



PARISH MINISTRY IN THE HERITAGE OF HOLY CROSS

“Work ceaselessly to care for the flock entrusted to you.”

The five qualities cited in this series of bulletin inserts were articulated by the 1998 general chapter (assembly) of the Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

V. PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR, IMMIGRANTS AND MINORITIES, AND THE EDUCATION OF PARISHIONERS IN ISSUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Moreau gave priority to ministries and areas where the parish and educational needs were the greatest. He sent Holy Cross religious to places where others had either refused to go or left because of the difficulties involved. One example is the presence of Holy Cross religious in that part of India which is now Bangladesh. Other religious had gone there to minister, but the tropical weather and related diseases forced many to abandon any further efforts to establish a lasting presence.

For Father Moreau, this concern was simply a matter of justice.

If at times you have a marked preference for certain people, it should be for the poorest, the most abandoned, the most ignorant, and the least gifted by nature...If you surround them with the most diligent attention, it is because their needs are greater and it is only justice to give more to those who have received less.

The parish is in a unique position to know and respond to the needs of the poor, immigrants and minorities, because it is more personal and relational than the civil government. Parishioners can discover emerging needs more quickly than government agencies because they know the neighborhoods and observe changes within them.

The challenge today is to examine the attentiveness of the parish in responding to existing and emerging needs and in providing social justice education to parishioners. Concern for the poor of whatever kind is not merely a part of the gospel, it is at the heart of Jesus' mission and message.

1. How do you identify “the needs of the poor, immigrants and minorities” within the parish?
2. What programs are available for addressing those needs or for seeing that they are addressed?
3. What efforts are made to provide for “the education of parishioners in issues of social justice”?

To learn more about Holy Cross, please visit: www.holycrosscongregation.org
www.holycrossjustice.org and www.csc-ip.org