

CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS

Spiritual Bouquet

The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:37-38).

- Holy Mass _____
- Holy Communion _____
- Spiritual Communion _____
- Visits to the Blessed Sacrament _____
- Mental Prayer _____
- Holy Rosary _____
- Stations of the Cross _____
- Spiritual Reading _____
- Sacrifices _____
- Corporal Works of Mercy _____
- Visit the Infirm _____
- Instruct the Ignorant _____
- Correct the Wayward _____
- Self-denial with food and snacks _____
- Other prayers and good works _____

For the Week/Month of: _____

O Lord, grant us priests!
O Lord, grant us holy priests!
O Lord, grant us many holy priests!

Crusade for Vocations information available at: <www.holycrossseminary.com>



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

With our little Crusade for Vocations in progress, I wish to thank all who have given their support to this campaign by their good works, sacrifices and prayers. I especially want to thank the priests in the various Pories and Mass Centres, who have zealously encouraged the faithful to keep pressing forward in their generosity, imploring God for many holy vocations in word and by their good example. When priest and faithful take seriously the Christian life, an abundance of vocations give testimony to their generous fidelity.

On the contrary, when parents, teachers, civil leaders and especially priests fail to live the integral austerity of the Catholic life, society as a whole wanes in zeal and even in the minimal fulfilment of Christian duty. Most especially, the youth look elsewhere than the loving service of God as the principle of life and true source of happiness. Good and fervent examples of Catholic zeal compel the youth to seek that same peace, honour and happiness reflected in fidelity to Christ's law, counsel and love.

A lack of fidelity results in tepidity, laxity and discouragement. The soul loses the drive to practice virtue earnestly, to deny self and to pursue the love of God – even to the point of forsaking any effort to secure eternal life, which becomes seemingly too difficult and quite possibly non-existent. The “believer” does not forsake heaven, but often heaven has been fancied as little more than an after life “retirement resort” where people go if they “love” God, to take a well deserved rest. Of course, this is terribly wrong.

The Beatific Vision is nothing other than the intimate contemplation of God face to face, to know Him as He knows Himself, in all His perfection and goodness. This knowledge attracts and confirms the will's desire to cling to God as its perfect happiness, filled with the joy of divine love.

By faith we already possess a certain knowledge of God that draws us to Him. However, without continued efforts to grow in knowledge and to sustain the will in pursuit of Godliness and God Himself, tepidity ensues and laxity dominates. The relish for things divine fades as the mind and heart pursue other interests, as dictated by the world, the flesh and the devil. The soul no longer simply “forgets” God, but even begins to despise Him by the negligence of due respect to the sacred and the response to God's grace.

We may well consider the Poor Souls who so painfully know this truth. They long to be united with their Love, but, knowing their unworthiness, they seek the dreadful and painful expiation of their sins, wilfully accepting this merciful means of obtaining their only happiness – to purely adore the Most Holy Trinity, forever. No, their “retirement” is not a selfish rest in comfort, but a rest in the eternal present, in the company of God. What many good works, great penances and ardent prayers would be undertaken were these souls given

the opportunity to return to this life? Now, separated from this life and having a “glimpse” of God at their Judgement, the Poor Souls understand that they may have more perfectly given glory to God had they striven to be purified from all disorder and stain of sin in this life.

Reflection upon this truth should motivate us to undertake a life of adoration – considered as austere to most because of the ordering of *all* things to God. Sacrificing for a goal... this is not uncommon: the law student who labours long through the night and weekends to learn the argumentation necessary to be proficient in the field of law, the businessman who deprives himself of rest and recreation so as to make the sale that gains him great profits, the athlete who refrains from food, drink and late nights as he trains for the gold. What is uncommon, what is seen as “foolishness” is to spend oneself for the eternal glory of heaven: *And every one that striveth for the mastery, refraineth himself from all things: and they indeed that they may receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible one* (I Cor 9:25).

Consequently, as Catholics, *real* Christians, when we fail to live Catholicism, because it *is* austere, we fail to recruit converts, we fail to sanctify our homes, we fail to inspire our youth to live profoundly the Christian life. Hence, we lack thoroughly Christian homes, Christian society and priestly and religious vocations. The “guilt” lies in we who profess the faith but do not entirely and generously live the faith. Consider the words of Ed Willock in a 1948 article entitled *Holiness for Men (Fatherhood and the Family*, volume 3, Angelus Press) as he astutely describes the languor of our youth in the Faith:

From us they want some evidence of the Ideal, an ideal which when acquired will give them a joy, a stimulation and a virility that they are seeking now in the juke boxes, beer and sports. Stated in the fewest possible words the thing they seek, whether they know it or not, is an evidence of Catholicism lived. Catholicism lived is austere and it is catholic, and it is the only convincing testimony that Catholicism is directed to the Ideal. (p. 10)

