

SPIRITUALITY

The Infant King: Symbol of Truth and Charity

Sometimes we are asked why the Institute of Christ the King venerates Our Lord under the title of the Infant Jesus. The answer is valid not only for members of the Institute, but also for all those who want to “live the truth in charity,” as St. Paul the Apostle entreats us to do in his letter to the Ephesians, from whence our motto “Veritatem facientes in Caritate.”



Indeed, we desire ardently to bring the reign of Our Savior into all realms of Holy Mother Church and society. The reign of our Lord is without any doubt a reign of truth, as He Himself has told us: “I am the way, the truth and the life.” This truth is very well symbolized in the wonderful crucifixes that show the Redeemer in kingly garments, and in the powerful statues and paintings that depict Him as a majestic King and Judge of Heaven and earth.

However, Christ is God and “God is love,” as we know from the first Letter of St. John the Evangelist, the great mystical seer of the Apocalypse. This love is revealed to us in a very special way on Christmas. God incarnated as a human Child, a helpless Infant, to show us His deep love for us and His thirst of our loving response. The Word of Eternal Truth comes into this poor world as the King of Love, the Infant King who reigns and reveals Himself in truth and charity.

God allows no compromise, no belittlement, no bending of Divine Truth. But He also permits no compromise, no belittlement and no bending of Divine Love. God shows us in the Infant King that Truth and Love can not be separated, but must form one Divine Unity. Truth without charity is cold ideology, and love without truth is empty sentimentality. Christ alone is the fullness of Truth and Charity in perfect harmony. The living symbol of this harmony is the Infant King, born in Bethlehem, to teach us through his Incarnation that, like him, we need to “live the truth in charity.”

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz

FROM THE SEMINARY

The year began for the new seminarians in September with a retreat preached by Monsignor Wach, Prior General of the Institute, in the beautiful Tuscan town of Cortona. This week of quiet and prayer served as a good preparation for our entry into the routine of the seminary. Now, after the first two months have passed quickly by, the daily program of prayer, work, and study is becoming second nature.

All classes at Gricigliano are conducted in French -- which can be daunting at first -- but a common language is necessary in an international community like ours, which includes seminarians from France and America, Spain and Germany, Italy and Gabon. There are four Americans in our class, and the professors and other seminarians have helped to make our transition very comfortable (though our frequent gaffes in pronunciation are a good exercise in humility!). In the first year, we have a number of “introductory” classes (Doctrine, Scripture, Spirituality, etc.), as well as Latin and Gregorian chant.

The core of life here at the Seminary of Saint Philip Neri is prayer. In addition to the Rosary and private prayer, daily life is structured around the Holy Mass and the liturgical offices of Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline. A seminary like ours, living in the spirit of Saint Benedict, is obviously a place for study and hard work, but the most striking aspect about life here is the absolute primacy of divine worship. From the beginning of our seven years of formation, we see that the priest is above all a man of the altar, the altar which, for the Christian, is the source of all grace and joy.

Francis Altieri

Where thousands of Catholic youth gather from all over the world, it is important that there also be the opportunity for them to experience the millenary liturgical tradition of their Catholic heritage. The Institute of Christ the King is happy to announce the formation of a Juventutem-USA group of young traditionalist Catholics who will join with many more from other countries coming to Australia for World Youth Day 2008. The Juventutem group has Holy Mass exclusively in the extraordinary, or traditional, form of the Latin Rite. For more information contact info@juventutemusa.org.



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 the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ in all spheres of human life. 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 Father Philippe Mora in Gabon, Africa, where we still have missions. Today, the mother-house and international seminary of the Institute is located in Gricigliano, in the Archdiocese of Florence, Italy.

Recognizing the importance of a deep harmony between faith, liturgy, and life, and the power of beauty in attracting the human senses to the things above, an integral part of the Institute's charism is the use of the traditional Latin Liturgy of 1962 for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the other sacraments.

Great care for a solemn liturgy, complete fidelity to the doctrine of the Church and 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 12 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 canonically established to aid the priests in their mission through prayer and apostolic work.

AMERICAN OFFICES

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

Shrine of Christ the King
Sovereign Priest
6415 South Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
T 1-773-363-7409
F 1-773-363-7824
info@institute-christ-king.org
www.institute-christ-king.org

CHRISTUS
REGNAT

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

*Christ reigns**Letter of the Vicar General*

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

On the Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (October 3rd), venerated in a special way in the Institute and at our Shrine in Chicago, our founder and Prior General, Monsignor Gilles Wach, had the great joy and honor of conversing with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. At a General Audience, the Holy Father recognized Monsignor Wach immediately and greeted him warmly. His Holiness showed himself well informed about our Institute and its many blessings worldwide. He knew about our growing presence in the United States of America and our many vocations, and our founder was happy to respond to Pope Benedict's questions about the life of the Institute. At the end of a very encouraging conversation, His Holiness was so kind to extend his Apostolic blessing on all members and friends of the Institute of Christ the King, you and your loved ones included! Thank you for all of this, Holy Father!

We invite you, therefore, to unite yourself to our yearly novena to the Divine Infant King in which we include with deepest gratitude the intentions of the Vicar of Christ on Earth. Your own intentions will be presented in a special novena of Masses to the newborn King of Truth and Charity, starting nine days before Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. Please use the enclosed envelope for this purpose.

We thank you for your continued generosity toward our many American vocations. Fifteen young men have begun their studies in the International Seminary and ten more are in our formation program in the United States. Without your sacrificial help we could never train so many future priests “to live the Truth in Charity” after the example of the Infant of Bethlehem. Thank you and a very Blessed Advent and a Christmas-tide full of Divine Graces!

Yours cordially in Christ the King

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



SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM

in Thanksgiving

September 14th, 2007, was a day of celebration and thanksgiving for so many throughout the world. At the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, the coming into effect of the Holy Father's *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum* was ushered in at its many apostolates worldwide with solemn liturgical celebrations of thanksgiving to Almighty God, and to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for his liberating the use of the traditional form of the Latin Rite. We are especially grateful to His Eminence, Dario Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos, President of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, for inviting the Institute to assist him at the Solemn High Mass he offered in the Holy House of Loreto to mark this most significant moment in the life of the Church. After Mass, His Eminence met with our Founder, Msgr. Gilles Wach, and the priests and seminarians who helped in collaboration with Una Voce Rome to make this event a spiritual success. Here in the

United States, at the Shrine of Christ the King we held a Forty Hours Devotion, which marked the first time our church building in Chicago was used for Mass since its closure in 2002, before Francis Cardinal George assigned it to the Institute. In Kansas City, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the event was the occasion for Bishop Robert Finn to celebrate his first Traditional Latin Mass, assisted by Fathers Karl Lenhardt and William Avis of St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis, and Father Denis Buchholz of Old St. Patrick's Oratory in Kansas City. At St. Stanislaus Church in Milwaukee, Father Olivier Meney, Rector of St. Mary's Oratory in Wausau, was deacon at the Solemn High Mass offered by Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, inaugurating the *motu proprio*.



All-Night Adoration in Oakland



Cardinal Hoyos and Msgr. Wach with seminarians after Mass in Loreto



Cardinal Hoyos assisted by Institute priests



Holy Mass of Bishop Robert Finn



Forty Hours Devotion in Chicago

Veritatem Facientes in Caritate • Live the Truth in Charity

NEWS from the Vineyard

October 10th marked the Silver Jubilee of Monsignor R. Michael Schmitz's priestly ordination. The solemn celebration of this happy occasion took place at the Institute's motherhouse in Gricigliano on October 27th, the eve of the Feast of Christ the King. Crowning the celebrations was a personal message and apostolic blessing from the Holy Father, who ordained Monsignor Schmitz twenty-five years ago, when still Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.



At long last, after one-year of pre-formation, fifteen young men from England, France, and the United States arrived in early September at the Institute's motherhouse in Gricigliano to begin their seminary studies. Among them, four Americans. Please keep these fledgling priestly vocations in your prayers. In the meantime, many more candidates have entered our pre-formation program in the United States.



AT THE SHRINE

Chicago

Since our last newsletter, much has been going on about the Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Shortly after the Forty Hours Devotion in thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI's *motu proprio* (see facing page), Msgr. Michael Schmitz headed to Birmingham, Alabama, to be on *EWTN Live* with our architect William Heyer. The live interview with Father Mitch Pacwa, on September 26th, was about the restoration of the Shrine. On display was the 17th-century statue of the Infant King that will be placed above the high altar of the finished church interior. The show received much interest and positive feedback. The following day, the tour of the Infant King continued as Msgr. Schmitz and Abbé Alexander Willweber, design director for the restoration, had the opportunity to show the statue to Mother Angelica, Mother Vicar Sr. Catherine, and the sisters at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville. Thanks to the *motu proprio*, Msgr. Michael Schmitz also had the joy of celebrating the conventual Mass for the community in their main chapel.

No sooner returned from this visit, plans began for the solemn crowning of the statue of the Infant King by His

Eminence Francis Cardinal George, on Saturday, December 29th, at 1:30 pm. This ceremony will take place during a Solemn High Mass at which His Eminence will assist. The Mass will be celebrated inside the church building, and there is much activity going on to transform the gutted interior into a beautiful abode fit for the King. All are heartily invited to participate in this historic moment, when our Cardinal Archbishop comes to mark the 80th anniversary year of the dedication of our church (May 15, 1927) and the 83rd anniversary of the very first Mass celebrated here, on Christmas 1924.



We commend to your prayers and generosity the success of our fund raising campaign for the restoration of the building. For more information please visit our website or contact our office at 773-363-7409.

www.institute-christ-king.org