

CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS

Spiritual Bouquet

The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

- Holy Mass \_\_\_\_\_
Spiritual Communion \_\_\_\_\_
Mental Prayer \_\_\_\_\_
Stations of the Cross \_\_\_\_\_
Sacrifices \_\_\_\_\_
Visit the Infirm \_\_\_\_\_
Correct the Wayward \_\_\_\_\_
Other prayers and good works \_\_\_\_\_
Holy Communion \_\_\_\_\_
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament \_\_\_\_\_
Holy Rosary \_\_\_\_\_
Spiritual Reading \_\_\_\_\_
Corporal Works of Mercy \_\_\_\_\_
Instruct the Ignorant \_\_\_\_\_
Self-denial with food and snacks \_\_\_\_\_
For the Week/Month of: \_\_\_\_\_

O Lord, grant us priests!
O Lord, grant us holy priests!
O Lord, grant us many holy priests!

Crusade for Vocations information available at: <www.holycrossseminary.com>

Ignatian Retreats: More information available at <retreats@holycrossseminary.com>
Men's Retreat - 3 to 8 January 2011
Ladies' Retreat - 24 to 29 January 2011

Maths and Science Tutor Needed for the 2011 Academic Year: Men with experience in post-secondary level Mathematics and Science, who are interested in a tutoring position at the Pre-Seminary may submit their resume and letters of recommendation to the attention of Rev. Fr. Vicente A. Griego, Rector of Holy Cross Seminary. Job description: Tutor Pre-Seminarrians preparing for Cambridge International Examinations (IGCSE and AS Level) in Mathematics and Science; four periods of instruction each day, Monday through Friday; class size varies between three to five; salaried position; housing facilities available on Seminary grounds if desired.

OLD WINDOWS REPLACEMENT. Thank you for your generous donations! We have reached our goal for replacing the windows in the Refectory and in the Chapel. May we quickly install the windows when they arrive. Deo gratias!



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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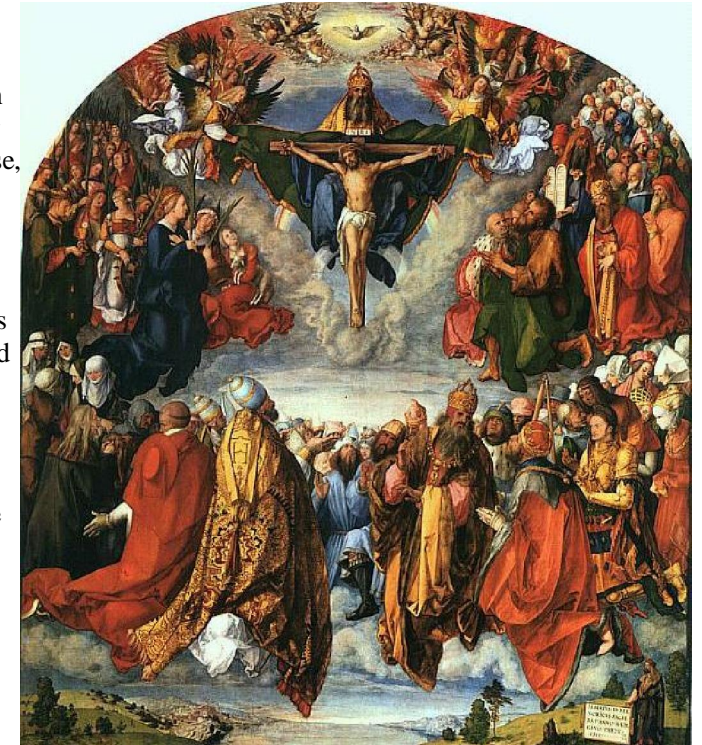


24 October 2010

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Some ways of life may seem to offer a more conducive means to "success" in our pursuit of sanctity, but all legitimate states of life can be sanctified and lead to sanctity. We need only to strive earnestly for holiness, to serve sincerely and to love unreservedly God - in this wise, we are certain to receive God's help to "succeed"! The many saints, unseen to the world, have done so in all walks of life. Their success was that they truly walked in Christ's ways (even if only for a very short time). These "unsung" saints are commemorated in the Feast of All Saints - the men, women and children who cooperated with God's grace and finished the race and who now enjoy the bliss of seeing God face to face, never to lose this perfect happiness.

This is what every genuine Christian strives for in the course of life and this is the principle by which a state of life is to be chosen. One's state of life on earth is the means each man must wisely choose to serve God. The objective in a state of life is not to make an impression on earth, but to get to Heaven. Because the Christian is going to heaven and leaving this world, his life is referred to as a pilgrimage in the Valley of Tears. The tearful pilgrim longs to be home in the mountains of Heaven, fully united with the One he loves. We are all pilgrims who must make our way to heaven, our true home where God awaits us.



Das Allerheiligenbild, 1511, by Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)

In the course of this journey, there are many perils and obstacles that not only impede our progress but risk putting us totally off course, or convince us to give up the effort. Without a profound desire of the goal, the pilgrim may sadly settle for mere transitory and temporary "happiness" in this life, or may even entirely forsake God and His Heaven and choose eternal damnation. Why would one choose eternal misery for a short-lived happiness in this life? Why would one disdain Christ's munificent graces and foolishly ignore the invitation to heaven and Our Lord's company?

