

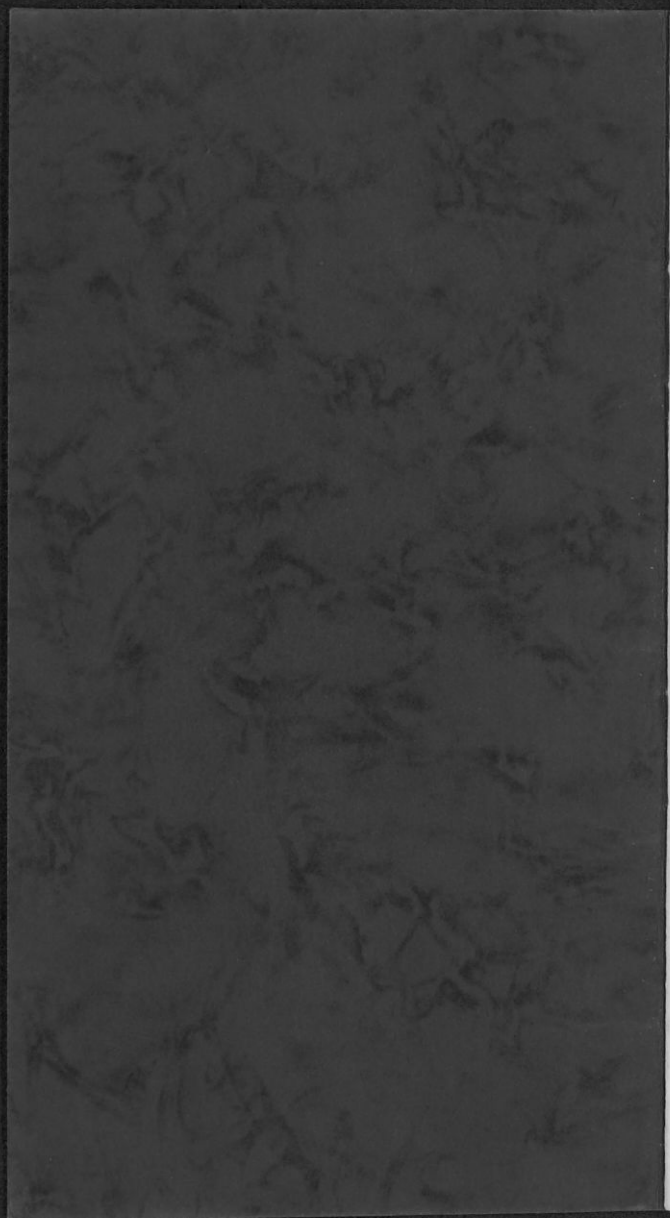
ADJ 6141

Beginnings...

BEGINNINGS

and

ENDS



BEGINNINGS and ENDS

THE SISTERS
of
THE HOLY CROSS



HOLY CROSS
INDIANA

Deadified
Deafened

BEGINNINGS and ENDS

I.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross were founded in 1841 at LeMans, France. A fact stated so simply does not at first suggest great riches or beauty of inheritance. Yet the place is holy ground.

Today LeMans is a busy modern city, a hundred and thirty miles west and south of Paris; but the ruins of a third century Roman wall in its more picturesque section bears evidence of an ancient past. The name itself, a corruption of *Celmans*, testifies to even earlier Celtic occupation. More precious than either is the historical tradition that LeMans was visited by the immediate successor of Saint Peter who erected here one of the first bishoprics in the early Church. The religious communities that trace their origin to LeMans are fruit of an ancient planting.

There had been the early flowering of stone and glass in the majestic Cathedral of Saint Julien. It stands today, a compact mountain in the great square with perfect apse and flying buttresses in clear silhouette



against the sky. Inside, the noble choir and nave are luminous with the beauty of the matchless old windows, some of the finest in all France.

The cathedral is the greatest of many fine churches that link the commercial city of today with its richly Christian past. It is interesting historically as the place where Henry II of England was baptized and where Berengaria is buried.

In the story of Holy Cross, Le Mans is an environment as well as a place. It includes Chartres, fifty miles to the east, and Solesmes, less than twenty miles west. They are part of a profound inheritance. Authentic legend states that "before her death an altar had been dedicated in Chartres to the Mother of Christ."

The earliest Christian missionaries sent into Gaul by Saint Peter found a grotto in the side of the hill on which the cathedral now stands. In it was an altar with a statue of a virgin holding a child on her knees. This was one of many Druid shrines in which the teachings and devotions of Christianity were anticipated with

startling accuracy. The Christian missionaries rededicated the grotto and built over it the first church to Our Lady of Chartres. The present cathedral is the summary of thirteen centuries of love. The beauty and insight of that love appear in vital stone and singing glass. But beneath is always "La Madonna Sous Terre," the vastest crypt in all France, which encloses the most ancient and authentic hearth of Mary. It is and has been throughout the ages a place of devoutest pilgrimage. Here Masses are celebrated daily with fastidious observance of rite and ceremonial. A little school of altar boys serves with precious and precocious propriety. Every genuflection, every response is a triumph of studied care.

