

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

### *Ubi Petrus – Ibi Ecclesia*

“Where Peter is, there is the Church.” Inspired by these words of St. Ambrose, Catholics of all ages, nations, backgrounds, and cultural traditions have looked up to the throne of Peter, thus perceiving Rome as the center of the Catholic World. The steady stream of pilgrims who have come to pray “*ad limina apostolorum*” down throughout the ages has now increased in our day into an expanding ocean of faithful. Under Pope Benedict XVI it seems that more people than ever before now travel to Rome in order to greet the Vicar of Christ on earth.

This Romanity of the Church, this ever growing concentration on the papacy is humanly unexplainable. It is not the human side of the papacy that attracts so many. It is



much rather a deep understanding of the Will of God as expressed in the words of Christ to Peter: “You are the rock on which I will build my Church!” Grace has made and continues to make Peter and his successors the guarantee of the divine character of the Mystical Body. Intended to secure the infallible truth of doctrine and the safe transmission of sacramental grace, God’s lasting promise to Peter serves as a rock-solid foundation for the Church. The two spiritual powers which the Church holds for the sake of our redemption, namely, of government and of sanctification, are fully present only in Peter. He is the source of their unity and thus, he is the base of all true Mission coming from the Lord. Far from Peter, there is no full unity, neither with the Church nor with Christ.

Small wonder then if we see the Vicar of Christ constantly beset by storms. Desiring to destroy the work of redemption, the enemy relentlessly sends his forces against the Universal Shepherd of Christ’s flock. Hence our duty is not only to look up to the Shepherd and follow him, but also to rally behind him and implore the heavenly Mother of the Church and St. Joseph, its Patron, as well as the Angels to defend and shield the Holy Father. Thus strengthened, he continues to guide the Church, the marvelous boat of salvation, as it floats on high waves without ever sinking under the waters.

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz

## FROM THE SEMINARY

As an American, the idea of packing up and going to a French-speaking seminary in Italy was somewhat daunting. Would it be an insurmountable culture shock? Would I be able to pick up the language? Now, having finished over half of the year of Spirituality, I see that there was really no reason to be nervous.



The seminary of St. Phillip Neri is a living example of the universal nature of the Catholic faith. We seminarians come from over eleven different countries, but we’re all Catholic before being French, American, Brazilian or Japanese. The English speakers may need to learn French, but all of us need to learn Latin! And what is more, we’re all linked by the particular spirituality of the Institute as expressed by our holy patrons: St. Francis de Sales, St. Benedict, and St. Thomas Aquinas. This common supernatural outlook touches upon our entire formation. Whether in the life of prayer and breathtaking liturgy, the rich and rigorous academic schedule, or the practical labor that is a part of every seminarian’s day, everything in Gricigliano is done in a spirit of noble simplicity and abundant charity that I couldn’t help but notice from my first days here.

Though originally a little apprehensive, I now look forward with eager anticipation to the years ahead. The formation I will receive here, a formation which draws from the very best sources of Catholic Tradition and reflects the desires of the Church for the training of her priests, is an inestimable treasure. Our seminary is a place where one is truly taught to become a servant of God, “living the truth in charity” in the words of our Institute’s motto, not only in word, but in action.

Edward Gardner

### UPCOMING EVENTS

On Friday, June 12, at 5:00pm His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, will offer Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Te Deum at the Shrine of Christ the King in thanksgiving for the Institute’s reception of the Pontifical Rite status. Very Rev. Msgr. Gilles Wach, Prior General of the Institute, will be present. Following the Liturgy all are invited to a festive reception in honor of His Eminence. For more information, please visit [www.infantking.com](http://www.infantking.com) or contact our American Provincial Headquarters in Chicago at 773-363-7409.

## 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 motherhouse 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  
Vicar General  
Provincial Superior  
for the United States

### Shrine of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

6415 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
T 1-773-363-7409  
F 1-773-363-7824  
[info@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:info@institute-christ-king.org)  
[www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org)



# CHRISTUS REGNAT

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST





# THE PAPACY

## and the Institute

*Pope Benedict XVI greets Msgr. Wach and Mother Mary of the Love of God*

Most recently, the Institute of Christ the King was elevated to the status of Pontifical Right. After a thorough canonical inquiry about its life and constitutions, the papacy has thus recognized an unwavering fidelity to the Holy Roman See which was apparent even before the Institute was actually founded. The decisive encounter with one of the great figures of the Roman tradition, Giuseppe Cardinal Siri, finally brought about the birth of the Institute of Christ the King. In the Cardinal's seminary of Genoa, Italy, the Founders of the Institute, Msgr. Gilles Wach and Canon Phillippe Mora, received a priestly education after the example of the classical Roman style. Hence, Romanity, that is a profound "feeling with the Church" and an intense perception of the inner importance of the Primacy of Peter for Christianity in doctrine, liturgy and Catholic life, became the essence of the Institute of Christ the King right from its start.

Ordained by two consecutive Popes, Msgr. Gilles Wach, Canon Phillippe Mora, and Msgr. Michael Schmitz had the grace as young priests to befriend historic representatives of this deeply rooted Romanity, among them Pietro Cardinal Palazzini, a famous moralist and Prefect of the Congregation for the Saints, Silvio Cardinal Oddi, a classical Roman diplomat and, as Prefect for the Congregation for the Clergy, an intrepid defender of priestly dignity and discipline, and Monsignor Antonio Piolanti, former Rector of the Pontifical University of the Lateran, a brilliant Thomist and genial representative of the theological Roman School. These and many other eminent personalities instilled in the fledgling Institute a deep Roman Catholic

consciousness, enabling not so much the re-creation as the continuation of an unbroken tradition of faithfulness to the Vicar of Christ on Earth as the wielder of the Lord's redemptive powers of government and sanctification. Thus, in the storms and battles of over twenty years, members of the Institute of Christ the King have sacrificed their lives, their prayers and their work for a truly Roman Catholic unity of faith and culture, nature and grace, doctrine and liturgy. The fidelity to Peter finds its expression in a lasting gratitude to the Holy Father, for whom fervent prayers are offered to Christ the King and His Immaculate Mother every day, and most especially in recent hours of persecution and injustice toward the Holy See. Our firm conviction is: "Where Peter is, there is the Church!"



*Msgr. Wach, Reverend Canon Mora, Seminary Rector, with seminarians in St. Peter's Basilica*



*Priestly ordination of Monsignor Wach by Pope John Paul II.*



*Priestly ordination of Msgr. Schmitz by Cardinal Ratzinger*



*Cardinal Palzzini with Monsignor Piolanti in Gricigliano*



*Cardinal Oddi in Gricigliano*



*Cardinal Stickler ordained priests in Gricigliano*



*Cardinal Siri*



*Cardinal Ratzinger assisted by Institute priests in a Pontifical Liturgy*

## NEWS from the Vineyard

On the feast of Saint Benedict, co-patron of the Institute, Franc Cardinal Rode, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Ap-



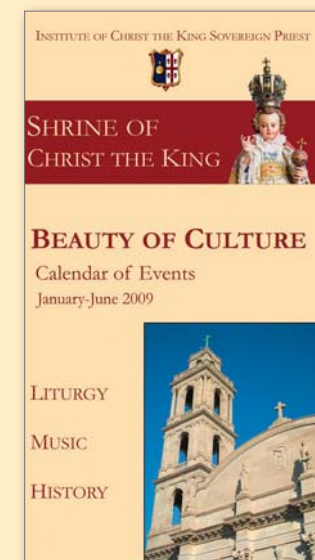
stolic Life, ordained six young men to the diaconate: one Italian, two Americans, and three French. Many friends and supporters of the Institute came to Gricigliano for this beautiful Pontifical High Mass of Ordination in the seminary chapel. May Saint Benedict intercede for these six young deacons, that they may be faithful servants of the Church according to the spirit and mission which the Institute has received.

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## NEWS from the Shrine

In its mission to bring the beauty of faith and culture to the Southside of Chicago, the Shrine of Christ the King has launched an impressive 2009 calendar of events. The calendar features monthly choral Masses on the 25th of every month in commemoration of the Nativity of the Holy



Infant King, as well as free classical chamber concerts, a Chicago Cultural speaker series, mornings of spiritual recollection every first Saturday of the month, a monthly class on writings of the great Masters of Spirituality, as well as other special events. To view the calendar, please visit

[www.infantking.org](http://www.infantking.org)