

**Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility**  
**C'est la Vie Apartments**  
**Newsletter ~ August 2021**  
**A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross**

**Marianites of Holy Cross – 180 Years of Service: 1841 – 2021**

As the Marianites celebrate 180 years of apostolic service, we gratefully remember our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau (1799-1873). He was born in France following 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, many in France suffered the loss of formal education and faith formation.

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

Father Moreau also had responsibility for 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 together the Brothers of St. Joseph and Auxiliary Priests on March 1, 1837 in the Fundamental Act of Union thus uniting the two societies. The newly established Association of Holy Cross took its name from the Sainte-Croix neighborhood in Le Mans in which it was founded.

However, Father 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 first Marianites of Holy Cross when they received their religious names and the religious habit. From their origins, the Marianites were dedicated to our Mother 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 soon trained and then ministered 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 ☪**

E. Amy	8/18	K. McCaleb	8/28
M. Dupre	8/07	D. Nezat	8/02
L. Fontenot	8/02	Fr. J. Paul	8/16
M. Fontenot	8/15	I. Speyrer	8/16
J. Matte	8/22	L. Touchet	8/11

## **Visiting with a Loved One who has Dementia**

Visits with families and friends are a time to make meaningful connections for all of us. Older adults with Alzheimer's or Dementia enjoy visits, too, even if they don't show recognition or remember it later. The research shows that positive feelings will stay with them long after the visit is over.

In visiting someone challenged with cognitive impairment and ongoing memory issues, engage with the person in the moment whatever that moment will be. There will be times when they are happy to see you; times when they are tired; times when they are anxious. Here a few suggestions to make the visit meaningful.

Be perceptive about their present moment and go with that. Don't try to force them into your reality. The adjustment in communication needs to be made 100% by the person making the visit so don't expect that the person you are visiting with Dementia will make any adjustments. You need to live in their world and not expect them to come into yours.

It is helpful to state who you are. With Dementia, they may forget your face; but feelings and emotions are the last to go. They may feel terrible if you say, "Hi do you remember me? Do you know my name?" Instead, you could say, "Hi Ruth, my name is Sally and I came to visit with you."

Generally, don't ask a lot of questions, rather, share information on the family or your activities. Talk with your loved one about positive and life-giving events in the community or family. Don't assume they can't understand. Just hearing your voice will bring comfort and keep them connected with the outside world.

Get rid of the idea of 'normal.' You won't have the same kind of conversation you once had. Allow the conversation to be more on the emotional level and less on the intellectual level. And don't focus on what the person is losing, focus on what is still present: memories from decades ago; respond with humor in the moment. Laugh with them, share humorous stories or funny cartoons.

Bring objects and pictures of interest to them, such as, a video of family events, weddings, graduations, baseball games, dance recitals; or share a video with them of a movie you enjoyed.

If you find them repeating, divert from the topic, change the subject. In our geographical area, you can always talk about recent recipes you tried or your favorite dish to cook! You can also play music they will remember. Regardless of memory issues, music makes a connection and energizes them, no matter how advanced the dementia.

Hearing loss is very common among older adults, so make sure they can hear you. You might need to raise your voice slightly and be careful to enunciate clearly. But don't shout or yell, that makes it more difficult to hear. Also, keep your face at about the same level. Aside from being polite, many people rely on facial expressions or lip reading to understand the conversation.

Since some communication may be nonverbal, don't forget the power of making eye contact and physical contact. When you see them or walk in the room, smile and reach out to them. Remember touch is a powerful communicator even when language skills are diminishing.

Let your loved one express their feelings and accept them. They need someone to listen. You don't have to have all the answers. Your presence is the gift they need. Enjoy the time you do have and the tender moments together. Try to leave negative topics out of the visit. Make your time joyful and pleasurable. Don't act like you would rather be somewhere else. They are still quite perceptive and they know!

Don't judge yourself too harshly about your own feelings regarding the situation. No one is prepared for the challenges you face trying to connect to a loved one with Dementia. There is no specific preparation program for it; but, there is an abundance of educational material available in print and on the web. Educate yourself and your family as soon as you realize what lies ahead for you and your loved one.

Let us know what we can do to assist and let us remain united in prayer.

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