

Presentation of the Spirit of Holy Cross Award to David Clairmont
10 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart – Feast of Blessed Basil Moreau,
January 20, 2019

One of the themes that appears frequently in the writings of our founder is a concern that may strike the modern ear as surprising or even foreign. That is the concern he expresses for union among the members, a union of hearts, minds, and efforts, a union which underlies the urgency of cooperation among the members of the Holy Cross family. For Father Basil Moreau, that union is often imaged by the Holy Family, and is ultimately grounded in the union of the Holy Trinity. Since its foundation, the Congregation of Holy Cross has actively recruited and warmly embraced lay collaborators in its mission. Without this union, absent this spirit of willing collaboration, the pressing work of the Kingdom suffers.

Prof. David A. Clairmont, a moral theologian, has been a colleague of mine in the Theology Department since 2005. He has distinguished himself in his teaching, his scholarship, and his service to both the department and the wider University. Indeed, for me he is the very model of collegial citizenship in the academy.

However, David's association with Holy Cross is much longer than those fourteen years since joining our department. In fact, it dates back to a year he spent as a Holy Cross seminarian, when I first met him. A 1996 graduate of Notre Dame, David counts among his Holy Cross mentors and teachers Frs. Rob Moss, Paul Doyle, Jack Lahey, Mark Poorman, and John Jenkins.

David has a deep and longstanding love for the University of Notre Dame, its ideals and its people. In so many ways he has been generous in service to this University and especially to our students. In his teaching, he has taken a special interest in MDiv students, including our Holy Cross seminarians. He brings to his MDiv teaching, his teaching of undergraduates, his critical scholarship, and his multiple forms of service to the University a genuine love of the Church and its pastoral ministry. He believes that there is no higher purpose for theology than to "make God known, loved, and served." At the same time, David notices and cares for the little things that make up our daily lives as a community. How many times I have been walking between buildings with David, when he will stop, bend over and pick up something soiling Our Lady's campus, bits of trash unthinkingly discarded by others, and unthinkingly passed over by the rest of us.

Since 2015 I have had the privilege of collaborating with David in the teaching of an undergraduate course, "Holy Cross Spirituality and the Life of Virtue." It's important to recall here today that the inception of this course – the first ever of its kind here at Notre Dame – was entirely David's idea. It flows from his conviction that the spirituality and tradition of Holy Cross have some vital things to offer not just to us religious, but also to lay people in various walks of life. In our class, he speaks eloquently to the students of what he has found in the writings of our founder, Basil Moreau, and in other Holy Cross figures.

The course is only one of several demonstrations of David's great desire to make Holy Cross, its people, and its tradition more available and more evident in the life of the University. I have heard him speak of this interest in other venues, as well, e.g., department meetings, new faculty

orientation, and orientation sessions for students, faculty, and staff who are going on pilgrimage to LeMans or Montreal.

In short, we in Holy Cross could not have a better friend in the mission of Notre Dame than David Clairmont. On behalf of all of us in the Congregation of Holy Cross, and especially those of us here at the University of Notre Dame, it gives me immense pleasure to present this token of our gratitude, the Spirit of Holy Cross Award, to David Clairmont.

Michael Connors, CSC

The citation on the award reads:

By this document be it known that
the Priests and Brothers of the
Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province,
do convey their heartfelt appreciation and confer
The Spirit of Holy Cross Award
to

David Clairmont

for his years of diligent and deft service as a partner with the Congregation of Holy Cross. When Blessed Basil Moreau founded Holy Cross in 1837, he had a clear vision “to make God known, loved, and served.” Since its inception, the Congregation has partnered with religious and lay collaborators throughout the world to live out this call in education, parish, and mission settings. It is only through a true commitment to collaboration that Fr. Moreau’s vision can be fulfilled and we can change the world. Thank you for your time, expertise, support, and kindness. For this we are truly grateful. Your spirit of giving – the Spirit of Holy Cross – will live on.

Given this day, the fifteenth of September,
on the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows,
the feast of the Congregation of Holy Cross, in the
year two thousand and eighteen.

Rev. William M. Lies, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior, Congregation of Holy Cross,
United States Province of Priests and Brothers