

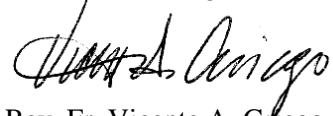
This picture of the formation that takes place at the Seminary and the Novitiate, open to young men who have completed their high school education and who wish to better discern their state of life, may help all to better understand what takes place in the Seminary and, please God, encourage more young men to inquire about visiting the Seminary.

Let us all ask Our Lady especially for the necessary graces to do God's Will, that our youth will be guided by grace to make a properly *educated* choice in the state in life by which they will serve God and contribute to the social reign of Christ the King.

Finally, our Seminary buildings, which house and facilitate the advanced Christian education of clerics and novices, are undergoing some repairs. We still need volunteers to help with the numerous projects scheduled between 13-25 June, a two week period when there are no classes so that the noise and dust will not interrupt the silence and order needed for prayer and study. Men able to work for even a few days are welcome. We will happily accommodate you and offer you the benefits of daily Mass and the Sacraments. Please contact Bro. Joseph at the Seminary. We also need to pay for the costly materials needed to make the repairs. I beg your kind help.

Thanking you for your generous support in prayer, sacrifice and material help, I assure you of our best efforts to train the Priests and Brothers that will serve you in the years to come. Please pray for us at Holy Cross Seminary. May God bless you and Our Lady Immaculate watch over you. *O Lord, grant us many holy priests, religious vocations and truly Christian families.*

In Christ the King,



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



*William Salac warms up chopping wood to keep the house warm...*



*...while John-Peter Rajakannu fuels the fire as Fr. Curtis' guitar playing gives warmth to the house.*

#### NOTICES

- **Ignatian Retreats** – Contact Fr. Christoph Pfluger for registration and information at [retreats@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:retreats@holycrossseminary.com) or at the addresses 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
- **The First year seminarians will receive the Cassock on 1 July 2011.**
- **The Clerical Tonsure and the Minor Orders are scheduled for 15 August 2011.** His Lordship, Bishop Alfonso de Galarreta will be performing the Ordinations. Men discerning their vocations or desiring to expose their sons to the Rites of Ordination are welcome and can be accommodated at the Seminary. Please contact us if you wish to visit on this occasion.



# Southern Sentinel

*Regnabit a Ligno Deus*

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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2 June 2011

No. 89

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

All is well at Holy Cross as we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension: *Viri Galilæi, quid admirâmini aspiciéntes in cælum? Ye men of Galilee, why wonder you, looking up to heaven?* We are told that we must not simply *gaze* up to heaven, good in itself; but better still, we must live as Christ lived in order to join Him in Heaven. Christ lived, suffered, died and rose from the dead not for Himself, but for us. The Ascension into heaven is a call to follow Christ, to live as Christ, to serve God in serving our neighbour. This spirit of charity is essential in the life of true Christians.

The simple lesson of our catechism teaches us that *God made us because He loves us*. All men must assume the responsibility of a state in life, which obliges us to assist others to eternal life, in one way or another. For this reason we look



*The Philosophy class delves into the intricacies of Ethics with Fr. Pfluger*

forward to the first year seminarians receiving the cassock on July 1<sup>st</sup>; this step will manifest more visibly their intention to die to the world in order to serve Christ in their neighbour. These young men offer themselves to live, suffer and die with Christ for the salvation of souls, that God may be glorified in all things and by all men, as exemplified by *the* Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ! How edifying it is to see young men give themselves selflessly, when they could otherwise give themselves to other honest pursuits in the world.

Oh, that there were more! Although we have received six new candidates this year (a good number of entries for Holy Cross!), there are only two to take these first steps. We look forward to the postulants making their oblation in the future and the Pre-seminarians entering the First Year in 2012. I ask your fervent prayers and sacrifices imploring God's blessings for all presently

training at Holy Cross that they persevere in the pure and true service of Christ. Also, please pray that grace enlighten and strengthen more young men to follow in the generosity of Christ and discern their vocations in life.

Grace is needed to do God's Will, but formation of the man is needed as well. This process of formation which better assists in discerning a vocation begins with the family and is further nurtured with a genuinely Catholic education. A Christian education must orient a man, from his earliest days, to his last end: the glory of God and the salvation of his soul. Such an education does not make every young man enter the seminary or pursue the religious life, but it does raise profoundly Catholic men and women, who strive to live the Faith uncompromised and who seek to conform to God's Will in all things. Among these, religious and priestly vocations will certainly flourish, as will serious and devout men and women, who will give themselves to raise truly Christian families.

Holiness, one's state in life, and eternal salvation are not matters left to chance after youth has passed. Catholic parents and a Christian education point out to the child the true objective in life by way of sound discipline and knowledge of the end of all Christian life and the means to attain that end. Consequently, a Christian education consists in more than simply reading, writing and arithmetic (with catechism and art thrown in) at a Catholic school. Neither is a profoundly Catholic education gained by merely hearing Father's sermons every Sunday. The principles of the Faith must envelop and permeate a child's very outlook and way of thinking. Vain and presumptuous is the hope that an occasional catechism class or mere assistance at Sunday Mass will Catholicise and arm our children for the battles of life.

