

## Holy Cross Mission Theme:

# Bringing Hope

**“I have never lost hope in Providence or in your fidelity to the sublime Vocation which God has given you.”**

*Circular Letter 14, Blessed Basil Moreau*

The hope of a Holy Cross educator is of sterner stuff than the preferred dictionary definition of hope suggests: to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment. To understand Christian hope we must turn to the second entry which is referred to as the archaic definition: to have confidence, trust. The Christian anchor of hope is about trust, not wishing.

When we hope, we're vulnerable. It makes it impossible for us to dismiss, pigeonhole, patronize, or rescue. At the point of impasse with an intractable student or a fractured community, hope does not allow us to impose judgment. Instead it empowers us to look for the gifts within the “problem” person or the truth within the issue that can be the seed of transformation. Hope nourishes and protects this kernel by helping us see the big picture, ask the right questions, and move out of the comfortable back row and onto the exposed threshold. It challenges us to continue to grow in relationship to our evolving community.

This challenge helps explain Father Moreau's vision of the cross as “our only hope.” The cross is a stark reminder of Jesus' spiritual courage; hope calls us to stand tall in the face of adversity and challenge. The cross bore the weight of profound responsibility; hope draws forth our greatest competence: the ability to transform lives.

Hope, like faith, is real to the extent that it is put into action. Saint James writes, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26); the same can be said of hope. When we give up on social issues that seem too enormous or people who seem incorrigible, we don't isolate the problem, we isolate ourselves. In contrast, hope *goads* us into action, engagement, connection. It builds up our resilience. And it gives us a reverence for the complexity of our lives, breaking down the compartments where it is easy to demonize what we don't understand.

The redemptive power of hope depends on keeping our feet under the table. Our trust is about staying connected and staying the course—through service projects and immersion programs, networking with other Holy Cross schools, and outreach programs. By working in partnership, we bring the hope that can transform the world person by person.

Taken with edit from: *Becoming Part of the Story*  
The Legacy of Holy Cross Educators



*Hope: not the destination, but the journey. In bringing hope, we also learn to draw hope forth from those we serve.*