The chapel of the Madonna Sous Terre belongs in a way to the Sisters of the Holy Cross. From the days of their founding they have made a novena here every year. Mother Seven Dolours was in Chartres on this annual pilgrimage in 1867 when word came from Rome that the rules of her congregation had been approved.

The great Benedictine monastery at Solesmes is the center and home of liturgical worship and authentic Gregorian Chant. After decades of suppression the monastery was restored to Dom Gueranger, in 1831, who rededicated it to its ancient uses, the prayer of praise and contemplation. He literally spent his life realizing the purposes of his order. The rebirth of liturgical worship is the rich fruit of his labor.

This momentous spiritual revival took place at the very threshold of LeMans. Dom Gueranger and Father Moreau were devoted friends. The monks of Solesmes have always been cared for in illness by the Sisters of the Holy Cross at their Clinique. When the mother chapel of Our Lady in LeMans was reconsecrated in 1938, the abbot of Solesmes pontificated and the monks of Solesmes sang the Mass.

The birthplace of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is indeed holy ground. In itself one of the first episcopal cities of the Church, it bequeaths to its children through Chartres the

primitive devotion to Our Lady and through Solesmes the holy inheritance of liturgical worship.

II.

Basil Moreau came to LeMans in September, 1818. He was the son of a wine merchant from Laigné-en-Belin, a little village nine miles away. He was nineteen years old and had just completed his preparatory courses in the Little Seminary at Chateau-Gontier. He had always dreamed of entering the major seminary of Saint Vincent at LeMans. This year had brought fulfillment. He was brilliant and deeply spiritual. He completed his studies before he had reached the canonical age of ordination. Through special dispensation he was ordained on August 12, 1821, in the chapel of the old Visitation Convent, Notre Dame de la Couture.

There followed a year of study at St. Sulpice in Paris and of more profound spiritual formation at the Solitude in Issy. Then came the first apostolic assignment to teach philosophy in the preparatory college at

Tesse. In 1825 he returned to Le Mans to take the chair of dogmatic theology at his own school, the Grand Seminary of Saint Vincent. Almost immediately he was named honorary canon at the cathedral.

During the next ten years he entered upon an apostolate of creative spiritual activity. Bishop Carron directed this. He raised funds for the support of the Brothers of Christian Doctrine, contributed his own property to a home for aged and infirm priests, founded the Convent of the Good Shepherd at LeMans and acted as its spiritual director. In collaboration with the Abbe Dujarie he projected a plan for a community of mission priests and in 1835 he accepted the charge of the Brothers of Saint Joseph which had been founded by Father Dujarie in 1820.

In the spring of 1841 two young girls entered the novitiate of the Good Shepherd nuns in LeMans. They were the nucleus of a community designed by Father Moreau to further the work of religious education. On August fourth they and two

others were clothed in the religious habit. They were the first Marianites, later to be known as Sisters of the Holy Cross. One of them received the name of Sister Mary of the Seven Dolours. She became the first superior general of her congregation. The community flourishes today in France, Canada, America, India. Years of persecution and religious suppression brought the work perilously near to extinction in France. Today, however, the Sisters maintain the best surgical clinic in LeMans, schools and clinics elsewhere in France. The Holy Cross College has been reopened and the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Cross rededicated.

A quiet road leads out past the college and the church along a lovely park and into the peace of a simple cemetery. The Sisters come here every Sunday. One section of it holds their dead. In its center stands the mortuary chapel of Father Moreau. A marble slab in the floor bears the inscription:

In this chapel, erected by himself,
and, under this slab,
proof of the love of his kindred,
of the gratitude of the Sisters
Marianites,
and of the faithful remembrance of
his students,
rests unto the last day
the devoted son and servant of the
Church,
Basil Anthony Moreau,
apostolic missionary,
eloquent in word and in works,
former Assistant Superior of the
Grand Seminary
and Honorary Canon of LeMans,
Founder and Ecclesiastical Superior
of the Monastery of the Good
Shepherd at LeMans,
and of the House of Our Lady of
Holy Cross,
and of the Religious Institute of
Holy Cross
approved by Rome in 1857,
and of the Religious Institute of the
Sisters Marianites
approved by Rome in 1867,
born at Laigné-en-Belin, the 11th of
February, 1799,

died at LeMans, the 20th of January,
1873,
blessed by His Holiness, Pius IX.

The grave of Mother Seven Dolors is just outside.

Perhaps half a mile beyond is La Solitude, the place where Father Moreau found such precious peace during life. The old house stands on the brow of an eastern sloping hill. Pleasant paths lead into the untroubled wood where he meditated upon the Way of the Cross and mapped out the rule of life for the Sisters of that royal road. The inscription above his grave summarizes his great and holy work for God. La Solitude, more than any place on earth, possesses his spirit.

III.

In 1841 Father Edward Sorin and a little band of six Brothers embarked for America to carry on the missionary work of Father Moreau in the New World. They settled at what has since become the mother house of the Community of Holy Cross and the University of Notre Dame.

Two years later they were joined by a group of three priests, a Brother, and four Sisters. Within three months three postulants had joined the Sisters. The little community opened its first home in the new world at Bertrand, Michigan, four miles north of Notre Dame, in a house rented by Father Sorin for them. New subjects entered. A school was opened. Other activities developed. The young community flourished.

Among the subjects received at Bertrand were Eliza Gillespie, who became Mother Angela, co-foundress with Father Sorin of the congregation in America, and Amanda Anderson, who became Mother Augusta and the first American mother general.

The entire Bertrand foundation was moved in 1855 to the present site at Holy Cross, Indiana. In the course of almost a century it has grown from a single frame building to a small city of God. It comprises today the mother house of the congregation, the novitiate, the midwestern provincialate, Saint Mary's pre-school, pre-

paratory school, academy, and college.

The community developed rapidly as an educational order and as a nursing order. Because of difficulties and differences in academic and professional demands, the congregation in America received permission from the Holy See in 1868 to separate in administration from the mother house in France. Today it is a community of fifteen hundred members, conducting three four-year fully accredited liberal arts colleges, eight hospitals, and approximately a hundred secondary and preparatory schools. These are fairly distributed among three provinces, the eastern, the midwestern, and the western.

By policy the community opens new houses near those already established. Its most numerous missions are, therefore, in Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Texas, Utah, Idaho, California. Its largest parish school is in New York City. One of its finest hospitals is at Columbus, Ohio. There are some other missions in neighboring states.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are characterized by a robust, normal spirituality, an unfailing devotedness. This may be one way of saying they love and serve God with their whole minds and with their whole strength as well as with all their hearts. They are dedicated specifically to the work of schools and hospitals. They are excellent educators, competent nurses.

Their rule is based on the Rule of Saint Augustine. It provides for daily meditation, Holy Mass, the recitation of the Little Office and the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, other vocal and private prayers, monthly and annual retreats. It invites to the pursuit of their own spiritual perfection young women who today seek a challenge to their finest possibilities, who are looking for something infinitely worthwhile. It offers to the girl who wishes to teach divine means to divine ends, to the ambitious social worker a field transfigured by a vowed dedication to Christ's needy. The young professional woman, the artist, the musician can all find here their fullest inspiration. The girl of no particular talent

can discover here many and beautiful ways of using her least gifts for God. Life becomes at once generous and exalted. To be a Sister of the Holy Cross means to accept the Cross of Christ as a way of life, to choose God as a career.

A poor peasant once happened by chance upon the Cure of Ars in ecstasy. Later when asked to tell what he saw, he could describe his vision of the holy pastor only incoherently thus: "He stretched out his arms in the form of a cross. He looked at the crucifix. He laughed." This might describe the spiritual aspiration and ideal of every Sister of the Holy Cross.

HOUSES OF THE SISTERS OF THE
HOLY CROSS IN THE ORDER OF
FOUNDATION

The Generalate, Holy Cross P.O., Indiana.
Saint Mary's Convent, Holy Cross P.O.,
Indiana.

Saint Mary's Novitiate, Holy Cross P.O.,
Indiana.

Saint Mary's Convent, Tomiliah, Kaliganj
P.O., Dacca District, Bengal, India.

Saint Anthony's Convent, Nagari, Dacca
District, Bengal, India.

Mid-West Province, Holy Cross P.O., In-
diana.

Saint Mary's College and Academy, Holy
Cross P.O., Indiana.

Holy Cross Convent, Notre Dame, Indi-
ana.

Saint Angela's Academy, 912 East North
Street, Morris, Illinois.

Immaculate Conception School, Morris,
Illinois.

Saint Joseph's Academy, 303 South Tay-
lor Street, South Bend, Indiana.

Saint Patrick's School, South Bend, Indi-
ana.

Saint Mary's School, South Bend, Indiana.

Saint Mary's Infirmary, Cairo, Illinois.

Saint Columba's School (Colored), Cairo,
Illinois.

Saint Joseph's Hospital, 401 North Notre
Dame Avenue, South Bend, Indiana.

Saint John's Hospital, Anderson, Indiana.

