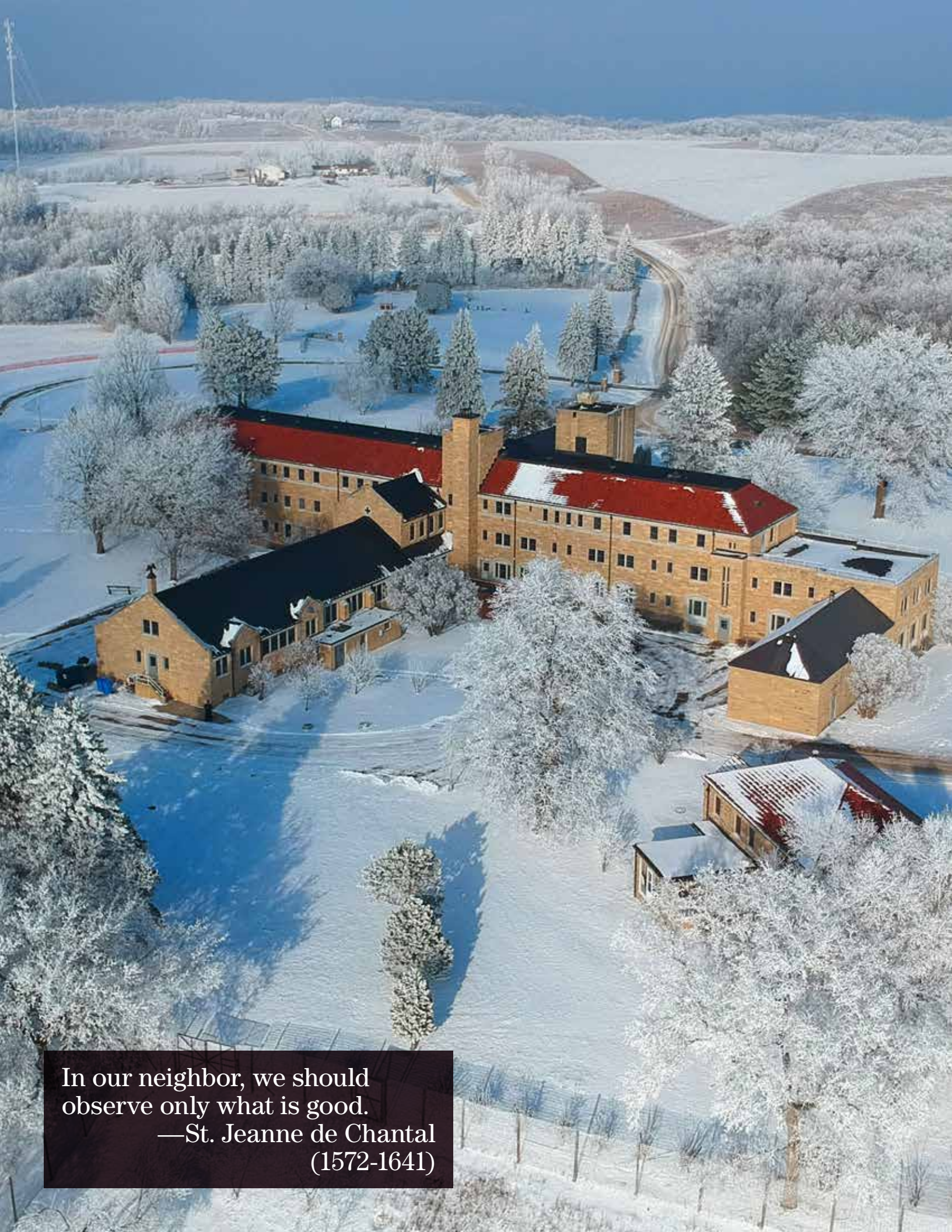




S S P X



Holy
Angels
Novitiate



In our neighbor, we should
observe only what is good.
—St. Jeanne de Chantal
(1572-1641)



Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

It is winter! It can be beautiful. It can be viewed in joyful or sad ways. Notice the novitiate apparently bound in ice. There was a recent storm called hoarfrost. Cold and moist air encounter even colder objects. Hoarfrost can create dramatic and stunning scenes as ice needles form on objects in the wintertime. Hoarfrost is taken from Old English meaning of frost resembling an old man's beard. The needles of ice in hoarfrost can become several inches long. From a more scientific standpoint, frost or hoarfrost forms when moisture in the air skips the water droplet stage and appears directly as ice crystals on an object.

Sometimes the frost needles will grow into the direction from which the moisture is arriving from. Here in Winona the moisture came from the south and was heading north. If you were looking from the North to the south you would see green pine trees. But looking from the south to the north you see nothing but ice...

Things can be viewed in different ways from different angles. Many people enjoy the winter season. Others are saddened and repulsed by the thought.

As Catholics, we are encouraged to look at others from different angles, with the mercy of Christ. Now not all are seen as attractive or good, but there is usually some good in most. Hence we are to look at others with the charity of Christ. We are encouraged to see the good in others, maybe from a different angle. Find the good in others. Oftentimes it may be difficult to do so, but we must keep trying. If we only look at the negative and the dark we are not helping our self or our neighbor. This brings on stress. Christ does not want us to be wallowing in anxiety. He wants us to see the good. If we have someone close to us and that person is dark, moody, and irritable, remember that it is their problem, not yours. Do not pull their gloom into your heart. Keep your heart for Christ. A happy heart is with Our Lord and belongs to one who pleases Christ. But it is for you to find the good in the other and to presume good intentions. Look at it from another angle: it is worth making an effort to find joy in winter.

The brothers at the novitiate continue to work for Christ. They have offered (oblation) themselves to serve Him whom they love in the salvation of souls. Enjoy Father Kenneth Dean's excellent article on the Spirit of Oblation.

In September, we welcomed our Brothers in the US for a retreat and the taking of vows here in Winona and are pleased that Brother Stanislaus made his perpetual vows on September 27th, 2020.

As always, the Brothers of the Society depend on your support. They pray the entire rosary daily for our priests, friends and benefactors.

Fr. Charles Ward
Rector

The Spirit of Oblation

By Fr. Kenneth Dean

A young man kneels in the sanctuary. He is dressed in lay clothes, but he has a black religious habit draped over his arm. The presiding priest sprinkles the garment with holy water and the young man rises, genuflects, and leaves the sanctuary. In a few minutes he returns, now wearing the black. He once again kneels down before the altar and ministers. He then proceeds to read a specially composed text. "I come with joy to make this first offering of myself..." He is not pronouncing vows because he is just becoming a novice. Vows will not be made for another year or two. He is making an oblation.

An oblation is an offering made to God. An oblation can consist of a person or thing. All sacrifices contain oblations. We often think of them as the same thing. However, before something is sacrificed, it is offered to the Lord. It is through this offering that the thing becomes an oblation.

In the sacrifice of the Mass, the bread and wine become oblations by being placed on the altar during the offertory, and obviously, being offered to God. This action sets them apart from other non-consecrated hosts and wine. According to Michael Davies, "This placing of the gifts upon the altar constitutes a consecration in one sense of the word,

namely that the bread and wine are withdrawn from profane use and specifically designated for the service of God." "There is, therefore, a real oblation of the gifts, but it is a relative oblation, *i.e.*, the offering is related or subordinated to the oblation of the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ which will be made present on the altar by the words of consecration."

The offering or oblation in the religious life takes its form from the Mass. The man who becomes a novice offers himself to serve God in the religious life. But his offering, at this point, is not definitive. That consecration will only come later when he pronounces his vows. But for now the offering is enough. It sets him apart from the world. It designates him as one belonging to God in a certain sense. He is enlisted officially as one seeking God and following Christ.

The faithful, also, are meant to make offerings, or oblations. The most important of these would be that done in union with the priest at Mass, by offering Jesus to His Eternal Father. "Now the faithful participate in the oblation, understood in this limited sense, after their own fashion and in a twofold manner," says Pope Pius XII, "namely because they not only offer the Sacrifice by the hands of the priest, but also, to a certain extent, in union



Hoarfrost covers the trees on the Novitiate grounds.

with him. It is by reason of this participation, that the offering made by the people is also included in liturgical worship.”

The attendance of the faithful at Mass is important. But it should be much more than simple by-standing or on-looking. They are meant to assist and participate, in the way that lay Catholics can, in what is happening on the altar. Through their baptism, and the character it imprints on their souls, they have the ability to truly assist and participate at the Holy Sacrifice. Pope Pius XII stresses this point well:

It is therefore desirable...that all the faithful should be aware that to participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice is their chief duty and supreme dignity, and that not in an inert and negligent fashion, giving way to distractions

and daydreaming, but with such earnestness and concentration that they may be united as closely as possible with the High Priest, according to the Apostle: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” And together with Him and through Him let them make their oblation, and in union with Him let them offer up themselves.

Yes, as Catholics we are meant to make a two-fold oblation. To offer Jesus at Mass to His Father, in union with Christ, the High Priest, and through the hands of the priest ministering; and also, by the offering of ourselves at Mass in union with the Divine Victim on the altar. All the faithful are called to this.

The man or woman who enters religious life takes this self-offering to another level. They make

of it the very essence of their life. This is expressed already in the oblation of the new brother novice which contains the following:

“...I promise to observe with punctuality the established rules, which are for me the manifestation of the holy will of God, and to conform myself with docility to the counsels of my Superiors, seeing in them the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ.” He also promises, “...to neglect nothing which would truly help me to procure the salvation of souls.”

The spirit of oblation is the soul of any worthy and acceptable sacrifice. May God inspire in the souls of our Catholic youngsters this desire to offer themselves to God, the Church, and souls.

Here in Winona snow and cold always accompanies this ceremony. The faithful follow the ministers, holding their candles while the Brothers sing the beautiful antiphons for the occasion.



The Brothers and their guests enjoy the banquet following the vows ceremony.



Fr. Dean is seen here incensing the blessed candles on February 2nd in new white solemn vestments with Fr. Young as deacon and Fr. Dwyer as subdeacon.



Brother Stanislaus enjoys snagging large-mouth bass.

Lessons from Brother Lawrence

Brother Lawrence (+1691) offered his service to Our Lord by way of the Carmelite Order in Paris as a lay brother cook.

“The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clutter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament.”

“Our only business in this life is to please God.”

(Excerpts from: *The Practice of the Presence of God*).



Holy Angels Novitiate is the house of formation for the Brothers of the Society of Saint Pius X in the United States.

The Brothers of the Society are religious dedicated to the glory of God through the service of His priests. They accomplish this primarily through the observance of the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience—the foundations of Catholic religious life through the centuries—by their prayers and by their example. They also assist the priests of the Society in their apostolates in many different ways according to the needs of each individual priory. Brothers are currently engaged in teaching catechism, serving Mass, maintaining sacristies, and directing choirs. They also care for the material needs of the priests by cooking, performing maintenance, accounting, and completing innumerable small but useful tasks.

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, founder of the Society of Saint Pius X and its Brothers, recognized the dignity and value of the Brothers' vocation when he exhorted them to be the "guardian angels of our communities." It was his wish that each priory of the Society would eventually have a resident religious Brother. This wish can only be realized through the selfless response of many souls to Christ's call together with the generosity of our benefactors. God will certainly reward all of them abundantly.

Donation Information

Please make out checks or money orders in US dollars only to: "Holy Angels Novitiate."

Holy Angels Novitiate

21077 Quarry Hill Rd.,
Winona, MN 55987
T (507) 454-8000
www.sspcx.org

—Please do not send cash since this is
against US Postal Regulations.

Upcoming Events

Retreats (Reservations begin in April):

Men: June 7-12

Men (Vocations): July 5-10

Men: August 23-28

Visit Our New Website:

holyangels-novitiate.com/en