



October 2006

Dear Friends of the Institute of Christ the King,

More than a year before the close of the terrible First World War, on July 13, 1917, Our Lady told three shepherd children in a remote area of Portugal that the war would end, but that if men did not change their ways and stop offending God (who was already much offended), an even worse war would come about to scourge humanity. “When you see the night illumined by a strange light, know that it is the great sign that God gives you” that this war is about to begin. Men did not change their ways, and indeed, on January 25, 1938 a strange multi-colored light filled the nightly sky, seen as far south as Gibraltar in Europe and the Bermudas in the Americas and causing great alarm and consternation. All the major newspapers of the world reported on this phenomenon, which was declared by scientists to be an aurora borealis of exceptional amplitude. At this very time the Nazi regime was planning the annexation of Austria, which occurred within less than two months, on March 12, 1938, and ushered in the most horrifying of wars – World War II.



Our Lady’s appearance in Fatima at a very crucial moment in human history, with portents about possible future historic events, is only one of the many, many instances of Divine intervention in the course of human history. The Old Testament relates a continuous string of these instances. In fact, human history is in a very real way the result of humanity’s positive response, or lack thereof, to Divine Providence. **And in many instances Our Lord, either Himself or through the mediation of His Immaculate Mother, has directly acted to stay the destructive course of human action impacting society.** We know of the unheeded request that Our Lord made to Louis XIV through St. Margaret Mary, that the kingdom of France be consecrated to His Sacred Heart. Many believe the French Revolution would not have occurred if this consecration would have been made. Less known is Our Lord’s revelation to the Carmelite sister Marie de Saint Pierre in the 1840s, that rampant blasphemy and desecration of Sundays in France would soon lead to violence and revolution again, and that to avert this evil He requested reparation by way of devotion to His Holy Name and the establishment in Tours of a confraternity in honor of His Holy Face. Tragically, once more Our Lord’s directives went unheeded and in 1848 the events He warned of happened, with violent uprisings again in Paris, leading even to the murder of the Archbishop.

On the other hand, how many times prayer and trust in God have brought about the most surprising and miraculous course of events? We can adduce that crucial point in Christian history, in the 4th century, when Constantine, yet a pagan, responded to a heavenly revelation – “*In hoc signum vincis.*” He would be victorious if his troops would march under the sign of the Cross. The subsequent victory and consolidation of his rule led to the legalization of the Christian religion in the Roman Empire and the cessation, at long last, of persecution by the state. In this month of October we remember the victory of Christian forces in the battle of Lepanto, thanks to prayers to Our Lady, which led Pope St. Pius V to establish the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. And many other abound examples throughout history, even to our days.

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St. Thomas More once said that if possible, he would govern only by prayer. Indeed, the course of human history and the workings of society are fundamentally tied to the realm of the spiritual and how Man relates to God. **That is why the recognition of the social reign of Christ is of the essence.** We must not only entrust our own individual hearts, and our own personal affairs to our God. As a society we must also trust in Him to guide our ways and how we function, through the economy of Salvation that He has established from all Eternity, through the means which He has made available in Holy Mother Church. We must trust in His “plan,” knowing that if we “do what He commands,” He will then be able to bring about order and tranquility in society.

Perhaps humanity has never been faced with so much despair, dejection, deprivation, violence, and natural catastrophes, as in our days. Given the many evidences in history, it is not difficult to surmise the cause. One looks around and asks oneself what can be done to start addressing the situation. We have the sure answer from Our Lady of Fatima herself: as a society we must begin by praying (especially the daily Rosary) and following the rule of Christ – the pre-requisite for humanity to be able to attain to individual and collective peace. Thus, while there are many causes to support in our days, we submit that among these, **the most pressing and urgent is that of bringing souls back to God, of making available to souls the riches of Holy Mother the Church,** so that we may have the grace to follow the directives given by Our Lady to remedy the ills of society. When a soul lives in God, a soul is charitable, and where there is charity, there is no despair, no dejection, no deprivation, and no violence. Where men love God and thus follow His commandments, there is no confusion, no exploitation, no greed, no emptiness; rather, there is love, prudence, chastity, humility. There is Peace.

Why does man so ignore his God, his Creator and Redeemer? Pride, for sure, is often at the base of such arrogance. However, how many, many people ignore God and His supremacy not by arrogance, but by ignorance and a lack of understanding? **If they do not know God, how can they love Him, how can they obey Him? How can they pray?** If they have a skewed view of Holy Mother Church, often formed by the media, how can they benefit from Her Treasures of Grace?

One can perceive why the solid training of priests is of the utmost importance. Priests who know that their main mission is to bring Christ to souls and souls to Christ. Priests who have an understanding of the whole impact of Faith on society and culture. Priests who are convinced of the fundamental pre-requisite that prayer is in any human endeavor. **Above all, priests who understand that they are but instruments of Our Lord and King, Jesus Christ; men who stand in His place, and who enable Him to act sacramentally in people’s lives.**

One can also appreciate the necessity of having more and more churches where life revolves around the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacraments, where **the Catholic faithful can delve into the spiritual riches of Catholic tradition, handed down to us by our forefathers over the centuries,** and become leaven for the world and society both in action and in prayer.

Finally, one can understand the essential need to bring again to the foreground the notion that Our Lord Jesus Christ is not only He Who, being Eternal, at some point in time entered human history to effect the Salvation of humanity through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, but also He Who is from all Eternity Lord of human history, **Who has the prerogative of rule over human society.** The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is summarily the means by which this is accomplished, through God’s own action. But we must also spread the word, be God’s messengers and “go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.”

The solid training of priests and consequent running of Traditional Catholic churches, all to bring about the reign of Christ in society through Catholic tradition, culture, and lifestyle – all this makes up the mission of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

However, we cannot carry out this mission without your help. It was Divine Providence that brought about the foundation of our Institute in 1990. And all along its short existence of sixteen years we have witnessed over and over again the arms of Divine Providence shaping our history, guiding our steps, and providing the means for our ever expanding work. But it is only through you, our friends, faithful, and benefactors that He can bring about His Divine plan for the Institute of Christ the King.

Therefore, we are very grateful to all of you who have always been so supportive, by prayer, and also by your financial gifts.

Still, as more and more men join the Institute to pursue their vocation, as more prelates entrust groups of faithful to the care of our priests, as Divine Providence places the restoration of important historic buildings into our hands – in short, as our responsibilities become ever greater and weightier – **the more pressing becomes our financial need, and it is to you that we turn for help.**

As this letter is being written, our seminarians have just returned to Gricigliano to continue their course of studies after summer, their numbers increased by the fifteen men who have entered the seminary this year, while ten new candidates join our pre-seminary program in different apostolates of the Institute. In this issue of our newsletter, we include some photographs of our seminary where these future priests are being formed in a program that can last from seven to nine years. Our seminarians go through a thorough intellectual training in philosophy and theology, but also in general culture as well as proper priestly demeanor. Even more importantly, they are trained in the virtues, especially in humility and obedience – which are so fundamental and necessary to those who are to lead God’s flock – and have an intense life of prayer, with daily Divine Office, rosary, and mental prayer. And in every aspect of their lives, from the classroom to the dining room, to manual labor to recreation, they are taught to reflect their Catholic faith in beauty, in charity, and in joy.

If you have never sent a donation to the Institute, please consider whether this work is worthy of your support, and please be generous in your response by adding the Institute to your list of charities. If you are already among our benefactors, please reflect on whether you could not extend your participation in the mission of the Institute of Christ the King by increasing your already generous regular donation to our work.

Would it be possible for you to make a monthly donation? We ask that you consider committing to a monthly donation which can be done (1) by check, as many of you already do, but also (2) by credit card or (3) a monthly electronic transfer from your bank account. (2) For credit card donations, please complete the appropriate section in the enclosed slip, where you may indicate the amount of your monthly donation and provide the necessary information for us to activate this mechanism. (3) For electronic transfers from your bank account, please contact your own bank; we will supply the required information if you would call our office at 773-363-7409. No amount is too little, especially when contributed on a regular monthly basis, but **please consider making this amount a sacrificial gift.** Kindly use the enclosed response slip to indicate how you wish to contribute to our mission.

Would you also consider making the Institute of Christ the King one of the beneficiaries of your estate or portfolio? There are many ways – financially advantageous because of tax deductions – to contribute to our work in this fashion. You may learn details by calling our office or visiting our website at www.institute-christ-king.org/support.cfm.

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We also thank most profoundly those who deeply touch us by their faithful sacrificial gift of \$1.00 or \$2.00 in cash every month. We especially entrust to your prayers our seminarians, that they may persevere in their good intention and grow ever more in virtue and in learning, so that they may become priests who will help bring about the reign of Christ in hearts and in society. And also, please pray for vocations.

To all our friends, we beg for the continued support of your prayers, for without prayer nothing can be achieved for the Reign of Christ and we can very easily stray from the Will of God.

Thus, I also ask you to join us in our **novena in preparation for the feast of Christ the King** on Sunday, October 29th. Please kindly include among your general intentions the work of the Institute of Christ the King, and in particular the **Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest here in Chicago**. I will gratefully bring to the Altar your own personal intentions at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during this novena of Masses. Please use the enclosed slip to send in your novena intentions, where you will also find the novena prayer. We hope you will join us in this prayer, followed by an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be, from October 21st to October 29th. You may also wish to say the “Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus” found in most Missals of 1962 and prior.

Our needs are urgent, but we have every reason to trust in Divine Providence and thank you in advance for being His instruments and collaborating with the mission of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. May God reward you most abundantly. Be assured of my personal grateful prayers, and that of all the priests, seminarians, oblates and sisters of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

In this month of Our Lady of the Rosary, let us all renew our commitment (or make it for the first time!) to pray the daily Rosary, as Our Heavenly Queen requested of us in Fatima. Thus, may the cry ring in all hearts: *Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat!*

Yours very truly, in Christ the King,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Schmitz" followed by a horizontal line.

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

PS: Please do not forget our seminarians, and join us in the novena to Christ the King, from October 21st to the 29th. You are invited to a special High Mass in honor of Christ the King on His Feast Day, Sunday, October 29th, at 9am at the address below.