SMM Our Saviour's Hospital, 446 East State

- Street, Jacksonville, Illinois.
Saint Joseph's School, 606 East LaSalle Avenue, South Bend, Indiana.
Saint Mary's School, Eleventh and Pearl Streets, Anderson, Indiana.
Saint Vincent's School, 1118 South Main Street, Elkhart, Indiana.
Saint Theodore's School, 6201 South Paulina Street, Chicago, Illinois.
Saint Peter's School, 1203 Monroe Street, LaPorte, Indiana.
Saint Charles School, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
Saint Vincent's School, 820 Spear Street, Logansport, Indiana.
Saint Michael's School, 600 North Center Street, Plymouth, Indiana.
Saint Mary's School, 324 Plum Street, Union City, Indiana.
Saint Patrick's School, Park and Main Streets, Danville, Illinois.
Saint Patrick's School, Chatsworth, Illinois.
Saint Paul's School, Valparaiso, Indiana.
Saint Mary's School, 519 Fillmore Street, Davenport, Iowa.
Saint Mary's School, 330 Judd Street, Woodstock, Illinois.
Saint Joseph's School, Harvard, Illinois.
Saint John's School, 730 Blaine Street, Peoria, Illinois.
Saint Patrick's School, 3814 Grand Boulevard, East Chicago, Indiana.
Catholic Central High School, Box 846, Hammond, Indiana.

BEGINNINGS AND ENDS

Saint Mary's School, 412 East Tenth Street, Michigan City, Indiana.

Holy Cross School, 822 West Adams Street, South Bend, Indiana.

Saint Patrick's School, Cairo, Illinois.

Eastern Province, 2935 Upton Street, Washington, D. C.

Academy of the Holy Cross, 2935 Upton Street, Washington, D. C.

Dunbarton College of Holy Cross, Washington, D. C.

Saint Thomas' School, Washington, D. C.

Saint Matthew's School, Washington, D. C.

Saint Cecilia's Academy, 601 East Capitol Street, Washington, D. C.

Saint Mary's Academy, 706 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Saint Mary's School, Alexandria, Virginia.

Saint Mary's Academy, Austin, Texas.

Saint Mary's School, Austin, Texas.

Sacred Heart Academy, 504 East Orange Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Saint Anthony's School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Catholic High School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Mount Carmel Hospital, Columbus, Ohio.

Saint Mary's Academy, Marshall, Texas.

Saint Paul's School, 141 West Sixty-First Street, New York City, New York.

Saint Patrick's Academy, 924 G Street, Washington, D. C.

Saint Paul's Academy, 1413 V Street, Washington, D. C.

Saint Joseph's Home and School, 28th St.
and Eastern Ave., Brookland, Wash-
ington, D. C.

Saint Patrick's School, 313 South Broad-
way, Baltimore, Maryland.

Saint Patrick's Orphanage, Baltimore,
Maryland.

Dolan Aid Asylum, Baltimore, Maryland.

Our Lady of Guadalupe School, 1112 East
Ninth Street, Austin, Texas.

Holy Trinity School, Government Avenue,
Ocean View, Virginia.

Saint Peter's School, 133 C Street South-
east, Washington, D. C.

Blessed Sacrament School, Chevy Chase
Parkway, Washington, D. C.

Saint Catharine's School, Bexley, Ohio.

Western Province, Ogden, Utah.

Sacred Heart Academy, Ogden, Utah.

Saint Joseph's School, Ogden, Utah.

College of Saint Mary-of-the-Wasatch,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Holy Rosary Academy, Woodland, Cali-
fornia.

Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City,
Utah.

Saint Teresa's Academy, Boise, Idaho.

Saint Joseph's School, Boise, Idaho.

Saint Alphonsus Hospital, Boise, Idaho.

Saint John's School, 1105 S Street, Fres-
no, California.

Saint Charles School, 822 Van Ness Ave-
nue South, San Francisco, California.

- Saint Agnes School, 2625 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.
- Saint Agnes Hospital, 1451 Roeding Street, Fresno, California.
- Saint Paul's School, 1920 South Bronson Street, Los Angeles, California.
- Catholic Girls' High School, Los Angeles, California.
- Judge Memorial School, 650 South Eleventh East Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Saint Matthew's School, 900 El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.
- Saint Joseph's School, Eureka, Utah.
- Saint Ann's Orphanage, 430 East Twenty-First South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Saint Joseph's School, 630 West Fremont Street, Pocatello, Idaho.
- Saint Alphonsus School, 351 Kearney Boulevard, Fresno, California.
- Holy Rosary School, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- Holy Cross School, Ventura, California.
- Our Lady of Lourdes School, Colusa, California.
- Saint Catherine's Academy, 1932 Foster Avenue, Ventura, California.
- Saint Bernard's School, 1631 Sixty-Second Avenue, Oakland, California.
- Immaculate Conception School, 3263 First Avenue, Sacramento, California.
- Good Shepherd School, 504 Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, California.
- Saint Didacus School, San Diego, California.

