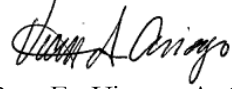


Although our little Crusade has run its course, we all may continue to pray for vocations. A holy card is enclosed with a prayer for vocations – please pray it with confidence and great faith: *The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send labourers into his harvest* (Lk 19:2). May your days of Advent be filled with abundant graces in preparation for the coming of Christ. Thank you dear friends and benefactors for the generous support of the Seminary – especially in our appeal to raise funds for the sewer project which amounted to much more than estimated, but was also complimented with a generosity to equal the cost! Deo gratias. The project has been completed and a functioning and safe sewage system is now in operation which recycles the waste water for use on the fields in the arid surroundings of our Seminary.

Please keep us at Holy Cross in your prayers and be assured of ours for you and your intentions. May God bless you and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God watch over you.

In Christ the King,



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



*After the Ceremonies on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

#### **Announcements:**

- Ignatian Retreats in 2013 begin at 2:00 pm and end at 11:30 am. Please visit the Seminary website for retreat information, registration forms and to verify your registration. You may email [retreats@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:retreats@holycrossseminary.com) or directly contact Fr. Christoph Pfluger at the Seminary. The retreat dates are as follows:
  - Men's Retreat: January 28 to February 2, 2013
  - Ladies' Retreat: January 7-12, 2013
- Fr. Sayed Elias, from Domus Dei Priory in Rockdale will be offering a non-Ignatian retreat for men at Holy Cross, February 18–23, 2013. Men interested should contact him at (02) 95 67 70 88 for retreat information and registration.



# Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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8 December 2012

No. 102

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On this Feast of Our Lady Immaculate it was with joy that we received the renewed engagements of our seminarians into the family of the Society of St. Pius X. The promises of obedience and love for the family established by our beloved founder, Archbishop Lefebvre, made today, demand that these young men live faithfully the high ideal of Christ.

The nature of this fidelity is manifest in the words of the admonition to those who would engage themselves in the Society:

*Do you want to be true and authentic disciples of Christ, according to that which Christ teaches in the Books of the Gospels, namely: "And he said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me (Luke 9:23), So likewise every one of you that doth not renounce all that he possesseth, cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:33), Jesus saith to him: If thou wilt be perfect, go sell what thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come follow me (Matthew 19:21), Take up my yoke upon you, and learn of me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and you shall find rest to your souls. For my yoke is sweet and my burden light (Matthew 11:29-30)".*

The aspirant replies that he desires to spend himself in the work of Holy Mother Church and in the bosom of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X: *With the*



*The Crusade for Vocations under the Banner of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

grace of God, I desire and will to be such a disciple of Christ. After further affirmation of the aspirant's desire to offer himself unreservedly to the work of the Society, he pronounces his oblation, thus sacrificing himself and his will to the Will of God in the labour of the Church.



H. L. Bishop Tissier de Mallerais

Sacrifice is the very essence of the Christian life. As Christ pre-eminently offered *the* Sacrifice for all mankind, it is yet incumbent upon all who would follow Christ to accompany Him in offering not only *His* Sacrifice through the hands of the ordained priest, but, in union with His Sacrifice, to offer willingly the sacrifices demanded in fidelity to God's Law and to the love of Our Beloved Redeemer.

The Archbishop references these striking words of Our Lord because their far-reaching meaning define the quintessential quality expected of the members of the Society of St. Pius X. Bishop Tissier de Mallerais reminded us at Holy Cross during his conferences to the Community during his visit in November that the simplicity and brevity of the Rule and Statutes of the Society of St. Pius X are replete with the profound teachings and example of Christ. Christ's word and example suffice to instil the spirit and action of our Priestly Society.