Language, mathematics, science, the arts and history are important elements of an education, but the faith cannot be superficially added. The dangerous view of *prematurely* directing a child to specialise in one course of study results, too often, in a certain deformity of character. Imagine an artistic child, talented in painting, whose parents believe that it will be profitable for this future Michelangelo to focus on developing his painting skills, putting aside other disciplines deemed not significant. Deprived of a balanced development of studies and disciplines, a child will lack the solid basis of a rational, moral, articulate, scientific and even artistic man.

Overdeveloped in one area and undeveloped in others, a man is disproportioned. This hypothetical boy-artist, now a man, paints a beautiful landscape and sells it, but he gives incorrect change in the transaction. He misspells the title on his latest "masterpiece." On another occasion, he discovers that there is already a painting entitled *Starry Night*. "Who is Van Gogh?" he asks. Of course this is a gross caricature; so too, the ill-educated man is a mere caricature of what he is meant to be.

The trend to "get the child ahead" so that he can be secure in this life (with the annotation that "he will be responsible") is often little more than the preoccupation with financial security – which is important, but a dangerous starting point. Another danger is the desire for recognition of special talents or depth of knowledge. Parents join in the fight for recognition too: "Your son is such a distinguished professional; you've done an excellent job raising him!" Vanity and pride are not companions of Christ. Such motives distort the nature of education and serve to cripple man by making the *matter* of an education bend to the desired *end* of some worldly pursuit.

A Christian education directs man to God, *the End*, and then opens suitable *means*, i.e. a well-chosen state in life, conducive to Christian virtue and able to provide for the necessities of life according to one's talents. Christian virtue suggests a contribution to society, whereby man is ennobled by putting to good use the talents with which he has been blessed. There is a disparity of talents in God's creation for the simple reason that men, motivated by charity, may assist others who lack those talents. Ultimately, we, like Our Lord, must labour for the sanctification of our neighbour.

Contrast St. Paul's humble labour and noble spending of his life for the salvation of souls (a quality seen in all of the Saints) to a man preoccupied with getting ahead financially for a secure future in this life: *But God said to him: Thou fool,*

*this night do they require thy soul of thee: and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?* (Luke 12:20). This frightening lesson is easily forgotten, for the allure of the world clouds our understanding and memory and weakens our will and resolve.

Perhaps this is a reason why today we have so few offering themselves in the service of God in Religion or the Priesthood! And similarly, a reason why today there are so many "dysfunctional" families... *Traditional* Catholics not exempted! Have we adopted the principles of the world, albeit, in a lesser degree than "worldly" people? Do we, or our children, forget, neglect or scorn the love of God, the love of neighbour, and self-sacrifice, which is true charity to ourselves? If so, there is a problem.

The material paradise clamours for our attention and calls us to seek and enjoy its tempting fruit. A Christian education teaches us that we were not created for this world, but for God. If we will be true disciples, then we must ready ourselves at the foot of the Cross to learn the lessons of love and to unite our classrooms and our lessons with Christ on the Cross. Our Divine Master *teaches* from the Cross, the dais of the eternal King and Lord of all.

Archbishop Lefebvre encourages members of our Priestly Society of St. Pius X, in its Statues, to establish schools so that *from a thoroughly Christian education will come vocations and Christian homes* because these are necessary for the direction and vitality of a Christian society, which we are trying to re-establish for Christ's reign. But this objective begins in our youth as the Council of Trent states: *Whereas the age of youth, unless it be rightly trained, is prone to follow after the pleasures of the world; and, unless it be formed from its tender years unto piety and religion before habits of vice have taken possession of the whole man, it never will perfectly and without the greatest and well-nigh special help of Almighty God persevere in ecclesiastical discipline* (Sessio XXIII, cap. 18, *De Reform.*)

Despite our advanced years and maybe not-so-perfect education, present deficiencies, weakness or even sinfulness, we need not be disheartened or irresolute. We need only to cooperate with confidence in the merciful God, Who deigned that Christ should die for our sins so as to give us life. St. Paul asserts that now, in God's grace, baptised, trying to do God's Will, we may more readily count on His Mercy to advance in holiness despite our weaknesses (cf. Romans 5:8-10). We all must be students of Christ and His grace.

I now address more particularly the young men (although, in principle, this is applicable to all). If you are searching to know God's will and considering the possibility (or the "nagging" suspicion) of a vocation, you are invited to follow upon the graces with which God has blessed you by visiting the Seminary. The Pre-Seminary offers a year of studies in which certain gaps are filled in a young man's education, setting him aright on the course willed by God.

This year of "investigation" offers a Catholic liberal arts programme delving into classic works of Literature, communication skills, and preliminary courses in Philosophy, History, Gregorian Chant, Music History, the Sacred Liturgy, Spirituality, Latin and Religion. A young man can pray, learn and discern God's will – some will leave and be better men in the world, others will remain and pursue the religious life or sacred orders.

Those who continue to the first year in the Seminary receive a formal and fully developed training in Spirituality, Introduction to Philosophy, Gregorian Chant, Sacred Liturgy, Sacred Scripture, Acts of the Magisterium and Latin before plunging into the study of Philosophy and Theology (Dogmatic and Moral) with continued studies in Latin, Sacred Scripture, Church History and other courses, which prepare a man for Holy Orders.

For the religious, the Novitiate prepares young men desiring to bind themselves to the pursuit of spiritual perfection under the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. A year of postulancy has the aspirant follow many of the same classes as the seminarians in the Pre-Seminary and Seminary First Year, and after receiving the religious habit more time is devoted to developing special skills which will be helpful in Priory life.