

CHRISTUS REGNAT

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST



SEEK YE FIRST
THE KINGDOM
OF GOD, AND
ALL THESE
THINGS SHALL
BE GIVEN
UNTO YOU.

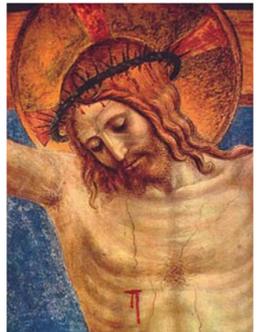
A Lenten Message

During Lent Holy Mother Church calls us to convert and do penance in several ways: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Penance for our sins renews us internally. Renunciation of pleasures, visiting the poor and the sick, and other acts of mortification recommended by the Church help to reduce in us our egotistical tendencies and to make us more mindful of our neighbor. Penance does not render us gloomy or sullen, but rather it purifies our soul and gives us the joy of selfless service to God and man.

When we pray, we give to God the first place in our lives. We are uplifted into the divine presence. Should we not give more time to God in prayer this Lent: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Rosary, mental prayer in the contemplation of the life of Christ?

Fasting, that is, abstaining from excess in eating and drinking, not only helps our bodies but more importantly frees our spirit from self-indulgence and sluggish inertia. Thus the Church gives us the precept of Lenten fasting. Vigilance of the mind and desire prevents us from merely sinking into the material. *Sursum corda. Lift up your hearts.* Sacrifices in our diet and the use of our senses leads to a greater openness to God's Will, which leads us to our heavenly home.

Arising from anxious fear for the future and lack of trust in God, avarice is a material selfishness which binds our souls as slaves to the perishable things of this world. **Almsgiving** breaks these chains and frees us from Mammon. The more we give, the more we will receive! This is the recommendation of Saint Francis de Sales: "Detach yourself



"Veritatem facientes in caritate – Living the Truth in Charity"

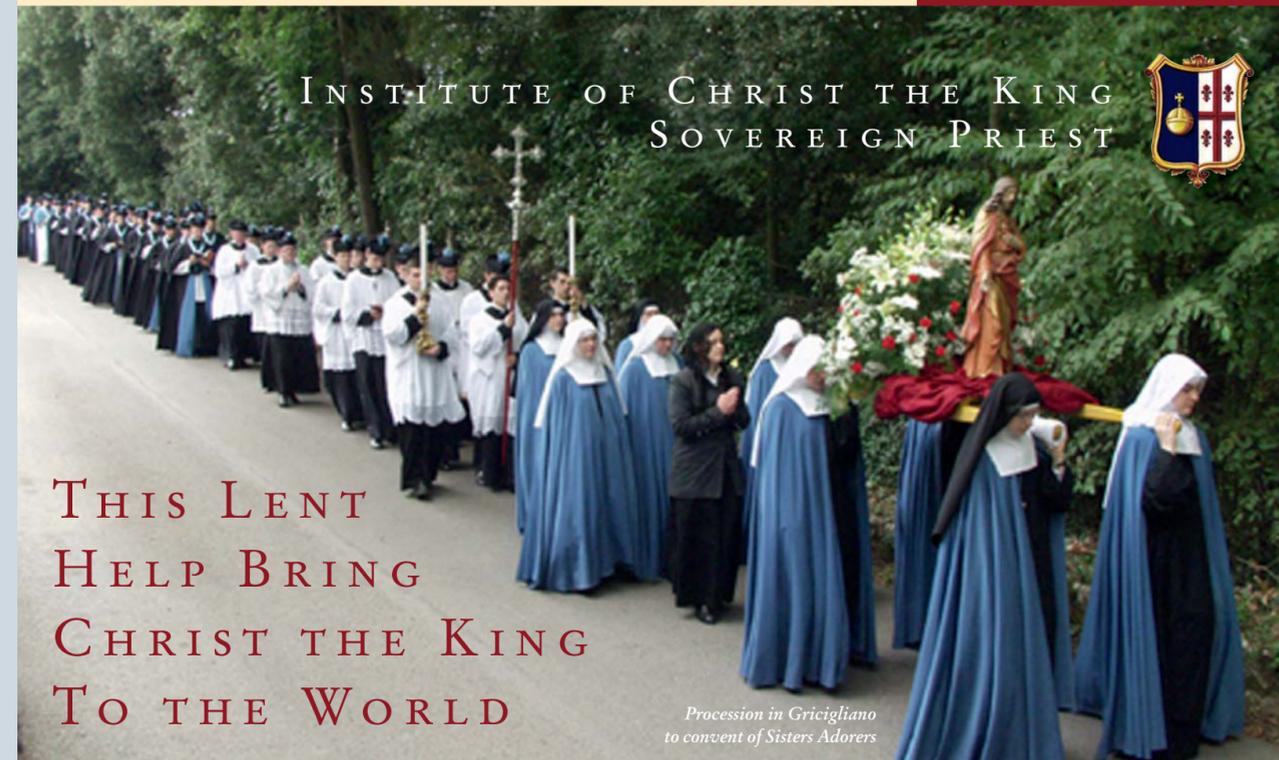
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The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest is a society of apostolic life of Pontifical Right whose goal is the honor of God and the sanctification of priests in the service of the Church and souls.