Not uncommon is the appearance of weariness and unhappiness among Traditional Catholics. Have we become, as a whole, much like the Israelites wandering in the desert, lamenting the forsaken onions of Egypt, the comfort of an easy religion, nearby Masses and not being ridiculed for striving for holiness? “We have made so many sacrifices by being Traditional Catholics, we drive so far to get to Mass, we don’t eat meat on Fridays, we don’t watch all the best movies, we dress in fashions like the 1950’s, and we are miserable while the world is having a grand time, enjoying life...”

No wonder so many of our youth forsake the faith and give in to the call of the world, the flesh and the devil. Without realizing it, we may be the “poster children” of the world, proving our poverty, sadness and even bitterness in being deprived the joys of this life. If God and His religion were all that they are cracked up to be... then why are we not happy? The answer is because we have not uncompromisingly sought Him. Somehow, we have attempted in our fidelity to Catholicism to retain a certain fondness of the world. It shows in the excitement we have for things other than godly or religious and the tediousness with which we submissively apply ourselves to the Faith.

Do we Traditional Catholics reflect well a convincing conviction that God is everything and that loving Him is our greatest joy? If not, it is no wonder we fail to attract the youth to risk all the joys of the world to discover this holiness which fills life with a joy unsurpassed, a holiness of life purchased by forsaking the false charms of the world, and more importantly, discovering a noble peace and possession of God. Do we sacrifice all for this absolute treasure? What do we bequeath to our children?

The Seminary recently hosted the Society Sisters from Rockdale for their annual retreat, while the Brothers assigned at the Seminary were away for their annual retreat. After the week of prayer and recollection, these souls consecrated to Our Lord by the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, returned to their duties, we trust, with greater conviction to adore God more perfectly by giving themselves to a more recollected fulfilment of their daily duties.

The humility of submitting oneself to a superior without reserve can be one of the most difficult trials in life. However, understanding that this submission is to God, with what great joy must this realisation fill the soul, understanding that in every duty faithfully carried out, the religious has obeyed God, giving Him glory in an act of religion, no matter how mundane or minute the deed may have been?

Not only the religious, but all men are called to a life of greater religious fervour – to serve God with zeal simply for His glory and to discover in this selflessness the joy of knowing and loving God as He deserves. Let us ask for the increase of our knowledge and love of God, whereby we hope to live more perfectly according to deeply rooted convictions that will draw us more willingly to the greater austerity of living Christ, Christ crucified, whereby we may serve God more perfectly, lest we find ourselves enduring great sorrows in the expiatory fires of Purgatory for our lack of zeal, or, alas, suffering forever in the fires of Hell.

My dear friends, may we all make every effort to better align our lives to Christ’s and purify our intentions in all that we say, do and think... for God. Please continue in your good works, sacrifices and prayers pledged, or planned, for the Crusade for Vocations. May God grant us many holy priests and religious – that we and many others may give Him greater glory.

Thank you for your continual support, both spiritual and material. Your generosity has allowed us to order the windows needed for the Chapel and Refectory – although we are yet short \$6,500.00 of our goal. We trust that Divine Providence will help us meet this goal and yet another important matter: the purchase of additional water use. We are being obliged by the Office of Water to acquire additional licensing for the Seminary’s water usage, having been designated an “industrial” occupant of the property. The prospective licenses will cost as much as \$15,000.00 to ensure that the Seminary will have sufficient water rights. Thank you for any help you can give us in this crucial plight.

You and your good intentions are remembered in our Rosaries, offered during the daily exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the month of October dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. May Our Lady inspire us with greater devotion to living the mysteries of Our Lord’s life presented to us in the Holy Rosary. God bless you and the Crusade for Vocations.

In Christ the King,



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

Ignatian Retreats (More information available at: <retreats@holycrossseminary.com>):
Men’s Retreat – 3 to 8 January 2011
Ladies’ Retreat – 24 to 29 January 2011

Maths and Science Tutor Needed for the 2011 Academic Year: Men with experience in post-secondary level Mathematics and Science, who are interested in a tutoring position at the Pre-Seminary may submit their resume and letters of recommendation to the attention of Rev. Fr. Vicente A. Griego, Rector of Holy Cross Seminary. Job description: Tutor Pre-Seminarians preparing for Cambridge International Examinations (IGCSE and AS Level) in Mathematics and Science; four periods of instruction each day, Monday through Friday; class size varies between three to five; salaried position; housing facilities available on Seminary grounds if desired.