



A view of the ceiling needing replacement after the plumbing work.



Work continues on the Faithfull's Entrance to the Seminary Chapel.



# Southern Sentinel

*Regnavit a ligno Deus*

**HOLY CROSS SEMINARY**  
FATHERS OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS X

P.O. Box 417 Goulburn, N.S.W. 2580 AUSTRALIA  
Phone (02) 4829 5177 • Fax (02) 4829 5173  
www.HolyCrossSeminary.com website@holycrossseminary.com



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*By their fruits you shall know them. (Matthew 7:16)*

If no one dare cast seed into the ground, there will be no fruit. In our day, despite a scanty crop, there are good fruits – although few respond to the call of Christ, there are still generous young men who offer themselves in the total service of God. A man of good will must seriously ask and discern the state of life planned for him by God. If called to this most special service, undeserving that we are, it will be by God's grace that one steps forward to share in Christ's Priesthood.

We rejoice at the generosity of young men who advance in more fully discerning their vocations. Four young men chose to receive the cassock and two others became members of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X by their First Engagement on this 11th of July.

Donning the cassock ostensibly manifests the resolution to break from the world. This black cloak is the habit of dying to the world, whereby the seminarian fortifies his resolve to live Christ crucified and to strive for holiness... for God's glory!

Engaging as a member of the Society is a formal renouncement of all worldly pursuits and a pledge to exclusively serve Holy Mother Church. As a professed member of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X, a young man prepares to petition the grace of clerical tonsure, the minor orders and ultimately, Holy Orders.

Every man has been created for a state in this life according to God's infinitely wise Providence, which is eternal in its scope



After receiving the cassock, the seminarian gives thanks by the gesture of the candle offering.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Minor Ordinations – 15 August 2010
- **Ignatian Retreats:** You may apply through the Seminary Website: <http://holycrossseminary.com> or request additional information at: [retreats@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:retreats@holycrossseminary.com)
- Men's Retreat – 3 to 8 January 2011
- Ladies' Retreat – 24 to 29 January 2011

**RAISING FUNDS TO REPLACE OLD WINDOWS** at the Seminary. We are approaching our goal in order to address the windows in the Chapel and Refectory – thank you for your generous support.

- \$9,000.00 still needed to improve the heating efficiency in the Seminary Chapel and Refectory.
- Priests', Brothers' and Seminarians' rooms! \$1,200 each. We hope to replace thirty windows for the dormitory rooms.



Upon Engagement, the seminarian is a member of in the Society, which prepares to present the candidate to Holy Mother Church for the Clerical Tonsure.

– that is, God has infallibly determined each man’s best path to happiness. We need only to trust God and allow Him to show us the way, and we will be assured of His superabundant graces to finish the course of glorifying Him and reaching our eternal happiness. Fundamentally, we must desire to serve God as He deserves and as He determines.

But to accomplish this noble task requires our dependence upon God, Who is not only our End but also our Means. *Every* Christian desiring truly to serve God must face the challenge of asking God what He wishes of him and trusting Him to help along the way. Failing to ask this fundamental question would certainly be indicative of one’s self-centeredness, which would prophecy an inability to live up to God’s Will, no matter the state of life one chooses. How would such a one be a good spouse, an obedient child, a decent citizen, a just employee, etc.? Without God man is simply corrupt.

The sweetness of serving God, of *living* God’s life, in justice, in holiness, in purity, in renouncement

of self, is achieved by the virtue of God. The man who trusts God and His grace, faces confidently the difficulties of the way of the cross (i.e. living the Christian life, discerning his state of life). True to Christ, a most sweet and joyful life is assured. Only those brave enough to try will ever know this truth and joy! O taste and see that the Lord is sweet. (Psalm 33:9)

Yet, in “doing God’s perfect Will” we tend to predict bitterness and sorrow. St. Thomas Aquinas, on the other hand, assures us that a life of virtue is delightful: “The fruits [of the Christian life] are any virtuous deeds in which are delights” (Ia IIæ, Q. 70, a.2). Still, we fear the cross. This fear, often exaggerated beyond proportion, causes many to cower and never take a step with confidence in God’s mercy, love and power.

It is inexcusable to wilfully remain ignorant of God’s Will. We may protest our weakness, our unworthiness, or our inability to live up to Christ’s standard, but for this reason Christ has come to be our strength, our worthiness, and our ability. We cannot say like Achaz of old ... *I will not ask, and I will not tempt the Lord* (Isaias 7:12). For this is to refuse God’s divine assistance, without which we can only fail to save our soul. Christ *is* our Redeemer and Saviour, whereby we are made courageous, strong and victorious as we face all difficulties and sufferings that befall us while we strive to live faithfully the Will of God.

In light of the question on the state of life in which we are to serve God, each must ask God to show him God’s Will and to give him the grace to accomplish it. Rather than recoil from our calling, we must plunge forward with humility and dependence upon God – this is courageous. Truly, those who respond to the call of religion or a priestly vocation are generous souls who forsake all for God – not, as many might believe, some rare and strange sort of fellow that did not fit elsewhere in the world and consequently, sought refuge in the “safe haven” of the seminary, where “the real world’s rejects” hide.

No, dear friends, men truly called to the religious or priestly state are men who knowingly abandon the advantages and joys they could have otherwise sought in the world – choosing God despite their weakness, unworthiness and apparent inability – that God’s glory may be served; albeit, by poor weak sinners.

That some offer themselves to God is the good fruit of many prayers and sacrifices and God’s grace. Thank you, dear friends and benefactors for praying and making the necessary sacrifices that have merited the blessing of the young men who presently study in the Seminary. Let us resolve to continue to give ourselves, that we may more abundantly receive God’s copious blessings – especially the gift of priestly vocations, so greatly needed today!

Many are called – may many answer: *Adsum! Here am I, Lord!*

On this note, I wish to invite young men interested in discerning their vocation (and also parents to bring their sons) to the Minor Ordinations in August. Come to see, or to show your sons, the steps taken in discerning the priestly vocation. When these steps towards the Priesthood are witnessed and honoured, manly souls are engendered to follow suit – the call of Christ is heard and the seed of a vocation begins to germinate.

The Seminary can offer accommodations to men interested in attending (as well as for fathers and their sons). Please contact me for details on visiting the Seminary for this happy occasion.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your generous support in the campaign to replace the old windows in the Seminary buildings. We have recently received many generous donations. However, we encountered new and unexpected plumbing problems, which have diverted our attention (and an unexpected \$10,000) to make these necessary repairs. Please help us.

Please pray for all at Holy Cross Seminary and all those who will, in due time, be at Holy Cross and be assured of our prayers and pledge of fidelity to our duties for you and your good intentions. Your many prayers and sacrifices, which we so greatly depend upon, help us to continue in the wonderful work of training new priests for the reign of Christ the King. May the Mother of God, who ever desires to give us Christ in His priests, grant us the blessing of many holy vocations and watch over you.

...unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground die, itself remaineth alone. But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. (John 12:24-25)

In Christ the King,

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

