



Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

The Priestly Society of St. Pius X

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† *Procession in honour of the Immaculate Virgin on 8 December 2013*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception we concluded our campaign imploring God to send us many holy vocations. However, the Crusade for Vocations continues, as we must persevere in asking God to send labourers into the *harvest* in order to reap the sacred fruit of Christ's Precious Blood – holy men and women truly living Christ's life. We express our sincere gratitude to all who generously supported the Seminary's 2013 Crusade. God will certainly bless you. Likewise, the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoured by your many offerings in prayers, good works and sacrifices, will certainly respond with abundant graces to move souls to seriously strive for holiness, whereby many will establish profoundly Catholic homes and others will offer themselves in religion and to the Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On December 8th the Society received the engagements of members in our Priestly Fraternity. We at Holy Cross happily received the renewal of engagements of six seminarians, members of our priestly family, as they continue the discernment of their vocations and grow in grace and wisdom. May they persevere unto priestly ordination and a zealous apostolate.



The seminarians renew their Engagements in the Society of St. Pius X

perfectly, so purely loved God. As the Immaculate Mother of God, Our Lady becomes the Mother of all God's children, not only because God simply said so – *When Jesus therefore had seen his mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he saith to his mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, he saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own* (John 19:26 & 27) – but because she is the Mother of Grace and consequently the Mother of all who receive grace, the children of God. The plight of the children of God perseveringly struggling to overcome their spiritual enemies in order to grow in the life of grace, is with the hope of approaching ever closer in holiness and likeness to God. This victory of grace, bestowing supernatural life, makes us truly God's children, who presently participate in the life of God with the hope of eternally and perfectly living with God in Heaven!

Can a good mother not wish her children to be like their good father? Our Mother of Grace must then desire that we be most perfectly like Our Heavenly Father. To be truly a child of God, we must necessarily desire to be like God, and His Mother is presented to us as *the* model of this divine sonship, perfect and pure.

If we truly desire to be the children of God, we will seek opportunity to be part of some “religious family” that assists us in living according to this ideal. First and foremost, we enter Holy Mother Church, which is absolutely necessary. The beginning of our life in God takes place at our Baptism when we are born into the Family of God: *What do you seek? Faith. And what will faith give you? Eternal life.* The Church teaches the Faith and imparts the life of grace to the Christian believer.

Throughout life, there are many opportunities to join any one of many organisations that promote this life of grace. Various sodalities and religious groups or pious unions receive members and have for their goal the perfection of their members, as well as organising various activities or an apostolate which likewise further promotes the Christian life in the members as well as in others. For example: Third Orders, like those of the *Society of Saint Pius X* or the *Franciscans*, the *Archconfraternity of St. Stephen* for altar servers, the *Children of Mary* for girls, the *Sacred Heart Sodality* for women, and the *Holy Name Society* for men, only to mention a few. The second order consists in the canonically established religious life and the first order that of the cleric and the priest. Without a genuine religious family, lay or clerical, we are somewhat a runaway, a prodigal child, fleeing our Father and His Home – without mother, father, home and discipline...

The old adage, *The apple does not fall far from the tree*, implies that we share the qualities of our family or the company we keep. If we live in and keep the company of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints, we must either strive to become ever more like them, or take our leave from them.

Despite the weakness, or even the malice, of many in this world, we can remain unperturbed if we root our hope in God, Who is good and omnipotent. He cannot be overcome. God promises, He will deliver. The Lord God gives hope to the sinful Adam and Eve and all their sinful children:

Following a Solemn High Mass, a procession in honour of the *Immaculata* made its way through the Seminary grounds, ending at the Seminary's main entrance where the many spiritual bouquets sent to the Seminary by the faithful were presented to our Lady. It is truly wonderful to see the fervour of generous souls, who recognise the urgency and necessity of many, holy vocations. We ask and so we will confidently receive from God's benevolence.

What greater grace can be asked than to be children of God? This beginning of the life of grace is wonderfully exemplified in the Blessed Virgin Mary, who entirely and purely gave herself as a child of God. We too must strive for that same holiness of life, in the purity and simplicity of Divine love.

Our Lady is the Mother of God, and gives Christ to us, because she so

God Ineffable – whose ways are mercy and truth, whose will is omnipotence itself, and whose wisdom “reaches from end to end mightily, and orders all things sweetly”...decreed in order that man who, contrary to the plan of Divine Mercy had been led into sin by the cunning malice of Satan, should not perish; and in order that what had been lost in the first Adam would be gloriously restored in the Second Adam. (Ineffabilis Deus, Pius IX, 8 December 1854)

In this light, we hope to be made, now and forever, the real children of God. We need not fear some insurmountable obstacle, for God is all powerful and we ought to have all confidence, since God assures us of His assistance. This is our Faith – without which, we are lost. Hence, we must be grateful for Holy Mother Church, who stands impregnable before the attacks of the enemies of God and who is a refuge for the company of godly-minded souls, who reject the spirit of the world, hopelessness and individualism. We need but hold tenaciously to the ideal of Christ and His holiness. This is the objective of the Priestly family of the Society of St. Pius X and a reason why we celebrate the receiving of members into our religious family.

St. Ignatius of Loyola named his Order *The Company of Jesus*, which bespoke the disposition of its members, namely the habit of *keeping company* with Our Lord at all times. Similarly, Archbishop Lefebvre’s choice in officially naming the Society of Saint Pius X as *The Society of the Apostles of Jesus and Mary*, may be understood to draw the members of his Society to keep in the company of Our Lord and Our Lady – at all times and all places, never alone and always united with other likeminded members, who, as *apostles*, desire to spread this habit of keeping company with Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

What a joy it is to witness the patent reality of the Society’s continued growth – clerical, religious and faithful, who attach themselves to the work of the Society in guarding and promoting the integral truths of the Faith while seeking holiness of life, in order to give glory to God.

