



SISTER MAUREEN'S PASSING

Sister Maureen's passing caused me much sorrow.
I wrote a little text for her.

Why do roses wilt?
A rose has wilted in our rose garden.
A rose is gone, not just any rose,
A very beautiful rose.

A delicate and elegant rose.
A rose in full bloom.
A rose that inspired all the young and not-so-young
in the Region of Haiti.
A rose appreciated for its aesthetic quality.

Since December 31, 2017, the entire Region of Haiti is sad.
Since a rose never disappears, we believe that God is transforming our rose into
light to illuminate our beloved Haiti that she loved so much, as well as every
member of the Region of Haiti.

*Sister Maureen, go in peace!
We will always remember you.*

Dadeline Jean, CSC



EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Greetings, Dear Sisters and
Dear Brothers!

On this very important and
special day for each one of us,
we lack the words to truly
express our gratitude to God



and to you. However, as a proverb of our cultures says; "If the goat ate the fruits of the big tree, it owes its gratitude to the wind that made the fruit fall". This is why we give thanks to the God of life who called us to his service. During this process, we experienced his Presence, his free love and his tenderness for us.

We offer a bouquet of flowers to you, dear parents of Burkina

Faso and Haiti, for the life, the faith and the good education that you gave us. A big thank you to you for accepting and supporting our choice to devote ourselves to God in religious life in the service of our sisters and brothers. Even if distance does not allow you to take part in this celebration, we know that you are united to us at this very moment and that your prayers are with us. May God fill you with his blessings and all the necessary graces you need. *Mesi anpil ! Bark-barka.*

It is time to thank the Congregation who welcomed us and allowed us to deepen our call to the following of Jesus, the Liberator. Thank you to the Sisters in all regions and sectors who accompanied us with their prayers and sisterly support during this time of formation, especially the Sisters of Latin America who welcomed us in our beginnings and our adaptation. Thank you to the Region of Haiti and the communities of West Africa who guided us in our first steps. Thank you to the Peruvian people who helped us to integrate their culture by offering us their love, their proximity, their welcome and their hospitality.

Our gratitude goes out, too, to the novitiate team who accompanied us in our discernment stages during these years. To you, dear novitiate and postulancy companions, thank you for your availability. We wish you much courage.

We thank the big CONFER family for all we experienced in this meeting place with others and with ourselves. We had moments of friendship and sharing in fraternity and diversity. It was a very rewarding learning experience.

We would like to thank Father John Phalen who lovingly accepted to preside at this Eucharist, Father Enrique Gonzales for his homily, and all the concelebrants. Thank you to the Holy Cross family for their presence, prayers and moments of fraternity.

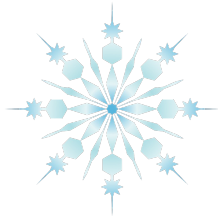
We thank our Spanish teachers: Patricia Zambrano from Canada, Betty and Erika here in Peru. They helped us with a lot of love and a lot of patience with their language lessons so that we might communicate. Thank you to the choir and the musicians for having animated the songs of this Mass.

Thank you to all of you, friends, neighbors, pastoral colleagues and acquaintances who have come from far and near to take part in this celebration. We are very grateful for your presence and your prayers. Thank you so much!

Beatrice, Evelyne, Guerline, F.K. Michaëlle and Sophia



SNOW-DAY MEMORIES



Looking out we see nothing at all.
No snowflakes—just white!
Remembering going out
Into a blizzard with my brother...
Holding onto each other for security!
Off to school we go,
Walking on snowbanks three feet high!
Opening our mouths to catch snowflakes
Melting as soon as they hit our tongues!
Snow, snow, beautiful snow!
The star-shaped flakes sparkling
As we caught them on our mittens and gloves.
And there are the boys and girls...
Throwing snowballs at each other!
Sliding down the hills belly flat on the sled!
Holding on for dear life as we sped to the bottom.
We'd walk two miles in the snow
To glide across the lake.
The Parks and Recreation workers
Clearing the ice with shovels and plows!
We'd change into our skates
And get warm by the fire in the log cabin!
Finally tired and cold
We head to the local ice cream parlor or home
For saltines and peanut butter and a hot chocolate.
Mother is in the kitchen making taffy on snow!
It smells so sweet, it smells like more!
I love looking at the shiny, glossy, glistening icicles
Hanging from the eaves!
Each snowflake that falls is like a silent prayer!
They are so stunning, especially in the sun!
Some may consider the snow a hazard,
But we agree that it offers pleasures, treasures and a variety of fun!

HORIZONS OF HOPE



I had the privilege of participating in the congress held in Rome from the 1st to the 3rd of December 2017 on the theme *Vocation Ministry and Consecrated Life: Horizons and Hope*. This congress brought together 800 men and women religious from all over the world who are working in vocation ministry. The objective of this Congress was to prepare the synod of bishops that

will take place next October with the theme *Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment*. The Holy Cross Family was well represented, and in a way our Founder would have liked: Fathers, Brothers and Sisters working in a spirit of collaboration. I was well received by the Fathers as well as by Sister Micheline Tremblay, who live there, and Sister Laure Therrien.

