

## SPIRITUALITY

*Pray for Vocations*

The Venerable Pope Pius XII would frequently point out that our prayers and sacrifices are most important for the well-being of the entire Mystical Body of Christ. We all depend on each other's help and support. "But a body calls also for a multiplicity of members, which are linked together in such a way as to help one another. And as in the body when one member suffers, all the other members share its pain, and the healthy members come to the assistance of the ailing, so in the Church the individual members do not live for themselves alone, but also help their fellows, and all work in mutual collaboration for the common comfort and for the more perfect building up of the whole Body." (Mystici Corporis, no.15). Prayer and sacrifice are the most efficient tools for effectuating this mutual sustenance.



For this reason, we should always pray and sacrifice so that an ever greater number of boys and girls, young men and women may discover their vocation to serve God in a special way. The priesthood, and also the brother- and sisterhood are pillars of Catholic life. Without young people following these particular

callings, the Church is soon weakened and the laity abandoned in their spiritual desires and needs.

However, the vocations are there! The Blessed Lord never ceases to call souls into His vineyard and into His service. The young need our example, our encouragement, but in the first place, they need our constant prayer and sacrifice in order to discover and joyfully follow the call of God. In a secularized world that violently penetrates even into the realm of the Church, we need to make heroic efforts to prevent these vocations from being destroyed. "Follow me!" No hindrance should suffocate this divine call, and all mothers and fathers, all families and their friends should be proud of the generous dedication with which a soul desires to offer itself to the Lord.

Let us pray daily for the future servants and handmaids of the Lord and selflessly accept all sacrifices needed to foster more and more vocations for His glorious kingdom!

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz

## FROM THE SEMINARY



This past year has been one of many graces and blessings. The Seminary in Gricigliano has been a welcoming home for me and my first-year confreres. After a year of work, study, liturgy, prayer, and discernment, we were admitted to the clerical state. The Prior General

of the Institute, the Very Reverend Monsignor Gilles Wach, blessed our cassocks and welcomed us into the Institute's close-knit family. On the following day, His Excellency, the Most Reverend John Basil Meeking, conferred the rite of tonsure with the imposition of the surplice, a rite still guarded by Holy Mother Church, which opens us to the reception of minor and major orders.

The cassock in which a seminarian is clothed marks our humility and death to the vain riches of this secular world in order to attain an even greater treasure which God alone can give: a share in His glory in the eternal banquet of Heaven. It reminds us of Christ's perfect sacrifice on the Cross and the daily carrying of our own cross. As we wear this holy cassock, we bring forth the mission of the Church, as well as bear the sweet yoke of Jesus Christ.

By submitting ourselves to the rite of tonsure, we declare our love for Christ and His Church through the practice of humility, the door to all virtues, and of holy obedience. The imposition of the surplice reminds us of the abundant graces and the true joy found in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Although the entrance to the clerical state has been a milestone for me and my fellow confreres, we have just begun our path to the Holy Priesthood and moreover, we have just begun to climb Calvary. Assisting at the ordinations that culminate each seminary year makes us ever more hopeful for the future of the Church and the fruitful work of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. Divine providence is truly with us.

Abbé Joel Estrada

### CONSECRATION OF OLD ST. PATRICK'S ORATORY

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, His Excellency the Most Reverend Robert D. Finn, Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, will solemnly consecrate the newly restored Old St. Patrick's Oratory and celebrate a Pontifical High Mass commemorating the occasion. All are welcome! 806 Cherry Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. For more information visit [www.oldstpatrick.org](http://www.oldstpatrick.org).

### 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 mother-house 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  
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for the United States

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# 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 Priestly Ordinations celebrated annually at the Institute's seminary are the fruit of long and in-depth preparation of our young men. The holy orders that precede this final access to the Altar of the Blessed Lord are like steps on a supernatural ladder leading to an ever greater contact with the Sacred Mysteries of the Liturgy.

For this reason, the Institute of Christ the King prudently selects gifted and selfless young men to generously give their lives to the service of the Divine Kingdom. In an extensive training embracing an intense prayer life centered on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, a high level of academic studies and a good balance of manual work for the community, our seminarians are brought to appreciate the joys and sacrifices of priestly existence. The abundant treasure of the Catholic Church is disclosed to them in eight years of a demanding formation. Thus, they are prepared to bring these gifts to the faithful once given to their fatherly care.

Please pray for them and do not hesitate to sustain their efforts with your own material sacrifices, so that we can accept the many excellent young Americans who have discovered their vocation for Christ in the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest!

Yours very cordially in Christ the King,

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

PS: The monthly tuition (including academic fees, room and board) is \$900, which still does not cover the actual cost. Any contribution you can give to help sustain a seminarian is gratefully welcomed! If you wish we can put you in contact with "your" seminarian.





