



Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

The Priestly Society of St. Pius X

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No. 108

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady at Holy Cross Seminary was one filled with many joys over God's goodness and blessings. The mystery we celebrate is the wonderful privilege of Our Lady to be taken into heaven, both body and soul, to enjoy forever the joy of the Beatific Vision. This was a fitting consequence of her essential role as the Mother of the Divine Redeemer, whereby she gave us the Eternal High Priest, Who perfectly intercedes with God for sinful mankind and Who showers abundant graces upon all who seek the privilege of the Resurrection to join in the eternal glory of heaven.

On this same day, the Clerical Tonsure and the Minor Orders were conferred upon our seminarians in the Pontifical Ceremonies by His Lordship, Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais. The seminarians' preceding four day retreat (preached by Reverend Father Alain Nély, the Second Assistant of the Superior General of the Society) prepared them for these important steps in their advance to the Priestly vocation. The retreat impressed upon the seminarians a realisation of their increased responsibilities with the Minor Orders received. We earnestly thank Father Nély and His Lordship for undertaking their long travels to assist in the formation of our seminarians.

A cleric's responsibilities surround the Sacrifice of Christ at the altar and the Church's mission to draw the faithful ever closer to Our Lord. A relation exists between the clergy and the faithful, which necessitates a reciprocal solicitude for each other. Both cleric and layman must, by prayer and rectitude of life, spiritually fortify one another in order to draw ever closer to Christ. The seminarians must conceive and guard this reality in order to not fall sway to a false notion of their role as clerics and ministers in Christ's Church. Seminarians must become other Christs living in our midst according to the perfect Ideal seen in Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who came for the Salvation of men.



The Conclusion of the Pontifical Mass with the Tonsure and Minor Orders conferred upon our Seminarians

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Mr. John Mwangi ~ Tonsured Cleric

profound discernment and a scrutinised permission does a young man dare present himself for these first steps toward the Priesthood. Grave responsibilities are imposed upon those who are Tonsured or ordained Porter and Lector or Exorcist and Acolyte. This act of freely accepting these duties, begs our sincere admiration for those ordained as well as our earnest prayers for their perseverance. May these newly ordained seminarians be generous, humble and worthy in carrying the cross they freely undertake for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Foolhardy is the man who undertakes the clerical state or the duties incumbent upon those in Minor Orders without serious understanding, reflection and heroic dependence upon God's grace to live faithfully this calling in life. Typical in our modern age is that disposition of little reflection, superficial study and selfish seeking of privilege and honour.

May God save us from this evil! Yet, how often may we flippantly repeat in our prayers words of gravity replete with serious consequences, or commence religious practices that beckon a strict conformity to their significance, but without much attention to their sacred promises or without genuine intention to conform to their ideal?

For instance, we may easily *say* "Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven" or "I belong entirely to Thee; for Thee alone do I desire to live and to die". After reciting the *Our Father* or making the *Way of the Cross* (from which these two phrases come), we often seem to continue blindly in self-will and self-seeking, oblivious to the profound meaning of the words and actions we "devoutly" repeated. We can easily ignore the responsibility of conforming our lives to the faith we hail in our prayers and religious practices, because we do not seriously reflect upon the meaning of the words we utter and the logical consequences of those utterances – i.e. to live accordingly. Hence, we may draw criticism and contempt upon the Faith by our manifest lack of fidelity.

The clergy have the gravest duty to strive for the most profound conformity to the high ideals of Christian Theology and Morality. Consider the words of Psalm Fifteen, which are repeated by the man being made a cleric in the Tonsure Ceremony: *Dóminus pars... The Lord is the portion of my inheritance...* It would be hypocrisy to meaninglessly pronounce these words of Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy without any intention to realise them in life. Their significance is the abandonment of the world and its cares in order to choose only God and all that pertains to His glory. If a cleric yet clings to the things of this world, there can be little sincerity in his admirable profession.

Yet, the faithful also have a role to play in the formation of priestly and religious vocations. The influence of the Mystical Body is reciprocal, with each member helping and influencing the other by their prayers and good efforts, or hindering by vice. Hence, we must give thanks to God for His grace, which drew the young men in our Seminary to offer themselves in Christ's service, for the mission of Holy Mother Church and for the salvation of souls. We must pray that they will eventually be made holy priests, who spread the integral truth and supernatural grace of Christ, whereby we give glory to God.

A young man's proposal to Orders can be likened to the daring Apostles, James and John, who asked to sit to the right and left of Our Lord in Heaven: *And Jesus answering, said: You know not what you ask. Can you drink the chalice that I shall drink? They say to him: We can* (Matthew 20:22). Only after serious study,



*Messrs. Nicholas Stamos and Anthony McNamara
Porters & Lectors*

The Bishop admonishes the Porters (the first of the Minor Orders): *Study as you open and shut with material keys the visible church, so in like manner to shut to the devil and open to God, by word and example, the invisible House of God, that is the hearts of the faithful...* The Bishop cautions the Acolytes (the fourth of the Minor Orders): *...you shall not be able to please God, if carrying in your hands a light before Him, you serve the works of darkness, and thereby set an example of faithlessness to others.*

The cleric's profession and approval of these exhortations demand conformity between their daily lives and the Church's admonishments. When there is disparity, there is scandal. Whether by Baptism or by Orders, we are given entirely to God, and we must reflect upon the meaning of our prayers and align our thoughts, words and deeds in life accordingly. It is rightly expected by the laity that the cleric shine more resplendently in virtue, thereby leading others to the perfection of Christ.

This giving of self is a life-long endeavour, accomplished by cooperating with God's grace, which "polishes" both the layman and the cleric's intentions, words and deeds. Our effort in this regard must be purified and directed primarily to the glory of God. Failure to conform our thoughts, words and deeds to the Faith and to the example of Christ, is disastrous. How much more serious is the clergy's responsibility to strive for this holiness and to exemplify it!

For this reason, dear friends, we must combat our tendency to a flippant prayer life that overlooks the serious and far-reaching consequences of our prayers; namely, our conformity to Christ's example. We fall into a mindless attitude in our Christian life because we seek first our happiness, often hardly aware of that the primary and essential duty as Christians is to give glory to God – simply by loving Him because He deserves to be loved.

Forgetting the first object of religion, we corrupt the practice of even the true Religion, behaving much like pagans burning incense before idols, wishing to placate an angry god, who will avenge any discourtesy rendered. The living and true God sent His beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and High Priest, Who mercifully shows us the way to love God in perfect holiness of life. The one true God is not deceived by empty or vain words and rites: *...for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the thoughts of minds. If thou seek him, thou shalt find him: but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever* (I Paralipomenon 28:9).

Our love of God must be sincere. This is the ideal of all true Christians and especially the true Christian priest, who devotes his life entirely to the service of God and souls. Once again, let us rejoice in the blessings of God, Who reminds us of this truth and gives us, through the recent conferring of Tonsure and the Minor Orders, young men meant to be shining examples of Christ's perfection in this world. We must pray for more priestly and religious vocations and their perseverance in their vocations for the fortification of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Dear friends and benefactors, with the approach of the Feast of the Nativity of Our blessed Lady we propose our "annual" three-month programme to crusade for vocations. The word *crusade* is often used for many ventures and we may have forgotten much of its more profound significance. The following explanation of its meaning may help us better understand and more fully give ourselves to the 2013 Crusade for Vocations. *Crusade: 1) a Medieval Christian expedition to the Holy Land; 2) a reform movement; 3) any movement or cause conducted aggressively and vigorously, especially against public evil.*



Messrs. Marcel & Joseph Ockerse ~ Exorcists & Acolytes



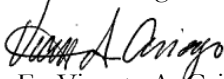
*Rev. Fr. Alain Nély & Rev. Fr. John Fullerton
assist Bishop Tissier de Mallerai at the Pontifical Mass*

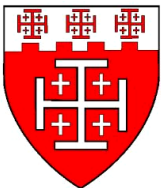
The Crusade for Vocations will be from the feasts of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th). During this time, we can give ourselves to greater prayer, penance and the practice of virtue, so that, living more like Christ, we may more efficaciously ask God to bless us with many holy vocations. Please make an offering to Our Lady for this Crusade. If you send us your spiritual bouquets, pledges or offerings over the period of the Crusade, we will present them to Our Lady on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) following a procession in Our Immaculate Queen's honour following Vespers and Benediction (5:00pm). All are invited to attend.

Included with this letter are some ideas of possible offerings that can be made. The list is not exhaustive – offer what you deem most suitable to live Christ more perfectly and ask for more vocations. For the love of God and the love of our neighbour, let us take up the cross that overcomes God's enemies, so that Christ may free men enslaved by sin and that He may rule all in His merciful Love.

Thank you, dear Friends and Benefactors, for your solicitude, both spiritual and temporal, upon which we so greatly depend. Please pray for the perseverance of the young men who recently received the Tonsure and Minor Orders. The generosity of these young seminarians should be an encouragement that God sends more labourers into His vineyard to preach truth and administer grace. Let us, in turn, generously offer our prayers and sacrifices for more holy vocations, which promise still more preachers of truth and dispensers of grace and that God be more glorified by the increased harvest of faithful generously living the life of Christ.

In Christ the King,


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



Announcements:

- **Holy Cross Seminary can email an electronic subscription of the Seminary Newsletter** for all who prefer. If you wish to receive the Seminary Newsletter via email (usually in colour!), please send your request to: website@holycrossseminary.com Please inform us if you wish to continue receiving the printed copy.
- **Ignatian Retreat for 2014** (you may register at retreats@holycrossseminary.com or by post at the addresses listed above):
 - **Men's Ignatian Retreat:** 6-11 January 2014
 - **Ladies' 2014 Ignatian Retreat: THERE ARE NO MORE VACANCIES**
- **Vocations Crusade ~ 8 September to 8 December:** Please pray for the Vocations Crusade – may God send us many, holy vocations.