

How you can Help Holy Cross Seminary:

Work is in progress to repair the many structural problems which have developed in the Seminary buildings' foundations and walls. The Seminary also hopes to replace many old windows on the premises so as to improve heating efficiency in the winter months. Current estimates to accomplish all these repairs and replacements amount to over \$200,000! God willing, we will do what we are able. Please help us. Thank you and God bless you.



This, like many of the old windows in the Seminary, have seen better days – in the winter months they do not keep out the winter cold.



Outside the Seminary Kitchen, cracks run in all directions on the Mater Dei Wing.



Weathered windows allow insects and dust to make their way into the Seminary Buildings.



Bro. Francis removing the crumbling rendering from a wall damaged by moisture.



A number of arched windows and doorways have potential for failure due to the worsening cracks.



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY
FATHERS OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

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J.M.J.
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Rev. Vicente A. Griego
Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The Immaculate Conception is the model of purity and holiness for all men and especially Christ's priests. By purity is meant not only carnal innocence, but the integral devotion of all things for the glory and love of God. This purity is a hallmark of genuine holiness. These qualities are of such great importance and so wonderfully exemplified in the Blessed Virgin Mary, that Archbishop Lefebvre deemed it appropriate to engage members of the Society of St. Pius X on the Feast of the Immaculate Virgin, with the intention that she be held in high regard and emulated by all members of the Society. In this wise, the Mother of the Eternal High Priest receives from her Son young men from the world and forms them in the image of Christ.

The unique role of the Blessed Virgin, conceived without sin by God's special grace, is the "Vessel of Honour," the "House of Gold," the "Ark of the Covenant," for she gave human life to the Eternal God, to the Incarnate Saviour. In the Temple, Our Lady presented the Christ Child to God the Father and to the world, in order to pay the price of man's redemption, to offer grace for salvation and to give perfect adoration to God. The priest does similarly in his priestly office as he makes Christ present on the altar during the Holy Mass, the perfect prayer of Christ to His Father in Heaven, and then nourishes the wayfaring children of God on their arduous journey Home.

Consequently, the priest must become like the Blessed Virgin in her spirit of generosity and diligence in all things; he must become preoccupied with the divine. In this way the priests of Christ will faithfully carry out their duties as priests "taken from among men, ...ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins." (Hebrews 5:1)

The priest forsakes companionship with family, friends, home and country in order to live familiarly in the company



Immaculate Conception with Saints, by Piero di Cosimo (1462-1521)

of Jesus. It is in this intimacy that the man learns and loves the life of Christ and then as a priest is called to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – the greatest act of adoration and glorification of God and the means of sinful man’s hope for mercy and sanctification. The priest presents Christ to the world and to God as Our Lady did; therefore, he must be pure and holy to unreservedly give himself to enthusiastically receive grace according to his noble and privileged office.

Because she gave Our Lord and Saviour to mankind, the Mother of God is the holiest and purest of God’s creatures. Our Lady could do so only out of love – her generosity was not forced, but most willing. Logically, the men chosen by God to give the world His divine Son daily upon the Sacrificial Altar must themselves be motivated by this great love, which draws them willingly to the life of Christ, a life of purity and holiness.

In the Encyclical “*Hærent Animo*,” St. Pius X makes this very clear in his timeless address to priests:

We have, therefore, to take the place of Christ: the mission which He has given to us we must fulfill with that same purpose that He intended. True friendship consists in unity of mind and will, identity of likes and dislikes; therefore, as friends of Jesus Christ, we are bound to have that mind in us which was in Jesus Christ who is holy, innocent, undefiled. (Hebrews 7:26.) As His envoys, we must win the minds of men for His doctrine and His law by first observing them ourselves; sharing as we do in His power to deliver souls from the bondage of sin, we must strive by every means to avoid becoming entangled in these toils of sin.

But it is particularly as the ministers of Jesus Christ in the great sacrifice which is constantly renewed with abiding power for the salvation of the world, that we have the duty of conforming our minds to that spirit in which He offered Himself as an unspotted victim to God on the altar of the Cross. In the Old Law, though victims were only shadowy figures and symbols, sanctity of a high degree was demanded of the priest; what then of us, now that the victim is Christ himself? “How pure should not he be who shares in this sacrifice? More resplendent than the sun must be the hand that divides this Flesh, the mouth that is filled with spiritual fire, the tongue that is reddened by this Blood!” (St. John Chrysostom)

The honour and privilege bestowed upon Christ’s priests is immense – so too is his responsibility to strive for holiness. This is a daunting challenge for sinful man. It requires great help and this help comes most efficaciously by the maternal hand and guidance of the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady, “Mother Most Holy” and “Queen of Virgins,” tenderly guides Christ’s priests, her sons, as declared by Our Lord Himself from the Cross, to share in the beautiful virtues that she eminently possesses and which made her most worthy to give Christ to the world.

The examples of Christ and His Blessed Mother are genuinely awesome and absolutely inspiring. In moments of zeal we easily admire and entertain the ideal of living like Our Lord and Our Lady. But the consolations of zealous admiration fade, leaving us with the reality of the long and difficult labour of “practising” virtue. Too quickly these noble aspirations give way to a “practical” recognition of the difficulty of sustaining the effort to live a virtuous and zealous life, often leaving the soul in a state of torpor, indifferent to the generous love of God. “Is it really possible,” we wonder, “to pursue and persevere in a life of perfection?” Is holiness only an option?

Our Lord commands us to *be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect* – sanctity, therefore, must be possible. Will not the same God, Who died upon the Cross for sinners, assist sinners signed by the seal of Holy Baptism? Still more, will He not aid His priests signed with the priestly character of His Son? God promises to come to the aid of *all* who genuinely ask for help. We must not insult Our Lord and forsake His promise to help us: “*Come to me, all you that labour, and are burdened, and I will refresh you.*” (Matthew 11:28) Our faith, hope and charity are tested and fortified by our perseveringly facing the difficulties of seeking perfection.

We can become saints! The effort is a lifelong task – we must allow God to be in charge of our spiritual lives and not demand “results” on our own terms. Enthusiastically, we must accept with confidence God’s Providence. We must give ourselves unreservedly to God’s Will in all things. The wonderful transformation of a man wounded by sin into a man filled with grace comes about by this cooperation with God’s grace. Such a man is led to ever greater knowledge, confidence and

love of God. Such a man is drawn nearer to God. This is the “perfection” of man in this life – to perseveringly to pursue greater union with God.

To assist poor sinners in accomplishing this goal, Christ was born into the world. The approach of Our Lord’s Nativity brings us great joy if we expect His many gifts of grace to continue seeking greater holiness. Christ’s simple example shows us that we need nothing of this world to become great saints. Whatever we have for a time in this life, we have received from God to be used for His glory.

This is the reason we happily await Christ’s Coming. So too, eagerly anticipating the Priestly Ordinations in Holy Cross shortly after Christmas, we look forward to new Christs to be given to men of good will on earth. The prayers and sacrifices of the faithful have undoubtedly merited the precious gifts of new labourers in Christ’s vineyard, who set out to bring succour to souls desirous of heaven. Let us pray for these Deacons who are soon to become priests. They will be sent out into a world that would not give shelter to the Blessed Virgin, who carried the divine Child.

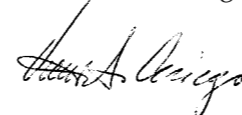
Filled with zeal for God and the salvation of souls, these Deacons are eager to present to the world, as priests, the True Presence, Life and Holiness of Christ. For those who expect the Lord, now the hour of rejoicing nears with the birth of new Christs. These young priests will knock on the doors of men’s hearts in order to share what they have so abundantly received, but the world will not eagerly receive their example of living Christ. We must pray for our priests to persevere in their zealous pursuit of purity and holiness for the love of God.

Having a bit of the world in all of us, we too must prepare to receive the blessings God wishes to share with us by the sound preaching and good example of His priests. There is a mutual support in the pursuit of holiness between the priest and the faithful. Sainly faithful are blessed with holy priests and we need holy priests to help us become holy followers of Christ. For this reason, St. Pius X urges all priests to strive for holiness:

“In this exhortation, it is not your personal welfare alone that we are striving to secure, but the common welfare of Catholic peoples; the one cannot be separated from the other. For the priest cannot be good or bad for himself alone; his conduct and way of life have far-reaching consequences for the people. A truly good priest is an immense gift wherever he may be.” (Hærent Animo)

May God grant us many holy priests who have great zeal for our Lord and His reign over the hearts of men. Be assured of our prayers of gratitude for your prayers and sacrifices, which are a great support in the formation of priests. God knows the sacrifices you have made – God bless you and may the Mother of Christ watch over you.

In Christ the King,



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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLY CROSS SEMINARY:

- **Ordinations to the Priesthood and the Diaconate and the Clerical Tonsure:** Saturday, December 27, 2008 at 9am
- **Men’s Five Day Ignatian Retreat:** Monday, December 29, 2008 to Saturday, January 3, 2009
- **Women’s Five Day Ignatian Retreat:** Monday, January 5, 2009 to Saturday, January 10, 2009
- **Men’s Five Day Marian Retreat:** Monday, January 12, 2008 to Saturday, January 17, 2009
- **Crusade Boys Camp:** Saturday, January 3, 2009 to Saturday, January 10, 2009 in Brisbane area. Please contact Fr. Bourmaud for details.