Devout souls desire the conversion of sinners, the conversion of infidels, the sanctification of the clergy and lay folk simply because Holy Mother Church should be victorious over all hearts and all nations. The Church gives birth to the children of God by Her teaching and dispensing of grace and labours to present to Her Divine Spouse innumerable children, who confidently strive for the perfect and eternal union with their Heavenly Father in Heaven.

If we would imitate the Blessed Virgin, who neither compromised in principle nor in fact and ever spent herself for the good of others, her wayward children, we would be most fitting children of God. We, like the Blessed Virgin, must guard purity of heart, purity of mind, purity of intention, purity of action and purity of our body and soul. We, like the Mother of God, must reject all that is in the slightest way evil or may lead to evil, so that we too, may give way to Christ’s living in us. In the spirit of mortification, that which is indifferent and even that which is good can be sacrificed for a greater good – i.e. a more perfect union with and love of God.

Do we adopt this disposition of the Immaculate in our lives? How easy it is to indulge ourselves with so many earthly distractions that could otherwise be forsaken. If we shared the spirit of true apostles, desiring the conversion and salvation of souls (firstly our own), we would more readily forsake all in order to have All and to lead others to Him. But often we are more intent on getting our share of this contemptible life’s “joys”, and hold cheaply the eternal bliss of heaven. Sadly, we, the children of God, the *specialty chosen*, who have received the grace of the Traditional Faith, Sacraments, Priesthood, Religious Life, Doctrine and Morals, fall short of genuinely striving for purity in holiness.

Notwithstanding our honest efforts to make good use of the extraordinary means ordinarily available to us (the Sacraments and the Catechism for example), we may well make mistakes. This is not an insoluble problem. A grave obstacle to our pursuit of purity in holiness is that we do not make a sincere effort to use well these means. Do we value what the Faith promises? Do we trust the promises of the Faith? Bear in mind to what extent God has “gone” to bring us to Him: *...you were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the precious Blood of Christ, as a lamb unspotted and undefiled* (I Peter 1:18-19). We can become saints and we can live lives truly pure and devoted entirely to God. The question remains: Will we resolve to pursue this end and embrace the God-given means?

We must sever our affection for the world. For this reason, Archbishop Lefebvre instructed that members of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X (first, second and third orders) abstain from television (among other dangerous occasions of the worldly spirit). A television does not belong in the houses of the Society because we have God to gaze upon and His ideas to consider, not the images or the

“thinking” of the television, which flaunts the seductive vanities of this world, in fashions, recreations, language, manner of life, etc... The same warning can be applied to the internet, movies and a myriad of other worldly pastimes so common today.

The world is dangerous and we would be foolish to pretend otherwise. Shall we, like the Blessed Virgin and the Saints, withdraw as far as possible from such dangerous occasions that easily tarnish that purity of heart and mind that disposes us to receive Our Lord in the purity of our Lady? Archbishop Lefebvre explains in our Priestly Statutes, that we are ever preparing to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, and this in order to be received into the eternal communion of the Beatific Vision.

These few days of Advent, following the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, are meant to prepare us for Christ’s Birth, His Coming into the world, into our lives. Do we desire to be with Him? When He comes shall we receive Him most worthily, that is, purely?

Let us, dear friends, reflect and resolve to prepare ourselves more fittingly for the Coming of Christ. We must continue to request from heaven the gift of many holy vocations, which promise to be genuine apostles of Jesus and Mary in our Society so as to minister to religious communities and the faithful who humbly strive for this pure ideal.

Looking to the next Seminary Year, we will be receiving four seminarians from our Seminary in the United States – two, who will join our first year, and two, who will join the fourth. Additionally, we have accepted at this date, six new seminarians and a brother postulant for 2014. We yet have hopes for a few more young men to enter in the New Year. Please continue asking for many, holy vocations, dear Friends and Benefactors.

Thank you for your generous support over the last year of seminary training. Despite the generosity of many, we are yet in need of sufficient funds to cover the expenses of various repairs and projects scheduled for the summer. Please help us with the means to accomplish the work our Superiors have asked us to undertake. Trusting in God’s Providence, I assure you that Our Lord will bless you for your generosity.

Finally, as the seminarians prepare for their various summer apostolates and a well deserved holiday, please keep all the seminarians, brothers and priests in your prayers. May all return refreshed in order to apply themselves with zeal to their seminary studies and duties, so that after their training, more apostles of Jesus and Mary will go into the harvest to reap the abundant fruits of Christ’s Passion, Death and Resurrection, which breathe the life of grace in souls yearning for the immaculate life of Christ, now and forever in heaven. May the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of Christ and all Christians, richly bestow her Son’s graces upon you in the New Year.

In Christ the King,



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

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If you wish to receive the Seminary Newsletter via email, please send your request to:
website@holycrossseminary.com

▪ **Ignatian Retreat for Men: 6-11 January 2014** (register at retreats@holycrossseminary.com or by post at the addresses listed above).

▪ **To support Holy Cross Seminary with your financial donations, you may use the bank information below or you may send your donations to the address listed above.** Building Fund donations are tax deductible. Our two accounts at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 258 Auburn Street, Goulburn, NSW 2580, BSB#: 062545, (Swift: CTBAAU2S) are as follows:

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