



Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The Seminary Year at Holy Cross Seminary concluded with the Ordination of two young deacons, who will begin their final year of studies and formation in 2015 – Deo gratias! These young men have been the most senior among the seminarians for the majority of their Seminary years and have borne the responsibility of being leaders in setting the course and being good examples for the younger seminarians. Once again, Holy Cross Seminary is possessed with the full spectrum of the seminary years of formation. Now, these young deacons have arrived at the last stage of their seminary formation by the reception of a sacramental share in the Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ as deacons.



With another year of Dogmatic and Moral Theology ahead of them, these young deacons have already accomplished a great deal of their seminary studies and have gained special graces which enable them to exemplify the ideal of Christ to their fellow seminarians, to the wider body of Catholic faithful and even the world at large. Because the deacon is ordained to assist the priest in Christ's public work of glorifying God and saving souls, he shoulders a share in Christ's Priestly ministry. The deacon does this at the altar in assisting the priest who offers Christ's great Sacrifice of the Mass, in the apostolate by preaching the Gospel and truths of Christ which draw men to God, and in their fidelity to the *The*

Bishop blesses the prostrate Subdeacons during the Litany of the Saints

spiritual life, devoting himself to the pursuit of higher degrees of holiness, by which he will fittingly accomplish his sacred duties and exemplify Christ and His doctrine.

Already these new deacons are putting to use the precious knowledge they have garnered and the graces they have received by fulfilling their duty to preach. Assisting the priests here at the Seminary the deacons begin by preaching the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and giving spiritual counsel to souls desirous of growing in the faith. Consecrated to the service of God by the vow of chastity and the daily duty to recite the Divine Office, the deacon is at the disposal of souls seeking greater imitation of Our Divine Master, Lord and Redeemer. The deacon, like the priest, is intimately united with Our Lord in spending himself for the salvation of souls in order that God be glorified.

The young Levite, enflamed with fresh zeal and a vibrant idealism, is desirous of sharing his conviction with others: devout souls, wayward souls and even secularised society so as to “unveil” the secrets of God to men, thus leading individual souls to genuine happiness in God and the consequent reign of Christ over civil society. The adventure of devoting one’s life to the objective of supernaturally transforming men and society, bringing forth a happiness that transcends man’s natural abilities and made attainable through God’s work of Mercy and Love, is most appealing.



The Bishop invests the new Deacon with the Stole and Dalmatic



The Imposition of the Bishop’s hand, thus makes the Deacon

However, success in this domain is firstly the work of God. The deacon and priest are only instruments that must be finely tuned and used by God to bring about this transformation. A good tool must “fit the hand of the Artisan” in order to bring forth the greatest works of art. The mysterious works of God are brought forth through the instrumentation of men, but men who are docile in the hands of God and confidently cooperative with Divine Providence. Such men enter the mysterious workings of God, because they trust the goodness and power of a Good God. On the other hand, men who trust too much in themselves and little in God, are easily discouraged when they encounter difficulties because of a lack of understanding God’s ways and trusting His plan.

Challenges must be faced by clergy and layfolk, alike, in understanding and carrying out God’s Will, and trusting His

divine assistance. Our young deacons will not be spared this trial, despite their skills, learning and the supernatural gifts acquired from their Seminary formation and by their ordination. However, convinced of the truths and efficacy of the Faith and the Omnipotent God's work through His Church, these young deacons (even mature priests) may approach the apostolate as a matter of simply preaching and then souls will logically turn to or return to Christ. Speaking to his seminarians, Archbishop Lefebvre related his personal experiences and sentiments in his younger years, filled with zeal to spread the reign of Christ, but having encountered difficulties in convincing others:

You used to have the impression that when you were in a discussion with someone, you were going to be able to convince him because you were so certain of possessing the truth. You had the impression that you would make him bend, that you would make him accept the truth. And then you often realised that you could not do it, or only with great difficulty. Why? Because truly to convert souls to the Catholic faith or to bring them from a lukewarm faith to a living faith, an ardent faith, it takes the grace of God, which you will only obtain by prayer, by sacrifice, by mortification, by a life of holiness.

We cannot consider this combat, this apostolic life which you are going to have to lead, simply as a pure combat against error, against difficulties, against what keeps the Church from spreading. Certainly we also have to fight against errors, but we cannot be first and foremost anti-reformers; our primary and principal objective cannot be the counter revolution, anti-liberalism, anti-communism. To chase away the darkness we have to be in the light, and that comes from the grace of God.

Grace will illumine you, enlighten you, fortify you, and will also be manifest to the eyes of others. It is very difficult to convert others if we ourselves appear in everyday life as somebody weak. For example, it is not by insulting or despising one's interlocutor, or loading him with injuries, that we are going to manage to convince him. Obviously!

If, on the other hand, he perceives in you a true, sincere, supernatural charity toward him, without self-seeking, then he will start to be attentive, because he will have the very clear impression: "The one who is speaking to me is not speaking in order to have the pleasure of winning the debate or convincing me, but he truly wants to communicate to me a truth which does not belong to him". So it is very important for you to have that attitude. (Archbishop Lefebvre, Priestly Holiness: Toward the Priesthood)

Truth and holiness are the remedies to the widespread contagion of heresy, immorality, tepidity and laziness. But few there are who earnestly embrace the Archbishop's life-long efforts upholding this standard of Christ, His Church and our Patron, St. Pius X, who unanimously and clearly demand the constant effort of the clergy to strive for profound holiness and to uphold integral doctrine. It is much easier to simply condemn the manifest errors of others than to combat the infidelities (perhaps even grave) hidden within our own souls. Curiously, only the apostle who undertakes the hidden combat succeeds in being a real apostle, who leads others to Christ and upholds integral doctrine.



Some family members of the newly-ordained Deacons, who are first converts

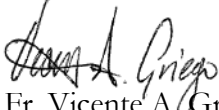
Consequently, only when the Christian is tried and proved in supernatural charity can he be efficacious in his role as a secondary instrument, possessing and living in true charity. Genuine fraternal charity is duly born in a profound love of God, which is, simply, holiness. We can do nothing more important than spend ourselves in this labour of learning how and endeavouring to love God in all things. May our new deacons, and all our seminarians, our Religious Brothers and our Priests, generously spend themselves in this primal objective in God's plan for our lives. A convinced and practicing cadre of religious and clergy will, by their edifying example and their sacrificial works of zeal, be efficacious instruments drawing souls closer to God, Who alone gives true joy and lasting peace... in this life and in the next.



Priests, Religious and Guests at the Banquet following the Ordination Ceremony
sheds were literally falling apart and posed serious danger to man and machine. Unfortunately, we have received little support for this work and desperately call upon your help. We are entirely dependent upon your generosity. Other plans to address some much needed repairs in the Seminary Chapel and Sacristy will need to be postponed, once again, unless we receive help to complete these projects. Thank you for your kind consideration and any support you may be able to give.

Be assured of God's grace in the New Year and the prayers of the Seminary for you and your intentions. May God bless you and Our Lady Immaculate watch over you.

In Christ the Newborn King,


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



Holy Cross Seminary, of The Priestly Society of St. Pius X