

wish to give thanks to God and St. Joseph, whom we honour for his providential solicitude and kind beneficence to us at Holy Cross Seminary. We will certainly ask and depend upon his continued patronage in the year ahead.



The Holy Family

charity with the hope that we all reach our happy home in the joys of eternal life. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces, watch over and fortify you.

Wherefore also we pray always for you; that our God would make you worthy of his vocation, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness and the work of faith in power; That the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ. -II THESSALONIANS 1:11-12

In Christ the King,

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

NOTICE: We ask for special help in repairing the eroded drive way to the Seminary and a few leaks in the Seminary roofs. Although the rain is a blessing it has brought us new labours in the maintenance of the grounds and buildings. Thank you very much for your generosity. U.I.O.G.D.

I also extend our gratitude to all our friends and benefactors for the many prayers, sacrifices and good works offered for the intentions and needs of the Seminary, spiritually and materially. Please storm heaven for many more graces for the seminarians, religious and priests at Holy Cross, also asking that God send *more* holy vocations.

Our special appreciation is extended to all who recently contributed to last month's appeal for help to better the Seminary's chapels and farmland. This month, I ask for particular and urgent help to repair the damaged driveway and a leaking roof as we have been blessed with much rain-fall this February. The rain has discovered new crosses for us – the rose comes with thorns.

Finally, please pray for the seminarians, who will make their annual retreat before the start of classes, that they profit from the Season of Lent and its call to austerity and generosity in giving glory to God. You are assured of our prayers in gratitude and



Bro. Joseph and Postulant John-Peter flee the hail



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

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March 2012

No. 96

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

1 March 2012

After a very busy summer of various apostolates and some well-deserved rest, our seminarians are returning to Holy Cross to continue their studies and formation. By the grace of God, and certainly in response to the many prayers and sacrifices of so many of the faithful, we are happy to receive six new aspirants at Holy Cross: three young men from Australia, one New Zealander, one Nigerian and one Indian. Let us begin by asking your increased prayers for their perseverance as they discern their vocation. We must bear in mind that the work we undertake is supernatural and consequently, dependent upon God's grace.

As the Seminary year begins in March, the month dedicated to St. Joseph, we shall consider his noble example of holiness, fortitude and peace of soul. This man, chosen by God, is an admirable role model for all and especially for seminarians, religious and priests. In living faithfully the standard set forth by St. Joseph's example, we will be truly Christ-like. It is this spirit of Christ's generosity manifest in St. Joseph that *must* animate our lives. If not, we would fail in representing Our Lord, His Church and the heroic life expected of true Christians!



Coronation of St. Joseph, by Juan de Valdés Leal

original sin, materially poor and with no worldly prestige or influence, would be asked to care for and govern the material needs and social safety of the Immaculate Virgin and the Incarnate Word of God. A daunting responsibility!

Immense as this task was, St. Joseph, lacking nearly all temporal influence and wealth, could only succeed by trusting Providence, which manifestly willed that Christ and His Immaculate Mother *not* live a privileged or pampered life... God expected St. Joseph to do his very best. Yet, St. Joseph's efforts would accord the Holy Family with only the meanest of living in the midst of numerous hardships and privations. St. Joseph would trust that the simple and coarse life he could provide was God's Will. St. Joseph embraced this austerity happily and unflinchingly. God made Himself weak, so that He could make St. Joseph strong. But the strength is that of the spirit, which gives glory to God and not that of the world, which is vanity.

In our worldly and naïve view of "success", we would imagine that Christ should come in triumph and secure manifest glory. But this was not God's Will. The poverty of appearance in Christ has been the scandal that provided the vain excuse of worldly men throughout the ages to not follow Christ or His Church – that God would not use His power to impress us. Indeed, God manifests the greatest power in coming deprived of all material strength, and yet conquering all. From Our Lord's humble entry into this world to His ignominious Death on the Cross, His life is but a contradiction to man's sensual perception of how strength is employed for "success".



