

graces Christ has merited and desires to share with those who strive to be ruled by His love.

Christ has come for *our* benefit, we who are sinners. In this alone we must be confident in victory over all enemies, but victory does not come without a fight, and this is the difficulty. The self-centred seekers-of-ease will not persevere without the necessary purgation. In this too, Our merciful Lord will assist us. How good is our Loving Father in heaven!

The short and busy summer months at Holy Cross Seminary promise many spiritual battles with three retreats and many work projects and the need for additional work on the grounds with the abundance of water we have received in the last twelve months. Unfortunately, at this time, the hoped-for new applicants have not been as abundant. But God's Will be done and in His time. We can be certain of God blessing our little effort in the Crusade – if not now, later. We continue to beg heaven for many holy vocations.

But let us also continue to better order our lives, our families, our work place, our recreations... in short, all things – *that God may be glorified in all things!* Doing this we not only do our part in serving under the rule of Christ, but lead others to do the same.

May we each remain faithful to Our Lord's beautiful example and place our nature and faculties at His disposal so that we may be enabled to surpass the limitations of merely natural self-preservation and even sacrifice for the good of our neighbour, thereby giving glory to God by acting like Him in charity and mercy.

Thanking all for their very generous response to our plea last month for financial help, we thank God for His Providence in watching over our needs. May we on our part train the young men that offer themselves to this school of self-denial and training of Christ-like men to go out into the world and give their lives for the eternal lives of others.

May the New Year under way be one offered repeatedly for the glory of God, that His holiness may be seen in the lives of men and women living in the world, in Religion or among Christ's priests, that all strive to live faithfully to the timeless teachings of Christ. Immaculate Mother of God, watch over the children of God, under the one true rule of Christ, and bring all to the eternal blessedness of heaven with God. Amen. God bless you and thank you for your continued support.

In Christ the King,



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

THANK YOU! A number of windows will soon be installed in the Seminary Chapel and others expected to arrive for the Refectory. We thank you for your generosity to make this improvement possible.



Southern Sentinel

Regnabit a Ligno Deus

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*A Child is born to us, and a Son is given to us,
Whose government is upon His shoulders. And His
name shall be called the Angel of great counsel
(Isaias 9:6).*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The manner of Christ's supreme role as Head of mankind is manifested from the first moments of His earthly life – Christ, the perfect Man, will have dominion over all men, by virtue of His redemptive sacrifice. The responsibility of authority is not easy, especially when it comes to ruling free and independent men, who, weakened by original sin and unruly passions, take advantage of God's love and patience for His wayward children.

Generous souls desiring to devote their lives to God's glory manifest Christ's noble rule by repentance for all failings and growth in God's grace. These loyal subjects, children of God, grow in holiness and desire the salvation of souls. Aware of Christ's Birth, we are also aware of Christ's inevitable Sacrifice. Every man, no matter his state in life, has a responsibility before God in one degree or another to follow Christ in this manner. Not an



Retreat for the priests of Australia, New Zealand and the Seminary

easy task – but it is the obvious act of generosity of the believer and lover of God: *In this we have known the charity of God, because he hath laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren* (I Jn 3:16).

The beauty of Christ’s Salvific Birth fills faithful souls with joy and draws them to give themselves likewise in this sacrifice for the good of neighbour. Notwithstanding our trepidation at the prospect of suffering, the noble sacrifice of the Christ-Child inspires rescued sinners, as heirs of His kingdom, to take up the cross.

Christ’s presentation in the Temple is the solemn offering to God of the perfect Victim, Who sheds His Precious Blood for man’s Redemption. We must offer our lives to God and depend upon His grace to live a supernatural life in this tumultuous world. Christ is our confidence: *After eight days were accomplished that the Child should be circumcised: His name was called Jesus, which was called by the Angel before He was conceived in the womb* (Luke 2:21). Our Lord’s name signifies His life among us, whereby He makes it possible for us to live eternally with God.

Christ is sent to rule us and lead us to heaven – a clear manifestation of God’s love for us: *Looking for the blessed hope and coming of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and might cleanse to Himself a people acceptable, a pursuer of good works.* (Titus 2:13-15). Our hope is to be truly *a people acceptable and pursuers of good works*.

