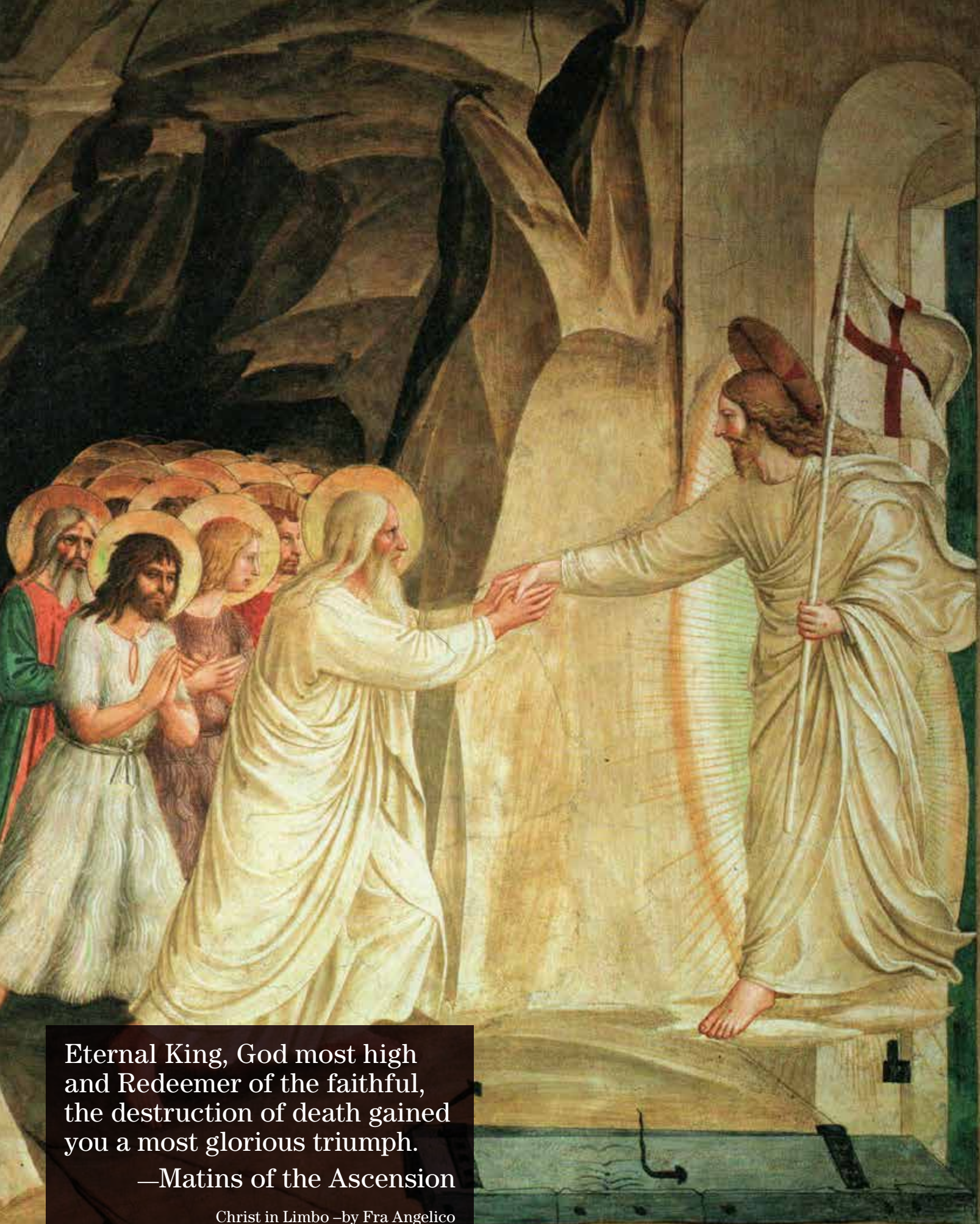




S S P X



Holy
Angels
Novitiate



Eternal King, God most high
and Redeemer of the faithful,
the destruction of death gained
you a most glorious triumph.

—Matins of the Ascension

Christ in Limbo –by Fra Angelico



Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Our King has risen and ascended into heaven. He is triumphant. He has won the battle over death and now invites us to join the battle. But the crown of victory is promised only to those who engage in the struggle.

We are indeed in a battle to save our souls and the souls of our loved ones. Sadly many in our day see no battle at all. They are blind and only consider their conveniences, entertainment, comfort and obstacles in their path of self-destruction. There is no consideration of the supreme battle they must fight to save their souls. Where is their desire for heaven? They have no thought of it.

For those who have awakened out of their slumber they must realize the path to heaven is the path of the cross. We are called to embrace the cross with love and perseverance. This is to engage in the struggle. It is to bear the burdens of our day with patience, fortitude and a determination, to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is to do all for the glory of God, no matter how great or menial the task.

