



Rev. Mr. Rémi Picot

Birthplace: Lunéville, France

Rev. Mr. Picot was the fourth addition to the Picot family, which has been blessed with a total of twelve children. He grew up in Tradition and went away to the Society's boarding school in Eguelshardt in the Lorraine at the ripe age of eight, where he completed his primary and secondary education after ten years. Rev. Mr. Picot realized in early adolescence that he had a vocation to the priesthood, but decided to wait a few years after graduation before entering the seminary. He spent those years attending a local university, but he was more occupied in this time working with a team of home remodellers, mainly in the roles of plumber and drywaller.

Rev. Mr. Picot entered Flavigny in 2003, continued on to Ecône for three years, and then came to Holy Cross Seminary in March of 2008. He says that he was happy to have this change of scene. Life in Australia in general has helped him see things from a different point of view and to understand and appreciate that perspective. He counts this as a valuable experience for his future apostolate, since a priest must be able to adapt himself to those to whom he ministers, becoming, like St. Paul, "all things to all men." Rev. Mr. Picot says that the circumstances of Holy Cross Seminary's limited resources "provide a more realistic setting for a formation." For example, in the liturgy the seminarian must engage himself more actively both in the performance and contemplation of the ceremonies, as the priest does (to an even greater degree, with still fewer resources) in the parish setting.

The proportion of seminarians in the Society who have been born and bred completely in Tradition is steadily growing. Yet Rev. Mr. Picot notes that their number is still quite small, considering how many Traditional Catholics could pursue a vocation. He remembers how important it was to his father to instill in his children belief in and love for an ideal on the natural level in all that they were to undertake – for such an ideal provided a necessary basis to consider and pursue a higher and supernatural ideal of a vocation. The modern world mocks ideas and the ideals associated with them. Parents who fail to counter this influence, Rev. Mr. Picot says, cannot expect their children to have the desire or strength to attain a vocation.

Rev. Mr. Picot is looking forward to applying his seminary knowledge to the apostolic labours ahead of him, wherever they may lead.



Rev. Mr. Todd Stephens

Birthplace: Sydney, Australia

The youngest of three children, Rev. Mr. Stephens says that he was very agreeable to his parents transitioning from the *Novus Ordo* to Tradition when he was four years old. He attended a public school in Mildura, Victoria, for six years, then entered the Society's newly opened school

in Tynong in 1997. After graduation, Rev. Mr. Stephens was unsure in which direction he should head. Enrolled in the university, his classes did not capture his interest and he soon dropped them. Meanwhile, he received a trail of little graces that enabled him to do some serious reflection and make the decision to join the Seminary. Once he entered, he says, "That was it." He was swept into the Seminary time warp and now, six years later, he is about to be ordained a priest.

With the coming of each new year, especially in the later years, Rev. Mr. Stephens was always hoping that another Australian (or six) would join him. While it was a little discouraging that this desire was never fulfilled, he still takes hope from the focus he has seen in recent years among Australian faithful on praying and performing sacrifices for vocations. He is confident that these prayers will bear fruit. At the same time, he realizes the difficulties facing the youth today. Tradition is fairly established now and it is all too easy to be content with the *status quo*. Unfortunately, many Traditional Catholic youth rely too heavily on others for their practice of the Faith. Lacking personal convictions as they approach adulthood and independence, these young Catholics find it difficult to continue living according to the high ideals of Christianity. Away from home and free from parental constraints, they often pay little attention to their spiritual lives. At the same time, they do not see the urgency of the spiritual crisis that afflicts the world today, with the corresponding need for generous souls to offer themselves to heal it. Rev. Mr. Stephens realizes that his vocation was built on special graces, which led him to follow God's call. Without them, he could have easily followed the call of the world instead. As he steps out into that world to begin his priestly apostolate, he hopes to be instrumental in making more readily available those graces needed to pursue a vocation.



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a ligno Deus

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Rev. Vicente A. Griego
Rector

For the sun rose with a burning heat, and parched the grass, and the flower thereof fell off, and the beauty of the shape thereof perished: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. (James 1:11)

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

With the Priestly Ordinations in only a few weeks time, I take the opportunity to encourage all to pray for the ordinands, offering your prayers and sacrifices for their intentions and that they be holy priests. The Priestly Ordinations will also take place at our Seminary in La Reja, Argentina on the same day. Deo Gratias! New priests for the Society and Tradition!

What gratitude we must have for Archbishop Lefebvre and his heroic labours for the glory of God and the salvation of souls! Our beloved Founder's love for God and souls has brought forth many good fruits through his priestly Society because he would not accept the fatal compromise of liberal Catholicism proliferated in the Second Vatican Council. He was able to resist because he received a sound education and training in a truly Catholic home, school and seminary. It is this legacy his Grace strove to give to us and to future generations. May we live true to his humble and courageous fight.

The heirs of the Archbishop's fidelity to Christ must also fight unwaveringly the errors of liberalism. Although many easily equate the terms "liberal" and "liberalism" as something quite "evil," most (I fear) do not truly know what liberalism is or why it is evil. Consequently, many, condemning the "idea" of liberalism, have in practice embraced it.

Liberalism is, essentially, the rejection of God's supreme authority and the consequent rejection of His rule. Of course, put this way, how could any true Catholic be a liberal? But liberal Catholics opened the door to the flood of errors that have wrecked the Church. Not that they were necessarily "wicked men," but in their weakness, they permitted wickedness to flourish. They did not stand up to their responsibility to guard and defend the entire truth and have cowered before human respect. This is the curse of liberal Catholicism, whereby "well meaning men" shrink before their duty, thus leading many souls to perdition.

