among us; a God who sees, who listens and who wants fullness of life for all. It is the God of Jesus Christ.

By the profession of my vows, I pledge to contemplate our reality in the light of the Gospel and to go "meet the other" day after day.

God is compassionate and merciful. Through my behavior, I want to announce this good news of hope to those who have grown accustomed to hearing and experiencing only bad news.

In a society so diverse, I feel called to live an intercultural reality so as to live more human and fraternal relations. And I want to do this with others, in interdependence.

I want my life to be given for humanity. I ask the Lord who seduced me to help me to be faithful in prayer so as to persevere in my commitment.

I invite you to taste a little of what I lived, together with those of the entire community gathered in Lima, Peru, on this great day of celebration of my first profession in the Congregation.

Acknowledgments after the vows

You have been present with me throughout this formation journey. You have accompanied me in various ways right up to December 13, 2018, the day when I pronounced my "yes" to God in Holy Cross.

I wanted to express my gratitude with great joy. Your prayers, your phone calls, your emails caused me much joy and encouraged me in the gift of my life.

I give thanks to God for each one of you, our elders, for your "yes" to God. The testimony of your life drew me to Holy Cross. This path continues now in the mission; I recommend myself to your fraternal support and your prayers for its fruitfulness.

Thank you to all of you. Happy New Year 2019.

Thérèse Dembélé, CSC

January 6, 2019

Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Associates in Haiti!

Feast of Saint Brother André!

Feast of the Epiphany!



This celebration of three special events left us with a JOY that was full and unique! Thirty-six Holy Cross Associates, along with family members, joined the sisters from the Region of Haiti and sang:

Magnificat!

*Holy Cross, you unite us,
Holy Cross, our hope!
Holy Cross, you lead us,
Holy Cross! O Holy Cross!*

The decorations, liturgy, and banquet committees demonstrated a know-how that captured beauty! We recognized the talents of the children from the orphanage who composed the chorale and mimed songs. What great harmony!

Mrs. Thérèse Pierre, a pioneer within the group, presented a history of the association and everyone was able to remember happy and sad events that marked their journey together as they carried on the "work of resurrection" during these past twenty-five years.

Certificates of "Honor and Merit" were awarded to Mrs. Danielle Schaererasc, founder of the association in Haiti, and to the Regional Leaders who supported them, Zita, Kesta, Inomine, Yanick, Willnette, the delegates of the various Mission Groups as well as companions at the local level.

Thank you to all the sisters and associates from other regions for your prayers, your congratulatory notes, your expressions of affection, and your wishes for happiness.

Réjeanne Charest, CSC

ONTARIO SECTOR

February 1, 2019

On February 2nd the Church celebrated the World Day for Consecrated Life. Two weeks ago a parish secretary asked me to write the theological meaning of Consecrated Life. I did it in six sentences for the parish bulletin. From this short reflection, I decided to prolong my meditation and to offer it to all of you.

January 20th, we inherited a precious gift: the legacy from Sister Graziella Lalande. She reminds us that we are "heirs" (Handwritten notes, Holy Cross Archives, p. 8 from the document *A Written Legacy*). According to this privilege, we receive every word, every phrase as memorable and life-giving. She helps us to be conscious of that inheritance: "an inheritance is to be received by us; the inheritance is Father Moreau's work" (Recording of May 26, 2018, p. 8).

What is Consecrated Life? To answer I will use Father Moreau's quotes given by Sister Graziella in the document:

- "Consecrated Life in Holy Cross is a life with God and for God (Recording of June 2, 2018, p. 7).
- "If you follow a call, you stand before God, with God, for God, the rest will follow. This "before God" is the sap! (Recording of June 2, 2018, p. 9).
- "to find ourselves again at the first moment when God looked at us and we chose him" (Recording of June 2, 2018, p. 9).

In the letter received from Pope Francis, in 2014, on the occasion of the year of Consecrated Life, he asked us this question: "Is Jesus really our first and only love, as we promised he would be when we professed our vows? [...] For we will have learned from Jesus the meaning and practice of love. We will be able to love because we have his own heart" (Pope Francis, *Letter to All Consecrated People*, No. 1.2).

Sunday, January 13th we celebrated the renewal of Sizane's and Catherine's vows at St. Basil's parish in Ottawa. We are proud of our two Sisters who promised to follow Jesus Christ and to proclaim the Good News by their consecrated life.

Consecrated persons are to pursue the mission begun by Jesus Christ, ministering alongside women and men in our world today. In our ministries, our works and our presence in society and in the Church, we try to understand the needs of our brothers and sisters and to help them in finding solutions.

Sister Graziella reminds us of the importance our Founder placed on mission:

- "Make up by your grace all that I cannot say here to your children in Holy Cross.... Educate them, touch them, animate them and make them feel to the bottom of their heart, how sweet it is to be free, free from everything, and to hold to nothing that is passing." (*Circular Letter 49*, p. 6)
- "Put your hand to this work of resurrection....by this you will help prepare the world for better times than ours." (*Pedagogy*, p.144, p. 6)

In her Letter, Sister Graziella is mindful of "the young people entering now [...] the Sisters of today, especially those who are now entering" (Recording of May 26, 2018, p. 3) and by the Associates. I quote her:

"That early experience then guarantees *the development* by associating other members to the charism, giving life to new initiatives and new expressions; it is in this way that it becomes a tree that spreads its branches." (Recording of May 26,

2018, p.10)

I remember the beautiful words that Pope Francis wrote in his letter to the consecrated people in 2014. I quote:

"In this letter, I wish to speak not only to consecrated persons, but also to the *laity, who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission.* [...] Indeed, around each religious family, every Society of Apostolic Life and every Secular Institute, there is a larger family, a "charismatic family" which includes a number of Institutes which identify with the same charism, and especially lay faithful who feel called, precisely as lay persons, to share in the same charismatic reality. I urge you, as laity, to live this Year for Consecrated Life as a grace which can make you more aware of the gift you yourselves have received. Celebrate it with your entire "family" so that you can grow and respond together to the promptings of the Spirit in society today." (Pope Francis, *Letter to All Consecrated People*, No. III.1)

In our Sector, we are blessed with sixteen Associates "who share with [us] the same ideals, spirit and mission." Together we form this family that Father Moreau continues to guide.

I conclude my meditation with a quote from St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein):

"Each woman [man] who lives in the light of eternity can fulfill her [his] vocation, no matter if it is in marriage, in a religious order or in a worldly profession."

Dear Sisters and Associates, let us live our daily lives in gratitude for our Blessed Founder Basil Moreau and let us pray for young women and men that they will open their hearts and "stand before God, with God, for God." (Recording of June 2, 2018, p. 9)

Thank you to Sisters Rollande and Micheline for having compiled these precious thoughts from Sister Graziella!

Denise Desrochers, CSC
Ontario Sector Leader

Faced with the Power of Violence: Choose Life

Mission Meeting Bel Air, Cape Haitian, Haiti



As representatives of the Congregational Mission Committee, Sisters Maryse Brisson, Doreen Cloutier and Denise Turcotte were present at the Regional Mission Meeting of Haiti, December 27-29, 2018. This dynamic and reflective gathering led the members of the Haiti Region to a concrete regional commitment to address the violence in which we all live. What can we, as a congregation, learn from the experience?

The local mission committee composed of the delegates of the various mission groups set the tone of the gathering on Friday evening. We were asked to reflect

upon situations where I was a victim of violence, when I was violent and how I have responded to violence with an active nonviolent stance. A few sisters were asked to share how they lived the October 8, 2018 violent confrontation on the Regina Campus.

The days of the Mission Meeting were filled with the invitation to deepen our consciousness of how we respond to situations of violence. We were assisted in this process by Johanne Landrin, a Psychologist from Haiti, who defined violence, described the types of violence, offered suggestions to protect ourselves within violent contexts and how to respond with non-violent actions. She mentioned that violence to Earth, i.e., environmental degradation (trash in the streets, etc.) are physical signs of inner violence and the violence which surrounds us.

A panel consisting of one sister, two associates and a young adult who had grown up in our Orphanage shared personal experiences of violence and their responses of active non-violence.

On Saturday, Sister Maryse reminded us of John Dear's words "Non Violence or Non- Existence." She awakened our passion for the people of God who are suffering as victims of violence and questioned us on the depth of our passion. Is it great enough to become involved? Is it great enough to take action as a region or sector? What collective, concrete action could Holy Cross take to lessen the violence in our milieu?

Maryse then led us through an experience of identifying, clarifying elements needed within a process to take action on a current situation in Haiti. Touched by the level of environmental violence existing in Cape Haitian, the Region of Haiti decided to address the need to educate to nonviolence through their various mission works and their community life. The responsibility to en flesh and guide this journey was given to the Mission Committee with the assistance of other members of the Region.

What can we, as Mission Groups in other countries, regions, sectors learn from our sisters in Haiti? I invite each person, and community to enter into a process to concretize a collective response to our congregational commitment to "**Live Active Nonviolence as We Embrace the DIFFERENT.**"

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have participated in this Mission Gathering. I ask the Spirit to guide the members of this Region and all of Holy Cross in living our passion for life, for non-violence in this concrete adventure. This experience has deepened my consciousness to identify and respond to situations of violence within me and around me.

Denise Turcotte, CSC
For the Congregational Mission Committee

*Aware that we are inhabited and carried
by the same **Breath of Life**
we Sisters of Holy Cross, **choose TOGETHER,**
to dare, along with people on the margins,
in a world threatened by the culture of violence,
to commit ourselves to safeguard all life.*

Acts of the Congregational Chapter 2016-2017



DEATH NOTICES

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you.*

We are a family and we want to be in communion with you in good as well as difficult times. We would like you to inform us of the passing of those close to you so that Congregation as a whole may carry you and our family members in prayer. This concerns especially the passing of members of your immediate family: mother, father, sisters and brothers. The information will be shared through *e-current*. We count on your collaboration. Please send this

information to Mrs. Louise Mc Donald: admcs67@yahoo.ca

To all who have lost a loved one recently, we offer our deepest sympathy. We know that you have found solace not only in God but also from your companions.

We recommend to your prayers:

Marie-Claire Bazinet's sister
Francesca Biondi's niece
Jacqueline Kirouac's brother
Janet Belcourt's sister
Anne Marie St. Pierre's brother
Sally Howe's sister
Evelyn Boucher's brother-in-law
Angela Moreau's sister
Norma Comeau's brother

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