The struggle is to overcome our own stubborn will and do our duty and not the minimal. To overcome our likes and dislikes for Christ. Humiliations will come. Trials will come, from within our families and from outside our circles.

The elderly suffer a great deal in their old age. Aches and pains seem to increase with every year. The inability to do tasks they once did is beyond frustrating...and the doctor visits are never ending. Yes, it is a struggle but it is an opportunity to carry the cross of Our Lord to save souls and to win merit. For the youth, look at little Jacinta of Fatima, constantly doing penance. She was continually finding ways to follow the cross, to make sacrifices. She also had many trials and persecutions.

Persecutions are on the way. St. Paul in his letter to Timothy says: *"And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse: erring, and driving into error"*. 2Tim. 3:12-13 "Blessed are ye when they shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for my sake. Matt 5:11

Yes, blessed are we who have come to know our good Lord who gives us hope through his resurrection and ascension. Let us persevere in our journey and struggle to follow Our Lord to our true home in heaven.

Be sure to read Father Dean's excellent article: *Charity – The life of the soul*. We congratulate Brother John Baptist who made his first profession of vows on March 19th, the feast of St. Joseph. On our front cover of this newsletter Brother John Baptist captured the Aurora Borealis over the property in early May. This is the 75th Anniversary of the Novitiate which is dedicated to St. Peter Martyr.

Currently we are saving our money to make repairs to our outdoor staircases which have taken a beating from the winters here in Winona. We are also saving money to purchase a new van in order to transport priests, brothers and retreatants.

We are most grateful for your support and sacrifices made on behalf of our religious brothers and priests. So, we trust in your continued support to upkeep this beautiful property for our religious brothers. The brothers pray the rosary daily for our friends and benefactors. May God grant you many blessings as you continue to follow Our Lord.

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



Charity— The Life of the Soul

By Fr. Kenneth Dean



“Let everything you do be done in charity.”
— I Cor. 16, 14

“But above all else, have a constant mutual charity among yourselves, for charity covers a multitude of sins.”
— I Pet. 4, 8

“Charity is the fulfillment of the law.”
— Rom. 13, 10

The most marvelous things are said about charity in Holy Scripture. And the quotes above are only a sample of the praises of charity. The pressing question is then: why is charity so important? Before we answer that, we must clarify what we are speaking about.

Charity is love, but a very specific type of love. Charity is not the love of passion; nor is it the love of ambition; nor is it simple benevolence (wishing good to others). The highest type of natural love is friendship. Charity is this, and more. Charity takes friendship and raises it to the supernatural level. By charity we love God for His own sake, and our neighbor for God’s sake. Put otherwise, charity is loving God and others with

Brother John Baptist after making his first Profession receives a medal of St. Pius X.



After his first Profession (on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19th) Brother John stands on the bottom, center.

God's own love that He has infused into our hearts.

Here is how Fr. Eugene Boylan puts it: "...only God can love God as He should be loved, and therefore the power of loving which He gives us is a certain created participation of His own love for Himself." "The charity we speak of is that virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and by which we love our neighbor for God. It is in fact the essential virtue of a living member of the Mystical Body of Christ." We can say that God has found a way for us to love in a way similar to the way He loves. But to do this, God must infuse His love into us. This is the love of charity; this is the virtue of charity - our participation in the very love of God.

Now, since charity raises our love up to the level of God; it also unites us intimately with God. St. Thomas Aquinas says, "Charity produces an infinite

effect, when it joins the soul to God..." He says again, "It is charity that unites us to God, who is the last end of the human soul, since he that abides in charity abides in God, and God in him." (I John 4:16). Through charity, then, we are united closely with God and are able to love as God Himself loves. What more can we say? Charity is the life of our soul. Just as the soul of man is the natural life of his body; so charity is the supernatural life of man's soul. This is true because of the union it creates between the soul and God.

Of course, there can be many different degrees of charity. As a theological virtue, charity is always

capable of growing more intense. It can be compared to fire, which is essentially the same in a small candle flame, in a bonfire, or in a huge conflagration. Fire is easily extinguished when small, but as it grows it is easily capable of lighting other things on fire; and when it is really intense it can consume everything and turn anything into itself. Such are the degrees of charity: the minimum is to love God above all else and not to offend Him gravely by preferring other things to Him. As charity grows it begins to affect more and more the things that a person does by raising his intentions and desire to please God. In the end, a saintly person lives uniquely by charity, which consumes or turns everything into an act of love and gives light and heat to everyone around. According to Venerable Louis of Granada: "...perfect charity not only strives to avoid all sin, but to overcome all the obstacles that may prevent it from actually loving God or may weaken its affection for God. And since all these obstacles arise from self-love, charity wages a constant warfare against self-love, with the result that its perfection can be measured by the degree of its victory in the battle against self." Disordered self-love is meant to be burned up in the fire of charity which is the love of God enkindled in our hearts by God Himself. At first we feed our charity with the little twigs of small sacrifices. As our charity grows it can handle greater acts of self-denial; until our "ego" itself is thrown into the blaze and forgotten.