We treated several themes such as: *Sequela Christi* in the New Testament; The Youth of Today and Consecrated Life; Cultures and the Vocation to Consecrated Life: Between Possibilities and Difficulties; Care for the Human Dimension on the Journey of Consecrated Life; Indications of the New Ratio. We had very good speakers including the cardinals Baldisseri Lorenzo, Joao Braz and Beniamino. There were other notable speakers like Timothy Radcliffe, OP; Mary Johnson, SND; and Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, to name but a few.

It was very interesting to see that Religious Life is facing the same problem everywhere. However, people are not giving up; they collaborate in networking for the promotion of vocations. The God who called us many years ago is the same today and continues to call. Let's look to the future with hope by showing young people the beauty of Consecrated Life. Young people do not experience a need for prayer; they must first meet God. Time must be spent on first hearing the Word. The call within Consecrated Life is a call to live life. Religious life is a yes to life in abundance. We must let God live in us if young people are to see God. Let's not simply be civil servants.

The Gospel proclamation of vocation must be accompanied by the testimony of life. Our being is more important than what we do. Let us go meet young people by making them meet Jesus Christ and not by speaking to them about Him, since Jesus is a person not an idea. Vocation is not a function, nor a profession; it is following the person of Jesus in a radical commitment. We need to change our attitudes, adapt to new ideas. We need to learn to be young people ourselves. We must be a reflection of Trinitarian life; we must humanize community life. The Gospel must be clearer where there are consecrated persons. It is therefore necessary to have a Church that gives space and time to young people. It takes

mature pastoral ministry to help make a choice rather than pastoral "entertainment".

When journeying with young people, it is necessary to make them discover the call. The accompaniment of a young person is nothing other than journeying towards God; it is God who loves and who makes grow.

We are an outgoing Church seeking new ways. For this, we need reintegration in our parishes, openness in our living environments. We must make the link between vocation ministry and family ministry. We need to review our plans for the make-up of our communities and give witness to joy. True fraternity is the first place to do pastoral work.

I say a big THANK YOU to the other members of the General Administration who made it possible for me to experience such an enriching time, a time that led to my having another vision of vocation ministry.

Yanick Sylfradin, CSC

"AFTERNOON MOREAU TEA"



Sacred Space prepared by
Marguerite Marie Fortier
Elaine Theoret

On January 20, 2018, Sisters, Associates, and Companions in the U.S. Sector were invited to St. George Manor to take part in an "Afternoon Moreau Tea" in honor of Father Moreau. The celebration began in the chapel where we were invited by Sister Sally Stearns to listen prayerfully to stories of Father Moreau which were extracted from the book entitled *Basil Moreau* by Thomas Barrosse, CSC. The approach described the heart of Basil Moreau from his youth until his death in 1873. Music and times of reflection accompanied the stories. As our Founder blessed all of Holy Cross with his dying breath on January 20,

1873, our prayer ended with a blessing for all of Holy Cross across the world and, in particular, to the seventeen youngest members in Holy Cross, whose names were read by Sister Therese Martin.

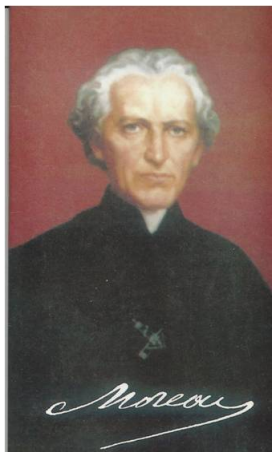
Following prayer, we were invited to the dining room for the “Afternoon Moreau Tea”. What we were not expecting was the appearance of our Father Founder who admitted that, having a tea in his honor was something new for him! The best he could do was to think of it as a more sophisticated version of the “goûter” that we all remember. Father Moreau congratulated us for our creativity and reiterated “*how good it was for us to be together as sisters*”. We then proceeded to enjoy the “Afternoon Moreau Tea” with a beautiful display of special sandwiches and desserts prepared by the kitchen staff.

All left feeling a deeper connection to our Holy Cross roots.

Elaine Marquis, CSC



DECADE OF DAYS



In an effort to maximize the full benefit and the significance of the *Decade of Days* we received from the Marianites, a small committee of the Justice and

Environment Mission Group met to define concrete actions that could be taken to en flesh the *Family of Holy Cross Statement on Nonviolence and Just Peace* and to pray the *Decade of Days* communally.

As a result of this meeting, the Justice and Environment Mission Group invited Community Groups in the Sector to assume the responsibility of leading us in prayer. This outreach was quite successful in that there were different leaders for each day of the *Decade*.

Following prayer, an invitation was extended to participants to join the sisters for the evening meal in the Manor dining room. Those who were able to attend the decade appreciated having been brought together for prayer as well as the camaraderie they enjoyed during the evening meal.

We are grateful to the Justice and Environment Group for its initiative and to everyone who was able to attend. Your presence is what brought richness to the *Decade*.

Denise Turcotte, CSC

COMMUNICATIONSCSC@AOL.COM