

**Prayer Service of Commitment to the
Mission of Education in the Tradition of Holy Cross**

Introduction

The Presider (normally either the school leader or the campus minister) offers a brief introduction explaining what is to occur during this service.

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.

Listening to 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.

Reflection

Either the presider or someone from the school gives a brief reflection on the Holy Cross tradition in education and what it means to commit oneself to be a teacher in this tradition. Of special importance in the reflection is the application of Father Basil Moreau's statement: "The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart."

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." (*Psalm 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." (*Psalm 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.

New members of the administration, faculty, and staff may be asked to sign the school's Statement of Mission as a symbol of their commitment. They receive some symbol (such as a card or medal) of their new membership in the school community. Returning members of the administration, faculty, and staff may also be called forward to sign the school's Statement of Mission.