But perhaps it's good to look at those considerations

Brother John Baptist pronounces his first Profession of Vows.



that can encourage us in the practice of charity. St. Francis de Sales once said that "...the real way of attaining to the love of God is by a careful consideration of all His benefits given to us...the better we realize these the more we shall love Him." So we should think frequently of what God has done for us; this will lead us more easily to love Him. Since charity is, after all, easily offended and can be challenging to practice at times, understanding its benefits will encourage us to make the efforts that are needed; for we undertake great labor when we realize the reward is great.

One very desirable effect of charity is that it brings true happiness and spiritual joy to the soul. Spiritual joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Ghost. And this is good to keep in mind. Those who serve God and practice charity are not burdened by the difficulty of their good works – just the opposite! They receive a true joy from Holy Ghost because of their works of charity. And these spiritual consolations far exceed all sensible pleasure. Sensible pleasure comes from the enjoyment of created goods. But God alone is the source of all goodness and happiness. And since charity unites us to God, it will automatically bring us into close union with joy and true happiness. God can give us far greater joy than all created goods and pleasures put together. They are like stars, while God is the sun. And just as the sun outshines that great multitude of millions of stars put together, and even makes them disappear; so the happiness which comes from God is far, far greater than the tidbits of joy from creatures. St. Thomas says: "If the goodness, beauty, and sweetness of creatures are so alluring to the souls of men, will not the spring and source of that goodness, which is God Himself, in comparison with the trickles of goodness which we find in creatures, set on fire the souls of men and draw them wholly to itself."

It is charity that makes all the other virtues pleasing to God. We are probably familiar with St. Paul's famous quote from I Corinthians: "...if I should have prophecy and should know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing." St. Thomas Aquinas echoes this teaching: "Prayers, almsgiving, fasting, and pilgrimages accomplished without charity are insufficient to efface

the sins of those who practice these devotions." Why is this true, you may ask? Once again, it is because charity is what unites us to God. It is charity that brings God's life and love to our soul. All the other virtues need charity to bring them to life, and make them pleasing to God. Charity cannot replace the other virtues, but it enlivens them, perfects them, makes them shine in God's eyes.

Another benefit of charity is that it sweetens and makes light the yoke of God's commandments. As they say, 'love makes all things sweet'. This is even true of difficult things. The more we love something, the more efforts we are willing to undergo to achieve that which we desire, and the less we feel the burden of those efforts. This is the nature of love. The love of God, which we call charity, has the same effect. Charity lightens and sweetens the difficulties required to please God by keeping His commandments. So St. Bernard says that when a soul is filled with the love of God, it is prompt and joyful in any kind of good work. It was for this reason that Our Lord said, "My yoke is sweet and my burden light." His yoke and burden are His commandments. Now he who loves God and neighbor not only fulfills the whole law, but he does it easily, because charity makes all things sweet and light. Ven. Louis of Grenada says that, "...although Jesus speaks of a yoke and a burden, these things are no more of a burden than are the feathers which enable a bird to fly."

In religious life, charity is set up as its end, its very purpose. Even the vows which a religious takes are nothing other than means to grow in charity. For the purpose of the vows is to remove obstacles to



the practice and growth of charity. A good religious will always keep this in mind. The sacrifices they make in keeping their vows are only meant to clear the way for the fire of charity to be enkindled and grow strong. And charity is the true measure of our perfection. As St. Paul says, "But above all these things have charity which is the bond of perfection." Col. 3, 14

One last comment. Some souls may feel that great works of charity are beyond their ability, and this leads to discouragement. But this is not true. God does not

measure greatness the way the world does. Often what looks great is not so in God's eyes. St. Therese tells us: "Little things done out of love are those that charm the Heart of Christ...the most brilliant deeds, when done without love, are but nothingness." Charity is sometimes compared to a magic wand, which turns everything it touches into gold. And so our smallest acts, when motivated by charity become spiritual gold in God's eyes. It is charity that makes anything great, however insignificant it may be.



Bishop Bernard Fellay gave the Sacrament of Confirmation to the youth in Winona on April 20th 2024.

Once again, during the priests meeting, the brothers took care of the priests 8-2 on the ice during the priests meeting in April. Seventy-five priests were present.



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.sspcx.org

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

Upcoming Events:

- Men's Ignatian Retreat:
August 19-24.
- Young men's vocation retreat:
July 8 - 13
- Brothers' Vows Ceremony
September 29th

Visit Our New Website:

www.holyangels-novitiate.com/en