# ASCENDING THE STEPS

## Toward the Altar of Our Lord

After an arduous and fulfilling academic year, our seminarians arrived once again at the goal of their yearly labors, the ordinations that bring them to the next level of clerical orders leading to the Holy Priesthood. The opening event on that first week in July was the reception of the cassock by first year seminarians from the Institute's Prior General, Msgr. Gilles Wach. The following day they were tonsured by the Most Reverend Basil Meeking, Bishop Emeritus of Christchurch, New Zealand, who also conferred the minor orders of Porter, Lector, Exorcist, and Acolyte on a large number of seminarians that same day. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, His Excellency ordained four Subdeacons and three Deacons, among them three Americans. Finally, on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fathers Henry Fragelli and François-Xavier de Dainville were made Priests forever by the hands of the Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke, newly appointed Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, at the magnificent Chiesa dei Santi Michele e Gaetano in Florence. Closing the eventful week, there was Solemn

Benediction and the thankful chanting of the *Te Deum*, presided over by His Eminence Silvano Cardinal Piovanelli, Archbishop Emeritus of Florence, who first welcomed the Institute in the Archdiocese of Florence in 1990. Eighteen years have passed since those first days, when we arrived at the beautiful medieval mansion in dire need of repair that was to be our seminary, with a small group of eager young men seeking to be immersed in the traditions of Holy Mother the Church in order to attain to the Holy Priesthood. By the grace of God, our seminary has grown and solidified, and the number of dedicated souls seeking to follow Our Lord within the Institute continues to increase. Chosen cautiously and trained thoroughly in St. Benedict's love of contemplation, St. Thomas Aquinas' love of truth, and St. Francis de Sales' love of the flock, our future priests look to the day when they will serve you and your families for the sake of Christ the King.



# NEWS from the Vineyard

The well-beloved rector of St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis, Father Karl W. Lenhardt, has been called to serve at our motherhouse in Gricigliano, where he will be the spiritual director of the seminarians as well as of the Sisters Adorers of the Royal Heart. The main factor that inclined the superiors of the Institute toward this new role for Father Lenhardt was the ever growing number of English-speaking seminarians and sisters in Gricigliano. This triggers several changes among the apostolates of the United States.

Taking up as rector at St. Francis de Sales Oratory will be Father Michael Wiener, who has been at St. Margaret Mary's in Oakland since his arrival in the United States in 1995. Father Lenhardt's able vicar, Father William Avis, will now be stationed at Old St. Patrick's Oratory in Kansas City. The restoration of this historic church is now completed (see back of newsletter) thanks to the dedication of its faithful and the perseverance of our Father Denis Buchholz, who will now be rector at St. Joseph's Oratory in Green Bay. Father Jean-Marie Moreau will go from Green Bay to Oakland, and there serve the



faithful of St. Margaret Mary's as well as Our Mother of Perpetual Help Oratory in Santa Clara. Finally, the newly ordained Father Henry Fragelli is appointed to beautiful St. Mary's Oratory in Wausau, while Father Olivier Meney moves to Milwaukee so that

St. Stanislaus Church becomes a full-time apostolate. Please pray for all our priests and faithful during this transition time, that the ever new waters springing from the fountain of grace may abound.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, members of the Institute will offer a Solemn High Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, in Hanceville, Alabama, commemorating one year of the Holy Father's motu proprio *Summorum Pontificum*. This event will be broadcast live by EWTN at 8:00 am Eastern Time.

# AT THE SHRINE in Chicago

While the sanctuary and nave of the Shrine of Christ the King -- beautifully fitted with its provisional and temporary furnishings -- continues to be used for Holy Mass and the Sacraments, the basement has become the focus of hard work. Many hours of labor have been expended in removing all the debris that still covered much of the area, as well as in extracting the old plumbing



and bathroom fixtures. In the basement will be located some of the machinery of the new mechanical systems, as well as the new restrooms. Some space will also be dedicated for storage, as an extension of the sac-

risty. Monies for our restoration come in, step by step, so we heartily commend our fund raising efforts to your prayers so that the work may continue.

One fast approaching effort to raise funds is the benefit recital we will be holding at the Shrine on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 pm. His Highness Paul Duke von Oldenburg will be coming from Germany to be our honored guest at this event, in which internationally acclaimed tenor Trevór Mitchell will perform Sacred Baroque music and Classic Negro Spirituals. If you would like to contribute and receive an invitation, please contact us at 773-363-7409, or [desk@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:desk@institute-christ-king.org).

As customary, we will be celebrating a Novena of Masses for the Feast of Christ the King here at the Shrine, from October 18<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, the feast day itself on the last Sunday of October. Please use the enclosed slip to send us your Mass intentions, which will be brought to the Altar each day of the novena.