



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

Advent 2005

Dear Friend of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest,

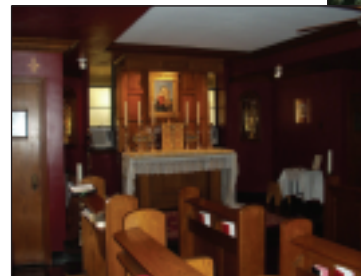
The beginning of a new liturgical year is upon us with the arrival of Advent. It is a time to reflect upon the past months and thank our Merciful Savior and King for all the graces and favors He has poured out upon our Institute during the year of 2005. **These unfathomable and bounteous designs of Divine Providence have worked themselves through you, our many friends, supporters, and volunteers, to whom we are most grateful as we pray and work together to foster a culture in which the gentle and glorious Reign of Our Lord is embraced by all.**

Strictly speaking, this momentous year began in Advent 2004, December specifically, when **our American headquarters were moved from Wausau, Wisconsin to Chicago.** In this thriving metropolitan center, His Eminence Francis Cardinal George has entrusted to the Institute of Christ the King a magnificent church only a few blocks south of the University of Chicago. The church was built by Calced Carmelite Friars eighty years ago and was once the National Shrine of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. The Institute's national offices now operate from the former Carmelite priory, and Mass is offered there in the priory chapel to a steadily growing group of faithful, while the great project of restoring the church is underway.



The future Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Our administration is small, but efficient. Carrying out the bulk of the office work at our national headquarters is our ever faithful and friendly Mrs. Mary Hall, who now counts with the competent assistance of our oblate Abbé Georg Emmel, arrived from our German Central Administration in Bavaria in the beginning of the year. In addition, because of the increasing needs and activities of the Institute in the United States and the many demands of our apostolic work, we have also been joined by Miss Cristina Borges who will be working for the Institute as Development Director. Miss Borges brings with her ten years of experience at EWTN as Regional Manager for Europe.



The priory chapel in Chicago



Bishop Joseph Perry on occasion of the blessing of the Chicago priory, flanked by Fr. Karl Lenhardt, Fr. Maximus Ssekwiwala, Msgr. Michael Schmitz, and Abbé Georg Emmel

Through a clear sign of Holy Providence and by gracious permission of Francis Cardinal George, our church in Chicago will finally be dedicated as a shrine to Christ the King Sovereign Priest with side altars in honor of the Infant Jesus and the Divine Mercy. Thanks to a generous loan, most of the urgently needed exterior work was completed in the course of this year -- roof replacement, tuck pointing, exterior surface cleaning, and repair of the tower. During this coming year the plans are to replace the window frames, re-construct the exterior steps to the church, and to address all the structural needs of the interior, such as completely replacing the HVAC, the electrical wiring, the bathrooms, etc. Because of the magnitude of the project, it is anticipated that the

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work of restoration of the future shrine will take two to three years; and the cost is estimated at \$5,900,000, all of which must be raised by the Institute. **We count on your prayers and generous support so that this Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest may be completed and become a center from which the glory and beauty of the Traditional Latin Liturgy may reach countless souls** not only in this great city, but in the greater sphere influenced by such a metropolitan center as Chicago.

Not too far away is another of the Institute's major projects. In January, His Grace the Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke called the Institute of Christ the King to the archdiocese of **St. Louis**, to minister to the Latin Mass community already attending Sunday Latin Mass at St. Agatha's Church. Our Vice-Provincial for the United States, Father Karl Lenhardt, was assigned to this apostolate which, in July, was transferred to the exquisitely beautiful German-Gothic church of St. Francis de Sales, once known as the "cathedral of south St. Louis". This church, providentially named after one of the Institute's co-patrons, is adjoined by other buildings where, as of October, Father Lenhardt has been operating our house of pre-formation for young American men interested in pursuing a vocation with the Institute of Christ the King. Here the candidates receive preliminary education in Latin, French, the Liturgy, and are introduced to the spirituality and charism of the Institute, drawing from the writings of St. Francis de Sales and the rule of St. Benedict, as well as Thomistic thought. In St. Louis and in other houses they work in preparation for their formation and education at our seminary in Gricigliano, Italy. **This year, more than ten young men from the United States have joined the pre-seminary program.**



The interior of our Chicago church today



Archbishop Raymond Burke confirms young faithful of St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis

Amidst the several high points in its first year of existence, the most memorable event at St. Francis de Sales Oratory was the official visit of Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke, who came to the Oratory on October 15th to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on thirty-four candidates. The ceremony and visit were conducted in the most solemn way provided for by the Traditional Roman Rite, a description and images of which are found at our website, www.institute-christ-king.org. While the number of faithful coming to St. Francis de Sales increases, so does their commitment to helping the apostolate there in its many needs, not the least of which are the required repairs to the church and adjacent buildings.

Michael Wiener -- previously pro-prior of our apostolate in Basel, Switzerland -- was transferred to **Oakland** to be the Episcopal delegate for the Latin Rite of 1962. Thanks to His Excellency Bishop Allen Vigneron, the Latin Mass is now available in Oakland on a daily basis as Father Wiener administers the sacraments in the Traditional Latin Rite to the growing Latin mass community of the church of St. Margaret Mary.

Back in the Midwest, the latter part of the year brought yet another new development. By gracious invitation of the Most Reverend Robert W. Finn, Bishop of **Kansas City-St. Joseph** in Missouri, the Institute of Christ the King has been charged with the Latin Mass apostolate of his diocese, which currently functions at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Eventually the apostolate will be moved to its own location, Old St. Patrick's Church, once restoration of the historic church, built in 1874, is completed. The church has already been erected as an Oratory of the Institute. Father Denis Buchholz, who had been serving at St. Mary's Oratory in Wausau, officially began his work as pro-rector of the



Bishop Robert Finn, Msgr. Schmitz, and Fr. Buchholz at the reception following the inaugural Mass in Kansas City



All Saints celebrated at St. Joseph's Oratory in Green Bay



The "Company of the Immaculate" in action at St. Mary's in Wausau



Hayride at St. Mary's of Rockford Assumption Day picnic

apostolate in Kansas City with an inaugural Mass on his own feast day of St. Denis, October 9th, in the presence of the Bishop and the Vicar General in the Institute.

In more familiar grounds where the Institute has been present for some time, our faithful in **Green Bay** welcomed their new pastor, Father Jean-Marie Moreau, who came to the winterlands of upper Wisconsin after thirteen years working at our missions in Gabon (where Father Andreas Hellmann, former pastor is now stationed). Father Moreau is adapting well to Packer-land, and the apostolate continues to thrive with the gracious support of the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of Green Bay.

The uniquely beautiful Oratory of St. Mary's in **Wausau** continues to draw pilgrims from all over the country. In fact, the heavenly harmony of this recently restored High Gothic church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception has even gained the interest of the local tourist office, who lists it as a "must-see" for visitors to the area, and it is not uncommon for pastors of diverse Christian denominations to bring their congregations to visit the church. These visits by souls not necessarily attached to the Catholic Faith occasionally are moments of singular grace. The Rector of the Oratory, Father Olivier Meney, thanks the Almighty for the many converts He sends to him.

Last December it was our great pleasure to see over one hundred faithful receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from His Excellency Bishop Joseph Perry of Chicago, prior to the installation of the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, our new Bishop of La Crosse. And the Oratory continues to bustle with activity, from the regular dinners -- with the Rector as Chef -- to the institution of the "Company of the Immaculate", an acting troupe composed of the young ladies of the parish who've staged renditions of religious themes, to the enjoyment and inspiration of all who come see.

In **Rockford**, Father Brian Bovee, the beloved Rector of St. Mary Oratory, has his hands full with many activities organized by his competent helpers. Not only the yearly Seminar on issues concerning the Latin Mass, but also the various societies among the faithful make the life at the Oratory always interesting.

At the end of May and beginning of June, Monsignor Gilles Wach, our Prior General, visited the Institute's apostolates in the United States. His presence here at the time of the feast of Corpus Christi enabled him to lead Corpus Christi processions both in Wausau, on the feast day itself, and also in Oakland on the following Sunday.



Msgr. Gilles Wach and Fr. Michael Wiener during the Corpus Christi procession in Oakland



One must not forget to be thankful to Divine Providence for positive developments overseas as well. At our motherhouse in Gricigliano, Italy, **where our American seminarians become more and more numerous, we had the joy of witnessing the ordination of three more priests for the Institute of Christ the King.** It was His Grace Archbishop Raymond Burke who ordained Fathers Florent Guimbretière, Gilles Guitard, and Vincent Thomas to the holy priesthood on the feast of Saints Peter & Paul, June 29th.

Our Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest also continue to grow in grace and numbers, as **they were joined this year by five postulants, two of whom from the United States.** One more milestone was reached by the community on October 31st, when Miss Anne-Charlotte d'Aprigny became a novice, taking on the habit and a religious name - Sister Charlotte-Marie de Sales. The ceremony in Gricigliano was presided over by His Eminence Ennio Cardinal Antonelli, Metropolitan Archbishop of Florence, at which was present also His Eminence Moussa Cardinal Daoud, Prefect for the Congregation of the Oriental Churches.



As you can see, we have much to be thankful for, and much to look forward to in the year that opens before us. **While the several developments described above give us confidence that we are doing God's will, at the same time the tasks ahead of us can be daunting.** Nonetheless, we know that He Who has provided for our Institute so abundantly until now, will supply the financial means for us to continue His work and to carry out the responsibilities that He has placed upon us. We know that we can count with your help, as it is through you, our friends, that His Divine Providence is made manifest.

We ask you to consider not only how generously you are able to contribute to the work of the Institute of Christ the King, but in what areas you may be able to help, such as in spreading the word about our work and needs. Above all, we ask for your prayers. Pray for the success of our several restoration projects, which, given our experience in Wausau, will certainly result in abundant fruits of grace for souls. Pray most especially for vocations, for vocations to the holy priesthood. The vineyard is vast and the workers are few. We count on your help.

On behalf of all the priests, oblates, sisters, and staff of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, I wish you a blessed, fruitful Advent season, leading to a Christmas of wonder and grace, when the Infant King comes to dwell again amongst us.

Very cordially yours, in Christ the King,

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



Some of our American seminarians, from left to right: Abbé William Avis, Abbé Henrique Fragelli, Abbé Jason Apple, Abbé Michael Stein, Abbé Matthew Talarico, and Abbé Aaron Huberfeld.