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INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST



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THIS LENT
HELP BRING
CHRIST THE KING
TO THE WORLD

Procession in Gricigliano to convent of Sisters Adorers

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Bishop Ricken with canons and oblates of the Institute and the newly-confirmed faithful of St. Joseph's Oratory in Green Bay.

Confirmations in Green Bay

On February 6, His Excellency, the Most Reverend David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form to over thirty young adults of Saint Joseph's Oratory. Bishop Ricken graciously welcomed the Institute to beautiful Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral in

order to accommodate the several hundred faithful who attended the ceremony. After the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Bishop Ricken assisted pontifically at the episcopal throne during a Solemn High Mass.



January 17: Fifth anniversary of the Institute apostolate in Oakland, California at St. Margaret Mary church.



St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis celebrates Patronal feast.



Apostolate in Cashton, Wisconsin, now daily served by Institute priest.

Growth surge at shrine

A Chicago historic landmark church having barely escaped the wrecking ball, the Shrine of Christ the King was an empty church with a gutted interior two years ago. Since then, through a whole program of events, including regular Masses with Renaissance choral music, as well as free classical chamber concerts, cultural lectures on art, music, and history, mornings of spiritual recollection every first Saturday of the month, the Shrine has become a national icon for the renaissance of Liturgy and culture for Chicago and beyond, attracting growing numbers of people of all ages, backgrounds, & professions. Visit www.infantking.com.





frequently from some of your possessions by giving them to poor people. You may think that the more you give away the poorer you are. However, God will certainly repay you not only in the next world, but also in this one. Nothing can more appropriately increase earthly prosperity than almsgiving.”

The holy season of Lent, therefore, teaches us to raise our hearts and souls with confidence to God. **It is in this spirit of absolute trust in God and total dedication that our seminarians are educated through prayer, study and work.** They learn more and more to be transformed by the grace of God into the image of “*Alter Christus*” they will one day become through priestly ordination.

At the same time that your Lenten works of charity unite you with Jesus Christ, your sacrifices also make you an endeared member of our Institute’s family. I thank you very much for your prayers and sacrifices for our seminarians. Without your help they cannot advance to the altar of God. Your generous almsgiving toward our destitute seminarians enables them to continue their studies. Today, many seminarians do not receive support from their families. Never-

theless they put their trust completely in Christ who says “Do not worry, at first the kingdom of God and everything else will you be given to it!” **As a benefactor you are then the providential means through which the promise of Christ is fulfilled.**

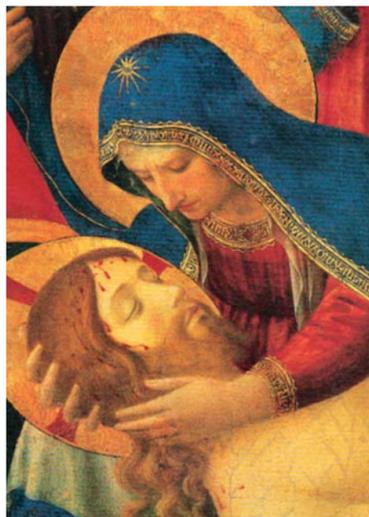
Thus let us not be primarily concerned with our worldly goods, our career, house and home, clothing and food, health and welfare, but rather let us put God and His eternal kingdom first above all. That is the message of Lent: “Repent and believe the gospel!” Then we will surely receive that which we need and much more besides, because **God our loving Father will not allow Himself to be outdone in generosity.** The greater our trust in His goodness, the more abundantly He will bestow His gifts upon us.

With my deepest gratitude for your sacrifice during this Lent, I promise you our all praying for your comment and greetings from the heart!

Yours in Christ the King

Michael Schmitz

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz
Vicar General in the Institute of Christ the King
Superior of the American province



UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 17: Pilgrimage to Shrine of St. John Marie Vianney in Ars, France, with the priests, seminarians, sisters, oblates, and members of the Society of the Sacred Heart

May 29: Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine of Holy Hill, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Solemn High

Mass offered by Monsignor Gilles Wach, Founder and Prior General

June 11-13: National Retreat for the Society of the Sacred Heart at the Shrine of Christ the King in Chicago

June 28-July 1: Ordinations at the International Seminary in Gricigliano, Italy

“Veritatem facientes in caritate – Living the Truth in Charity”

Life in our African Missions of Gabon



The Most Rev. Basile Mve Engone, Archbishop of Libreville, presides at Pontifical Vespers.



Msgr. Schmitz and Canon Lebocq visit the missions.



(Above) Canon Lebocq, seminary choirmaster, gives lessons in Gregorian Chant to youth choir in Libreville.
(Below) Ash Wednesday in the church under construction.



MEET A MISSIONARY: REVEREND DEACON MICHAEL STEIN OF WASHINGTON DC

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest has been situated in Libreville for over four years. Last year our Archbishop, Msgr. Basile Mvé Engone, erected our apostolate as a parish and installed Canon de Ternay as the pastor. The support of our Archbishop is a great blessing. Since our apostolate has become a parish it has not ceased to grow. In 2008 we had 15 baptisms and about 150 parishioners; in 2009 we had 41 baptisms and are now approaching 500 parishioners! And this year we have 44 adults preparing their baptism in our catechism program. In fact, at Our Lady of Lourdes parish we have more than 170 faithful in catechism spread out over 6 classes. There are 3 levels for children; confirmation preparation; perseverance; and adult catechism.

TRUST THE LOVING PROVIDENCE OF GOD: A Lenten resolution in the spirit of Saint Francis de Sales

Human planning is always short-sighted. We must certainly think ahead with prudent care and plan accordingly. However, too much planning and consideration, too many anxious concerns and too much self-confidence will always be deceiving. We do not have enough trust in God. Even in certain aspects of life in the Church, strategic methods and plans with merely human considerations can sometimes displace the faith in God which should rightly be given the primary place. If we lack faith in God as the Cause of all being and action, then our plans and careful preparation will come to nothing: “Man proposes, but God disposes.” It is only when we act with a firm belief in His loving Providence can God then help us so that our plans do not fail. It is only when we trust in Him that our foresight is not arrogance, but rather cooperation with His grace.

This Lent we should focus on growing in our trust in God and His loving Providence through learning to rely more upon the supernatural power of His grace. The first step is to humble ourselves before the Most High and to allow Him to transform us. It is not for us to direct the ways of our life! It is God who directs us according to His loving Will. It is our task to pray for the accomplishment of this divine plan for us and to discern the Will of God our Father in the decisions and the tasks of our daily life.



Saint Francis de Sales:
“God would sooner work miracles than leave without assistance those who trust entirely in His Divine Providence.”

Other activities that take place at the parish are: daily mass, three divine offices recited publicly every day, daily public rosary, four adorations per week, two prayer groups, English and Latin classes, each once a week, three practices a week for our St. Benedict’s Choir, and weekly Altar Boy practices and liturgical formation sessions, and on Sundays Solemn High Mass and Solemn Vespers. This all of course in addition to the sacramental needs of the faithful such as confessions and spiritual direction, communion and visits to the sick and orphanages, house blessings and exorcisms. The parish also organizes retreats, summer camps, and various conferences. The most recent event was the successful Gregorian Chant session directed by Canon Lebocq and crowned with the presence of our Archbishop who presided Pontifical Vespers at the parish. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the glory of God and the salvation of souls!

Unfortunately, all too often our arrogance, our independence, and our exaggerated self-confidence and the attachment to human methods and plans prevent the fulfillment of God’s marvelous plan for us. Thus Saint Francis de Sales teaches us:

“Let us place all our trust in Divine Providence. Even if we do not always understand, we will always remain in God’s peace. God’s Will is love. May His Will be done.”

Of course, it is not always easy to place ourselves completely into God’s good hands. Our lack of faith tends to create anxiety and fear. We implicitly believe that we can do it better than God Himself. This prevents us from following God’s plan with “childlike trust.” “Yes, God demands of us that we have a very high degree of confidence in His fatherly care for us. Why should we not trust in Him, since He can never be deceived? Never was it known that anyone who put his trust in God has not received much fruit.” says St. Francis de Sales. In the world and in the Church, current events plainly show that human stratagems lead nowhere. Even in our own lives merely human planning is often painfully frustrated. Our loving God wants to show us that the fruitfulness of our action depends on cooperation with His hand. Because God first cares for us, then our acts can be in His hands. It is only by seeking out His Will for us that we can follow His divine plan. It is only by turning to Him that our own plans will have real meaning and will bear lasting fruit.

From the International Seminary



Bishop Athanasius Schneider with first-year seminarians.



Bishop Finn of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph visits with some of the American seminarians in Gricigliano.



Seminarians learn to chant the Divine Office. Long hours are spent in daily study of theology, philosophy, and spirituality.

