



# Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

## HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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*Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
to form mind, will and character with the requisite knowledge and skills, discipline is indispensable to ensure that direction and formation are effective.

The world has become something of an arena of perpetual bombardment of information, activities and allurements, which provide so many distractions from our primary and essential objective. To combat this pervasive spirit, discipline is needed to maintain the daily and life-long objective of union with God. Not only do we combat external distractions, but even within ourselves we face an enemy. Our wounded nature is ever ready to rebel from the order re-established by Christ; consequently, deeply-rooted discipline and habits of virtue are painstakingly acquired. The individual advances more readily when supported by others – primarily by the family, and secondarily, by the rest of society. Either may influence us with virtue and discipline or vice and disorder.

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is cause for reflection upon the responsibilities of parents to establish a well-ordered family life, to begin and bring to fruition a profound education of their children.

But because the process of education requires a suitable environment, there is the need for parents to cultivate and establish the good habits of a structured Christian home for their children's education *before* a child is born. Diligent care must maintain the Christian habits and atmosphere of the home during the precious and delicate years of a child's life, which is essentially influenced by the parents' ideas and practices. Consequently, we see the importance of the home being truly the dominion of God in order that the child will be raised with the essential object in life, to know, love and serve God.

To achieve this goal, there must be discipline, indispensable in the formation of the mind (wisdom), will (love), and character (generosity). However, discipline is established in a stable environment, which facilitates learning. Finally, home and family life must possess tranquillity for the due attention necessary to attend with purpose to learning the meaning of life: a peaceful order habituates the soul to contemplation and concentration upon the object of learning.

“Education has ultimately for its end the union of the educand with his Creator by the systematic development of all the powers of the human being”, explain J. D. Redden and F. A. Ryan in their 1933 publication, *A Catholic Philosophy of Education*. Hence, in order

A complaint is often raised by parents that they are unable to maintain the discipline needed for the formation of the good habits of Christian life in their children. Whether it is praying the daily family Rosary, getting the children to bed at a fixed hour, or having leisure to devote time to simply being with the children, many parents excuse themselves with the reply that they are “just too busy”. But busy with what?

Indeed, there are many demands upon parents, who have the grave responsibility of governing their family. But this duty, which lays upon their shoulders, was solemnly taken upon them by the profession of their marriage vows. Fortunately, parents are not entirely alone. God’s grace is ever ready to assist in this work of restoring order and maintaining it. Of course, society extended beyond the home may also be of help, with family, friends and neighbours of like mind and manner, supporting the work of the home. Parents rightly desire the support of a truly Christian society in this great work of education. Christian civilisation would greatly augment the work of the home. But Christian society is all but extinct.

Too often, we complain that the world is too great an evil influence. Indeed, it *is* a powerful influence. But has the world ever *not* been a powerful enemy of God? We have been warned: *...all that is in the world, is the concupiscence of the flesh, and the concupiscence of the eyes, and the pride of life, which is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the concupiscence thereof: but he that doth the will of God, abideth for ever* (I John 2:16-17).

If we abide in Christ, the world will have no victory over us. Perhaps we have become overly occupied with superfluous concerns that disrupt the peace and order necessary in our homes that nurtures this disposition to generously and profoundly abide in Christ. However, immersed in hectic preoccupations that disrupt the ideal and practice of tranquillity in the home, it will be little wonder that a longing for activity of some sort will supplant the quiet disposition requisite for peace, steadfastness and discipline. In what disposition will our children be raised?

Yet, the excuse is made that *the world is so wicked and it lures our children away from the faith*. Does the world deserve all the blame? I think not. Perhaps we dispose our children to be easily enticed by the world because we have not established peace and order (integrally and simply) in our homes. Has it not become rather common among us traditional Catholics to follow the fast paced life-style of activity as a proof of “accomplishment” or success? And this complicated busy-ness inevitably distracts us from the primary and simple duties of home-life that are so fundamental in the proper education of our children. Merely material order or a forced “peace” in the home is not the objective; rather, our goal is to foment the atmosphere of the Holy Family in the home for the simple and profound education of children.

