

Holy Cross Mission Theme:

Being Family

“Union is the powerful lever with which we could move, direct, and sanctify the whole world.”

Christian Education, Blessed Basil Moreau

“It feels like a family.” That feeling is part of our legacy. In unifying brothers, priests, and sisters, Father Moreau modeled the Congregation on the Holy Family, and we sustain this family spirit in our schools by praying, playing, and celebrating together. Ultimately, this spirit serves to leverage our collective talents and passion for justice—and transform the world.

That family feeling begins at the front door. We are the hosts, and the power of our invitation determines the character of our community. Holy Cross educators ask themselves: *How do people know they belong? Do we contribute to faculty inservice and orientation sessions, or do we just show up? How do we create family in the classroom, reach out to parents, or respond when a student is hurting? Can we expect to nourish our students’ spiritual growth if we don’t tend to our own?*

If these questions seem too much to ask, remember Joseph. Patron saint of the Holy Cross brothers, this homeless carpenter took responsibility for another person’s child—and the compassion, hospitality, hope, and calm listening Jesus expressed were all learned at his foster father’s knee. We aren’t just teaching ideas; Holy Cross educators help students “connect the dots” between what we say and do and who we are, to choose when to take risks and learn how to remain faithful in difficult times.

Three of the qualities that distinguish a good teacher, Father Moreau wrote, concern our mentoring. The core of our mission is to develop heart and soul, and **reverence** helps us recognize each person’s gifts and cultivate our unity through mutual respect. Through professional development, teachers can continually acquire new **knowledge**—and model a passion for learning. **Meekness**—the recognition that the work is God’s work and therefore not all up to us—helps breed love and respect between teachers and students.

Because today’s students may not know how to “do family,” we have a tremendous opportunity to model it. At the same time, the growing diversity of our school families requires us to stretch our definitions and learn new traditions from our students. Yet healthy family systems also establish good boundaries: consequences for actions, reasonable expectations. By creating a trusting environment, we can safeguard each other and constantly nourish ourselves. To our educators, being a Holy Cross family is replenishing—and a big part of our identity.

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

*Visit any
Holy Cross
school, and
students
are likely
to tell you,
“It feels
like a
family.”*

