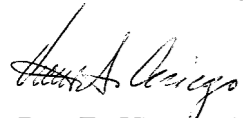


Asking for your prayers for the perseverance of our seminarians and for more vocations, I wish to recall that the vocation is usually first heard in the Christian home. *Both* parents must work together to model their homes in the fashion of the Holy Family striving for holiness. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families in this difficult task. We may do well to offer such simple prayers as that of the Collect from the Mass of Our Lord the Eternal High Priest, or that of the mothers of Lu (a small northern Italian village from which came, in 65 years, over 300 vocations, of which 152 were priests), which will certainly bring many graces to parents and children. Remember men, we must lead our families in prayer and the meaning of these prayers must be lived. Man and woman must co-operate in raising the family – but man *must* lead... by example!

May God bless you all for your continual support – especially parents who generously honour Christ in their homes and lives, who offer their children to God, exemplify the joy of fidelity to Christ, and hold in high esteem the Priesthood. May God grant us many holy priests, and may the Blessed Virgin Mary guard them and all of us as we continue on the way to holiness.

In Christ the King,



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

EVENTS:

- Bishop Bernard Fellay will confer the Minor Orders, tonsure & receiving of cassock on 15 August 2009.
- Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais will confer the Priestly Ordinations on 19 December 2009.
- Ignatian Exercises:
 - Men's Retreat: 4 to 9 January 2010
 - Ladies' Retreat: 18 to 23 January 2010

Overseas Seminary Raffle:

Our gratitude goes out to all who so generously contributed, in their hard work and donations, to this annual Raffle that raised \$25,000 for the Seminary! These funds will be put to good use in stabilizing the sinking foundations on the Seminary Buildings. Thanking you for your support, be assured of our prayers and continued efforts to train your future priests. In gratitude a Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered for you and your intentions. May God bless you and Our Lady reward you for your generosity.



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY
FATHERS OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

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May 2009

No. 66

J.M.J.
May 1, 2009

Rev. Vicente A. Griego
Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,



The month of Mary piously draws us to greater attention and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother. Let us ask Our Lady to sanctify our families, and bring forth many holy vocations. Families under the direction of fathers and mothers who love God above all things arrange their homes as replicas of the Holy Family. By the grace of God, Catholic parents strive for this lofty ideal. Necessarily, such homes will foster a love for the Ideal exemplified in Christ's life; thus, many will hear and follow the call of God to Christ's Priesthood.

The Christianising of families is of itself an enormous campaign – something which, please God, readers already strive to realise as the normal and proper responsibility of parents in the organization of their homes in the education of their children. Truly Christian homes necessarily impact society by either combating evils or exemplifying virtue. Parents with such an understanding will not be remiss in living the faith; they realize that there is no easy solution in the quest to holiness.

As long as we are at sea, we strive to get "somewhere;" and to get there requires great effort. Not only do we need strength for this supernatural journey, but, because there are obstacles, we also must have a certain zeal that hones our skills in navigating the perilous seas. We must not forget that this journey is beyond our natural ability and that we are dependent upon the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ to arrive safely upon the shores of holiness. God gives His grace to those who earnestly ask, which is defined by the humble effort of conforming to the Exemplar, Jesus Christ.

He who wills the end, wills the means. This requires a complete decision and effort to live solely for Christ: *Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect.* (Matthew 5:48). And we must persevere in this holy commitment: *No man putting his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.* (Luke 9:62)

Living by faith, we can *do all things*; without faith, we can do nothing for the glory of God. This supernatural objective, beyond our ability, is achievable because God calls us to perfection – by faith we humbly depend on God’s mercy and omnipotence, which can perfect us. Travelling the stormy seas of this life heavenward, we do not set sail as on a luxury cruise, but “put to oar” as in an ancient war-ship prepared for battle. Frightening, but God’s grace is our hope.

Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you, says St. Ignatius of Loyola of man’s confidence in God’s merciful grace.

