

"GO, TEACH THEM ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU"
Continuing the Holy Cross Educational Heritage

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." (*Matthew 28: 19-20*)

RITE OF RECOMMITMENT TO THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING

Presider: "Those who obey God's ways and teach others to do the same will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven." (*Matthew 5: 19*)

All: We freely choose to follow and to teach the ways of the Lord Jesus~ we teach that others may follow.

Presider: Are you willing to accept the Church's ministry of teaching, so the good news of Jesus Christ will be preached to all?

All: We are willing.

Presider: Do you accept the responsibility of serving students, of educating in the tradition of Holy Cross both their minds and their hearts, and of supporting and strengthening them in their efforts to recognize, to develop and to use their gifts and talents?

All: We do accept this.

Presider: Will you stand side by side with other Holy Cross educators throughout the world and be an example for students through what you teach and through what you do?

All: We will.

Presider: Thus says the Lord: "I myself shall instruct you and teach you the way to go / I shall not take my eyes off you." (*Psalms 32:8*)

All: "Teach us to do your will, for you are our God.
May your generous spirit keep us firmly planted on solid ground." (*Psalms 143:10*)

Presider: It is God who has called you to this commitment~ it is God who will give you the grace to remain faithful.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray:

Gracious God, Source of all truth and wisdom and light, we gather in your name to celebrate our mission as educators in the spirit and heritage of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Encouraged by the bold example of Father Basil Moreau, we have responded to your call to teach and to lead so others may follow Jesus the Lord. Give us wisdom to speak your word and to show your way to the students. Give us patience to recall that what we do is truly your own work. Give us enthusiasm to continue this mission with creativity and constancy. We pray this as we pray all things, in the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reader I: A reading from Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy (1: 13-14; 2: 1-2)

Hold to the standard of sound teaching you have received in the faith and love that are in Jesus Christ. Guard the treasure of knowledge which has been entrusted to you with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Be strong, then, in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from many witnesses entrust and teach to faithful people. Then they will be able to teach others.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (37: 3-6.30-31)

Reader II: Those who teach the Lord's ways will shine as lights for the world.

All: Those who teach the Lord's ways will shine as lights for the world.

Reader II: Trust God and do good, live peaceably in the land.
Delight in the Lord, for God will satisfy the longings of your heart.

All: Those who teach the Lord's ways will shine as lights for the world.

Reader II: Therefore, give your life to the Lord.
Trust that God will act on your behalf,
making your integrity shine and your justice brilliant as noon.

All: Those who teach the Lord's ways will shine as lights for the world.

Reader II: The holy ones have wisdom on their tongues and justice on their lips.
With God's teaching in their hearts, they will never falter.

All: Those who teach the Lord's ways will shine as lights for the world.

Reader III: A reading from the writings of Father Basil Moreau (*Christian Education*)

Your mission as teachers is difficult and requires hard work. This mission also requires great dedication to continue your calling. With the eyes of faith, consider the greatness of your mission and the wonderful amount of good which you can accomplish. And also consider the great reward promised to those who have taught the truth to others and have helped to form them: "They will shine eternally in the skies like the stars of heaven." With the hope of this glory, we must generously complete the Lord's work.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Matthew 5: 16)

Presider: Alleluia

All: Alleluia

Presider: "Let your light shine before all, so they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven."

All: Alleluia

Presider: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (5: 13-19)

You are the salt of the earth~ but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven~ but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

PRAYERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Reader II: We pray for all teachers within the church, especially those who are working in schools associated with Holy Cross throughout the world. May truth be their light, and courage along their paths, and compassion in their ways. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader II: We pray for everyone associated with this school: students, parents, benefactors, friends, faculty, staff, administrators, and board members. May we complete our responsibilities with enthusiasm and generosity.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader II: We pray for those who do not have the privilege of access to education in today's world. May they know and live their dignity and rights as human beings; may they grow in awareness of God's great love for them.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Other intentions

Presider: Gracious God, hear our prayers. Answer them according to your will, and grant us the grace to accept your will always. We pray in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider: Let us pray:

With these simple gifts of bread and wine, we offer to you, Loving God, our lives and our efforts. Accept them as expressions of our love for you and of our desire to continue the teaching mission of Jesus through our ministry as educators. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever.

All: Amen.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Presider: All-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. By the teaching and example of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed the good news of our salvation. Through Jesus, you have called us to continue his teaching mission through the educational heritage of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In Jesus, you give us the grace to remain faithful to that mission. Therefore, with Jesus and with all creation we proclaim your glory with resounding praise.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

COMMUNION RITE

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: "You have in you a spiritual gift, do not neglect it. Be conscientious about what you do and what you teach; persevere in this, and thus will you save both yourself and those who listen to you." (1 *Timothy* 4: 14,16)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Let us pray:

God, Source of all truth and wisdom, may our communion with you in this Eucharist strengthen us in our commitment to follow Jesus and to continue his teaching mission through our work as educators in the Holy Cross tradition. May our lives ever be reflections of Jesus' loving presence and activity among all people. We ask this, as we ask for all things, in the name of Jesus who is Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: May God be your guide and light, so your teaching will always reflect God's glory.

All: Amen.

Presider: May you teach the truth of God's love for all, and may you live what you teach.

All: Amen.

Presider: May the example of your lives show others the pathways to eternal life.

All: Amen.

Presider: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: Go in peace to love the Lord and to teach God's word.

All: Thanks be to God.