



S S P X



Holy  
Angels  
Novitiate





“The brothers, since they consecrate themselves to God in the religious life, have as their primary goal and purpose the glory of God, their own sanctification, and the salvation of souls.”

— Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, *Statutes*





# Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

September in Winona is a time of Beauty and Contemplation, a season of color. This year was especially temperate for some reason.

There are a number of highlights during this month that are worth noting. It is a time of special contemplation for all the Society of Saint Pius X Brothers who travel to their home in Winona for their annual retreat. Thirty brothers came to partake in an eight-day retreat to contemplate their life as religious. Canon Law prescribes that the religious have eight days of reflection on divine things. This year the brothers were privileged to have a religious as a retreat master, Father Matthew, O.S.B, from Silver City, New Mexico.

It is the custom of the brothers to renew or pronounce their vows on the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel every year. Hence, it is always a glorious occasion to see the brothers offering themselves to God for his service by way of their religious vows. Brother Jude (St. Marys, Kansas) made his first vows and Brother Mark (North Lawrence, New York) made his perpetual vows. Both are graduates of Notre Dame de La Salette Boys Academy in Georgetown, Illinois. Three others received the habit. We say farewell to Brother Jude (who heads to the seminary for further training) who was a great asset to us for setting up our website and cared for our video production with his great artistic talents.

After the vows ceremonies had ended, the guests are invited to a celebration meal. This year we accommodated 160 guests including ten priests and three Society sisters. Besides two priests celebrating their 25th anniversaries, two of our brothers were also celebrating theirs, Brother Gregory from Chicago and Brother Alphonsus from Marietta, Ohio.

The day following the vows, the brothers spent time together. This year they visited one of the ten most popular caves in the U.S.—Niagara Cave in Harmony, Minnesota. This cave is one half mile long, two hundred feet below ground level and features an underground waterfall. The brothers were treated to a meal off the Mississippi. It was perfect weather; we were able to dine out in a large outdoor terrace with a pleasant view of the river. The day was complete with an evening bonfire and barbecue at the Novitiate. It is a treat to care for the brothers who do so much for all those communities in which they serve.

We say farewell to Brother Marcel who has been reassigned to St. Mary's Academy and College in Kansas. He had spent many years here in Winona and shared his artistic talents with our chapels all over the US. All the best to him in his new assignment.

In this issue, Father Dean's article focuses on the academic side of the formation of the brothers: "Education of the Brothers."

We completed our flat roof project, at a cost of \$116,000 dollars. Thirteen flat roofs in total, some large — some small. We now cure a few other roof issues for another \$10,000.00 dollars. We are most grateful for your support and sacrifices made on behalf of our religious brothers. So, we trust in your continued support to upkeep this beautiful property for them. The brothers pray the entire rosary daily for our friends and benefactors.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Father Charles J. Ward, Rector

# Education of the Brothers

Understand That You May Love,  
and Love That You May Understand

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By Fr. Kenneth Dean

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“Behold the Tree of Knowledge  
To try you, there it stands;  
Of this you shall not taste the fruit  
Nor touch it with your hands.”  
First Eve, then Adam, broke the Law  
That Law which God had made,  
So they were sent away from God  
Because they disobeyed.  
—by Grace Keon

We all know the story of our first parents’ fall from grace. Their sin was one of disobedience, but the cause of their disobedience was an inordinate seeking after knowledge. “You will be like gods, knowing good and evil,” said the serpent, who was the devil. Yet when they ate the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve gained no knowledge except the experience of having sinned. What they lost, however, was considerable – the grace and friendship of God.

All errors and heresies in the Church are based on either false knowledge or ignorance. Take the Gnostics, for example. They made knowledge the condition of salvation. For them, those were saved who “were in the know.” Only those who had the special knowledge would go to heaven. But our Catholic Faith and Holy Scripture teach differently. Our particular judgment

will not be a theology test. Indeed, God will one day judge us, not so much on our knowledge but on our works. “*Not everyone who says, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will be saved; but he who does the will of my Father in heaven will be saved.*”

This is only one example of how false knowledge ends up in heresy. Many others could be given. Ignorance is also at the basis of many a heresy. The Manicheans thought that there were two equally powerful forces at work in the universe – one good and one evil. The good god created the spiritual things, the evil god created the material things. Since man is a combination of both spirit and matter, he is a creation of both good and bad. Salvation then becomes a process of shunning and denying the body and its desires and encouraging the soul. This false view is based on ignorance which doesn’t realize that one perfect being created everything, and that two “Gods” are impossible. It is also an illusion to think that man was not made by God to have both a body and a soul.

These considerations do bring up pressing questions about knowledge. For example: How important is knowledge for our salvation? Well, consider these words of Jesus: “*Now this is eternal life: that they may **know** Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.*” Some knowledge of God is



therefore necessary to be saved; this cannot be denied.

There is an old expression which goes: *“Nothing is desired or loved unless it is firstly known.”* Love follows upon knowledge. We cannot desire or love something until we get to know it. Thus there is a certain primacy of knowledge, which is a condition for love. *“Our willing and our acting are determined by knowledge: The will is not the first norm; it is guided by knowledge.”* Therefore the clearer and deeper the knowledge, the deeper the love can go.

Knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of our faith are extremely important. It's not just a matter of being able to answer questions and objections about our faith that is at stake here. No, it's more than that. A more profound knowledge of Our Lord is needed to love Him more. *“Understand that you may love.”*

But someone will undoubtedly say, “Yes, but knowledge alone is not enough.” And that is quite true. The knowledge of God must be followed by obedience to what God asks of us; which is obedience to His commandments. Yet the obedience to God is based on knowledge. Unless I know that there is a God; unless I know something about the one, true God; and unless I know what He has asked of me, I will not be able to obey Him and save my soul.

Fr. Mateo Crawley-Boevey once wrote: *“Why do we separate the head from the heart when we discuss the things of God? Why this strange anomaly? Certainly, we must be clear. Clarity is excellent and indispensable. But at the same time we should aim at edification, and kindling the fire of love.”*

At our Brother's Novitiate, the men in training take classes for three years. What is the purpose, you may ask? These men are not going to become priests. Obviously, those in training to be priests need to study in order to preach the truth and to guide the faithful and properly judge delicate matters. However, none of this applies to our brothers.

Here we must remember that not all knowledge is meant to be practical. That is, not all knowledge is geared towards teaching us how to do something. Learning Latin is a good example of this. It doesn't have much direct usefulness, since everything written or spoken in Latin has long since been translated. But Latin is excellent for understanding grammar, for forming the mind, and for deepening our esteem



Brother Edmond instructs the novices on sacristy duties.

of the Liturgy. This is why the brothers in training study Latin for two years. The class on spirituality is another example. The material covered doesn't have much application for the worldly minded. And yet, learning about grace, virtue, and merit can help us tremendously in our spiritual life.

The brothers also take classes on Holy Scripture,



Brother Theresian instructs the brothers in accounting principles.

the Liturgy, the traditional teaching of the Popes, the religious vows, and chant. Then, in their third year of formation, the emphasis switches to the practical domain. Classes include: How to cook, how to do basic maintenance, how to work on a computer, and how to teach catechism. These practical classes are geared towards their future active apostolate, whereas the first two years of classes have as a goal the formation of the man as a virtuous Catholic and a good religious.

Another old Latin expression goes: *“Fides quaerit intellectum”* – *“Faith seeks understanding.”* The meaning is this: Our faith gives us the ability to believe, but belief itself desires to understand as much as possible about what we believe, since that knowledge does not come with the faith, but must be acquired. This desiring to know is especially true when the faith is enlivened by charity. Love seeks understanding that it may love all the more. *“Love that you may understand.”*

*“God wishes that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Those who have the faith should seek to understand as much of the faith and things connected to



Father Matthew, O.S.B. served the brothers as Retreat Master for a recent retreat.

the faith as they can. It is worth studying our faith simply so that we may know better the one, true God, and love Him more. Is this not the whole purpose for which we were created? Not everything worth learning is going to find a place in an owner’s manual.



Two of our brothers celebrated the 25th anniversary of their vows.

Brother Mark takes his perpetual vows.

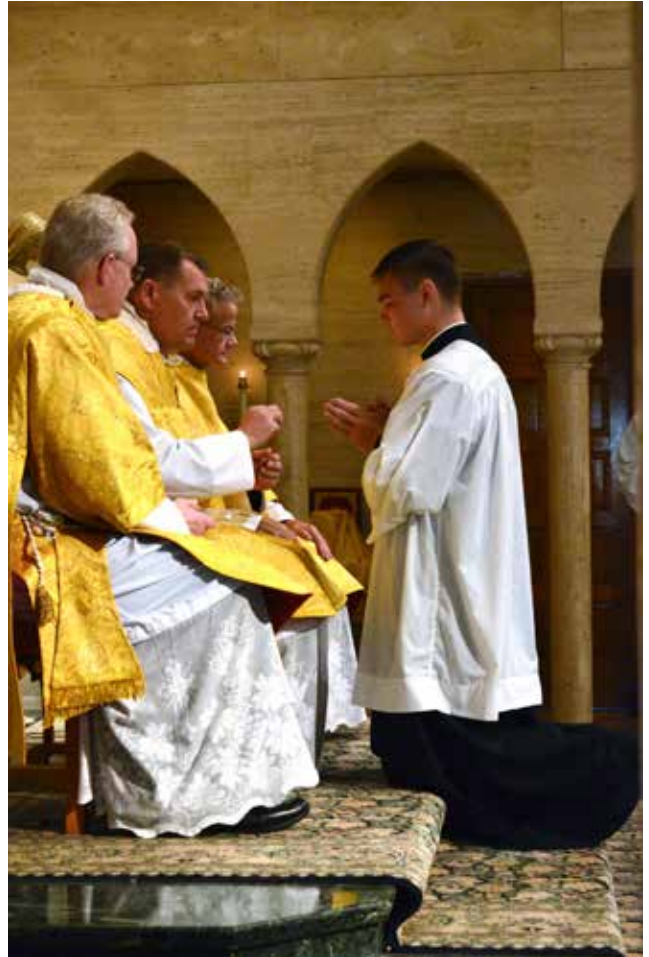




The brothers, priests, family, and friends enjoy the banquet after the vows ceremonies.



Sisters from Browerville joined in the celebration.



Brother Jude takes his first vows.



The brothers enjoyed exploring in the Niagara Cave.

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**

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[www.sspix.org](http://www.sspix.org)

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

#### **Upcoming Events**

Retreats:

Men: June 6-11

Men (Vocations): July 4-9

Men: August 22-27

Brothers Vows:

September 29th

#### **Visit Our New Website:**

[holyangels-novitiate.com/en](http://holyangels-novitiate.com/en)