The dream of a comfortable “Catholicism” is attractive, but it is not real. We cannot be content merely to be “better” than other men; rather, each must strive to be *like Christ*. This striving to become like Christ comes at great sacrifice – fidelity to the example of Christ, Who offered *the Sacrifice*. In offering our fidelity in the Christian life – our “sacrifice” – we must give our best to God; otherwise, we insult God by offering Him something ordinary. What we offer is our zeal in devoutly *striving* to give the best we have – it may not be “perfect,” but it is offered with great effort and profound love. Consider God’s rebuke in the Book of Malachias: *To you, ...that despise my name, and have said: wherein have we despised thy name? You offer polluted bread upon my altar... In that you say: the table of the Lord is contemptible.* (Malachias 1:7). In willful mediocrity we fail in the pursuit of perfection – and such mediocrity leads to still greater failures.

Sadly, many of our youth fall victim to the neo-paganism of our day – i.e. the world, the flesh and the devil. Even many of the veterans of the spiritual battles fought in the 1970’s and 1980’s have fallen into a happy compromise with being simply “a nice guy.” “Nice guys” do not merit heaven – heroic men and women do.

The objection might be raised: “Oh, Father, the crisis is enormous, the battle very intense.” The reply: “Does a good soldier fight half-heartedly when the enemy sallies forth with a powerful offensive, or does he muster all his courage, energy and skill to fight to the end?” Victory or death – both in honour! Our prayer should be: “Please God, make me heroic, since you have chosen me to live in heroic times.”

Christ came to make, out of ordinary, weak and sinful men, *heroes*, not “nice guys.” Our Lord can re-make of sinful men true children of God. This is the journey of the wayfarer: leaving sinfulness and arriving at holiness. But to make the way, we need pilots – we need priests. Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange writes in *The Mother of the Saviour and Our Interior Life*: *Mary ...knows that where there are no priests there is no Baptism, no Confession, no Mass, no Christian Marriage, no Extreme Unction, no Christian life: without the priest the world returns to paganism.*

Error, depravity and chaos flourish openly. We must fight tenaciously for truth, holiness and order. These abstract ideals are difficult to grapple with for most; yet all can understand the need to defend God’s Revelation and that this is accomplished by living an integrally Christ-like life.

For this reason, with victory before our hearts and minds, our Superior General, Bishop Bernard Fellay, calls us to take up the cross of a new crusade for the triumph of Our Lady. A spiritual bouquet of twelve million Rosaries shall be offered for the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Supreme Pastor

and all the bishops of the Catholic world. However, we cannot only pray the mysteries of Our Lord’s life! We must *live* these sacred examples.

Let us desire (and add a special petition for) more priestly vocations, which, the Mother of the eternal High Priest would concur, is in line with Our Lady’s victory over the evil that afflicts the Church and the whole of mankind today. In this way, priests in greater number will be poised to teach truth, dispel evil and restore order under the mantle of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, who gives Christ to the world. May Our Lady give us more Christs, more priests.

Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange continues: *Because of the work to which they are called, Mary is specially zealous for the sanctification of priests. She sees that they share in the priesthood of her Son and she watches over their souls that the grace of their ordination may bear fruit in them, that they become living images of the Saviour.*

First steps in the direction of the Priesthood are taken by the seminarians on August fifteenth when His Lordship, Bishop Fellay, is scheduled to confer the minor ordinations. On this occasion, His Lordship will crown Our Lady Immaculate as part of this Crusade for vocations and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I invite all to attend the ceremonies as well as to pray for the intention of many holy, priestly vocations. Spiritual bouquets for this intention may be brought (or sent) to the Seminary and we will place them at the foot of Our Lady as she is crowned on this happy day when our seminarians will receive the cassock, clerical tonsure, and the minor orders.

PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Collect from the votive Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Supreme and Eternal Priest:

O God, Who for the glory of Thy Majesty and the salvation of the human race, didst establish Thine only-begotten Son as the supreme and eternal Priest: grant that those He has chosen to dispense His mysteries may prove loyal in carrying out the ministry they have received. Through the same Our Lord Jesus Christ, thy son, Who with Thee lives and reigns in union with God the Holy Ghost, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayer of the Mothers of Lu:

O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen.

