

SPIRITUALITY

One Thing is Necessary

“Everything is Grace,” as goes the famous dictum of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Indeed, God is a good Father who gives to His children all they need from the very beginning, who constantly helps them while they strive to do His will, and who brings to fruition their frail efforts with the strength of His own Divine power.

However, we have to be prudent not to fall into presumptive carelessness because we misunderstand the operation of God’s supernatural help. *Not* everything is *only* grace. We must still begin our endeavors by accepting the graces He offers. He will continuously accompany our undertakings, but they have to be adjusted to His Will. Finally, He crowns our endeavors only if we humbly place our doings in His hands. Our human freedom has to become a tool of His gracious Divine Will, if His Grace is to become victorious through us.

Thus, we should never be overly confident about our own accomplishments or plans. Therefore, our Holy Father recalls in His Encyclical *Deus Caritas est*, 37:



“It is time to reaffirm the importance of prayer in the face of activism and growing secularism.” Claudio Cardinal Hummes, the Prefect of the Congregation of the Clergy in a recent Roman document for the World Day of Prayer for Priests, the Feast of the Sacred Heart, underscores “the priority of prayer over action since it is on prayer that the effectiveness of action depends.” Prayer opens us to Grace without which all our efforts will reveal an attitude reflecting our pride and imagined importance.

We all have our daily duties which we cannot neglect without falling into sin. Often, we have to work very hard. However, we can only be sure of God’s blessings upon our work if we place Him at the center. The Blessed Lord Himself has made this very clear to busy Martha who complains about her sister Mary sitting at His feet: “Martha, Martha, thou art careful, and are troubled about many things: Only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10, 42)

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz

FROM THE SEMINARY

Prayer is a very important aspect of a seminarian’s life. The time we spend in prayer helps us not only to accomplish our duties, but, most importantly, to do them for the love of God.



At the seminary, there are many devotions that inspire us to prayer. Above all, the seminary has a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Rosary and our consecration to the Immaculate Conception are said daily. During the month of May, the month of Mary, we add the singing of hymns to our daily devotions to Our Lady. Also, each year the seminary makes a pilgrimage to Lourdes, because it is consecrated to the Immaculate Conception.

Alongside our devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the seminary holds a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every first Friday, the Mass of the Sacred Heart is sung and the Litany of the Sacred Heart recited just before Compline, the last hour of the Divine Office. In addition to the special observation of First Fridays, during June, the month of the Sacred Heart, we sing the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus each Friday, praying for our benefactors and for the faithful departed.

During the nine days preceding the great feast days – such as the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, and Pentecost – we prepare ourselves by singing the Vespers hymn proper of that feast. Through these novenas we make ourselves ready to receive the special graces of those feast days.

The devotions and novenas observed at the seminary make the prayer life of the seminarians rich with graces. They also help us to grow in charity towards each other and to become better servants of Christ the King.

Abbé Eric Majewski

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Saturday, September 27th, at 3:00 pm there will be a fund-raising recital at the Shrine of Christ the King in Chicago, featuring acclaimed tenor Trevór Mitchell who will perform German Baroque works and American Spirituals. The guest of honor will be His Highness, Duke Paul von Oldenburg. Coming from one of the oldest Protestant royal lineages in Germany, His Highness will be speaking about his conversion, linked to the extraordinary form of the Latin Mass.

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 motherhouse 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 extraordinary form of the Latin Rite according to the *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum*.

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 Friend of the Institute of Christ the King,

The recent visit of our Founder and Prior General, Monsignor Gilles Wach, to the United States has once again brought about many occasions of grace for which to be thankful to Our Divine King.

On June 1st, Monsignor Wach officially inaugurated our new apostolate in Milwaukee, where the Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan had invited us to serve the Latin Mass community. With his gracious permission, the Institute has established there an Oratory for the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite at Saint Stanislaus Church. You will read of other important commemorations and events that occurred during our Prior General’s sojourn in the United States, which are occasions of great joy and thanksgiving.

All these gifts of Divine Providence are linked to the collaboration of benefactors and friends like you!

Many American vocations to the priesthood and the oblatehood in the Institute of Christ the King need your support! Please consider assisting our work in the United States through a recurring monthly gift by Credit Card or electronic transfer. You may begin even today by using the enclosed envelope, or contacting us at 773-363-7409 or at our website.

