



Southern Sentinel

REGNAVIT A LIGNO DEUS

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

The Priestly Society of St. Pius X

P. O. Box 417 Goulburn, NSW 2580

3436 Braidwood Road, Lake Bathurst

Phone (02) 48 29 51 77 † Fax (02) 48 29 51 73

website@holycrossseminary.com † www.holycrossseminary.com



29 September 2013

No. 109

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The Crusade for Vocations has begun! The Seminary has been receiving pledges for the spiritual bouquet to be presented to Our Lady at the end of the Crusade on December 8th. May Heaven bless this humble appeal in honour of Our Lady, by whose intercession we ask abundant graces to inspire young men and ladies to generously pursue God's Will as they discern their state of life.

The Seminary has been occupied with the annual retreats of the Brothers of the Society and the Sisters of the Society over the recent two weeks of Seminary "holiday". On the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, I happily received



the renewal of the vows of Bro. Vincent Mary, who is assigned at St. Anthony's Priory in Wanganui, New Zealand. The Sisters were also in attendance, celebrating the joy of this generous act of consecrating self totally to the pursuit of perfection – for the glory of God. May God bless the Brothers and Sisters in their tremendous act of self-denial to perfectly serve God!

Also, as we welcomed the arrival of Fr. Thomas Asher to Holy Cross Seminary, he spent the days of the "holiday" revising his classes, which are a lightening of the burden of classes (and other responsibilities) for the professors at Holy Cross. Welcome, Fr. Asher! The work of training young men for the Priesthood and the Religious life, as well as the duty of discerning one's state in life, are serious matters – please pray for both the teachers and the disciples!

Fr. Robert MacPherson, the Brothers of Holy Cross and Bro. Vincent from Wanganui

With the grace of God, prudent and serious discernment orient one to elect a state in life in conformity with Providence. God's wisdom and grace rightly orders us to specific courses in this life. The state of life chosen must in all cases be set upon according to the ideal of Christ, Who generously spent Himself for the good of others – sinful men. This ideal of the Christian life, self-sacrifice for the glory of God and the good of neighbour, is the basis of the Religious and Priestly vocations. Likewise, it is the very foundation of true Catholic family life. God calls – it is for the generosity of souls to respond.

There is no easy course in this life if we will be true to God. Modern maxims propose the easiest course, which promises comfort and mere material happiness. But there can be no real happiness without sacrifice, which establishes order in our private and public lives; that is, ordering us to eternal and perfect joy in heaven. For this reason Christ came to re-establish order by His Sacrifice on the Cross – the perfect, nay, the *only*, way to re-orient fallen man to his true end.

Man must adhere entirely to the way of Christ, in order to be happy in this life and in the next. Hence, this spirit must govern our discernment in choosing a state in life, as well as living accordingly in the state of life chosen.

Whether one discerns a religious or priestly vocation, or sees clearly that he is not called and gives himself to the sacrificial life incumbent upon the married, the spirit of sacrifice must be the disposition in life whereby one strives to live a truly Christian life in supernatural charity. Otherwise, a careless choice may be made in a state of life. And further, if lacking this necessary spirit of sacrifice, one will find oneself frustrated and faced with temptations to flee the difficulties of life in search of “greener pastures” in new circumstances. Such is the irresponsible lifestyle so common today with the pernicious results of birth-control, divorce, infidelity to the Religious Life and abandonment of the Priestly vocation!

Running away from our problems or difficulties does not make life easier or more comfortable. Reflection upon our end and consideration of the Christian ideal are primal in making that choice binding for life – in Matrimony, Religion or the Priesthood; but it also helps us remain faithful. Sacrifice nurtures responsibility. Our Lord's example and teaching *must* govern our every thought, word and action, lest we recklessly choose a dishonourable course in life or dishonourably abandon our duties in life.

Choosing or living faithfully one's state in life cannot be accomplished without God's wisdom and grace. Our sanctification is the work of God. We must zealously apply ourselves to combat the evil tendencies of our wounded nature, which, on the one hand, incline us to an exaggerated estimation of our abilities or, on the other, exaggerate our inability. We tend to extremes: we either vainly assume a state in life without dependence upon God to overcome the difficulties, or we simply neglect (or refuse) the cross without asking God's beneficent assistance.

Imprudently, we may neglect God and His divine help. The magnificent example of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a great encouragement. Our Lady's fidelity warranted manifold benefits for mankind by her giving us the Christ, by her example, by her merits, by her pre-eminent intercession. Her “omnipotent supplication”, because of her privileged

perfection (conceived, born and having lived immaculately), she, without the stain of sin and its consequences, gave herself perfectly in conformity to God's Will – *fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*. Thus, she possessed the greatest happiness in this life and forever in heaven. Her perfect union with God filled her with the most profound peace even in the midst of the greatest sufferings or difficulties.

The consequent difficulties of perfect fidelity to God served to more greatly perfect her total gift of self in supernatural love despite the sufferings of this life. Even facing the bitterest sufferings of witnessing her Divine Son's Passion and Death, the ingratitude of sinful men to God, or even the sinful weakness of believers, Our Lady's perfect joy was always anchored securely in this union of love with God.

Desirous of this same joy for the glory of God, we humbly make our pledges for the Crusade for Vocations, so that many will choose wisely their state in life. Hence, we see the importance of seeking God's grace and wisdom to discern one's state in life and live it. God has ordained that we live as His supernatural children, sharing in His life and capable of supernatural acts; hence, we cannot simply live a natural life. Christ and His priests are the source from which we receive the supernatural means to accomplish this work of the supernatural.

We readily grasp the foolishness of setting out on such a course of action which is beyond our ability without the necessary and promised divine help from Our Loving God. The Crusade for Vocations is meant to rally all to faithfully implore God to draw many young men and ladies in the world to give serious and prayerful consideration of their last end in discerning how they will serve God in the short course of this life. Serious consideration will only direct young men and ladies to conformity to God's Will: some will marry and establish truly Catholic families, others will consecrate themselves to the Religious Life and some will recognise that call of Christ to share in His Priesthood and Victimhood, dispensing the graces of Christ for the sanctification of all states in life for the glory of God!

Many are called to serve in Our Lord's Priesthood... but few there are who respond to fulfil perfectly, God's Will. The same may be said of religious, consecrated entirely to the pursuit of perfection according to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, or of men and women, who vow themselves to a life of sacrifice in Holy Matrimony. In these states of life, men are meant to live as veritable saints, whereby they may give God glory, save their souls and lead others to this same giving of glory to God, finding true happiness.

Then, is it not our Christian duty to pray for many, holy vocations? This duty faithfully




The Society Sisters adoring the Blessed Sacrament at the close of their annual Retreat

and generously fulfilled will, as it were, unleash God's grace through the Sacraments, and the preaching and exemplification of Christ among the members of the Clergy and Religious, which are the great encouragement and support of the faithful in the world to continue in their heroic efforts to serve God. The faithfuls' prayers for vocations, religious and clerical, are a duty of the members of the Mystical Body of Christ to mutually edify our neighbour. This is that honoured visible characteristic of the True Church – *holiness*, seen in the mutual supernatural charity animating the lives of the children of God.

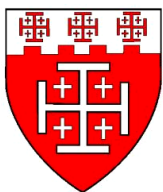
Please be generous, dear friends and benefactors, in supporting our Crusade for Vocations and encourage others to join in this worthy effort in striving for the glory of God. If only each of us made some new effort, no matter how small it may be, according to the three-fold means recommended for our Crusade; namely: 1) striving to greater fidelity and devotion in our daily prayers, 2) determination to practice a particular virtue each day and 3) the offering of some acts of penance during the course of the Crusade, we are assured God's abundant blessings. These blessings will not only presently fortify us in our spiritual lives, but will merit many more graces to come from the more numerous vocations that will rise for this divine work of grace responding to your humble and generous plea.

Thanking you in advance for your spiritual generosity in this Crusade, I also thank you for the material help with which you have been so regular and which we so gratefully depend upon in order to continue training the young men God's grace sends to Holy Cross Seminary. As we plan for numerous summer projects that beckon for attention and are necessary to complete, I kindly ask your help so that the short weeks of summer, which afford little time to accomplish these projects, may be optimally productive. 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 Please inform us if you wish to continue receiving the printed copy.
- **Ignatian Retreat for 2014** (you may register at 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: CTBAAU2S):

Holy Cross Seminary	Holy Cross Seminary Building Fund
Account#: 10028417	Account#: 06 2545 10028425