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## **HOLY CROSS MEETINGS AT ST. MARY'S, INDIANA**

The meetings of the four General Councils of the women and men of Holy Cross – (the Marianites of Holy Cross, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the Sisters of Holy Cross, and Fathers and Brothers of Holy Cross) hosted by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, were held October 2-4 at St. Mary's, Indiana. Among the many meaningful exchanges were the reports of the General Councils of each Congregation, the accomplishments achieved since 2015 and the hopes and dreams for the next few years.

Another significant event that occurred during these meetings was the signing of a joint statement reaffirming and recommitting the Holy Cross Family to nonviolence and just peace. This recommitment took place during a very meaningful prayer service sponsored by the Holy Cross International Justice Office in collaboration with the Sisters of the Holy Cross Justice Committee.

The meetings of the four branches of Holy Cross ended with a delicious buffet supper at the vacation home of the Sisters of the Holy Cross on Lake Michigan. Following the encounters with the Family of Holy Cross, an enriching one-day meeting was held on October 5 with the three feminine branches of Holy Cross. From October 6-8, Sister Raymonde gathered her team members for a General Council meeting.

We, the Sisters of Holy Cross, extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Sisters of the Holy Cross for their warm and outstanding hospitality.

Doris E. Gagnon, CSC



Dear Sisters, Associates, Members of the New Forms of Consecration,

June and July 2017 marked two important events in my life...my Golden Jubilee and the end of my mandate at the Congregational Administration.

You were present at these events through your prayers, your wishes: I received many cards with meaningful messages, e-mails, telephones and gifts of all kinds.

Thank you so much! The messages went straight to my heart and even found a place in my suitcase so that I can savour them fully, now that I have more time. They are part of my prayer of thanksgiving. ***Thank you very much!***

Since September 5<sup>th</sup>, I am at *Centre Intercommunautaire Quatre Saisons* in St Elie (Sherbrooke) for a year of renewal. We are 47 religious from 28 congregations and 15 countries. What a gift for me to be able to participate in this holistic, enriching program. The Centre is situated in a little corner of Eden in the Eastern Townships.

I hold fond memories of my years at the Generalate and of the collaboration of many of you, especially for the Community Life Commission, the research group for the New Forms of Consecration, the Associates and the Umbrella Congress.

May God reward you a hundredfold!

With gratitude,

Lucienne Landry, CSC  
October 2017

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## **SISTER JACQUELINE R. VERVILLE, CSC ON HER RETIREMENT**

Inspired and strengthened by the Holy Cross charism of “*education for liberation*,” you had a dream, unlike any other dream. You were passionate about one day opening a learning center where Holy Cross would welcome and educate immigrants and refugees. On October 4, 2010, Holy Cross Family Learning Center opened its doors. In the footsteps of our beloved Founder, Blessed Father Basile Moreau, your only resources were faith in God, love for God’s people, and trust in Divine Providence.

You set forth with determination and steadfastness pursuing grants, engaging donors, and surrounding yourself with partners in mission. Keeping the mission alive and well was sometimes challenging but you never wavered. Under your leadership, the Center grew by leaps and bounds. With the help of your collaborators, you introduced classes in English, computer skills, and sewing techniques. The lives you touched, the spirits you raised, and the hope you inspired leaves a legacy that defines you as a valiant woman of Holy Cross.

On this seventh anniversary, you can look back with pride and gratitude on all your accomplishments. We, the Sisters of Holy Cross, your staff, and your students are profoundly grateful to you for carrying out your mission with such zeal and fortitude. Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, immigrants and refugees will always have a very special place in your heart. As you go forward onto the next stage in your life, may our gracious God bless you with love, peace, happiness, and much-needed rest. It is with one heart that we proudly and warmly applaud you.”

Pauline Labrie, CSC  
For the U.S. Sector Team







## **THE MATHEMATICS OF GOD: When "1 + 1 + 1 = 1"**

Last year, our three Congregations of Holy Cross women celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. And this last September 15 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatification of our Founder, Basil Moreau. It is never too late to share the joy of graces received, even those of a year ago, because the heart and the spirit of this man always continue to accompany us on all our Holy Cross journey. It is a sharing of this kind that I want to do today regarding one of those beautiful gifts.

To celebrate Our Lady of Compassion, a woman bequeathed as a model by Father Moreau to all the women of Holy Cross, and to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation, the Sisters of Holy Cross of West Africa invited the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Ghana and the Marianites of Holy Cross in Burkina Faso to their home in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This weekend was, and still remains today, a particularly significant moment for all of us. It was a rich and profound experience of a time when "1 + 1 + 1 = 1" and not "3"... There, in Burkina Faso, was a family of "sisters", sisters representing all the members of the three Congregations of women of Holy Cross, each and every one of them daughter of Blessed Basil Moreau. It was a gathering of women whose past history –and geography too– had led to their existence as three autonomous groups today, all of whom bear the vision and mission of their Founder throughout the world.

Praying together; sharing meals together; exchanging, remembering, laughing and singing together led us to dream together of the future of Holy Cross... In the end, whether there be, one day, only one name for the group of all the daughters of Basil Moreau, or whether we continue under three different names into a future rich of the fruits of the mission of this man of God, this weekend of September 2016 in West Africa told us that yes, "1 + 1 + 1" groups of women of Holy Cross equals only ONE group of Moreau's daughters and not "3" ...

We knew that we –all the women of Holy Cross– we were, indeed, truly ONE of heart and spirit. We truly recognized and experienced ourselves as ONE family, all daughters of Blessed Basil, our Founder. And it is in this unity of heart and spirit, in this unity burning of the fire of the one Great Spirit, that we want to live our present and, with joy,

turn to the future... on the pathways of resurrection of the world.

Thérèse Martin, woman of Holy Cross

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