In the first place, however, let us thank God and pray for each other! Our seminarians daily offer their Holy Rosary for your intentions!

Yours very gratefully in Christ the King
and His Immaculate Mother,

Ps: Thank you for your
generous donation!



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

collaborator's in God's vineyard

Having completed the initial year of formation and candidacy, as the first step in their clerical life two oblate members of the Institute of Christ the King received their cassocks on May 27 at the Shrine of Christ the King. In a ceremony followed by a Solemn High Mass, the cassock was conferred upon Messrs. Alexander Barga and Chad Templin by the Prior General of the Institute, Msgr. Gilles Wach, on his yearly visit to the Institute's apostolates in the United States. Present at the occasion were His Excellency the Most Reverend Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Msgr. Michael Schmitz, several priests of the Institute and clergy from Chicago.

Our oblates are men who serve God in an auxiliary role to the priest. According to their experience and talents, they take on a variety of functions at the Institute's apostolates, such as that of art director, gardener, office administrator, sacristan, organist, etc. They participate as assistants at Holy Mass and other liturgical functions, and pray the Divine Office daily, just as the priests do.

After receiving the cassock, the oblates will continue in training and study for five years, during which time, at the discretion of their superiors, they may receive minor clerical orders. When the five-year formation period is completed, the oblates will make a solemn promise of lasting obedience to the superiors of the Institute, thus becoming full member of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

Our oblates are very important for our community life and we are deeply grateful for their many talents.



Abbé Chad Templin



Abbé Joseph Jessel

Abbé Georg Emmel



Abbé Kevin Kerscher



Abbé Alex Barga



On June 2nd, His Grace Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis, conferred upon Abbé Alexander Willweber the *Bene Merenti* Papal Medal, an award given by the Holy Father himself for outstanding work done for Holy Mother Church. Abbé Alexander, a



professional designer by trade, has been the artistic consultant for the Institute since his entrance as an oblate. He is not only responsible for the creative composition of the interior of St. Mary's Oratory in Wausau, but has undertaken many other church design projects in the US, Europe and Africa.

A joyous milestone was observed on May 31st at our apostolate in Wausau, Wisconsin – the fifth anniversary of the consecration of St. Mary's Oratory of the Immaculate Conception by the Most Rev. Raymond Burke who was at the time the bishop of La Crosse. Established in 1861, St. Mary's is the oldest Catholic parish in Wausau. The present-day neo-Gothic church dates from 1892, while its interior was refashioned in a more contemporary style

after a fire in 1953. In 1999 the Institute was given care of St. Mary's and began the renovation of the interior of the church in 2001, creating therein a replica of a late medieval chapel at the Blütenburg castle in Bavaria. St. Mary's Oratory is listed by authorities in the area as a must-see attraction for its exquisite artistry. Visitors come from far and wide to contemplate its beauty and pray before the statue of "Our Lady of Wausau," an original wooden sculpture found in the Salzburg area, dating from the 1470s.



To commemorate the fifth anniversary of St. Mary's re-consecration, Msgr. Gilles Wach offered a Solemn High Mass in the presence of the Most Rev. Jerome Listeki, Bishop of La Crosse, who was the homilist for the occasion. After Mass, His Excellency joined the superiors, clergy and faithful of St. Mary's at a reception commemorating the joyous occasion on this his first official visit to the Oratory.

AT THE SHRINE *in Chicago*

We continue having many "firsts" at the Shrine since December, when the church building was fitted with provisional furnishings, and activities then transferred from the basement chapel. The month of May saw the first crowning of Our Lady inside the



landmark building, the "first" First Holy Communion and the first wedding commemorated therein, and the first Corpus Christi procession with adoration and Benediction at an outdoor stational altar.

Prayers and efforts to raise funds for the restoration of the church continue. On Saturday, June 14, by kind permission of the Jesuit Fathers, a High Mass was offered at Holy Family Church, and devotions to Our Mother of Perpetual Help held at her altar for this intention. Holy Family Church is the second oldest church in Chicago. Its miraculous survival of the 1876 Chicago fire is attributed to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In fulfillment of a promise made to her by the pastor of Holy Family at the height of the fire, candles have been burning at her altar ever since as a perpetual expression of thanksgiving for her intercession.

See important notice at back of newsletter.