



April 2006

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

Very soon the most poignant days of the liturgical year will be upon us, when we will relive that moment in history which changed the universe forever. **Our Lord Jesus Christ obtained the Redemption of each one of us through unspeakable suffering of both Body and Soul.** Being God, He could have obtained the Redemption of man through any other means, but He chose to become Man incarnate so that He might Suffer, thus uniting Himself with our poor human nature, out of Infinite Love.

Thus, in these last days of Lent, during Passion Week and the most holy days leading to Easter Sunday, we are called to meditate upon Our Lord's Passion and enter into it with our hearts and minds, to seek to fathom what it is Christ went through for Love of each one of us, and to unite our own sufferings, uncertainties, and desolation to His Suffering and Death. **Let us learn to surrender ourselves to Him in total Trust, knowing that He will never abandon us, and that He will bring us to the Light of the Resurrection if we but trust.** Thus Faith, Hope and Charity will bring us ever closer to Our Lord, in His Sacred Heart, until eventually we pass through those gates of Heaven, which He opened to us through His Life, Death, and Resurrection.



We are happy to say that this year we will be offering the Holy Triduum for the first time at our apostolate in Chicago. Our priory chapel being too small, and our church building still in the process of restoration, we are transforming part of the basement of the priory into a very attractive chapel, complete with a beautiful altar and altar rails provided to us by a generous donor. At this writing, the workers are finalizing this work of transformation. Please consult our website at www.institute-christ-king.org for the Holy Week schedule.

Activities continue as always at our other apostolates in the United States. **In Oakland, Father Michael Wiener and a large group of our faithful participated in the "Walk for Life West Coast,"** which took place in San Francisco on January 21st. We are heartened in that this event drew more than double the number that attended last year's walk – nearing 20,000 – and are pleased that many of our faithful were able to be counted among those defending unborn life.



In Green Bay our faithful organized and sponsored a **Benefit Concert** to help the African missions of the **Institute of Christ the King**. The concert – which took place on February 10th and featured excellent musicians among whom our own faithful Nadi Qamar and members of his family – raised more than \$7,000. These funds will be used to build a school in Mayumba, where Father Jean-Marie Moreau, prior of our Green Bay apostolate, served for over a decade, followed by Father Andreas Hellmann, previously the rector of St. Joseph's in Green Bay.

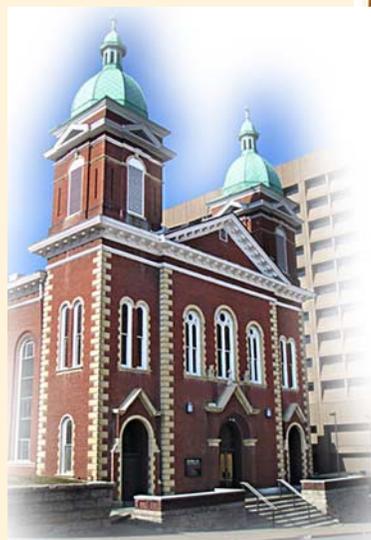


Bishop Robert Hermann celebrates Mass for the Forty Hour Devotion.

At St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis it was possible to celebrate the first **Forty Hours Devotion** in 40 years. This venerable tradition of reparation and adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament had not been conducted in the Archdiocese for many years, so it was with great joy that both diocesan and Institute clergy collaborated to bring this traditional event about, with the encouragement of His Grace Archbishop Raymond Burke. The Forty Hours Devotion began on Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 26th, with a Solemn High Mass and procession with the Blessed Sacrament and closed on Tuesday evening with a Pontifical High Mass offered by the Most Rev. Robert J. Hermann, Vicar General and Auxiliary Bishop, followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Many thanks to the

priests and the many volunteers and friends who made this event such a success for the consolation of the Most Sacred Heart.

Another first, of a more material – but very necessary – nature, was the inauguration of our **Capital Campaign for the restoration of Old St. Patrick's Church of our Oratory in Kansas City, Missouri**. A substantial sum must be raised in order to restore this historical building, the first Catholic parish church in the city, built in 1874. On Sunday, March 12th, we held a Town Hall meeting in which the Chancellor of the Diocese and I presented the project of restoration to the faithful. Many thanks to those who are involved in this fund raising effort and all those who do so much to promote and support the Latin Mass in Kansas City.



Volunteer helping at Old St. Patrick's.



First Saturday devotions during our Lenten Retreat Day in Wausau.

