



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

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**OAKLAND APOSTOLATE AT
SAINT MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Mailing Address:
1219 Excelsior Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL

FROM CANON WIENER

“Till then, you had been like sheep going astray; now, you have been brought back to him, your shepherd, who keeps watch over your souls.”

St. Peter explains in his epistle what the fruits of the Cross are: ***“On the Cross, His own body took the weight of our sins ...”*** - By His supreme sacrifice Christ opened the way for us to return to God in holiness and justice. ***“It was His wounds that healed you.”***

As High Priest and victim Our Lord became our shepherd who leads us back to the eternal pastures that give us nourishment of our souls forever. ***“I am the Good Shepherd”*** said Our Lord of Himself - a shepherd who laid down His life for each one of us on the Cross.

The shepherd gathers the sheep, keeps the flock united, guides it and protects it. In offering His life on the Cross Our Lord ***acquired a people for himself from those who previously were not a people: ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation’.***

The Good Shepherd provides also for the foreseeable future for His flock in caring for it and protecting it. As God and man, Jesus foresaw our permanent need to be “shepherded” in the sacramental life of the Church. For this reason Our Lord instituted the Catholic priesthood as a participation in His priesthood and the Eucharist as the unbloody re-enactment and re-presentation of His sacrifice on the Cross.

St. Gregory the Great (590-604) says in today’s third reading in the priest’s breviary: ***“Dearly beloved brethren, ye have heard from the holy Gospel what is at once your instruction and our danger.”***

The Good Shepherd is the model for the priest who is ordained by one of the successors of the apostles. Every priest is ordained to be another Christ, to be another Good Shepherd.

This is possible first of all by being conformed to the supreme shepherd in the moment of his ordination. The center and heart of this priestly identity as a shepherd lies in celebrating Holy Mass, in doing what Christ had entrusted to His priests. As Christ became the shepherd of our souls in the moment when He sacrificed Himself for us on the Cross as victim and priest, so is the ministerial priest conform to Christ precisely in that moment of celebrating Mass.

The priestly ordination, however, does not destroy or efface the natural character, constitution, traits and inclinations, but gives a man the sacramental grace and the character to be another Christ to correspond to the life he lives. Grace does not destroy nature, but elevates it.

“I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”. The life of a priest should correspond to the sacrificial action not only at the altar, but also in all other parts of life – as much as this is possible due to human frailty and limitations. In this imitation of Christ, ***“the priest dedicates himself to the service of the Lord Jesus and of His Mystical Body with complete liberty, which is made easier by his total offering, and thus he depicts more fully the unity and harmony of the priestly life.”*** (*Sacerdotialis Caelibatus, n. 27*).

Priestly celibacy is the most obvious, most spiritual and most beautiful gift in the priest’s life long imitation of Christ.

Throughout his life the priest has to become more and more what he already is by his sacred ordination. The priest is representative of Christ, he is mediator between God and man and he is charged with the task to continue the work of redemption in the Church Jesus Christ has founded. In giving his life to Christ, the priest has given his life to the Church and all its members in his daily consecration to Christ the High Priest. Teaching, preaching, instructing, praying, fulfilling his administrative duties in the parish, mission or oratory, fostering the Christian culture in various ways - all this has its source and finds its purpose and finality in the redemption by Christ in His suffering, death and resurrection.

The formation of priests at seminary has to include therefore “the entire man”, that means all social, cultural, intellectual and human aspects of the priestly existence. The seven years the canons of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest spend at our seminary in Gricigliano, near Florence, give each man ample opportunity to receive this specific formation.

I thank you personally and in the name of my superiors for what you have done so generously over the years to support the St. Philip Neri Seminary at our motherhouse in Italy.

And I thank you on this occasion especially for your prayers for your priests who served you over the years in Oakland. Your prayers and sacrifices are most important for all priests who want to serve as disciples of Christ in being Good Shepherds. Here in Maria Engelport, I continue to offer every daily Mass for all of you in Oakland.

With my sincere best wishes and my priestly blessings for all of you I am gratefully,

Canon Michael K. Wiener

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date	Mass of the Day
Sunday 04/26	Second Sunday of Easter <i>2nd Class / White</i>
Monday 04/27	St. Peter Canisius, Confessor and Doctor of the Church <i>3rd Class/ White</i>
Tuesday 04/28	St. Paul of the Cross, Confessor <i>3rd Class/ White</i>
Wednesday 04/29	St. Peter of Verona, Martyr <i>3rd Class/ Red</i>
Thursday 04/30	St. Catherine of Sienna, Virgin <i>3rd Class/ Red</i>
Friday 05/01	St. Joseph the Worker, Spouse of the B.V.M. <i>1st Class/ White</i>
Saturday 05/02	Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary <i>3rd Class/ White</i>
Sunday 05/03	Third Sunday of Easter <i>2nd Class / White</i>

CATECHISM CLASS ON ZOOM

For now, the children's catechism class has moved to Zoom on Wednesdays at 10am. Please send an email to oakland@institute-christ-king.org to join. Adults are welcome to join as well.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE SICK

In your kindness, please keep these requests in your prayers. Thank you.

Thomas Henriksson **Lianne Claver**
Gigi Cunningham **Rose Stone**
Timothy Irving **Barbara Powell**

(If you wish to be included on this list, please email Canon at oakland@institute-christ-king.org)

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

To be on the apostolate's email list, please send a request to oakland@institute-christ-king.org.

ONLINE RESOURCES FROM THE INSTITUTE

Live-stream and schedule of Mass & Office:

www.institute-christ-king.org/videostream

Sermons and archived broadcasts are available on the Institute's Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ICKSP/videos>

Podcasts: a number of sermons are also available in audio format on various podcast platforms, such as Spotify, TuneIn, Sticher, and iHeart Radio:

podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/living-the-truth-in-charity/id1491226552

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE SEMINARY!

Thank you for generously praying for the seminarians throughout Lent this year.

All benefactors are remembered at the altar at our Motherhouse in Gricigliano, and in the daily prayers of the seminarians.

Donate online: select "International Seminary"

