



June 2006

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

Here at our American center in Chicago we have had a succession of events that have kept us very busy for a seemingly endless string of weeks, in fact, since our last newsletter. When writing our April newsletter, we were in the midst of transforming part of the basement of our Chicago priory into a chapel that would accommodate the growing number of faithful attending Mass on Sundays. **The goal was to have it ready in time for Holy Week, and I am happy to say that we were able to meet this goal. Many faithful of the greater Chicago area came to the Holy Week services at our newly established Chapel of Christ the King, where, after decades, the Holy Triduum in the Traditional Latin Rite was made available to them as under the approval of Francis Cardinal George. Just prior to Palm Sunday, our Lenten Retreat Day was also very well attended.**



Chapel of Christ the King, Chicago



Shortly after Holy Week, we had the privilege and great joy of receiving Dr. Alice von Hildebrand at our apostolate in Chicago, who came to give a conference on one of her favorite topics – the true

role of women in the church and society. Besides the pleasure of hosting Mrs. von Hildebrand, we were treated to a talk that was most interesting and entertaining, as inevitably it would be. Attendees came not only from the Chicago area, but from considerable distances, including out-of-state, some of whom had never before heard of the Institute. The crowd was such that we had to prepare two large rooms in the basement to accommodate all for the reception that followed. The day was fittingly closed with a Holy Hour in observance of the First Saturday in May. This was also our first public Holy Hour in Chicago.

Dr. Alice von Hildebrand with Msgr. Michael Schmitz and members of the Chicago community.



Work continues inside the majestic but still gutted church building in Chicago. Particularly, in May our dedicated volunteers swept the entire massive structure clean, after haulers had removed a considerable amount of debris and furnishings that had been left inside the church prior to its closure in 2003. Our oblates and candidates of the Chicago apostolate contributed with yard work which transformed the access area to our chapel into a beautiful garden.

Finally, this flurry of activities in Chicago was crowned by the visit of His Eminence Francis Cardinal George to our American center on May 19th, on which occasion he graciously blessed our newly transformed basement chapel, and visited with members of our community. For us priests and oblates of the Institute it was, of course, a memorable evening, during which His Eminence greatly encouraged our work.



Some of our Chicago volunteers in action.

You will forgive me my indulgence in dwelling at length on our ever more active center in Chicago, but you will understand the pleasure we have at seeing this apostolate (which has started from very little) steadily growing by the grace of God toward its projected role as a center for Catholic Tradition and Culture in this major archdiocese and metropolis of the United States. As the interest for the Institute's work in Chicago increases, and the number of faithful frequenting our chapel grows, the need to move forward with the renovation of our impressive and beautiful church building just south of the University of Chicago, becomes more and more poignant.

On the other side of the Atlantic, as you read this newsletter, the pitch of activity and excitement at our seminary in Gricigliano is steadily increasing as seminarians engage in the many aspects of preparing for the ordinations that crown the month of June. All our seminarians, oblates, ecclesiastical staff, faculty, and all those that together make up the one large family that the seminary is, have some role to play, be it in the logistics and preparation of the premises, be it in the hospitality and reception of the several guests who come for the events, be it in the commemorations organized for this joyous occasion.

Msgr. Michael Schmitz, Francis Cardinal George, and Abbé Alexander Willweber inside our Chicago church building, standing by a display showing the planned future beauty of its interior.



His Eminence Francis Cardinal George blesses the Chapel of Christ the King.



Most importantly, the ordinands enter into a more intense period of prayer and reflection, as they prepare themselves spiritually and ponder the significant steps they are about to take in their service of Our Lord. Those receiving the tonsure pass from being laymen to the clerical state. Those being ordained to the Minor Orders – Porter, Lector, Exorcist, and Acolyte – will be taking on specific functions in support of the Sacred Liturgy. The Subdeacons will not only be assuming roles that lend greater solemnity to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, but they will take the significant step of committing to the clerical state and the obligation of saying the Divine Office daily. Upon the Deacons there will be bestowed certain sacramental functions and other obligations proper of this last stage preceding the Sacred Priesthood. Finally, there will be those who will be ordained Priests. **The priestly ordinand will become a man transformed, by the power of the Holy Ghost and the instrumentality of the ordaining Bishop, into an *alter Christus*, a Priest for all Eternity, at whose word mere bread and wine will be transformed into the Body and Blood of God Incarnate.**



2005 ordinations in Gricigliano.

