



# INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

February 2007

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,



The New Year began on a most positive note. **We are happy to welcome to our Institute's family a large group of faithful of Santa Clara, California**, who for many years had been attending the Traditional Latin Mass at Our Mother of Perpetual Help chapel. On the Feast of the Epiphany this year, the chapel was erected as an Oratory of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, and is now under the care of the new Rector, our Father Michael Wiener, who also tends to the Latin Mass community at St. Margaret Mary in Oakland, as Episcopal Delegate for the Rite of 1962. Our deep gratitude goes to His Excellency Bishop Patrick McGrath of the diocese of San Jose for his confidence in the Institute of Christ the King. Because of the small size of the chapel, there are four Masses at the Oratory

of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on every Sunday. More information can be had from our website (address below).



There is other momentous news. **In Chicago, we can well say that the fundamental piece around which will revolve the interior design phase of the restoration of our church, has been found.** The statue that will be placed above the high altar has already been chosen and acquired, thanks to the kindness of a very generous benefactor. It is an early seventeenth-century wooden statue of the Christ Child purchased in Madrid. Though its history is incomplete, it is known that the statue was carved by a famous school of sculptors of sacred art from the southern region of Andalusia in Spain.



It would not be too far fetched to imagine that this statue might have been commissioned for one of the Discalced Carmelite monasteries of Andalusia, as the great St. Teresa of Avila instilled in all her daughters and sons her intense devotion to the Child Jesus. The crown and orb (held in the left hand) of our statue are missing and will now have to be supplied, as well as the attendant vestments, which will be in the style of the Infant of Prague (also originally from Spain). While these accessories are being crafted and some needed restoration to the statue being done, it will be kept in Europe.

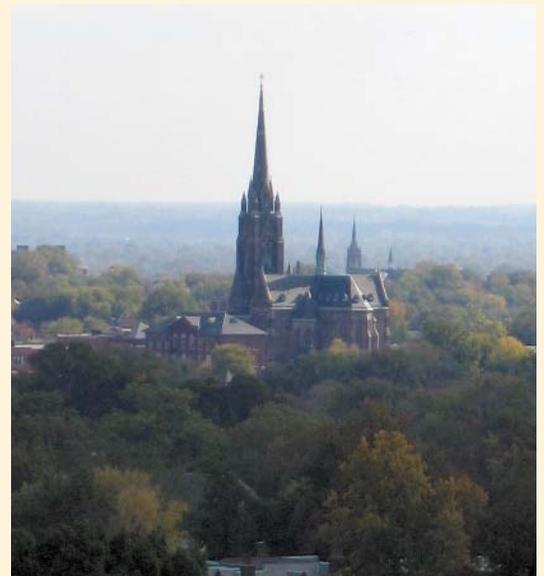
In the world of today, where the pride and arrogance of man is oblivious to, and even actively denies, the sovereignty of God, this image of the King of Kings, who deigned to come to us even as a child, stands as a sign of contradiction to the proud, inviting all to humble themselves before such a mystery, which our minds alone can never grasp. Now that we have our very own statue of the Divine Infant King — the cornerstone, so to speak, of our Shrine — **we are confirmed in our belief that God's Providence will send us more generous benefactors who will help fund this considerable restoration project, so that we may be able to erect and operate a Shrine fitting to the King of the Universe, and a nationwide center of the Traditional Latin liturgy.**

Another new phase in the life of our Shrine of Christ the King is the implementation of conferences and classes organized on a regular basis by our Father Andreas Hellmann. Once a month there is a theology class for adults, and every week the children of our Chicago apostolate gather to learn their catechism from Father. These catechism classes take place on Tuesdays, prior to another evidence of growth and life – the weekly perpetual novena devotions to St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus.



As the National Shrine of the Little Flower, our church in its heyday attracted thousands every Tuesday to the novena of St. Thérèse. Since October 3rd of last year, her feast day, we reinstated this public devotion which is ever gradually attracting more and more faithful. Certainly, this saint of the Little Way must be delighted that above the main altar of her former shrine there will be a statue of the Child Jesus – the Infancy of Our Lord having been so germane to her spirituality. In fact, one could even posit that she might just have had something to do with it.

Elsewhere, in Kansas City and St. Louis, our restoration projects continue to advance. In Kansas City the initial phase of prepping Old St. Patrick's has been completed, thanks to dedicated faithful volunteers who have given of their time and expertise. Now we are forging ahead with all the preliminary stages to installing a new mechanical systems, as well as progressing on details of the church's interior design. Concurrent with the restoration work, fund raising efforts are coming into their next stage as we now begin to apply for grants. In St. Louis, the exquisitely beautiful neo-gothic St. Francis de Sales Oratory continues in dire need of repair, particularly of its 300-foot tower which is coming apart from the main building of the church. We are grateful to all the friends of St. Francis de Sales Oratory who contribute to our fund-raising efforts there.



