

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ September 2023
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The Butterfly Effect

When a butterfly flaps its wings, it creates tiny changes in the atmosphere that may ultimately cause or prevent a major weather event on the other side of the planet. This idea was made famous in a scientific study by meteorologist Edward Lorenz who stated that: “one flap of a butterfly’s wings could change the course of weather forever” (1963).

During the month of September, the Marianite Sisters of Holy Cross celebrate two very special days – September 14th, the Feast of the Holy Cross, and September 15th, the Feast of Our Lady of Seven Dolors. To understand the significance of these days, we need to take a step back in history and see how the movement of one person’s life - and the flap of *his* wings - has forever changed the course of countless people.

Fr. Basil Moreau, C.S.C., the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, was born in 1799 in a small village near Le Mans, France. He grew up amidst the turmoil of the French Revolution. As a young priest in the early 1830s, he felt called to help revitalize the Church in France devastated by years of civil war. With nearly two-thirds of France’s clergy and religious exiled or killed, Fr. Moreau helped restore hope by organizing a group of Auxiliary Priests to preach, teach and bring the message of Christ to those who were suffering in poor and neglected towns and villages in France.

In 1835, at the request of the Bishop of Le Mans, Fr. Moreau became the Superior of the Brothers of Saint Joseph, a group of young men formed into a teaching association 15 years earlier by Fr. Jacques Dujarié. Fr. Moreau united the Auxiliary Priests and the Brothers of St. Joseph into a single association in 1837 and settled them in the area of Le Mans known as Sainte Croix (Holy Cross).

Four years later he began to establish a group of religious women. He dedicated the Priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Brothers to St. Joseph, and the Sisters to the heart of Mary under the title of Our Lady of Seven Dolors (or Sorrows). The brothers and priests eventually developed into the religious community known as the Congregation of Holy Cross. The sisters were named after Mary under the title, Marianites of Holy Cross. Fr. Moreau’s vision of starting a new religious community in the Catholic Church of men and women modeled on the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, began to take shape.

Following the guidance of Fr. Moreau, the Holy Cross religious ministered first in France. In 1841, he sent them to the United States and they began several new foundations there including the foundation of the University of Notre Dame. Additional foundations were later established in other parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, and in North and South America.

While enduring countless difficulties and trials throughout his life, Fr. Moreau remained zealously faithful to his call and served as the Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross for many years. Despite his own struggles, he continued to bring hope to others through his writings, his preaching, and retreats. Recognizing his personal holiness and the witness of his life, *Pope Benedict XVI beatified him on September 15, 2007, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the feast day of the Congregation of Holy Cross.*

Today the butterfly effect of Blessed Basil Moreau ripples through the hearts of the men and women who live his vision of “bringing hope to others” in more than 15 countries throughout the world.

A significant part of the legacy he left to us was his devotion to the Cross and his dedication to Mary. He was particularly drawn to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. She had a special appeal to him because of the high priority given to the place of the Cross in his life and spirituality. As she journeyed with her Son in the difficulties of his life, as she stood with him at the foot of the Cross during the crucifixion, Fr. Moreau challenged all in Holy Cross to journey with others in their joys and especially in their difficulties and to compassionately stand with them at the foot of the Cross always looking toward the promised resurrection.

Please join with us in spirit, prayer and a flap of your own “*butterfly wings*” as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Cross on September 14th and the feast of Our Lady of Seven Dolours on September 15th.

Jubilee Celebration – 70 Years of Vowed Religious Life

On September 15th, four Sisters will celebrate 70 years of religious life: three Marianites of Holy Cross – Sr. Carmelita Centanni, Sr. Mary Elizabeth Demeo, and Sr. Marie Emma Noel; and one Most Holy Sacrament Sister – Sr. Sophie Guidry. They will renew their vows at the 10:00 AM mass surrounded by members of their religious communities, their family, and friends. We offer our heartfelt congratulations and render gratitude for their years of dedicated service to their religious congregations and to the many people whose lives have been touched by their vowed commitment.

❁ Celebrating Birthdays in September ❁

Sr. B. Dupuis, MSC	09/18	W. Olivier	09/08
C. Fontenot	09/05	T. Soileau	09/15
C. Guillory	09/07	E. Tate	09/29
C. Lavergne	09/13	Sr. A. Theriot	09/05

☞ Recently Deceased Residents ☞

Carole Viviano	8/04/2023
Anita Vidrine	8/13/2023
Joycelyn Soileau	8/21/2023

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