Just as this work began from Christ’s earliest days in the Holy Family, so too must the inculcation of these noble ideals be exemplified, taught and practiced in the formative years of a child’s life. Consider the great duty parents have to raise their children according to this pattern. Children are gifts from God and parents are to have freely entered into holy matrimony for the purpose of raising children for heaven as God’s “stewards” over His children, thus cooperating in God’s work of saving souls. Parents *present* their children to God by their selfless and untiring efforts to give a genuine and complete Christian education.

This begins with the parents before they are even married, by a virtuous and honourable courtship. Then marriage establishes the Catholic home, which must be maintained for the duration of the children’s education. When the day comes when responsible adult children leave home, the parents continue to set the good example of a holy marriage for the sake of posterity and fidelity to their marriage vows to one another... all for the glory of God!

Great merit is due to this heroic sacrifice demanded of parents. The due reward of this selflessness and love of God and neighbour (i.e. their children) is not simply a self-seeking enjoyment of “cute” or high achieving children. A holy family is the good fruit of parents who zealously and orderly seek the ideal of sharing in Christ’s work – spending themselves tirelessly to communicate Christ’s life and raise children as true images of Christ. By the grace of God these Christian children go out into a well chosen state of life dedicated entirely to God’s glory.

Sadly, the all-too-common tendency of parents to “use” their children primarily for their enjoyment has led to disastrous results. This selfishness leads to ignoring the sacrificial duties incumbent upon the Christian home. A self-centred notion of love is bequeathed to the offspring, furthering the degeneration of both family and individual. How does this happen? A few examples of parents’ *using* their children should be given: inordinate revelling in the “cute” baby, pandering to its every cry, *feeding*, as it were, upon the good feelings reciprocated by the “adorable” child (“He is a perfect baby... as I am a perfect parent”), pride in the “astute” adolescent’s academic achievements (“A chip off the old block... i.e. I am an intelligent parent”), or basking in the adult child’s professional successes (“I am a successful parent”).

Certainly, the joy parents may have in their children is a blessing, but it must be ordered to God; whereas, without proper order and a supernatural goal, what is virtuous easily becomes vicious – i.e. disordered. If our joy in our children is purely natural, given our fallen nature and the influences of the world, the flesh and the devil, we easily corrupt what is good, succumb to selfishness and pervert the right order of marital and familial life.

The objective is to forestall going awry in the education of our children, which will actually disadvantage them by falling short of our ultimate end. This supernatural perspective is the only perspective that truly matters. As lovers of God, we may have to work to live in this life, but we live in order to get to God and remain with Him forever in heaven. We are not satisfied with having a “good life” and being a “success” in this world as much as we are focused on God... at least this is how we are supposed to live.

A disordered education results in a disordered child and in the future a further disordered society (familial, civil *and* ecclesiastical). Corruption disunites – it disunites family members from one another and each from God, Christ and His grace. Our fallen nature and the bad influence of the world will inevitably dominate the course of our life if the Christian principles of love, sacrifice and high ideals do not.

Indulging a child for the parents’ self-gratification makes for irresolute and comfort-seeking children and lays a foundation for many subsequent evils common in today’s families. Take, for example, the ingratitude of the spoiled child that has no responsibility to the family imposed upon him, or a parent that displays child-like dissatisfaction with the ever more unruly and spoiled child, who has become “not so cute” but tedious in the innumerable conflicts of disunited familial “interaction.” These are the logical consequences of parents pandering to their infant’s whims in the critical years of formation.

The false principle that a child is the focus of attention and not God, breeds this destructive weakness. Children must be taught responsibility in carrying the cross and the love that fosters true spiritual joy in this union with God, which can only be obtained by the denial of their disordered will and the constant seeking of God’s Will in all things, as Christ Himself did.

These dangers that lurk about us are overcome by God’s grace and by our being aware that our fallen nature tends this perilous way and that we depend upon the sure help of God’s grace. We must ask for and use the many