



February 2006

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

Winter is a spiritually intense time of the year for the life of the soul -- in some ways dramatic. As the cold settles in, we are absorbed in preparations for the coming of the Infant Jesus. Then, at long last the King of the Universe is born in a cave, wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a wooden manger, in order to some day be nailed to the wood of the Cross for our salvation. Thus, we soon go from the joys of welcoming the Infant King and the sweet thoughts of Christmastide to remembering why it is that God became Man – to save us from our sins, to make it possible once again, after the fall of our first Parents, for man to enter Heaven.

Just as we enter the period of Septuagesima and then the forty days of Lent, a time of reflection and transformation as we prepare to relive the mysteries of the Passion of Our Lord, we can look back and be thankful to Him for the blessings received during Advent and Christmastide.

**During the month of December I had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with many of you,** as I passed each weekend in a different apostolate of the Institute giving talks on the season of Advent. Two of these weekends were scheduled around very special events: the confirmation of a number of our faithful both in our long standing parish in Rockford, Illinois, as well as in our new location in Oakland, California.

**In Rockford, His Excellency Bishop Thomas G. Doran conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 144 candidates on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Confirmation was followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, presided by His Excellency. In attendance along with Father Brian Bovee, rector of St. Mary's Oratory in Rockford, were Father John C. Fritz, secretary to Bishop Doran, Father Olivier Meney and Abbé Kevin Kerscher from our St. Mary's Oratory in Wausau, Father Jacques Fournier from St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis, and myself. With so many Confirmands it is not surprising that the church was filled beyond capacity with over 600 in attendance, and the proceedings were capped by a lively and joy-filled reception.



**Likewise, in Oakland our faithful experienced a day of joy and celebration on December 10<sup>th</sup>,** when thirty-three young people received the sacrament of Confirmation from His Excellency Bishop Allen H. Vigneron, who offered a Pontifical Mass following the conferral. Those of us from the Institute who were present at the ceremony, besides myself, were Father Michael Wiener, episcopal delegate for the Latin Mass Community of Oakland, and Father Gilles Guitard and Abbé Aaron Huberfeld, both of whom came for the event from our headquarters in Gricigliano, Italy. The ceremony and following reception, where we enjoyed the presence of His Excellency and of Father Stanislaw Zak, would



not have been the success it was without the generous help of the many faithful involved in the preparations.

More images of the confirmations can be viewed at our website, [www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org).

Along with the graces, joys and traditions of Christmas experienced in all our apostolates, this Christmas 2005 brought a very first – live radio transmission of one of the Institute's Masses in the United States. **The Christmas Midnight Mass of St. Joseph's Oratory in Green Bay, Wisconsin, was transmitted live on Relevant Radio to its radio stations and affiliates nationwide.** The trans-

mission was also available online in streaming audio from the Catholic radio network's website. The power of the media was witnessed by our Father Jean-Marie Moreau, of Green Bay, as he received feedback from listeners who otherwise would not have experienced the beauties of the classical Latin Mass on that most singularly important of Feasts.

But the last few months were filled with activities even beyond those of the Christmas Season. Our volunteers did not cease to busily work at our churches and oratories. I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep gratitude, and that of our priests, to all these our friends who help in so many ways in each of our apostolates around the country. Your contribution goes well beyond even the immediate tasks you perform, as it helps in a very real way to extend the kingdom of God in the society of our days. **A special word of thanks to those who are helping in the different restoration projects entrusted to the Institute, particularly in St. Louis, Kansas City and Chicago, where much necessary demolishing, hauling, scrubbing, washing, and fixing is getting done thanks to you. May Our Lord reward your selfless dedication.**

And of course, my gratitude to all who generously support the apostolic work of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest with your very much needed donations. **Every bit counts, and we thank you for your sacrifice.** As I write this letter, our seminarians are returning to their studies in Gricigliano after holidays with their families. It is a source of encouragement for them to know of your support and your prayers, and they in return keep you all in their own prayers and sacrifices.

I assure you also of my grateful prayers and remembrance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Yours very cordially, in Christ the King,

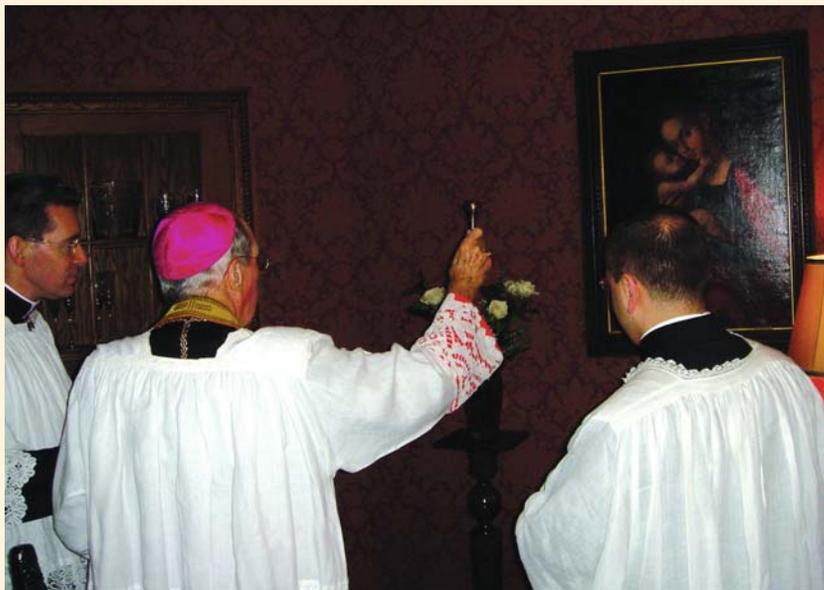
Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz  
Vicar General  
Provincial Superior for the United States

PS: Given the rise in postage, and the many and growing expenses involved in conducting the apostolic work of the Institute of Christ the King, **we find that we must consider ways of cutting our mailing costs. If after this issue you cease to receive our bi-monthly newsletter, it is because we have not heard from you for some years; in this case, please let us know whether you would like to continue to be on our mailing list.**

# GLIMPSES INTO THE LIFE OF THE INSTITUTE



Scenes from the St. Nicholas Dinner  
at St. Mary's in Wausau.



The Most Reverend Bishop Basil Meeking, Retired Bishop of Christchurch,  
New Zealand, visited the Priory at Chicago headquarters and blessed an  
image of Our Lady of Good Help, patroness of New Zealand.



Young Chicago faithful



## INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

### FIAT VOLUNTAS TUA

Fiat voluntas Tua: Thy Will shall be done. These are not only the very words, Our Blessed Lord has taught us in the Our Father, but these are also the words He Himself used during His passion, when He prayed in the garden of Gethsemani. These words are used by most of us every day in our personal prayer, by the priests and religious in the Divine Office, and certainly by the whole Church during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Innumerable times God the Almighty is implored with this formula, and millions of Christians use it following the expressed wish of Our Savior.

However, do we realize what we are asking for? Are we really following the Lord in His Passion, Who without doubt put His whole human existence in the utterance of these words with which he accepted the death on the Cross for our redemption? Is our form to use this prayer not rather always linked with some hidden condition? “Thy Will shall be done, but...” “...do not ask too much, do not demand my freedom, my worldly goods, my human happiness, my success, my comfort”? Do we realize, in our petty fear, that the Lord of the Universe could take our prayer literally, that everything depends on the realization of this prayer?

Indeed, our entire life as creatures of the Almighty and as children of the Merciful depends on the Will of the Father. Wherever this Will is not realized or lived, we at length suffer from the consequences of our own will, which belittles the sense of our existence meant to be also divine, and not only human. There is no final sense in doing our own will, if it is not in full conformity with the Will of God. Only the Will of God can bestow on us the happiness we really need, that is, the liberty that comes from inner peace, the wisdom that comes from revelation, and the richness that comes from grace. Everything that we do finds full accomplishment exclusively by being done according to the divine plan for us which is a reflection of the eternal glory of God to which we are to belong. Anything else is short of the dignity that Christ merited for us by accepting the Will of the Father for our salvation.

Lent is a period of time given to us by Holy Mother Church in which everyone of us can follow the Blessed Lord into the desert in order to get ready to do the Will of the Father. We try to empty our soul through the penance of our body from all things that do not pertain to the Will of God. Everything that is out of measure has to be re-measured and made to fit into the Eternal plan for us and the world. God wants us to give up all that we believe to be and to have, in order to receive and become what really counts. We can be sure and do not need to fear: For every wish we give up for His Will, we will get a multitude of graces that will increase the peace and order of soul that only His Will can create in us!

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz