



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST**

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#### **ORDINATIONS IN ST. LOUIS IN THE CLASSICAL ROMAN RITE**

(St. Louis, 19 June 2007) On the feast of the Sacred Heart, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Classical Roman Rite, or Traditional Latin Rite, returned in grand style to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. After more than forty years, young men were again ordained through that ancient liturgy whose history can be traced to over 1,500 years. Before a congregation of 1,200, two deacons of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest received that day from the hands of Archbishop Raymond L. Burke the orders of the holy priesthood. Priests of the Institute of Christ the King -- a worldwide society of apostolic life founded in 1990 -- offer Holy Mass and perform all the Sacraments using exclusively the Traditional Latin liturgy, thus the ordinations in that ancient Rite.

Seminarians and clergy of the Institute of Christ the King assisted the Archbishop in the many liturgical roles of the elaborate Solemn Pontifical High Mass within which the Ordinations took place, and also provided an exquisitely refined rendition of Gregorian chant, expertly sung in the style of the monks of Solemnnes. In attendance were Bishop Joseph Finn, of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary of Chicago, and Msgr. Vernon Gardin, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The choir stalls lining the sanctuary were filled with clergy and seminarians, including Msgr. Gilles Wach, founder and Prior General of the Institute, who had come from its motherhouse in Florence, Italy, and Msgr. Michael Schmitz, the Vicar General and Provincial Superior for the United States. In the pews the congregation gathered from all parts of the country, from Arizona and

California to New York and Florida -- young families with many children being particularly prominent.

The four-hour duration of the entrancingly beautiful ceremony was hardly perceived by those in attendance, transported, as they felt, into the “timelessness of Heaven.” Videos of the ceremony can be ordered at [www.institute-christ-king.org/resources](http://www.institute-christ-king.org/resources), or by calling 773-363-7409.