Our Society is Priestly. The priest offers the Sacrifice of Christ. Without sacrifice, there can be no true worship of God, no means of ordering our lives to God, no merit of eternal life. The oblation made by the members of the Society is the affirmation of this truth. This offering of self, made before the Blessed Sacrament and the Superior General (or his representative), is the solemn promise to place oneself at the disposal of God in a Christ-like act of sacrifice: Christ ...*emptied himself, taking the form of a servant... He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross* (Philippians 2:7 & 8).

St. Thomas explains in his Summa (IIa IIæ, Q. 104, a. 3, ad 1) that obedience is a sacrifice most worthily offered to God: ...*in so far as [obedience] proceeds from reverence for God, it comes under religion, and pertains to devotion, which is the principle act of religion. Wherefore from this point of view it is more praiseworthy to obey God than to offer sacrifice, as well as because, "in a sacrifice we slay another's body, whereas by obedience we slay our own will", as Gregory says.*

Hence, the act of obedience is a *laying down of life*. Fr. Tanqueray quotes St. Pacomius' words on obedience: *It is far better to live in obedience and to die daily to self by mortifying our own desires, than to suffer martyrdom in imagination. He who mortifies himself dies a martyr's death as far as need be; it is a far greater martyrdom to persevere in obedience all through life, than to die in a moment by a stroke of a sword.*

The Society of St. Pius X is a "pious union" – men united to give glory to God, by pursuing holiness and offering others what they have availed of themselves from the abundant fruits of our priestly society. In figurative terms, the Society is a priestly army, which has been deployed by Holy Mother Church to save souls. Human nature demands that society be governed by a head. Consequently, as order requires an "orderer", so orders are given and received. Commands, clear and obliging, the subordinate is expected to respond with prompt and complete obedience.

Although all men must comply with clear orders from superiors, Christ exemplified and expects a still higher degree of obedience from His followers. St. Thomas Aquinas (IIa IIæ, Q. 104, a. 3), quotes St. Gregory the Great: *obedience should be practiced, not out of servile fear, but from a sense of charity, not through fear of punishment, but through love of justice.*

Obedience in its supernatural and Christ-like ideal, is motivated still more nobly by a love to fulfil the wish of the superior, who is loved by the subordinate as a true father is loved, a representative of the Eternal Father in Heaven. Consequently, supernatural charity moves the obedient to fulfil even the wish of his superiors – wishes maybe only revealed by way of a *not so clear sign, but plain to see*, explains Rev. John Baptist Scaramelli and many other notable teachers of ascetical spirituality.

*Cor unum – unum velle, unum nolle... One heart and one soul – the same likes and dislikes...* The bond of charity unites the Church of Christ, the Church Militant and our Priestly Society. This charity is rooted in the Sacrifice of Christ and all believers conforming and offering the daily sacrifices incumbent upon Christian life.

Our Priestly Society is a family that must cooperate in obeying with charity. Bishop Tissier de Mallerais stressed this in his conference to the Seminary; namely, that we are not to give simply a military obedience, but an obedience that is inspired by charity to our Superiors, who represent God and are to be real fathers over those whom they must govern.

The engagements to the Society are not merely stated on December eighth, but their meaning must be lived out daily, in fidelity to the supernatural significance of the oblation, which engages members in the Priestly Society of St. Pius X. Christ's soldiers band together to remain faithful to the King and His objective to withstand the ancient and prevalent rebellion of disobedience that ultimately denies Our Lord's Sovereign Rule over men's hearts. May God, Our Lord and King, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen, keep us faithful and generous in a loving service to our Society, the Church and Almighty God. May these ideals persevere in the hearts and minds of the members of the Society.

This happy day also included the presentation of the spiritual bouquets of many who have been praying, sacrificing and striving to live more virtuous lives for many holy vocations. This offering made on Our Lady's Feastday must please our Queen, the *Throne of Grace*, who, we confidently expect, will certainly move more young women and men to take that generous step to offer themselves in the loving service of Religion or the Priesthood. Thank you very much for supporting the Vocations Crusade, which will certainly enrich Holy Cross Seminary – may God grant us many holy priests.



The Procession was preceded by the chanting of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary