

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ August 2018
A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Marianites of Holy Cross – 177 Years of Service: August 4, 1841 – August 4, 2018

The founder of the Marianites, Blessed Basil Moreau (1799-1873), was born in France in the aftermath of the French Revolution. During the Revolution, Church property was seized by the government, priests were arrested and executed, and religious communities were expelled. The departure of religious communities resulted in the closure of many schools and church parishes. As a result, almost a whole generation in France suffered the loss of formal education and faith formation.

Following his priestly ordination in 1821 in Le Mans, France, Father Moreau began to search for ways to respond to these pressing needs of the people of France for education, religious formation, and parish resources. He organized a group of Auxiliary Priests from his brother priests in the Diocese of Le Mans. These Auxiliary Priests assisted by preaching parish missions, by instructing the youth, and by teaching in newly developed seminaries and colleges.

Father Moreau also became involved with the Brothers of St. Joseph who earlier had been founded by Father Jacques Dujarié for the education of young boys. For the sake of their common mission as educators in the faith, Father Moreau joined the Brothers of St. Joseph and Auxiliary Priests on March 1, 1837, in the Fundamental Act of Union. The newly established Association of Holy Cross took its name from the Sainte-Croix neighborhood in Le Mans in which it was formed.

However, Moreau's vision for Holy Cross was not yet complete. In 1838, he gave a rule of life to a group of devout laywomen. On August 4, 1841, these women became the Marianites of Holy Cross when they received their religious names and the religious habit. From their origins, the Marianites were dedicated to Mary, and in particular to Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows or Our Lady of Seven Dolors. The first woman in leadership, Léocadie Gascoin, received the religious name Mother Mary of Seven Dolors. In the beginning, the Sisters assisted the priests and brothers by doing domestic work. However, due to the pressing needs for education and health care, the Sisters were trained as teachers and nurses.

Today, the women of Holy Cross form 3 distinct congregations: Marianites of Holy Cross, Sisters of the Holy Cross, and Sisters of Holy Cross. Together with the priests and brothers of Holy Cross, religious of Holy Cross minister in Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. They are engaged in a variety of ministries fulfilling their commitment to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in the spirit of Fr. Moreau.

☪ Celebrating Birthdays in August ☪

R. Beagh	8/14	Fr. J. Paul	8/16
F. Breaux	8/02	I. Speyrer	8/16
Sr. M. Cervantes	8/26	I. Tate	8/06
L. Fontenot	8/02	L. Theriot	8/03
M. Lemen	8/09	A. Williams	8/17

When a loved one is forgetting....

Memory loss is not a normal part of the aging process. As we age, we may have moments of forgetting but sustained and progressive loss of memory may be a sign of Dementia. Dementia is a syndrome, usually of a chronic or progressive nature, in which there is deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from normal aging. It affects memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgment. The impairment in cognitive function is commonly accompanied, and occasionally preceded, by deterioration in emotional control, social behavior, or motivation. However, the person's consciousness is not affected.

Dementia is caused by a variety of diseases and injuries that primarily or secondarily affect the brain, such as Alzheimer's disease or stroke. It is one of the major causes of disability and dependency among older people worldwide. It is overwhelming not only for the people who have it, but also for their care givers and families. There is often a lack of awareness and understanding of Dementia, resulting in stigmatization and barriers to diagnosis and care. The impact of dementia on care givers, family members and societies includes physical, psychological, social and economic issues.

Signs and symptoms

Dementia affects each person in different ways, depending upon the impact of the disease and the person's personality before becoming ill. The signs and symptoms linked to Dementia can be understood in three stages.

Early Stage: The early stage of Dementia is often overlooked, because the onset is gradual. Common symptoms of the early stage include: forgetting recently learned information; forgetting important dates or events; asking the same information over and over; having difficulty driving to familiar locations; remembering the rules of a favorite game; needing constant reliance on memory aids or family to remember normal daily activities; becoming quickly agitated when their schedule is changed.

Middle Stage: As Dementia progresses to the middle stage, the signs and symptoms become clearer. These include: becoming forgetful of recent events and people's names; becoming lost at home; having increasing difficulty with communication; needing help with personal care; experiencing behavior changes; aimlessly wandering and repeated questioning.

Late Stage: The late stage of Dementia is one of near total dependence and inactivity. Memory disturbances are serious and the physical signs and symptoms become very obvious. Symptoms include: becoming unaware of the time and place, having difficulty recognizing relatives and friends, having an increasing need for assisted self-care, having difficulty walking, experiencing behavior changes that may escalate and include aggression.

Types of Dementia: There are many different forms, or causes of Dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of Dementia and may contribute to 60–70% of cases. Other major forms include vascular Dementia, Dementia with Lewy bodies (abnormal aggregates of protein that develop inside nerve cells), and a group of diseases that contribute to frontal-temporal Dementia (degeneration of the frontal lobe of the brain).

The boundaries between different forms of Dementia are indistinct and mixed forms of dementia often co-exist.

Treatment: Currently there is no treatment available to cure Dementia or to alter its progressive course. However, numerous new treatments are being investigated in various stages of clinical trials. In the meantime, much can be offered to support and improve the lives of people with Dementia and their care givers and families.

Goals of Care: The principal goals for Dementia care are early diagnosis in order to promote optimal management; optimizing physical health, cognition, activity and well-being; identifying and treating accompanying physical illness; detecting and treating challenging behavioral and psychological symptoms; providing information and long-term support to care givers.

Resources: World Health Organization and The Alzheimer's Association

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