With the feast of Christ the King fresh before our minds, we are reminded not only of Christ's eternal victory in Heaven, but also of the victory of the Christian life on earth. We consider Our King and His glorious victory over sin and death and His Triumph in the sanctification of sinners who can become saints! Christ has paid the price of sin and has opened Heaven to repentant pilgrims – sinful men who avail themselves of Christ's triumph, who submit to His rule and who labour for Christ's reign over all in this world – advancing Christ's victory and glory here and in Heaven. As Our King's victory in this world essentially consists in the sanctification of souls, we rightly desire and labour for many more souls to grow in grace, to refuse the alluring temptations of the world and to seek more perfectly the Kingdom of Heaven – thus fortifying the Mystical Body of Christ.

But in frustrated realization of our weakness we often ask: “Why doesn't Our Lord do something to advance this noble cause? Why doesn't He raise a great saint to guide us?” Yet, Christ has done just this. Our Lord may well ask us: “Why don't *you* do more?” How, after our complaining of needing more help, do we answer this question, when Our Lord has already given us everything by His Life, Passion and Death?

Christ has triumphed and continues to gain more victories every day in the souls that give themselves to Christ. Our Lord came and rescued us – we, however, must do our part and tread the way of sanctification in order to merit the fruit of Our Lord's work of salvation.

Men are accorded great honour, to be permitted to cooperate with Christ in the work of salvation. Although there is a great honour, there is also great difficulty – the cross. It is only fitting – as we are the very ones who rebelled and deservedly merited eternal damnation – that we should, although in a very small measure, also share in the cross if we wish to share in the glory.

Nonetheless, we still crave “more tangible” help. This is the problem. We want to *feel* our salvation, but we do not want to feel the weight of the cross, which is the means of our salvation. It seems correct that if we feel the weight of the cross, the burden of the Christian life, the pains of perseverance, that we are actually on the right path – after all, we complain that we suffer, while desiring to be freed from the suffering and hoping to receive a reward for the trials we undergo.

We can draw a certain similarity between our crosses in life and the Poor Souls. In Purgatory the Poor Souls desire the purification of their souls from the remains of sin, which are offensive to God and impede their being with Him. Likewise, our sufferings are a means of purification and expiation that further our union with God, in this life and in the next. However, in contrast to the Poor Souls, our sufferings in this life are meritorious – the sufferings of the Poor Souls are not.

In this light, how can we complain? We merit in carrying the cross in this Valley of Tears. Hence, our sufferings are a “two-for-one deal”! We expiate for our sins and overcome temptation *and* we merit greater glory for God and our share in Heaven! We may more easily understand why the saints longed for and even lovingly embraced sufferings in this life.

The Valley of Tears remains tearful, but also more joyful as the saintly accepts the trials of the Christian life with the expectation that if borne well, he gives glory to God and draws nearer to his Love at every moment. We are awed by the admirable courage and fortitude of the saints in their generosity and profound love of God, yet we may hardly give ourselves to the least of sacrifices, the smallest effort in good works or the minimum of attempt at prayer.

Our admiration of the lives of the saints is not that they had easy lives, but that they had difficult lives. May we be encouraged to bear, embrace, and even seek the crosses incumbent upon generous fidelity to Christ and His crusade for the glory of God and the salvation of souls! Here is offered the courage to dare to become saints, and to wilfully carry the cross!

As we enter the last month of the Crusade for Vocations, I want to thank all who have so generously applied themselves to the Seminary's request for prayers, good works and sacrifices for vocations. We are assured of many graces for ourselves and others. This month we may especially help the Poor Souls by our prayers, good works and sacrifices. It is fitting that we pray and offer our good works and sacrifices for their relief, so that, freed from Purgatory, the ranks of saints in Heaven increase. We are assured that the Just in Heaven more efficaciously plea that more *labourers be sent in to the harvest*. With respect to the Poor Souls, you may send the names of deceased to the Seminary on the enclosed card, which will be placed on our altar and remembered at the Masses celebrated during the month of November.

May God call many and move those He desires to serve Him in religion or the Priesthood to take the necessary step to discern their vocation or state in life. The consecrated souls God has deigned to preach Christ Crucified to the world are so needed in order that men in all ranks, who might otherwise merely walk about aimlessly in this life, may run honourably and finish the course. The need for priests, especially, is elucidated in the Catechism of St. Pius X:

*The Catholic Priesthood is necessary in the Church, because without it the faithful would be deprived of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and of the greater part of the Sacraments; they would have no one to instruct them in the faith; and they would be as sheep without a shepherd, a prey to wolves; in short, the Church, such as Christ instituted it, would no longer exist.*

May God grant us many holy priests and religious vocations and may the Blessed Virgin win their hearts to take courageously the step to offer themselves, to enter the Seminary or the Novitiate in order that they may discern their vocation and walk the way laid out for them by Divine Providence. Thank you very much for your continued and most necessary support of the Seminary. Be assured of our prayers for you and your intentions and please do continue in the Crusade for Vocations. May God bless you and Our Lady Immaculate watch over you.

In Christ the King,



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



*It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins (II Machabees 12:46).*