A defined order in the home establishes the necessary stability upon which is built the numerous lessons and discipline of family life. Children especially, lacking experience and easily captivated by novelty, require stability to maintain their focus upon the lessons of life. A stable environment allows for the repetition of lessons in unchanging circumstances, whereby sound habits are more readily acquired and fortified. This regularity in the home nurtures a resistance to the spirit and culture of liberty predominant today. A lack of familiar routine undermines the formation of children and easily disposes to an undisciplined quest for novelty and distraction with many failings in the fulfilment of duty.

An established routine (not without occasional interruptions) is fundamental in developing the virtues of constancy and perseverance – qualities greatly lacking in modern youths. This spirit of liberty undermines marriage, the foundation of family life, professionalism, which is the means of man’s material support of his family, and, in general, charitable relations with our neighbour, which are fundamental in the order of society.

Since secular society can only promise the vain pursuit of personal satisfaction with its selfish neglect of God and therefore true charity to neighbour, modern man runs towards increasing unhappiness and anxiety in his materialist pursuits. The Christian family nurtures men of a different ilk in stark contrast to the dissatisfaction of selfish secularism. This is seen in that prevailing joy and peace manifest in those who generously deny themselves for God and for the good of their neighbour (for that same love of God). It is in God, our perfect and unending happiness, that we find peace. Our reconciliation with God, our subordination of our will to God’s Will, is the quintessential order that engenders peace.

The secular habit of ignoring God breeds discontent and a frantic life of chasing after passing joys that are soon lost, leaving a sense of emptiness that longs for an unfulfilled satisfaction. A vicious cycle of frustration is the lot of those who neither know God nor seek to possess Him. Yet, do we not often balk at the application of basic principles and practices of the faith? Have we too fallen sway to superfluous preoccupations, of being “busy” about many things and not directed to our duty to seek what is best and even necessary? Do we find that we too are not happy and lack that dreamed of peace and serenity?

Fr. M. Egan, S.J., quotes St. Catherine of Genoa in his little book, *The House of Peace*, concerning this question:

*...the foundation of happiness is peace of soul, the absence of discord and struggle within our own wills. There is unhappiness in a soul when it is in rebellion against the external surroundings. But no pain or want, nothing that we suffer from men or things, no anguish of body or of soul, can make us unhappy if there is peace in our wills. ...holy souls, [have] ...perfect peace; for they desire with all the intensity of their being one thing and one thing only, the perfect fulfilment of the will of God.*

It is in this perfect fulfilment of God’s Will that man shares in God’s perfect happiness. We struggle to trust God and to align our wills with His in pursuit of supernatural happiness. Because we must forsake many present and natural pleasures (so attractive to our senses) to obtain what is perceived as only a future happiness of heaven, we are fearful of the effort. Often we greedily satisfy our appetites with a “little” (or much) indulgence in self-seeking, which is then regretted, causing anxiety for our failure to conform to God’s Will. However, by God’s grace and the consequent peace of conformity, we presently enjoy that longed-for happiness of heaven; albeit, in a very limited manner. The testimony of the saints makes clear this truth: where are the sad saints? There are none!

Family life is the occupation of tending to children (quite possibly *many* children) and this demands parents’ preoccupation with the particular needs and requests of each child at any given time. Family life *is* demanding, *is* busy, even hectic at times, and can certainly cause a certain discord. But, does not much of the discord we suffer in the difficulties of child rearing result from the fact that we are not resigned to the nature of the responsibilities of procreation and education?

It would be naïve of us to pretend that there are no difficulties in meeting the grave responsibilities of parenthood and hiding from this reality will not bring us peace. Peace is found in accepting the nature of family life and its duties with a spirit of faith in God’s wise plan, confidence in His supernatural assistance and a profound desire to love Him in fidelity to the duties of Holy Matrimony and parenthood, which are honourable acts of self-sacrifice!

The Cross of Christ rejects a naiveté that would hide from parents their personal and grave obligation to tend primarily and essentially to the duties of home and family. The attraction to run hither and thither, preoccupied with so many (even worthy) projects, risks a serious failing in familial discipline, stability and peace. Holy Matrimony is that pledge made by young men and ladies to devote their lives to the demands of mutual cooperation in establishing Christian homes conformed to the ideal of the Holy Family. There is no other “business” so important than personally attending to their family and only after this duty is earnestly and practically attended to, may the needs of other individuals, families or even society at large, be served.