The true apostle, however, decries evil and danger to save the sheep of Christ, respecting God and His word: *Son of man, I have made thee a watchman to the house of Israel: and thou shalt hear the word out of my mouth, and shalt tell it them from me. If, when I say to the wicked, Thou shalt surely die: thou declare it not to him, nor speak to him, that he may be converted from his wicked way, and live: the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but I will require his blood at thy hand. But if thou give warning to the wicked, and he be not converted from his wickedness, and from his evil way: he indeed shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul.* (Ezekiel 3:17-19)

Archbishop Lefebvre made this observation: “As soon as the Church lacks firmness in upholding her principles, and the clergy lack the courage of its convictions, the Catholic faith is encroached upon, the faithful abandon it and join the sects.” (*Against the Heresies*, pp. 176-7)

The *wickedness* of Liberalism is primarily against God, who, with great love for souls, has chosen certain men to represent Him, to proclaim His truth and to condemn error. A priest who does not (in word and deed) decry error and preach integral truth, does not fulfil his duty of representing God to men. Neglect of this duty is a refusal to represent God’s authority and to use well the priestly power conferred upon a man at his ordination. This is the case of a “liberal” priest as described by the Archbishop.

When the priest is not firm in upholding Christ’s principles and His Church’s teaching, he fails in fidelity to his ordination and will lead astray (albeit, meaning well) the faithful. There can only be condemnation for failing to uphold and live by the entirety of truth and God’s complete authority. To make known God’s truth and love and warn of dangers would be an act of supernatural charity towards neighbour – to wilfully hide these truths would seem an act of hatred.

The true course of men who love God and neighbour is that of Our Lord Himself, Who suffered and died for sinners and presently endures the affronts of his children who (whether intentionally or not) defy God’s Will. We are all subject to this pernicious evil which fills the very air we breathe and we risk being overcome by its noxious vapours. We must not let down our guard, relaxing our defences, but we must also prepare for the offence.

If we do not promote truth, we will fall. Under many pressures in society to “get along” with our less-than-edifying neighbours, we tend to let down our guard and thus invite compromise, the dangerous mixing with error, which weakens our ability to uphold the truth. This has been the travesty of ecumenism. Compromise in principles undersells truth and undermines conviction. Without conviction, not only do we cease helping others to know, love and serve God, but we too forsake integrity in the faith and in morals. For this reason, Archbishop Lefebvre has affirmed that *any* degree, *every* degree, of liberalism, is dangerous (ibid.).

After many years of resistance, it seems that there has been something of a truce made with the world by many Traditional Catholics. Little by little, this yearning to befriend the world has crept into our lives. Wishing to mingle with the crowd while professing to be really Catholic, the reality is that, to a great extent, we have put down our guard. This human respect is one of the most effective undermining elements of liberalism.

Archbishop Lefebvre related how, at the Second Vatican Council, many otherwise good bishops were overly concerned about how the media portrayed them and complained about this “new magisterium” of the Council, i.e. popular opinion. To remain faithful to God requires one to hold fast to the timeless teachings of God and His Church. Conviction in Christ, His Church’s Magisterium, morality and ministers, will guide us to abandon all that smacks of liberalism. We are assured this by Our Lord: *if we seek Him, we shall find Him.*

We live in a world truly intoxicated by the spirit of liberalism; consequently, we are to a certain degree also “under its influence.” This toxin must be purged and we must imbibe higher and nobler aspirations: to love God above all else, to save souls (first our own), and to fulfil our duties of state according to the ideals of Christian perfection. We must steer clear from all that nourishes the liberal spirit: television, dangerous recreations, immodest fashion, useless time on the computer, bad friendships, intemperance and laziness in our duties – to name but a few of the dangers which foster the characteristic self-seeking of liberalism, which replaces man for God.

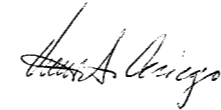
The priest that befriends the world abandons God. Simply, the priest must “befriend” God and thereby lead souls, first his own, then his flock’s, to God. Hence, he must abandon the world and hold with conviction the high ideals of Christ and zealously spend himself. The newly ordained and the veteran priest must possess this firmness of resolution; otherwise, are they really like their Master? In order to accomplish this, the seminarian studies not only the books, but the very soul of Christ, offering himself with Christ in oblation for God’s glory and to do God’s Will in all things!

This habitual conviction must always be guarded and nurtured, lest it be lost. The priest cannot cease to fight for victory. Putting down his defences, he is made weak and will falter in conviction. Then he risks forsaking his noble charge and those who rely upon his priestly ministry. Pray that God may grant us priests with conviction, high ideals, wisdom, prudence and great perseverance.

We do well to thank Almighty God for granting us the two men to be ordained priests this December 19th in answer to your prayers and sacrifices! Now it is for each of us to live accordingly, making our homes, schools, communities and chapels more truly conformed to the high yet simple teachings of Christ. The gift of priests is a calling to all Christians to live generously the Christian ideal, pursuing perfection!

We wish to thank the many faithful who have rendered such generous support to our needs over the years. In light of the approaching ordinations, as your prayers are absolutely needed, I ask all to please make the novena to the Holy Ghost, the *Veni Creator*, which begins on December 10th. You are assured our daily prayers in gratitude and God’s merciful blessings. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary watch over you and grant us many more holy vocations.

In Christ the King,



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais will confer the Priestly Ordinations on 19 December 2009.
- Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius:
 - Men’s Retreat: 4 to 9 January 2010
 - Ladies’ Retreat: 18 to 23 January 2010