



Southern Sentinel

Regnavit a Ligno Deus

HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

The Priestly Society of St. Pius X

P. O. Box 417 Goulburn, NSW 2580

3436 Braidwood Road, Lake Bathurst

Phone (02) 48 29 51 77

website@holycrossseminary.com † www.holycrossseminary.com



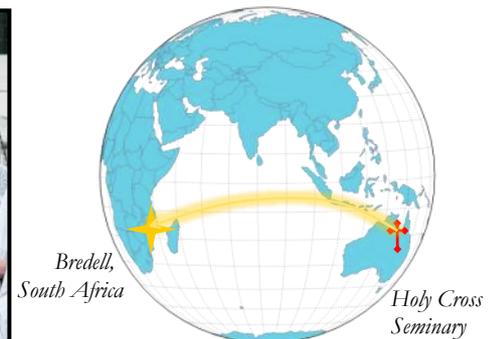
February 2021

No. 142

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

15 February 2021

Over the passing centuries, certain feasts of the Church have struck such a chord with the faithful that the liturgical celebration became the reference point for the calendar. Such is the case with Christmas, and such was the case with the Mass of Candles, Candlemas (2nd February). This feast commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple and the legal purification of Our Lady, as was required by Jewish law. One of the prayers of blessing on this feast reads: *“mercifully grant, that as these lights, enkindled with visible fire, dispel the darkness of night, so our hearts illumined by invisible fire, that is, by the splendour of the Holy Ghost, may be free from every blindness due to vice.”* Would that we could truly appreciate how important this invisible fire of the Holy Ghost is to enlighten the soul! Of course, the good Catholic strives to foster the life of grace in his soul, but even in so doing, he can scarcely fathom the good that he possesses. It is the life of God, but who can express what that life must be? It is the light of God, but is this not a “light inaccessible”(I Tim 6:16)? The interior life of grace is the pearl of great price for which we



Due to Australian travel restrictions Frs Yagan, Manyeki and Alolaya had to travel from Holy Cross to Bredell, South Africa, where they were ordained priests by Bishop de Galarreta.

well might sell all that we have to possess, yet in truth, how many Catholics first received that grace as infants, with no sacrifice at all, and with no knowledge at all of the gift God had bestowed upon them!

Virtually every Catholic, at one time or another, has been tempted with the thought of how burdensome the spiritual life is, the pleasures he is bound to forego, the ‘liberties’ he is not permitted to use, the rules he is bound to observe, etc. The devil presents our holy religion as nothing more than a series of obligations and restraints. Against such temptation, the soul must call to mind that the truth sets us free (John 8:32) and that Christ has assured us: *“My yoke is sweet and My burden light”* (Matt 11:30). Seeing what freedoms those of the world seemed to possess, it may have seemed to many that a great deal of Faith was required to accept Our Lord’s statement that the sinner is the slave of sin (John 8:34).

But the accelerated deterioration of western society in recent years is an overwhelming demonstration of the truth of Christ’s words. Even hundreds of years after the protestant reformation, divorce and contraception still carried shame with them. But within 60 years of the Second Vatican Council we have seen the introduction of every kind of depravity into public society. Abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriages, gender confusion. Further still, State law increasingly penalizes and persecutes those that object to this madness.

The Second Vatican Council embraced the principle of religious liberty. Under the guise of saying that people should not be persecuted and tormented for practicing a false religion (which the Catholic Church was not in the practice of doing anyway), it enshrined the idea that men had the innate right to choose false religions. And almost overnight, it seemed, the Catholic clergy became champions of every religion but their own. They became quite ashamed that they had the Divine truth to teach and hastily begged for the opportunity to listen to lies and heresies. *“But if the salt loose its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?”* (Matt 5:13).

In lighting the path to eternity, the Faith has lighted the whole world. The salt of Christian doctrine flavoured every aspect of social life for centuries. But those entrusted with the preservation of this doctrine have exchanged it for a poor substitute: the maxims of the revolution, of communism, and of socialism.



Welcome, Fr Marcel Ockerse

Holy Cross Seminary welcomes a new professor, Fr Marcel Ockerse, who joins the staff after spending five years in Ireland. Fr Ockerse was due to join Holy Cross in August 2020, but due to the present difficulties of international travel, and two weeks mandatory hotel quarantine, he arrived at Holy Cross in late December, a delay of five months. Fr Ockerse will teach Philosophy, Latin, Scripture, and Acts of the Magisterium. The Seminary would like to thank Fr Elias, O.S.B., for filling in for Fr Ockerse during the Second Semester of 2020.

How many times over the past 60 years have good Catholics tried to resist the naturalistic and humanistic spirit sweeping over the Church. And the priests themselves consumed with the vanity of an updated, convenient religion reproached them. We are reminded of the incident recorded by St Luke: *“the whole multitude of his disciples began with joy to praise God with a loud voice, for all the mighty works they had seen, Saying: Blessed be the king who cometh in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven, and glory on high! And some of the Pharisees, from amongst the multitude, said to him: Master, rebuke thy disciples. To whom he said: I say to you, that if these shall hold their peace, the stones will cry out (Luke 19:37-40).*

Indeed the modern Pharisees have been determined to silence the revelation of Christ, and the rocks cry out. Peace and justice refuse to endure unless it is the Church that sustains them.

And now the countries of the West might hear that same weeping reproach that Christ made over Jerusalem: *“If thou also hadst known, and that in this thy day, the things that are to thy peace; but now they are hidden from thy eyes” (Luke 19:42).* But as terrible as the death of Christ was on the cross, were not the darkened sky and the rending rocks all strong proofs to His devout followers of the truth of His divinity and Messianic mission? So too, are not the terrible depravities, the political and social corruption, and all the moral darkness that has come upon the world not simply sure proof of the divine origin of the Catholic Church? Padre Pio said that the world could better survive without the sun than it could without the Mass.

Rather than a cause for discouragement, let us be filled with gratitude that we have such evident and striking proof of the world’s need for Christ. And more important still, let us understand that the same truth applies to each of our souls. Many of the things we have taken for granted: the good that we have done, the evils that we have escaped, the truths that we have understood, the lies that we have seen through – it has all been due to

2021 Retreats at Holy Cross Seminary

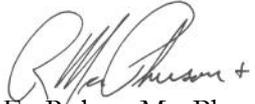


Three retreats were run at Holy Cross Seminary in January 2021, one each for Men, Women, and the Society Sisters from Rockdale. This year the Men and the Women followed respectively the conferences on the Life of Christ, and the Virtues, exemplified by the Life of Christ, rather than the typical 5-day Ignatian retreat regularly offered by Holy Cross. After receiving positive feedbacks on this year’s retreats, the Seminary plans to alternate between Ignatian retreats and non-Ignatian (still modelled after the Ignatian) for the next retreats in the following years.

A fourth scheduled retreat, for the Priests of the District had to be postponed due to COVID outbreaks.

God's grace and light imparted to our souls. Let us resolve, then, more than ever before to keep it unsullied so that we may render an account of it as good and faithful servants.

Yours in Mary Immaculate,


Rev. Fr. Robert MacPherson



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