*The tower of St. Francis de Sales Oratory*

With the many signs of encouragement from our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, interest for the Classical Latin Mass seems to be burgeoning. In December last, **Fox network did a very positive report on the phenomenon of growth and youth within the Traditional Latin Rite communities. The piece was filmed mostly at our chapel of Christ the King in Chicago, and was broadcast nationally on Christmas Day during the evening news program, "Fox Report."** The same piece was shown also on local Fox affiliated channels in several parts of the United States. It can be seen on our website, at [www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org), through a link found under "New at the Institute." Some good media exposure was also given in December to our restoration project at St. Francis de Sales Oratory, both on TV and in the press, Deo gratias. **Certainly, one great benefit of this interest on the part of the media is that many souls come to know of the availability of the Mass of Ages.**



*Fox Channel production crew at the Shrine of Christ the King, Chicago*

Which brings me to share with you some encouraging words from a twenty-year old who contributed to our online Questionnaire:

“[The Classical Latin Mass] has made me a more cognizant person in terms of spirituality, morality and of the precepts of our holy Catholic faith. Since I came back to the church last August by making a general confession at [Institute Apostolate] and going to Holy Mass there, I have really been working at trying to be a better person. Every time I attend Mass or serve in the Tridentine Rite, it is like a spiritual food that strengthens me. Hearing the homilies and seeing the pious devotion of the priests and lay people has made my faith grow enormously in the past year. I sharpen what I believe almost every time and often come away with a deeper understanding of our faith.

...After not going to church for almost all of high school, there were actually tears in my eyes after [that] confession and during Mass. It touched me that much. Things have been much better since that Sunday morning in August. This is not to say that I don't sometimes erroneously doubt our faith, but going to Holy Mass at [Institute Apostolate] helps me to fight this doubt and seek the truth in our Eucharistic Lord every time I attend. I love it and thank our Lord for sending us such priests! E.S.”

**The increasing discovery of the treasures of Catholic Tradition by the youth is real and fruitful.** In June we will be able to witness evidence of this, as two young men, who several years ago joined the Institute of Christ the King, reach the goal of their formation. **On June 15<sup>th</sup> two of our American seminarians will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Traditional Latin Rite by the Most Rev. Raymond L Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, at the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis.** This will mark the first time that ordinations of Institute seminarians will take place in the United States. Present at the ceremony will be our Prior General, Monsignor Gilles Wach, as well as a number of our seminarians from Gricigliano who will contribute to the solemnity of the liturgy. **All are warmly invited to attend.** Details are already available on our website.

Let us continue, then, each one of us in the role that Our Lord has given us, doing our part to make it possible for all to come to taste of the graces Our Lord wishes to bestow on us through Holy Mother Church. Especially at the time of Lent, soon to begin, we should open our hearts to the transformation that He wishes to operate in our souls so that we may become His instruments, through penance, reflection, and trust in Him who is our King.

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

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

*PS: As always, thank you for your continued support. Your generosity helps youth find the beauty of their Catholic faith and the true meaning of their lives, many, then, going on to discover and fulfill their priestly or religious vocations. Contributions can also be made at our website at [www.institute-christ-king.org/support.cfm](http://www.institute-christ-king.org/support.cfm).*



## INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

### THE JOY OF SUFFERING WITH CHRIST

Christ has suffered for us and for our sins. The Lord does not conceal from us that we are the reason for all His torments and afflictions: "You have been bought at a great price" (1 Cor. 6:20). Thus, He again reveals the Love of God for His children: "Greater love than this no man has..." (Jn. 15:13).

However, the mystery of Christ's love and suffering is even greater. As always, God does not leave us at being passive bystanders of our own redemption. The grace that saves us also restores our dignity as collaborators in the Divine plan of salvation. Through the Blessed Mother, He has asked our assent to this plan; through the humanity of Christ, he has made our flesh the instrument of our own liberation; through the Church, He allows human signs and words to become efficient tools of Divine power. This law of Incarnation continues when it comes to the redemptive sufferings of Christ. God has given us the dignity to partake in them and hence to fill our afflictions with His grace.

St. Paul was so full of this truth that he exclaimed: "I find joy in the sufferings I endure for you. In my own flesh I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ for the sake of His Body, the Church" (Col. 1:24). Obviously, there is no objective lack in the Redemption the Lord has operated for us on the Cross. St. Paul rather indicates the mysterious fact that we, by Divine power, are enabled to participate in the translation of the graces Christ has merited, into the Body of the Church and to all its members.

The Servant of God Pope Pius XII explains this link in his encyclical on the Mystical Body of the Church: "In carrying out the work of redemption Christ wishes to be helped by the members of His Body. This is not because He is indigent or weak, but rather because He so willed it for the greater glory of His spotless Spouse. Dying on the Cross, He left to the Church the immense treasury of the Redemption. Towards this she contributed nothing. But when those graces come to be distributed, not only does He share this task of sanctification with His Church, but he wants it, in a way, to be due to her action. What a deep mystery... that the salvation of many depends on the prayers and voluntary penances which the members of the Mystical Body offer for that intention..."

Every time we accept our own sufferings and, thus, partake through Christ in the work of redemption, the struggles of our life begin to make sense and are brightened by His grace. In his Apostolic letter, *Salvifici doloris*, the late Pontiff John Paul II enlightens us about this providential change in the meaning of our suffering: "Faith in sharing the suffering of Christ brings with it the interior certainty the suffering person 'completes what is lacking in Christ's afflictions'; the certainty that in the spiritual dimension of the work of revelation he is serving, like Christ, the salvation of his brothers and sisters. Therefore he is carrying out an irreplaceable service."

The joy of suffering, coming from this truth, is certainly not a joy in our afflictions as such. Rather, it is a quiet happiness coming from the hopeful conviction of faith that Christ has elevated those who suffer in a very special way to a stronger unity with Himself, and thus enabling them to offer consolation to Him in His own human suffering. Hence, every cross presented to us becomes a sign of Divine Love which draws us nigh to Him on Calvary. In these occasions of grace, we follow the Blessed Mother, who, in the moment of the Supreme Sacrifice of Her Divine Son, accepted again the Holy Will of the Father and received the unique privilege of becoming the Co-Redemptrix, the one who participated to the fullest in the redemptive suffering of the Victim-Victor on the Cross.

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz