

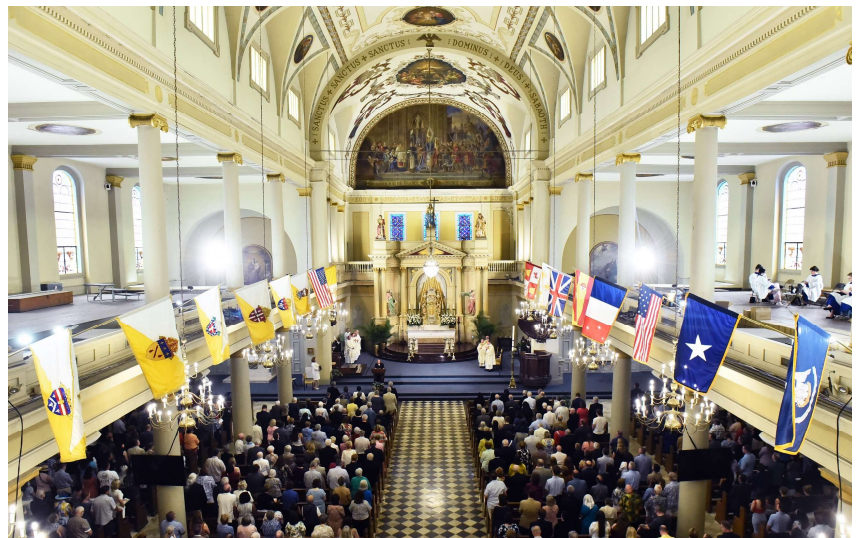
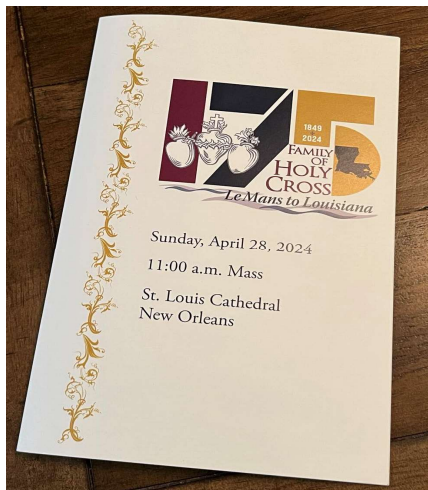


Volume Ten: May 1, 2024...Final Edition

## *Happy Anniversary to the Family of Holy Cross!*

### **A Celebration Filled with Joy, Zeal, Hope and Heart...Fr. Moreau Had to be Smiling.**

We never see any images of the founder with a smile on his face. In fact, when he sat to pose for the one photograph taken of him, he was tricked into it. However, he had to be smiling on Sunday, April 28, seeing that the mission and philosophy he instilled into the Priests, Brothers and Sisters were alive and in the hearts of the large gathering that filled St. Louis Cathedral.



### **A Special Mass...A Special Gathering**

All of the pews were filled for the regularly scheduled 11 AM Liturgy at the Cathedral, but there wasn't anything "regular" about the Mass. Joining the folks expected to be there, parishioners, tourists, and WLAE Television, was the Family of Holy Cross, along with their friends and relatives.

It's not unusual for the Cathedral Rector, Rev. Pat Williams (Holy Cross Class of '80), to have concelebrants join him in the Cathedral...the Archbishop, Bishops, other Diocesan Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians. On this day, Father Pat was joined by a total of 10 including Holy Cross Priests, Diocesan Priests, and 2 Deacons who are Holy Cross alumni. The front pews of the Cathedral were filled with 26 Marianite Sisters including Congregational Leader Sr. Ann Lacour and Vicar Sr. Renée Daigle, 11 members of the Congregation of Holy Cross including Superior General Br. Paul Bednarczyk and Provincial of the Moreau Province Br. Tom Dziekan. The MSC and CSC religious were joined by members of other religious orders...Dominicans of Peace, Holy Family, Most Holy Sacrament, and the Mount Carmel Sisters.

Truly a Family of Holy Cross celebration, the Cathedral gathering included current and former administrators, faculty and staff members of Holy Cross School and the University of Holy Cross. Many students, parents and alumni/alumnae of both institutions were in the congregation. Not surprisingly many of the institutions led and staffed by the Marianites throughout southern Louisiana were present as well.

The day was an appropriate tribute to the women, men and mission that had a tremendous impact on thousands of people in the 175 years of ministry in Louisiana. It was a great tribute to work of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the Marianites of Holy Cross who touched the *Hearts and Minds* of so many!



Photography  
By  
Pat Garin



***Reflection After Communion by Congregation of Holy Cross Superior General  
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C.***

What a privilege and delight it is for me to be with you in this beautiful cathedral and in this wonderful city of New Orleans to celebrate with you 175 years of Holy Cross mission and presence in Louisiana. Just the other night, Sr. Ann and I were wondering what it must have been like for those 5 Holy Cross Brothers and 3 Marianite Sisters coming from Notre Dame and Kentucky by riverboat and stagecoach to settle here and to take charge of St. Mary's Orphanage. Practically speaking, they were missionaries with little money or resources, but yet rich in their faith and their commitment to witness the face of Christ in their service to the poor and disadvantaged. Other men and women eventually joined them in religious life and ministry and the mission soon expanded from the orphanage to schools, health care facilities, parochial ministry, and social services. And the rest is history, and an inspiring one at that.

As Holy Cross religious, we stand proudly on the shoulders of these early pioneers in our mission, and we honor and bless them today for their selfless dedication, courage, hope, and lives of faith. I am sure they are gently smiling upon us today from heaven.

Although we Holy Cross religious are fewer in number, nevertheless, the Holy Cross mission continues and remains vibrant in New Orleans, primarily through the good works of the University of Holy Cross and Holy Cross School. We are indebted and deeply grateful for the support and commitment of our lay partners in ministry, who have embraced our charism and mission of being educators in the faith, and who now carry on the Holy Cross legacy and dream of those religious who have gone before us. The arms of the Holy Cross Family are wide and we embrace you in our common desire to further the mission and tradition of Holy Cross education in this city. You are undoubtedly significant members of this global family.

*(continued)*



### **Brother Paul Reflection Continued...**

I want you to know that the remarkable story of Holy Cross in New Orleans mirrors similar stories of the zeal and missionary spirit of our religious throughout the world. Holy Cross Brothers and Priests today live and minister in 18 countries around the globe. Soon it will be 19. In our efforts to reclaim our missionary roots envisioned by our holy Founder, Blessed Basile Moreau, we are opening a new mission this fall in Papua New Guinea, where we are sending 8 missionaries to the island of Bougainville, to bring the good news of the gospel to a part of the world we have not been before. I ask you for your prayers for this new missionary endeavour.

As Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, I would be remiss if I did not recognize our dear and beloved Marianites of Holy Cross. On behalf of all of our priests and brothers, with sincerity and great affection, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, for your fidelity, loyalty, and for your continued service to the church and People of God here in Louisiana. In spite of the floods, hurricanes, and epidemics, you never left. You remained and you are still here today as Father Moreau wanted you to be 175 years ago. Over these years, countless lives have been enriched by your loving presence, compassion, service, and faithful gospel witness. I am not naïve. This packed cathedral today is not really for us men; it is primarily a tribute to you and your good work in responding to the needs of our Church.

Thank you for truly being our sisters in every way possible, and please know how much we love and respect you.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who made today's event possible. A special thank you to Holy Cross alum, Fr. Pat Williams, for presiding at this Mass of Thanksgiving and for his moving homily, and to the concelebrants and deacons present here. To the combined choirs of Holy Cross School and St. Louis Cathedral for enhancing our worship with such glorious music. To Sr. Ann Lacour and her planning committee for their months of detailed preparation. To our Marinaite Sisters and Holy Cross Brothers and Priests who are with us today, and to our many colleagues, friends, benefactors, and to all who have benefited from our 175 years of life and service in this great city and state. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for God's abundant grace and blessings. Thank you and may God bless you all.





*Of Course, a New Orleans celebration calls for a Second Line...*



*The Family gathered back at Holy Cross for a reception; a "Family Reunion" on many levels.*