Summer Boys' Camp, January 2012

therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. For which cause I please myself in my infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ. For when I am weak, then am I powerful (II CORINTHIANS 12:9-10).

This humble, yet powerful, confidence in Providence bestowed upon St. Joseph a tranquillity of soul that nurtured his ever-growing love of God. St. Joseph was not phlegmatically passive, dull and inert. On the contrary, his soul, enlivened with a burning consciousness of and zeal for God's glory, drove all his faculties and energies to labour uncompromisingly for ever greater conformity to God's Will.

Conformity to the Will of God in all things bestows true peace of soul – for when the soul is not at odds with the Divine Will, there are no doubts as to what course is best, no fears of not doing what is best. Even if what has

The Messiah, long anticipated and desired, was refused by the people meant to proclaim Him to the world, which He could re-direct to God, strengthen in the grace of God, now and forever. The unspiritual man (the worldly and the proud) remains enslaved in the weakness of materialism, whereas the spiritual man sees and grows in the strength of supernatural grace. St. Joseph's humble submission and confidence in God's Will made him a man of great fortitude, whereby he, in providing for the care of the Holy Family, accomplished all things in the confidence of the sufficiency of God's grace: *My grace is sufficient for thee; for power is made perfect in infirmity. Gladly*

been "done" was poor or crude, it was as God willed, and thus perfect in the Divine Mind. St. Joseph achieved this tranquillity by accepting his limitations and doing his best – even if this meant that he could not *succeed* in giving Christ a royal palace in which to be born. The Cross makes clear that Christ did not want a palace and that the manger was His Will, perfectly executed by St. Joseph. Likewise, the flight to Egypt, the return to Nazareth, the finding in the Temple. Although he may have suffered many trials and faced the limitations of his mortal talents, how perfect is St. Joseph in providing for the Holy Family. Consequently, we must have confidence that St. Joseph will provide for the needs of Christ's Bride, Holy other Church as well as the particular needs of Her members.

Our lives may not be filled with all that we, in our worldly imagination, would dream of; but, if we too strive to conform to God's Will and humbly accepted Providence, simply and confidently, doing our very best for the glory of God, we too will have tranquillity of soul – a peace that burns purely for the love of God and His glory.

A man reconciled with the Will of God does not short-change grace. St. Joseph corresponded to God's grace and wonderfully exemplifies the true Christian disposition in adversity, privation, conflict, and the daily living... for God. Shall we, this Lent, do likewise? Can we honestly choose to do otherwise? This, my dear friends, is the reason of our existence – to give glory to God.

"But I'm not a saint". Why not?! God has done everything to make our sanctity possible. The fault lies on our part. Have we seriously pursued the prize? This Lenten Season, we must take up the cross of the Christian crusade of conquering the enemies of God that would drag us along with them in the perfidious revolt from our reason of existence and to eternal perdition.

The prayer that concludes the blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday aptly proclaims the spirit of Lent: *Grant us, Lord, the grace to begin the Christian's war of defence with holy fasts: that, as we do battle with the spirits of evil, we may be protected by the help of self-denial.*

We must fight the enemy within and without, and our victory is only by submitting ourselves to the grace of God. May God's grace, merited by Our Divine Saviour's Passion and Death, channelled to us through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and so exemplarily cooperated with by St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin and Universal Patron of the Church, increase in us the life of God.

Join us at Holy Cross in *going to St. Joseph*, in order that his spirit animate our seminarians, religious and priests. As the Seminary commences the new academic year, we wish to dedicate it particularly to the pursuit of holiness, in fortitude and peace of soul, daily consecrating our lives to God and His Holy Will. St. Joseph, inspire and inflame the minds and hearts of all at Holy Cross!

In gratitude to God and St. Joseph for the entrance of the new seminarians, the material sustenance of the Seminary and most especially for the spiritual wealth with which we have been blessed, please join us in a Novena to St. Joseph to be recited at Holy Cross from March 10th to 19th. The Novena is included in this Newsletter. We



Benediction at the Ladies' Retreat, January 2012