



August 2006

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,



Having focused largely on our Chicago apostolate in our last newsletter, I come back to the subject, as we have had some very significant developments at our national center since then. **On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 23rd, 2006, we had the great joy and satisfaction of receiving from His Eminence, Francis Cardinal George, the official decree of erection of our church in Chicago as the Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.** As a shrine, there are no geographical boundaries to the area served by it, and it functions as a center of special devotion of the faithful in general to Christ as Our King. As far as we know, it is the only ecclesially approved shrine worldwide today where **Holy Mass and all the Sacraments are available entirely in the Traditional Latin Rite.** Sunday Mass at the Shrine is celebrated at 9:30 am, and on weekdays Mass is at 8:00 am.

Another event of moment touching the Institute of Christ the King recently, was the **second official visit of His Grace Archbishop Raymond L. Burke to our St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis, in commemoration of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Oratory.** On this occasion, Sunday, July 16th, His Grace celebrated a beautiful Pontifical High Mass and solemnly installed a relic of St. Prosper at the side altar of Our Lady. St. Prosper of Aquitaine lived in the 5th century and it is to his writings that is attributed the aphorism "*Lex orandi, lex credendi.*" The Pontifical High Mass was also part of the closing day of the national convention of the Latin Liturgy Association, which took place at St. Francis de Sales Oratory that weekend.

One should also make mention of the **Tenth Annual Spring Seminar of the Latin Mass Community of Rockford, conducted on May 26th and 27th, at our St. Mary Oratory in Rockford.** Following the Seminar, participants and faithful celebrated **the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of St. Mary's rector, the much beloved and appreciated Father Brian Bovee.** The occasion was marked by a commemorative luncheon, in which our faithful were able to



Pontifical High Mass of Archbishop Raymond Burke at St. Francis de Sales Oratory



Fr. Brian Bovee's Silver Jubilee of Ordination



express their gratitude to Father Bovee for his untiring and selfless dedication to Our Lord's service. Father also received a special gift of appreciation from the Superior General of the Institute, Monsignor Gilles Wach.

Oratory who kept vigil through the rain and cold that reigned for much of the time. Many women coming to the clinic, encountering with this wave of prayer and sacrifice, had a change of heart deciding to keep their unborn children, Deo gratias.

In Kansas City the faithful continue working diligently at transforming our Old St. Patrick's Oratory into a viable and beautiful building from where the Classical Latin Rite will radiate. Besides helping with fund raising efforts, they do much of the physical work involved. In the meantime, Father Denis Buchholz continues to offer Mass and the Sacraments, as well as several classes, at the hosting church of Our Lady of Sorrows.



Our volunteers in Kansas City

lessons, such as in French, Latin, and even Gregorian Chant, to which children are very receptive. There are also activities that help foster in them a true and generous Christian spirit, and a deepening desire to be attentive to the things of God. Their participation in, and contribution to, the life of our apostolates is very real and significant. Of course, there are the many altar servers who take very seriously and responsibly their role in the liturgy. **Many of our children sing in the several choirs, and in some cases we have choirs made up entirely of children.** At St. Margaret Mary, in Oakland, for example, the Choir of the Angelus glorifies God with angelic voices every other Sunday at Mass, singing the Ordinary of the Mass both in Gregorian chant as well as in polyphonic settings, and ably handling polyphonic motets and other pieces.

Elsewhere, in Green Bay, our faithful participated in a heroic effort carried out in the Diocese. During 40 days, from May 9th through June 18th, faithful from the many churches of the Diocese of Green Bay kept a **twenty-four hour daily prayer vigil in front of a facility that provides abortion.** Our Father Jean-Marie Moreau and Abbé Keith Kerscher joined with the faithful of St. Joseph's



Fr. Jean-Marie Moreau at Pro-Life prayer vigil

As we traverse the Summer months, months full of activity and vibrancy, we are reminded of the children who are part of our apostolates. Any one walking into one of our Masses, will immediately be struck by the number of families present with many children, a great portion of whom are home-schooled.

In all our apostolates we offer regular catechism classes to children and youth, as well as a variety of

Of all the activities in which our children and youth are engaged throughout the year, perhaps the one anticipated with **the greatest expectation is the Summer camp in northern Wisconsin.** Once a year about **forty boys, aged 12 to 18,** spend a few days in the wilderness at grounds generously made available by one of our families. They prepare and build most of the infrastructure themselves: the rudimentary tables, the “dining-room”, the rack for dishes, flag pole, and of course, the camp fire. They sleep in tents and do their own cooking, and engage in many interesting and unique games and exercises throughout the day. **Most importantly, they have a regular schedule of prayer, crowned by Holy Mass, and including the Rosary and opportunities for Confession and vocation discernment.** All are expertly lead and guided by Father Olivier Meney of Wausau, a scout par excellence in the best of French tradition, often joined by Father Jean-Marie Moreau and the Abbé brothers Kevin and Keith Kerscher. This year there will also be some young men coming from France to help him.



Fr. Michael Wiener with the Choir of the Angelus

The camp for boys has proven so popular that this year we will also have a camp for girls, at the same location. The girls, however, will have less of a rough time, lodging in a proper large cabin. Games, skits, and crafts will fill their days, galvanized by the spiritual components of the camp.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the boys camp will already have taken place, from July 24th to the 28th. However, **the girls camp will still be available, from August 8th through the 10th.** For information, please contact Father Meney at 715-842-9995.



St. Michael's Patrol Boys' Camp, 2005

And so we all continue — each in our own God-given role, within His plan and His Divine Providence, drawing from the treasury of graces He makes available through Holy Mother Church, particularly the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacraments, and having recourse to Our Lady and all the saints and angels — to strive toward our final goal . . . Heaven. As always, thank you for your support and your prayers. You and your dear ones are remembered in our own.

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

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

PS: Your support is very much needed and gratefully received.



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

PERFECTION & FULFILLMENT: THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Perfection and fulfillment are two of the goals our human nature tends toward achieving not only when it comes to special goals, but also in daily work and routine. We can never totally obtain perfection or fulfillment, because of our frailty and limited resources, but it seems that we are not content with anything less than the realization of this longing. As a matter of fact, this ambitious tendency in our soul only shows that we are creatures of God in whose being the Highest has established a capacity for the always greater and the always more perfect. In the end, our striving for perfection and fulfillment is nothing else than a proof that our origin is God and that He is also our ultimate goal. “*Homo capax Dei*” – man has the capacity for God. St. Augustine has described our longing for Him in the famous phrase: “Our heart is ever restless until it finds its rest in Thee!”

For our broken nature, perfection is always only a goal to reach, never a possession or a security. In this valley of tears, the fulfillment of a longing will never last and only creates an ever greater desire for more and deeper experiences. Only with the help of God’s Grace, only with the healing of the wound of sin in our being, only with the water of baptism and the actual and habitual graces bestowed on us can we ever hope to live up to the words of the Blessed Lord: “Be perfect, as my Father in Heaven is perfect.” The only lasting fulfillment can come from a life with God, as a child of God and a member of Christ’s mystical and visible Body, Holy Mother Church. Without this supernatural support, our desire for fulfillment will inexorably go astray and we will worship gods that may promise perfection and fulfillment, but only offer pride and ambition. God alone can give what our human soul is created for, God alone can elevate it to its true grandeur, God alone will be able to fill the universal horizon hidden in our soul according to the words of St. Thomas Aquinas: “*Anima est quodammodo omnia*” – the soul in a certain sense is everything!

There is one created being, one extraordinary human that shows the blatant truth of these reflections very clearly to all: Mary, Mother of God, the Immaculate Virgin who was granted a unique bodily assumption into the glory of Heaven. From the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, God made her perfect, pure, immaculate, beautiful, and radiant. Preparing her for the wonderful destiny of becoming the vessel of the Divine Incarnation, the Eternal One preserved her from original sin from the first moment of her life, and gave her the privilege to be and to stay for ever “full of grace,” immune to the consequences of the old stain of sin soiling humanity, and faithful to her holy nature through all trials of her earthly struggles. All perfect, all graceful, all brilliant from her purity and beauty of soul and body, she is the recreation of God’s Grace, the new Eve, the Mother of the God-man Jesus Christ, and, through Him, with Him and in Him, the *co-redemptrix* and *mediatrix* for every one of us and our whole race. She is the beacon of Perfection, bestowed on her for her humility and docility in the Divine plan.

Therefore, and in logical consequence of the gift of supernatural Grace given to her, she is also the first and foremost fulfillment of the destiny of the human race. Because of the perfection she received from above and her total obedience in opening herself to this unique privilege, she could preserve herself immaculate, pure and strong unto the last. What is perfect does not need to change, it will neither waver nor deteriorate, it will not break nor crack in moments of distress and pressure. The Virgin Mother was humble and docile in her submission to the will of God. She did what she was meant to do. She fulfilled her destiny by simply being the handmaid of the Lord. For this reason, the privilege of perfection was never withdrawn and neither her soul nor her body suffered the changes sin has brought into this world. The end drawing near, she entered eternity with the same spiritual and corporal perfection she had once received so as to become the Mother of God. Her glorious Assumption was the perfect fulfillment of her own immaculate life and, at the same time, a Divine promise of that eternal fulfillment the merciful God will grant to all those who collaborate with the graces He has left in the generous hands of the Church. The desire for perfection and fulfillment is always in us. The beginning and the end of the existence of the Blessed Virgin Mary reveal that God, who has given us this desire by creation, will accomplish it by Grace. Unlike the Queen of Heaven, we may need forgiveness and purification, but if we are ever renewing our humble faithfulness, we also, like her, one day will receive perfection and fulfillment for ever!

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz