

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 1, 1933.

For the next to die:
7:00 Mass Sunday

Fragments for a Chapter.... III.

4. M. Dupont and Father Moreau.

The following paragraphs are from an unpublished manuscript of Sister M. Eleanore, C.S.C., of St. Mary's College, Notre Dame:

"Monsieur Dupont is linked to the early history of the Holy Cross Congregation through his friendship with the founder, Father Basil Moreau. His combination of intense piety and practicality in mundane matters will be made clear by his aid rendered on two occasions to the missionary efforts of the young Congregation. When the first missionaries chosen for the American mission in Vincennes, Indiana, left the Mother House on the evening of August 5, 1841, Providence for their consolation gave them the favor of being escorted to Havre by the Holy man of Tours. He put at Father Moreau's disposition all the influence of his relations with the shipowners and merchants of Havre, took care of a difficulty about the passports and other conditions of travel, and himself installed the colony in their quarters in the steerage. This kindness was repeated when the second colony embarked. Father Moreau went with them to Havre and put their affairs into the hands of his trusted friend, who procured them lodgings in the hospital of Ingouville, while he took care of their sailing. He and Father Moreau got lumber and made two rooms of their quarters in the steerage, the one for the priests and the Brothers, and the other for the Sisters.

"Monsieur Dupont had a share in the inauguration of the devotion to the Holy Face in the Congregation. In the original archives of Notre Dame de Sainte-Croix we read: 'December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin: On this occasion the Very Reverend Father Founder inaugurated in the chapel of the Crypte the devotion to the Holy Face of Our Lord, a devotion introduced and spread by Monsieur Dupont of Tours, whose extraordinary piety is known to all. This ceremony took place immediately after the religious profession of two ecclesiastical novices, Messrs. Martin and Dutour. Monsieur Dupont was present and he himself recited the Litanies of the Holy Face and the prayers following them, at the foot of the altar of the Crypte. All the boarding school girls, the Community, and a number of outsiders assisted at the ceremony, and everybody was greatly edified at the sentiments of strong faith manifested by Monsieur Dupont on this occasion. Prayers were offered also for the intention of a young student whose eyes were seriously troubling him.'

"When Father Moreau left the Mother House in Le Mans, to make the Visitation of the American Houses of the Congregation, he sent to all the Houses pictures of the Holy Face, requesting that lights be kept burning before them and that special prayers be said daily to honor the Face of the Savior. This request was happily answered, and the Holy Face still has its shrine and its light shining day and night in the Houses of Holy Cross. What it meant to the loving heart of the Father Founder is caught within a few lines of the Circular Letter he wrote home to Our Lady of Holy Cross from New York City on August 11, 1857:

"I seem to see you all reunited about me in our beautiful sanctuary - may it be soon! - all on our knees adoring. Again we shall be together in that underground chapel before the adorable Face with which I love to believe you often converse and before which you must keep burning until my return the little lamp as a pledge of all our hopes and prayers for Our Lady of Holy Cross."

NOTE: Pictures of the Holy Face, bearing the seal of authentication, will be found in the church (first apsidal chapel, Gospel side), and in the basement chapel (first arch, Gospel side). These are steel engravings of Veronica's Veil, kept at the Vatican. NINE MASSES for your parents will be said, beginning Sunday. Make your Novena for Father's Day before you go home for Easter; the day comes soon after your return.