

Dear Friend,

Never once have I regretted for a second to be a priest of the Blessed Lord. On the contrary, every day of my life, even in difficult times, my calling to serve the altar of the Most High, and through it my neighbor, has filled me with deep joy. What exciting challenges, what ever new responsibilities, but also, in spite of all human frailty, what deep satisfaction and peace does the priesthood bring to a man called to follow Christ the King, Sovereign Priest!

To show you how you can discover a similar vocation for your own life, this brochure invites you to share some moments of the training and work of the seminarians, oblates and priests of the Institute of Christ the King.

Every priest is a "second Christ" and agrees to mould his own existence after the example of the One Sovereign Priest of the New Covenant, Jesus Christ. The Institute of Christ the King wants to serve this Eternal Priesthood in a special way, by dedicating its entire effort to the mediation between God and men, between the Divine and the human, between Grace and nature, in every aspect of human existence, through the living tradition of Catholic Liturgy and lifestyle.

Like Our Lord, the priest is in the first place a servant of the Supreme Sacrifice and he should be "simul sacerdos et hostia," at the same time priest and victim for the sake of the salvation of souls. For this reason, in the Institute, we want to give our entire existence to our Eternal High Priest by submitting everything to his Kingdom. This total dedication to Christ the King begins in our formation time, where we learn to strive for an ever greater charity, generosity, and docility in the service of the Lord. If Grace has given you a brave and loving heart for God and souls, we have an invitation for you: "Come and see!"



Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz
Vicar General
Provincial Superior for the United States



Our Superiors ordained by two consecutive Popes

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

AMERICAN PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS

Monsignor R. Michael Schmitz
Vicar General

Provincial Superior for the United States

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SERVE THE SOVEREIGN PRIEST



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

A PRIEST FOREVER



Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, current Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, ordains priests for the Institute in the seminary chapel.



Our Seminary
near Florence, Italy

THE INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest is a society of apostolic life whose goal is the **honor of God and the sanctification of priests** in the service of the Church and souls. Its specific aim is missionary: to spread and defend the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ in all the spheres of human life – spiritual, cultural and social. Our work is carried out under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception, to Whom the Institute is consecrated.

The Institute was founded in 1990 by Monsignor Gilles Wach and Reverend Canon Philippe Mora in Gabon, Africa, where we still have missions. Today, the motherhouse and international seminary of the Institute is located in Gricigliano, near Florence, Italy. In 2008 the Holy See granted to the Institute the status of society of apostolic life of Pontifical Right in canonical form.

Recognizing the importance of a deep harmony between faith, liturgy, and life, and the importance of beauty in attracting the human senses to the things above, an integral part of the Institute's charism is the use of the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite according to the Liturgical books of 1962 for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and sacraments.

Great care for a solemn liturgy, complete fidelity to the doctrine of the Church and to the Holy Father, and awareness of the central role of Grace, especially Charity – these are essential elements of the Institute's spirituality, which is drawn from its three co-patrons, St. Benedict, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Francis de Sales. Our motto, taken from St. Paul, is "Live the truth in charity."

The Institute operates in more than 50 places in over 10 countries, where our priests focus on the care of souls in many different ways.

To assist our priests in their apostolic work, the Institute also has clerical oblates. In 2004, a community of religious sisters was officially established to aid the priests in their mission through prayer and apostolic work.

A FORMATION FOR THE SERVICE OF THE SOVEREIGN PRIEST JESUS CHRIST

The well-rounded formation which candidates to the Institute of Christ the King receive has at its base a sound spirituality, with a prayer life focused on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Divine Office. Intellectual training is founded on a solid knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and of the Doctrine of the Church, according to the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Daily manual work is part of the seminarian's formation and helps achieve a harmony between nature and grace. During the pre-seminary program in one of the apostolates, candidates become familiar with the charism of the Institute and acquire a starting knowledge of French and Latin. Studies at the International Seminary begin with one year of spirituality, prior to the courses in philosophy and theology. The total number of years of formation before ordination varies between seven and nine, depending on previous schooling.



LITURGY AND PRAYER TO HONOR GOD

Already in our pre-seminary program the candidates are introduced to the liturgical spirituality of the Institute of Christ the King, continued to its fullness in our International Seminary near Florence, Italy.



WORK FOR A UNION OF NATURE & GRACE

Our candidates learn to apply all their practical skills to foster a culture that recognizes the Kingship of Christ.



We follow
St. Benedict:
"Ora et labora –
Pray and work!"

WISDOM OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

Based on the doctrine of the Church, the young man receives a rigorous intellectual training by renowned philosophers, theologians, canonists and historians.



PRIESTS AND OBLATES: DISCIPLES OF CHRIST THE KING

The priests and oblates of the Institute of Christ the King strive to make the Divine Kingdom of Our Blessed Lord present in all realms of the Church and society. Centered on a solemn liturgy and the sacramental and devotional life of the Church, our apostolic activities attract many souls to the Lord.

YOUNG AND TRADITIONAL



Our priests help young people to discover the joy of a genuine Catholic lifestyle.

ALL TALENTS FOR CHRIST THE KING



Our oblates dedicate their many talents to the service of the kingdom of Christ in a variety of functions.

VERITATEM FACIENTES IN CARITATE · LIVE THE TRUTH IN CHARITY