The Mother of God perfectly exemplifies this ideal. We see in Our Lady no other aspiration than to love God in conformity to His Will according to her role as the Mother of God. Mary’s nobility and daring in the exactitude of her diligence is motivated by her perfect submission to grace whereby she could do all things simply in the home of the Holy Family.

*Simplicity* is the hallmark of this purest and iconic notion of Motherhood and Family. Perhaps we have ignored this simple lesson in child-rearing and for this reason so many problems have arisen in so many traditional Catholic families. Despite the abundant graces and access to sound instruction, we witness a rarity of strong and exemplary families and of religious and priestly vocations. Stability, confidence, generosity and perseverance in the accomplishment of arduous tasks are qualities becoming ever rarer in modern youth. If the individual citizen lacks these qualities of Christian generosity, society in turn will be adversely affected with the dissolving of the very social virtues that harmoniously unites men in society.

Hence, we have become accustomed to the bad example of many unhappy marriages (even the separation of spouses), of the personal inability to hold to a stable career or profession, or of the reluctance to discern (or persevere) in religious or priestly vocations.

We may be tempted to complain that the Holy Family was *perfect* because its members were so unique: *Saint* Joseph, the *Immaculate Conception*, and the Incarnate *Son of God*. However, rather than simply excuse our shortcomings, we must admit the fact that we are supposed to live *with* God and His saints. We too are meant to be members, perfect members, of this Holy Family. In fact, we are incorporated into this Holy Family with sanctifying grace, which makes us members of Christ's Mystical Body, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and all the Saints!

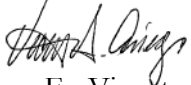
If we are not more readily influenced by this divine and holy company it is because we do not allow them to influence us in our personal and familial lives as they are able. May God help us to live generously in striving to perfect conformity to His Will! Let us also appeal to the Maternal care of the Blessed Virgin and the universal protection of St. Joseph to watch over us and to guide us to a disciplined, stable and peaceful confidence in God's grace to overcome all difficulties and to accomplish our duties of state in our homes and families. With such exalted members truly incorporated in our families, we too may live *like* the Holy Family.

Not forgetting the Suffering members of the Mystical Body of Christ, we have enclosed a card for you to include the names of departed family and friends you wish to have remembered at the daily Masses at the Seminary throughout November. Be assured that the Poor Souls will assist us by their intercession in the eternal glory they have merited to be forever true members of God's family.

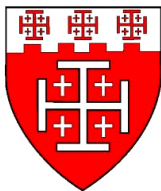
Asking your continued prayers, acts of virtue and sacrifices for the Crusade for Vocations, I thank you for your spiritual generosity in support of this Crusade. Also, thank you for your material support of the Seminary that we so greatly depend upon for the training of the young men God's grace sends to Holy Cross Seminary. As we plan some necessary and costly projects for the summer, I kindly ask your generosity so that the few weeks of the summer holiday may be optimally productive. We will have no electrical power for a few days as a new switchboard is to be installed in February, which will cost the Seminary over \$75,000!

Be assured of God's blessings and the favour of Our Lady, who greatly desires that more young men become true Christs, perfect images of Her Divine Son. May God bless you and Our Lady Immaculate watch over you.

In Christ the King,



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



*O Lord, Grant us many, holy  
Religious and Priestly  
Vocations!*

#### **Announcements:**

- **Holy Cross Seminary can email an electronic subscription of the Seminary Newsletter** for all who prefer. If you wish to receive the Seminary Newsletter via email (usually in colour!), please send your request to: [website@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:website@holycrossseminary.com) Please inform us if you wish to continue receiving the printed copy.
- **Ignatian Retreat for 2014** (you may register at [retreats@holycrossseminary.com](mailto:retreats@holycrossseminary.com) or by post at the addresses listed above):
  - **Men's Ignatian Retreat:** 6-11 January 2014
  - **Ladies' 2014 Ignatian Retreat: THERE ARE NO MORE VACANCIES**
- **Vocations Crusade ~ 8 September to 8 December:** Please pray, practice greater virtue and offer sacrifices for the Crusade for Vocations – may God send us many, holy vocations.
- **Holy Cross Seminary is closing its Westpac bank accounts** and we ask you to please arrange for direct deposits to be made to one of our two accounts at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 258 Auburn Street, Goulburn, NSW 2580, BSB#: 062545, (Swift: CTBAU2S):

Holy Cross Seminary	Holy Cross Seminary Building Fund
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