



Brother Patrick working in the Refectory



Brother Francis prepares wood for a new table

# Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY  
FATHERS OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

P.O. Box 417 Goulburn, N.S.W. 2580 AUSTRALIA  
Phone (02) 4829 5177 • Fax (02) 4829 5173  
www.HolyCrossSeminary.com website@holycrossseminary.com



April 2010

No. 76

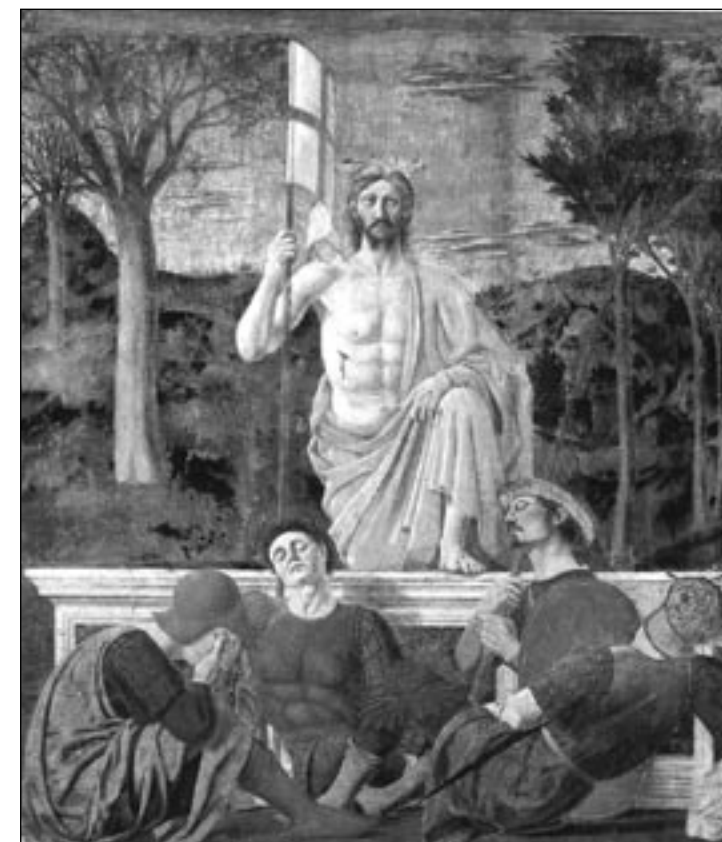
12 April 2010

Rev. Vicente A. Griego  
Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The great and wonderful celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection, His triumphant victory over sin, death and all adversaries to our pursuit of holiness and union with God, should awaken in us greater gratitude for God's love and mercy. Our gratitude is expressed by the persevering effort to conform to the perfect Exemplar, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The world has essentially rejected God and acknowledging His gifts. This rejection results in an inability to be thankful or the expression of regard for any other than self. This expression results in "give me what is due to me." Consequently, the loss of politeness and good manners.

A little book published by the Christian Brothers in New South Wales in 1952, *Christian Politeness and Counsels for Youth*, has this to say about our disposition towards our neighbour: "Created to the image of God, and bound to imitate a Redeemer whose every action was distinguished by meekness and affability; destined, moreover, to fulfil an important mission on earth, the Christian should be animated with lively sentiments of benevolence towards men, and should be careful that his conduct in their regard should ever be the faithful exponent of this feeling. If he has not the simplicity, meekness, and dignity which should



Resurrection by Piero della Francesca, 1463-65

**HELP US REPLACE OLD WINDOWS** that let the cold winter winds blow into the Seminary Buildings! We have already insulated the ceilings and floors, but need to replace the single pane windows that provide little protection from the icy wet winds that blow in Goulburn. We will replace what we can – one window at a time. Thank you for your generous help.

- \$42,000.00 to make more efficient use of our heating in the Chapel and Refectory.
- Priests', Brothers' and Seminarians' rooms! \$1,200 each. Thirty windows for dormitory rooms.



Brother Joseph works on the roof adjacent to the chapel

characterize a follower of his meek and humble Lord, his deportment should be free, at least, from everything rude, affected, or repulsive.”

In our secularized world, which refuses to recognize God and His Sovereignty over all things, man becomes repulsive, and merely natural attempts of “respectability” are generally reduced to a vain effort to bring favourable attention and praise to self. Without God and His sanctifying means to union with Him, man is reduced to the state of a brute animal, simply yearning satisfaction – even at the expense of others’ inconvenience and great sacrifice.

This evokes the image of the Seminary’s pig, squealing for our table scraps at the “appointed” time. The pig does not care about the burdens our dear Brother must attend to before bringing the slop; piggy only wants to eat... and now! And when the food is poured

into the trough, only between slurps and smacks of the snout does a grunt rise from below – not signifying gratitude – only the pig’s enjoyment of the present pleasure, without regard to the one who feeds her.