This Lenten Season I was very happy and gratified to see many of you again, not only in Kansas City, but also at the Lenten Retreat Days which I preached in Wausau and Rockford. **The last Lenten Retreat Day will be at our priory in Chicago, on April 8th, the Saturday preceding Palm Sunday and Holy Week, and we ask those who are interested in coming to contact our office at 773-363-7409.**

Lastly, but in no way the least, I would like to give news about our Father Vittorio Mazzucchelli and to thank you most deeply – on behalf of Monsignor Gilles Wach, Father Philippe Mora, and all members of the Institute of Christ the King – for your prayers for his recovery. Your prayers, joined to that of our faithful and friends around the world, have brought about what the doctors repeatedly and admiringly call a “miracle.” As you will have read with our last newsletter, “Don Vittorio” was in a terrible car accident, which left him in a state of coma, in extremely critical condition. After more than one month, Father Mazzucchelli awoke from his coma the day following the close of a

novena which was said for his recovery to the Servant of God, Father Samuel Mazzucchelli, a relative of Father’s who labored as a missionary in the United States in the 19th century. We are deeply grateful to Almighty God for having spared Father Mazzucchelli to us and are happy to say that he is now completely conscious, reacting to questions and activities around him. He can eat and move, attempts to speak, despite the impediment of the respirator, and communicates in writing. He can finally now make the sign of the cross, and smiles often. Deo gratias! But we ask you to continue praying for him, as the road to full recovery will be very long and arduous.



In his sufferings, no doubt, he is uniting himself to the Sufferings of Our Lord, which we recall in the next few days. All true joy, in suffering and in happiness, comes from the Death and Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord. **May these final days of Lent and Holy Week, and the joyous season of Eastertide be a time of abundant graces for you and all your dear ones.** This is my own personal prayer for you, joined to that of all members of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

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

PS: Thank you very much for making the needs of our endeavors in the United States and our American Seminarians an object of your generous Lenten and Easter donations.



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE SEAL OF REDEMPTION

Our world is full of hatred, darkness, and difficulty. As the Roman Missal mentions, this world is “becoming cold.” We can observe the shadow of the Evil One in our society. There can be no doubt that this world is in need of Redemption. No human effort alone can bring peace, and no human undertaking can be victorious over death and the devil, so cruelly present nowadays.

“Christus surrexit vere!” – “Christ is truly risen!” This fact seems to contradict all of the above. How can we celebrate the joy of Easter if we know that the black wings of evil cast deep shadows on our existence? How can we be happy if we experience the consequences of original sin in our own lives through human weakness, failure, illness, and continuous struggle? What impact has the Resurrection on the world?

“Ave, O Crux, spes unica!” – “Hail, O Cross, our only hope!” In fact, the joy of the Resurrection can be deep and sincere because it is built on the sacrifice of Redemption, whose altar is the Cross and whose Victim and Priest is Our Blessed Lord Himself. By restoring the plan of God for Creation by becoming the Victim for our sins, He has stopped the power that death and the devil can have over those who believe. Washed in the Blood of the Lamb, the children of God may still suffer some of the consequences of the former disorder, but they know that nothing can separate them from the love of God.

“Deus caritas est” – “God is Love,” and because He loves each one of us, He has become Man. He has shared the darkness of our existence unto death, and dying on the Cross, He has crushed the evil forces in a victory of Divine Light. His love is also the reason why the sacrifice of Redemption is completed by the triumph of the Resurrection. In order for us to participate in the fullness of Redemption, Jesus not only invites us to offer up our own crosses and sacrifices together with His own supreme Sacrifice, but He also immerses us in the joy of a new life present in His Resurrection. All moments of true happiness are already a taste of the final glory revealed to us on Easter morning. The love of God is stronger than the forces of this world.

This way, the Resurrection of the Lord becomes for us the Seal of Redemption. This seal not only confirms with a historical fact that the Blessed Lord is stronger than death, but also molds our lives unto His, giving to us the firm hope that everything we do and suffer for the Lord has a deep meaning and collaborates with the Redemption. We cannot turn away from the world, and we are frequently exposed to its shadows, but we can bring light into the dark by living an existence that links sacrifice and resurrection through the virtue of charity. Because God is Love and has shown this love to us with his Death and Resurrection, we receive the grace to transform the crosses of our existence into instruments of redemption.

Christ is the Victor, and His victory is final. Let the world not deceive us. None of its shadows are impenetrable, and all of its challenges have to recede in front of the strength of the Resurrection. The Christian virtue of Hope is based on this firm conviction, and whoever holds onto this hope is faithful to the Seal of Redemption that we received on that first Easter morning and that we renew triumphantly every year in the solemn liturgy of the Church.

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz