

Finally, there was an error in last month's Newsletter which caused a paragraph to be truncated. The Seminary is asking for help to have a cover installed over the water header tanks. This will help us keep the water supply free from many contaminants. Also, the Seminary needs help raising sufficient funds to address the many repairs on the central bell-tower and classrooms of the Seminary Building. You may recall that eighteen months ago we stabilised the shifting foundations. Now we must tackle the vast and very messy project of drilling, cutting, "re-stitching" with steel spiral rods and concreting the damaged walls and archways. We have not had the time or financial resources to address this project and hope to complete the dirty work in the two-week holiday in June. We thank you for your generous support.

May we at Holy Cross live faithfully, according to the example of Christ, and train tomorrow's priests and religious, who will serve our dear friends and benefactors and many other souls desirous to live Christ's high ideals. May we use well the graces with which God favours us. Thank you for your prayers and sacrifices. Be assured that our prayers and sacrifices are offered for you and your good intentions. Without the grace of God we cannot persevere in the Crusade of life, whereby God may be glorified and souls saved. May God bless you and Our Lady Help of Christians, the Queen of Heaven, rule over your hearts and lives.

In Christ the King,



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



Please help us repair the damaged walls in the classrooms and corridors at Holy Cross Seminary.

#### NOTICES

##### Ignatian Retreats

- Men's Retreat – 2-7 January 2012
- Ladies' Retreat – 23-28 January 2012

**Tonsure and Minor Orders of Porter and Lector are scheduled for 15 August 2011.** Men discerning their vocations or desiring to expose their sons to the Rites of Ordination are welcome and can be accommodated. Please contact the Seminary, if you wish to visit for this occasion. His Lordship, Bishop Alfonso de Galarreta, will be performing the Ordinations.



# Southern Sentinel

*Regnavit a Ligno Deus*

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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5 May 2011

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

All seems to be going well here at the Seminary as the cold nights and short days of winter set upon us. The seminarians and brother-postulants are involved in their studies, their daily chores and the great work of conforming more and more to the example of Christ. May God realise in our seminarians the ideal of Christ and draw ever more closely to this ideal those who have already entered the ranks of the clergy and religious.

In view of the great privilege of knowing and loving God, let us consider these words of St. Louis de Monfort as he introduces his booklet on *The Secret of Mary*:

*Predestinate soul, here is a secret the Most High has taught me, which I have not been able to find in any book old or new. I confide it to you, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, on condition:*

1. *That you communicate it only to those who deserve it by their prayers, their alms-deeds and mortifications, by the persecutions they suffer, by their detachment from the world and their zeal for the salvation of souls.*

2. *That you make use of it for your personal sanctification and salvation; for the secret works its effect in a soul only in proportion to the use made of it. Beware then of remaining inactive while possessing my secret; it would turn into a poison and be your condemnation* (pp. 9-10, St. Pauls, Manila, 1954).

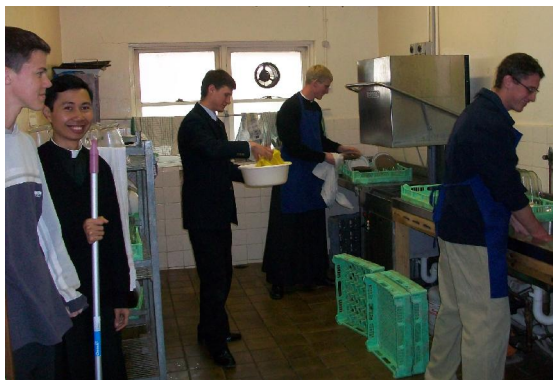
Although many are familiar with St. Louis de Montfort's doctrine on Our on Our Lady's exceptional role in the salvation of souls, the *Total Consecration to Mary*, few genuinely live this devotion, says the Saint. This secret reveals a simpler and more certain path to holiness by an act of complete giving of self to Our Lady so as to more easily be drawn near to God and His perfection. There is no magical formula to bring about the transformation of a sinner to a saint, but the simpler way is by the wilful, humble and confident slavery to Our Lady.



*Recession after Sunday Vespers*



Each man is responsible for his salvation, yet we are completely dependent upon God’s mercy to achieve the wonderful gift of eternal happiness in union with God. St. Louis makes it clear that the consecration to Mary best conforms us to God’s Will and accords us the greatest of graces, following, as it were, the same path God traced to bring Christ to us – through Mary.



*Cleaning up after the meal is a daily chore.*

With every confidence in Our Lady’s maternal vigilance and God’s beneficence, the aspirant undertakes the habit of giving himself and all he possesses to the safekeeping, or ownership, of Mary. Persevering in the required habitual zeal and devotion to Mary in this light requires a repeated refreshing of our understanding and will to truly give all to Mary so as to best serve God, whose efficacious grace is confidently sought.

The Rosary Crusade launched by our Superior General is a reminder that we must ask for God’s grace and, through His grace, an opportunity to grow in the practice of virtue as seen in the exemplary life of Our Lord. Our Lady of Fatima’s plea to pray the Rosary every day is her request to bring about the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart, which promises genuine peace to society as individual men conform to the Ideal of Christ. Our

Lady’s victory is the objective of the Rosary Crusade. Thus, we must submit to God’s plan: Christ was born of Mary and if we wish to be true children of God, we, too, must be “born” of Mary. Sadly, those who were to lead us to fulfil her counsel failed to do so, resulting in ever-increasing disaster befalling man.

The crisis that afflicts Holy Mother Church and the world at large is a result of forsaking this call to conformity to God’s Will. The Rosary Crusade gives us opportunity to meditate on the mysteries of Christ’s life, to follow the pattern and avail us of the means presented to us in the Holy Rosary. Bishop Fellay mobilises faithful souls to do their part according to Our Lady’s design by honouring her with “at least” twelve million Rosaries, not simply mouthing the prayer like tinkling brass, but meditating upon the mysteries of Our Lord’s life, in order to resolve to live more like Him.

### **What have I done to deserve God’s grace?**

We are the privileged, or “predestinate souls,” who have received so many graces to know and live according to the Faith, which opens heaven to us. We have yet to enter. Do we make any serious effort in this regard? Have we been faithful with the graces bestowed upon us and have these graces increased? As “Traditional Catholics” we bear a greater responsibility to render a return for this gift, for our own salvation and for the good of others.

Many live in ignorance of, or fail to cherish, this truth. What a mystery that some are chosen and others rejected.

We must ask ourselves: “Why am I counted among those who know and have the opportunity to eternal life? What have I done to deserve this privilege?” Considering the malice of sin, our cooperation in sin and God’s gentle and merciful love,



*The Community Meal*

the privilege is inexplicable – except by a great love. “Why does God love me?” We must face the answer: “Because God is good.” A new question follows: “Do I try to be good?”

### **Am I misusing God’s grace?**

Having before our eyes the pattern of Christ’s life, we meditate on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary in order to consider how we should live like Christ, to resolve to do it and to ask grace to accomplish it. However, it is not enough simply to *know* how or desire to conform our lives to Christ; we must effectively resolve to do so and take real and practical means in cooperation with God’s grace to do it. Otherwise, our knowledge, desires and convictions may accomplish very little or nothing.

This ingratitude will reap severe reproach: *Take ye away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him that hath ten talents. For to every one that hath shall be given, and he shall abound: but from him that hath not, that also which he seemeth to have shall be taken away. And the unprofitable servant cast ye out into the exterior darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth* (Matthew 25:28-30).

Are God’s gifts inactive in me? Am I afraid to apply myself to the life of virtue? Do I balk in the face of difficulty in living a virtuous life? Holiness is not only possible, it is obligatory. Ultimately, if we fail to become saints, we will be eternally lost. As Christ rose gloriously after His brutal Crucifixion, so too may sinful men rise from their brutal sins, which outraged the Justice of God. The ultimate outrage of man’s sinfulness is his reluctance to convert, to no longer be indifferent, to pursue holiness, to desire God’s generous gifts, to discover the secret of sanctity.

Bishop Fellay, responding to the obvious need of intervention, calls us to arms, to greater generosity and zeal – especially in the prayerful recitation of the Holy Rosary as a bouquet to Our Lady, asking her to grant us the peace she has promised: in the Church, in society, in the family, in the soul. Now is the time for soldiers of Christ to refurbish and don their spiritual armour bestowed upon them in Baptism, along with the many other gifts granted for our sanctification, and take to the field of battle according to Our Lady’s plan.

The humble following of Heaven’s plan, through Our Lady, is certain to vanquish the enemies of Christ efficaciously. We need only to be faithful and generous. Writing this letter on the feast of St. Pius V, the victory of the outnumbered Christian fleet over the Turkish armada at Lepanto in 1571 comes to mind. The holy Pope ordered Christendom to pray the Holy Rosary for this victory that saved the Christian world from invasion and sacking by the Muslim hordes. Today, with hope of triumph over God’s enemies, let us do likewise, giving all to Our Lady in prayer and penance in this Rosary Crusade.

Bishop Fellay kindly reminds us of the correct disposition of prayer in his April 2011 Letter to Friends and Benefactors: *The Rosary Crusade, [is] a campaign of prayer and penance... the most important thing is not the number of Hail Marys, but rather the way in which one prays them. ...while counting off the Rosary beads, it is a matter of meditating on the scenes from the life of Our Lord and His Holy Mother and the mysteries they present.*

Having referenced only the first few lines of St. Louis de Montfort’s introduction to *The Secret of Mary* at the beginning of this letter, I hope that many will search for and discover this secret. Read this booklet as well as St. Louis’ book *True Devotion to Mary*. May you may be convinced of the efficacy of the consecration to Mary and make the consecration or renew your promises and live more perfectly this privileged devotion.