We should always hold much gratitude in our hearts to Our Savior and King, Who, through the mediation of the Priesthood deigns to remain with us in His own Flesh and Blood at our altars and in our churches. The feast of Corpus Christi is an occasion when we can express this our gratitude in a special way. **On this feast, at all our apostolates throughout the world, we will pay homage to Our Lord physically present in the Sacred Species by way of special devotions and processions.** Please pray that, beyond the due honor that our faithful will pay to Him in this way, that those who see their witness will be touched by the Presence that perhaps they do not know and to Whose Infinite and Salvific Love for them they may be completely oblivious.

My deep gratitude for your interest and friendship. I commend to your prayers all our seminarians, especially those approaching their ordination to the Priesthood and Diaconate. **And I thank you most deeply for your support, which enables them to become Priests for all Eternity, and to conduct the work of the Institute of Christ the King for our Holy Mother Church and souls.**

With the assurance of my prayers for you and your dear ones, I am

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

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

PS: Every donation is received with prayerful gratitude!



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS – THRONE OF GOD’S LOVE

“Our merciful Jesus, who has purchased us with His own blood, infinitely desires us to love Him so that we may be saved forever, and He desires us to be saved so that we may love Him forever. His love tends to our salvation, and our salvation tends to His love.”

These words of our great patron St. Francis de Sales reveal the Mystery of Divine Love in its true depth. “God is love,” is the truth of which our Holy Father reminded the world in his first encyclical. Love will be the measure of our lives, because it is the very essence of God to Whose image we have been created. The more we love, the more we make His image in us become a lived reality and the more we prepare for the eternal loving union with Him.

Love is not merely a word, it is not a feeling and certainly not a sentimental effusion of emotions. True love may come together with these manifestations of the entire involvement of our being, but is much more: Love and charity are an attitude of a whole life, based on Divine grace and leading to the realization of God’s commandments: “He who loves me, keeps my commandments.” Not sighs and exclamations, not words and principles, but deeds and works show our love to God. The virtue of Charity, infused into our souls in the moment of baptism together with Faith and Hope, enable us to lead a life of love, which is an answer to God’s gracious gift: “I have loved you first!”

This truth is shown to us through the very symbol of Divine Love, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose month we celebrate every June. The Servant of God Pope Pius XII in his famous encyclical “Haurietis aquas” calls the Heart of the Redeemer a “real symbol” for Divine Charity, in so far as it symbolizes what it really is: The Throne of God’s Love, the Altar of the Supreme Sacrifice of Charity, the See of the Trinitarian Presence in this world.

And here again, the rule of love becomes true. The Heart of Jesus does not exhaust His love in pious aspirations, nice sentiments or human emotions, but is ready to be opened for the sake of our salvation and to pour His blood over the world to cleanse sinners from their guilt. For this reason, our religion is not a religion of sterile sentimentalism concentrated on our own feelings, but a worship of God in “deed and truth.” Our adoration of the Divine Heart reminds us of the penance and the amendment that we owe to God for our sins, and of the active charity that alone will combine love and reality.

“Live the truth in charity” – this sentence of St. Paul in the letter to the Ephesians, which also is the motto of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, reassumes the deep realism of the Sacred Heart as “summa totius religionis,” as the sum of our whole religion, to speak with Pope Pius XI. Jesus Christ, the Truth incarnate, is the living charity, with His open Heart containing the very center of the Mystery of Incarnation.

If we want to follow the Lord, we have to open our hearts to the truth of God and live his commandments to the fullest. It is the infusion of Divine Love into our hearts that makes this answer to God’s love possible. St. Francis the Sales states: “Sacred love is a miraculous child, since the human will cannot conceive it unless it is infused into our hearts by the Holy Ghost.” The veneration of the Sacred Heart in the month of June will enable the Holy Ghost to infuse this Divine Charity, so that “our hearts are made unto His” to love in deed and in Truth.

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz