

that assure them that life is best spent revelling in the material present. In this ignorance, the vast majority of souls dismally fall to their eternal perdition and misery.

For this reason, I urgently appeal to your charity. For the love of God and the salvation of souls, continue to ask in your prayers and sacrifices for many holy vocations. Pray that genuinely holy priests are formed with the heroic conviction and generous zeal witnessed in Our Venerable Founder, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who, as priest, spent himself for the salvation of souls, that God may be glorified.

The Rosary Crusade launched by Our Superior General, Bishop Bernard Fellay, has as its goal the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which will conform men's hearts more perfectly to the will of Christ. This will bring forth vocations and sanctify Catholic homes as the pure love of God triumphs over cold hearts presently inebriated with, or dead in, the shallow joys of this life. This victory of the Blessed Virgin over men will usher forth the conversion of many others, and Christ will more readily be seen in the world by the virtuous lives of His devout followers.

In conjunction with the Crusade already in progress, I wish to append the same intention the Seminary had last year between the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8<sup>th</sup> September) and the Immaculate Conception (8<sup>th</sup> December) in our *Crusade for Vocations*. We begged your prayers, sacrifices and virtuous deeds for the intention of many holy vocations and there was a wonderful response: many prayed, did penance, practiced greater virtue and a good number have tried their vocations. Certainly in response to this Crusade, we at Holy Cross have received seven young men this year as new candidates for the Seminary and Novitiate. Once again we must ask God to send yet more young men to Holy Cross and pray for the perseverance of those already at the Seminary.

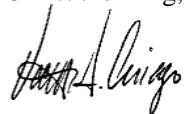
May God grant us many more holy vocations in the following year. God's Will be done – but let us ask in order that we may receive! *Ask, and it shall be given you: ...For every one that asketh, receiveth...* (Luke 11:9-10).

We extend our gratitude to all who have been so generous to our appeal for support of the Seminary's operation and maintenance – both materially and spiritually, especially for the many prayers and sacrifices which fortify us in the spiritual combat for which we train tomorrow's priests and religious.

Finally, we wish to thank all who supported the *2011 Overseas Raffle* in support of Holy Cross Seminary and send our congratulations to Fr. Andrew Cranshaw and St. Anthony's in Wanganui, New Zealand – the winners of both the first and second prizes! The funds raised will greatly help the on-going projects and maintenance of the Seminary.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your intentions and be assured of God's many blessings for your charity and pursuit of holiness. May God bless you and may Our Lady's Immaculate Heart watch over you.

In Christ the King,



Rev. Fr. Vicente A. Griego  
Rector, Holy Cross Seminary

#### NOTICES

- **Ignatian Retreats** – Contact Fr. Christoph Pfluger for registration and information at [retreats@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:retreats@holycrossseminary.com) or at the address and telephone numbers listed above.
  - Men – 2<sup>nd</sup> (2:00pm) to 7<sup>th</sup> (11:30am) January 2012
  - Ladies – 23<sup>rd</sup> (2:00pm) to 28<sup>th</sup> (11:30am) January 2012



# Southern Sentinel

*Regnavit a Ligno Deus*

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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10 August 2011

No. 91

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

We have just completed the first semester at Holy Cross Seminary, and with the exams completed, the seminarians have a few days preparation before the arrival of Bishop Alfonso de Galarreta, Rector of the Society's *Nuestra Señora Corredentora* Seminary in Argentina. His Lordship will raise three of our seminarians to the clerical state by conferring the clerical tonsure at a Pontifical Mass on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

The journey from Argentina to Australia is lengthy and will certainly tax the Bishop, who will also confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the various priories and chapels throughout Australia in the space of a week and a half. We greatly appreciate the Bishop's visit to our small Seminary for this blessing of new clerics pursuing the Priestly vocation!



*Fr. Robinson with a visitor at the Seminary*

The rigour of such travels for these apostolic purposes is worth the effort as the faithful are fortified by Confirmation and the clergy are edified with the promotion of men seeking to serve Christ in all things as His priests. The Bishop's mission is a testimony to the grandeur of the work of the priest for the benefit of souls: to sustain, to strengthen and to encourage heroic living in Christ: *In this we have known the charity of God, because he hath laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren* (I John 3:16). This sacrifice cultivates the Christian life whereby religious and priestly vocations are raised and Catholic homes are sanctified.

The Bishop's travels accord us a reminder of a great reason for the operation of our Seminary: as men are made soldiers of Christ by the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Orders makes some men officers in this spiritual army. This is the priest's role – to be a leader in the spiritual battlefield.

An officer's duty is to direct soldiers to face and overcome the enemy. In the spiritual life, the priest has, to a great extent, the pivotal duty to make known the objective of life, to make strong the Christian and to give support in the thick of trials or spiritual conflicts.

Sadly, too many of the clergy, religious and lay-folk genuinely believe they are not called to, or capable of, holiness. This false perception is a principle of our spiritual enemy. If we think we *cannot* fight heroically and then timorously abandon the fight, we will certainly not fight, which means we will lose the fight. To lose is to be forever lost, to win is eternal life – Christ comes to fight and to enable us to fight unto victory *with Him!*

Christ came to save souls and this He does not do without the soul's cooperation: *...how often would I have gathered thy children as the bird doth her brood under her wings, and thou wouldest not?* (Luke 13:34). The image of the battlefield is a sharp contrast to the image of a hen and her chicks, but Our Lord, Who does not deny the difficulty of warfare, does not neglect our weakness and dependence. Firmly but gently, Christ directs us and assists us in the thick of battle.

Will we allow Christ to fight for us and give Him our cooperation? This is our choice. In Heaven there are *only* angels and souls who allowed Christ to make them saints: in hell, there are only demons and souls who would *not* be holy. This fierce reality should dispel the frequent error of many who would dismiss “spiritual combat” as something of a “pious devotion” or a fantasy of religious idealism. The fight is real and perilous! Hence, the priest must, in practice and with great diligence, lead the faithful to holiness.

The priest has a grave responsibility to fight for holiness; otherwise, he is incapable of *leading* others to God. St. Pius X, in his Encyclical on Priestly Sanctity, *Haerent Animo*, says: “...we must deplore the fact that there are [priests] in different countries who do not show themselves worthy to be taken as models by the Christian people who rightly look to them for a genuine model of Christian virtue.”

A priest must be like Christ, he must lead the faithful as an officer on the spiritual battle field; he must make clear to the soldiers of Christ that heaven is our first goal in life and that all is to be directed to this objective. The priest cannot merely say this truth; he must live this truth. Deep-rooted conviction must shine in the life of the priest as he strives to make Christ's life better known to souls, who are to be convinced by his example and zeal that this much talked about “union with God” is tenable.

Indecisiveness, half-heartedness, and a general sense of the futility of holiness among the clergy is a victory for the enemy of Christ. Without direction to face the difficulties of life, many souls aimlessly struggle and ignorantly squander God's grace and ineffectively misuse their talents in less noble pursuits. Difficulties and even failures are not signs of the futility of advancing in holiness; rather, they are battles that test our confidence in God's love and, if humbly endured, they warrant God's blessings. Our sanctification is assured if we would but believe, trust and love God.

We would not admit that we do not believe or that we refuse to love God. Yet, our inordinate actions manifest the weakness of our conviction, the feebleness of our confidence and the tepidity of our love. The priest exercises the power of Christ in administering the Sacraments, which fortifies our hope and deepens our convictions despite our weaknesses, enabling us to more readily depend upon God and resist the temptation to quit the effort.

God's design is that we are dependent upon the priest for these Sacramental graces. The priest, who represents Christ, is a living testimony to the strength of God's grace based upon the individual priest's example – he will either edify or



scandalize the faithful. Hence, the priest who is an *alter-Christus* must be strong in holiness, like Christ, in order to well represent Christ on the battle-field. The courage engendered by the priestly example also fortifies the faithful.

If the priest is absent, fearful or unconvinced of the fight, the faithful will lack the support God planned for spiritual warfare. In the heat of battle, a brave and strong commanding officer encourages his soldiers to bravery. The priest must be like Christ, Who perfectly responded to the challenge of man's sanctification. Willing to go to the greatest ends to bring forth the success of His mission, Christ risked all and gave all unto His Death on the Cross, that men might have a testimony of God's love encouraging them to live heroically and to count upon His divine aid.

Although Christ's priests are not “perfect” or divine, they are meant to exemplify Christ to the faithful. How encouraged are the faithful when they see a priest humbly following the high ideals he preaches about: a life of discipline, self-denial, genuine and manly piety in the pursuit of Christ-like holiness, while expending every effort to support others to do likewise.

This greatest act of charity, to sacrifice self for the sanctification of neighbour, is when the priest is most like Christ. Flashy shows of initial zeal or frenzied moments of activity are not commensurate with the perseverance needed in a life-long battle. It is the lack of this element of steady spiritual leadership, especially, that allows for so many to falter and give up the effort. Lacking a tangible example of heroism in a constant struggle, many suppose that such a life-long effort is futile. “Even the priests do not make an effort!” they exclaim. On the contrary, when a saintly effort is made, the faithful are motivated to persevere, saying: “Well, Father is still limping *forward*; I too will try again.”

Knowledge, strength and encouragement must come from the priest, as preachers, sanctifiers and representatives of Christ. The soldier will avoid the battle-field if he sees the officer cowering in “safety.” To evade the fight is to abandon following Christ, which will result in our love for God lessening. If we shy away from the call of Christ to join in the crusade, we necessarily forsake what is necessary for our salvation. We are totally dependent upon God... without confidence, where is our faith? Without love of God, where is our heart? We must ask ourselves, “What do we value? *For where thy treasure is, there is thy heart* also (Matthew 6: 21).

In light of these considerations of the priest being a teacher of truth, a fortifier in grace and a leader in holiness, the necessity of the priest is very clear. We are, dear friends, in a brutal combat that has eternal consequences. Sadly, many are completely unaware of what is at stake and the means available to achieve, now and forever, victory. The means may be summarised in Christ, our Helper in the Incarnation and our strength in His Divinity. God has spared nothing to win our hearts and souls to perfection and eternal joy.

So many souls are lost because they do not see Christ in this world, they do not have grace to withstand the lure of the world, they do not have encouragement to hope for eternal joy. Most have only high-tech, eye-catching, pop-culture advertisements



*Improvements on the Cemetery Landscaping*