Men behave similarly without God. Without recognizing One greater than ourselves and One to Whom we are indebted for all that we have, we forget graciousness to our fellow men, who have given us their support. A society without God quickly crumbles. This is very evident in our Godless society today: social chaos, familial separation, and individual schizophrenia are too common. God is, as it were, the mortar holding human society together. Remove the mortar and the structure of every society falls apart.

Without a love or respect of neighbour, man inevitably disregards the good of his neighbour as each man, brutalized by his individuality and loneliness, instinctively seeks to secure his own good – even at the cost of his neighbour’s good. The tactic of God’s enemies has always been to divide and conquer.

How does politeness fit in to the binding of societies? St. John Newman says: “Good manners are the outward signs of Christianity.” Courtesy is not simply a trifle in the order of Christendom. Once again, the Christian Brothers have this to say: “This observation may be fitly applied to politeness, which manifests itself in a multitude of little things – such as a look, the tone of voice, a kind word, an obliging act, an air of satisfaction and of gratitude for kindness received, little attentions which can be better felt than described. Though these taken singly, may appear trifling, yet, in the aggregate, they form the characteristics of true politeness.”

The brutish behaviour of man without manners mocks formality, ritual and ceremony as pretentious, unimportant and unnecessary. This was the very spirit of the Second Vatican Council, whose orchestrators strove to bring God down to man. This was, so we were told, to make God “accessible” to man. The result we all lament today, is Godless and vulgarized “celebrations” which smack of cheap concerts of passion filled merry-making. Nothing dignified or refined, befitting the honour due to God, Our Creator. God has been dethroned

and man has risen to take the seat – a mere child and fool sitting in the place of God: *And I will give children to be their princes, and the effeminate shall rule over them* (Isaias 3:4).

This punishment from God leaves us to ourselves, naturally base and self-centred. Consequently, each man who has the initiative strives for the throne, not to care for any other than himself. When men cease to give glory to God, they certainly will not have any regard for their neighbour. *He that loveth not, knoweth not God: for God is charity* (I Jn 4:8-10).

This is the first principle of Christian society, a unity in the integral fidelity to the truth of God. This is offered to sinful man by the benevolence of God: *By this hath the charity of God appeared towards us, because God hath sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we may live by Him. In this is charity: not as though we had loved God, but because He hath first loved us, and sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins.* (I Jn 4:9-10).

In this light, Christ is the most polite and the most well-mannered of men. Christ, as a man, humbly respected His elders, gave way to ladies, listened when spoken to, did not interrupt, offered help when one near Him needed it. Christ, the Eternal Son of God, not only saw that there was no wine, that this woman was infirm, that that man had sinned... Christ saw that mankind needed much more and afforded His Divine help. Christ saw that all were doomed and in need of Redemption. Man was unable to open the Door to Heaven, so He offered to open the Door.

The Christian Brothers continue their instruction to their students: “Politeness consists in easy and graceful manners proceeding from a desire to please, and in careful attention to the wants and wishes of others.” Even the trifles of civil respect are ultimately ordered to God’s glory. Devoid of God, purely natural behaviour would quickly degrade to self-exultation: “I am better than others, because I know the rules of etiquette.” This is not our purpose – our purpose is Christ’s purpose, and Christ’s purpose is God’s glory and the salvation of souls.

This is the reason of Christian politeness – it is a call to be true apostles of Christ. Yes, we are meant to respect and assist our neighbour in simply natural matters according to custom, which is a part of the social agreement of cooperating with each other. We do so, more importantly, because we wish to be apostles, giving ourselves like Christ, who sacrificed Himself for our sanctification and salvation. St. Paul exemplifies the zeal of a true apostle of Christ: *I most gladly will spend and be spent myself for your souls* (II Cor 12:15).

With Christ’s glorious Resurrection and victory, we hope that many zealous men will offer themselves to this generous spending of self for God’s glory and the salvation of souls. The Seminary ever hopes to have many such generous men offering themselves in this sacrificial serving of God through his neighbour. Please pray that we succeed in preparing missionaries for this wonderful endeavour.

I wish to thank all of the Seminary’s dear friends and benefactors who have been so generous in helping us with our needs through prayer and sacrifice. Please continue to pray for us at Holy Cross – that all persevere, grow in God’s grace and be faithful to the example of Christ. In Christ’s priest and in His faithful living in grace, Our Lord’s victory over sin and death continues triumphantly. You and your loved ones are assured of our prayers in gratitude. May God bless you and may the Blessed Virgin Mary watch over you.

In Christ the King,

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