



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

30 December 2019

In this issue of the *Sentinel*, we offer some photos from the Ordinations festivities which crowned the 2019 academic year. We were pleased to welcome so many for the occasion. Perhaps next year, the fires will not make travel so difficult, and we will be able to welcome even more of you for what we foresee will be the ordination of three priests. At present, the Seminary's annual retreats for the faithful have begun. For your planning purposes, **please note that next year's retreats will not be Ignatian retreats.** With so many veteran retreatants among the faithful of Australia



Farewell, Fr Robinson

After 10 years of service to Holy Cross Seminary, Fr Paul Robinson has been called back to his native country to serve as prior of St. Isidore's priory in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. During his tenure in Goulburn, Father taught a wide range of courses across the various levels of seminary studies. He also served as novice master and looked after the brothers stationed at the Seminary.

The seminarians and brothers benefited greatly from his extensive knowledge and great dedication to the formation not only of minds but of souls. Fr Robinson has informed us that his new work keeps him extremely busy, but he is pleased with the numerous opportunities which his new position offers him to work for the good of souls. The seminary community's prayers are certainly directed towards Father and his new field of apostolate.



and New Zealand, it seems appropriate to offer retreats of different formats from time to time. Further details on the 2021 retreats will be forthcoming in a future issue. But if you were considering a retreat in January 2021 but were hesitating to make another Ignatian, please consider attending, and please pass the word among your relatives and friends. But please note also, since we usually recommend first-time retreatants to make an Ignatian retreat, next year's retreats will be designed, for the most part, for those who have made at least one Ignatian retreat.

On a final practical note, following a good suggestion which we have received, we have placed the bank details of the Seminary on the bottom of the back page of the *Sentinel*. Frequently, people wishing to make a gift to the Seminary will call or write to us asking for this information. Henceforth, we will simply include this information at the end of each issue of the *Sentinel*.

A few words for this beautiful season of Christmas. At this time when we celebrate the birth of God, it is so important to renew our hope in the selfless goodness of our Saviour. He came among us for no other reason than to lead us towards a substantial and enduring joy, *in this life* no less than in the next one, and He aims all of His efforts at removing the obstacles to this joy. What causes so much misunderstanding between ourselves and our God is that we fail to see what He sees so clearly – that what actually frustrates our strivings after happiness even in this life is our stubborn pride and our secret selfishness. God would have us move freely and peacefully among the joys of this world with a child's innocent wonder and generous simplicity. But as we grow up, we let slip from our fingers this precious endowment of childhood, and we begin to grasp greedily at whatever gratifies the disordered within us. Also, by the accumulation of possessions and the display of our talents, we try to convince *ourselves*, no less than others, that we are someone deserving of recognition and love. The love and attention which the good God is only too pleased to bestow upon us freely, that we try to win from creatures by complex, laborious, and often dishonest means.

Meanwhile, the Child Who is born unto us sees how complicated and burdensome we, His brethren, have made the business of human life. So many sorrows and disappointments we have prepared for ourselves which He never intended to be our lot. Looking beyond our anxiety and confusion, His vision penetrates to that wound within our souls, inherited from our first parents, which causes us to love so wrongly both ourselves and our fellow creatures. And His pity is stirred also at seeing the other wounds, often emotional or psychological, which our wayward love has inflicted on our already weakened minds and hearts.

To seek that which is so piteously lost and in order to give more abundant life – that is why our King has come among His poor creatures. Let us turn to Him with a confidence made fresh by the warm memory of His weak entrance into the world of human sorrows. He has come to look upon us with eyes like our own and to pity us with a Heart like unto our own in all things except sin. Untouched by that wound, His Heart is open to us with a love which is all the more pure and genuine. How can we feel the need to pretend in the presence of a child? Let us not fear to tell this Child what we are and how much we want to share in His child-like greatness.

All of us at Holy Cross wish you many blessings in the New Year.

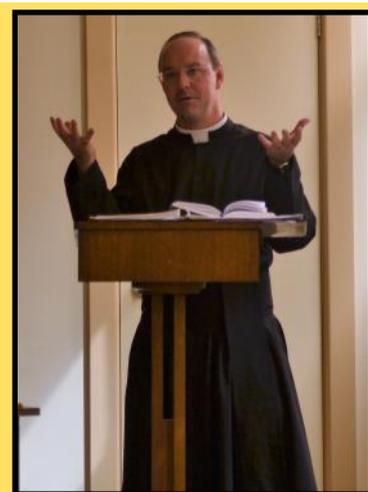
Daniel Themann +



September snow at Holy Cross Seminary. The seminarians were on holiday and missed the snow so the brothers had all the fun.

Welcome, Fr Stafki

Holy Cross Seminary welcomes Fr Mark Stafki as its newest priest professor. Father is a native of the “twin cities” of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A., and his arrival was shortly followed by a snowfall at the seminary to make him feel right at home. Fr Stafki comes to Goulburn most recently from Saint Mary’s, Kansas (a priory through which many Holy Cross professors have passed) where he served as principal of the Girl’s Academy. Father brings from his other past assignments experience as prior and as retreat master. In between preparing his courses of Dogma, Scripture, and Latin, Father hopes to work with Fr MacPherson on plans for a Holy Cross Seminary ice hockey team ...





2020 Major Events

- 26 April** Taking of the Cassock
- 22 August** Ordination to Subdiaconate, Minor orders, Tonsure
- 17 December** Ordination to the Priesthood and Deaconate.



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