



S S P X



Holy
Angels
Novitiate



The Lord Thy God shalt thou
adore, and Him only shalt thou
serve.

— Matthew 4:11

St. Michael the Archangel – by Gerard David c1510



Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Recently the U.S. Brothers of the Society of Saint Pius X converged on their motherhouse here in Winona for their annual retreat, preached by Reverend Father Albert O.P. We also welcomed Very Reverend Father Davide Pagliarini, the Superior General of the SSPX, who spent some days with the brothers and witnessed their vows. It was a great privilege indeed to have him here.

Is there a secret to developing religious vocations in one's family? Why aren't there more religious vocations joining the battle? To answer this important question I approached nine of our brothers, who are presently living in Winona, who have at least one or two other siblings in their families that are religious (priest, seminarian, sister, monk, or brother). I asked them what their family life was like growing up? What were some of the religious practices that took place in or outside the home? Now it is understood that all of them came from families that attended the traditional Latin Mass and attended SSPX schools. These of course are the foundational stones, for the advancement of vocations.

The common replies, from the brothers, were expected such as; they always daily prayed the rosary as a family. So also, there was never any pressure from the parents to push or force a vocation. The majority of the brothers said that their parents went on retreat a number of times. This evidently inspired the parents to be more serious about the faith. Discussions of the faith during supper was a popular thread to their upbringing as well as: frequent Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; morning and night prayers; extra mass attendance during the week including first Fridays and Saturdays; monthly confession; following the days of fast and abstinence throughout the year; serving mass; joining sodalities; prayers before and after meals; the Angelus; spiritual reading; visits to the cemeteries; stations of the cross during Lent; and some mothers saying the "Prayer of the Mothers of Lu"(for vocations).

Now did each of the brother's families do all the above? No, however the majority of the families did a substantial number of these pious acts. Here is the point: these families were living examples of practicing Catholics. Hence, the fruits were manifest. This of course presumes that worldliness has been vanquished from the home. 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: Poverty and Joy. On September 29th, the feast of St. Michael the Archangel many brothers renewed their vows. Brother Maximillian and Brother Joseph Xavier pronounced their final vows. Brothers: Timothy; Brendan and Isaias pronounced their 1st vows. Please continue to pray for them.

We are most grateful for your support and sacrifices made on behalf of our religious brothers and priests. On account of the cost of postage, mailing and set up costs, we will in the future have to go to electronic media. Thus, you will be able to visit our novitiate website to see the most current issue of our newsletter. The US District may also send our newsletter to you via email. For our faithful benefactors who would still like to receive a physical newsletter by mail please let us know and we will send it to you.

For those who send us a Three Hundred dollar donation we will mail you a rare color photo of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as a young missionary bishop. 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 we enter the Advent season.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Father Charles J. Ward

Rector

Poverty and Joy

By Fr. Kenneth Dean

*“The ultimate good...contains full and everlasting joy. Our Lord was thinking of this when He told us: **“Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.”** Full joy, however, cannot be gained from any creature, but only from God, in whom the entire plenitude of goodness resides.”*

These words of St. Thomas Aquinas reveal to us the a truth that is often unrealized – that our true and ultimate joy is only in God, and not in anything created. Yet it is this truth which is the basis of religious life. One of the things a religious professes is poverty. And why does he or she vow to leave aside all earthly possessions? Because, as St. Thomas teaches, *“Voluntary poverty is necessary for the perfection of charity – its foundation is voluntary poverty.”* Voluntary poverty is therefore connected with the fullness of charity. And no Christian who is worth his salt, would deny that charity is unquestionably connected with real joy.

The connection between voluntary poverty and joy can be shown in several ways. But before doing that, it might be good to remember that we are only speaking about *voluntary* poverty, that is, those who willingly accept and embrace poverty for a higher cause. What is that cause? The love of God, the imitation of Jesus Christ, and the salvation of souls.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Obviously, to be poor in

spirit is not the same thing as to be poor. Physical poverty is one thing; spiritual poverty is quite another. Jesus is not saying that everyone who is destitute is “blessed”. It’s not because our pockets are empty that Jesus is pleased with us – no. Material poverty is a condition that can be accepted or rejected; while spiritual poverty is a virtue in our soul. Spiritual poverty is a *self-emptying* in our soul of the things of this world – a spiritual detachment from the things of this world. Why is that pleasing to God? Because it means we’ve made room for God in our soul.

Listen to how the saints comment on the words of Christ. *“It is not poverty, but the love of poverty that is virtue,”* says St. Alphonsus. *“Poverty of spirit is a good, which contains in itself, all the goods of this world,”* says St. Teresa of Avila. And St. Therese said, *“Our sole good consists in loving God with all our heart and being poor in spirit while we are in this world...there is no joy like that of being truly poor in spirit.”*

Why does the practice of voluntary poverty result in joy? **“Wherever thy treasure is, there is thy heart also.”** The absence of an earthly treasure means the likelihood of heavenly treasure in the soul. And a heavenly treasure means true joy in the heart. **“Wherever thy treasure is, there is thy heart also.”** If the things we treasure are the material things of this world, then the desires of our heart will never get off



Father Davide Pagliarani, Superior General of SSPX, receives the vows of the brothers.



the ground. *“The more one covets, the less one loves,”* says St. Thomas.

According to the same saint, *“Joy is caused by love; especially by the presence of the person loved.”* And St. Paul tells us, **“The charity of God is poured forth in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, who is given to us.”** It is then, the presence of God, the Holy Ghost in our soul, which is the cause of spiritual joy.

The minimum requirement for God to dwell in our soul is not to prefer anything to God. That is, to avoid mortal sin. If we are not conscious of any unforgiven, unconfessed mortal sin, then God is certainly dwelling in our soul through His sanctifying grace. However, this is only the beginning. The grace of God is a *seed* in our soul, which is meant to grow and expand. And the capacity for God’s grace to grow in our soul will correspond to the extent to



First Mass of Rev. Father Andrew Simones SSPX. Fr. Simones was newly ordained in June and offered Mass at Holy Angels Novitiate for the brothers and faithful in July. He is a native of Minnesota.

which we empty or clear our soul of attachment to created things. Here we see the real connection between voluntary poverty and joy. The more we empty our soul of attachments to created things, the more room is allowed for the grace and charity of God to expand there.

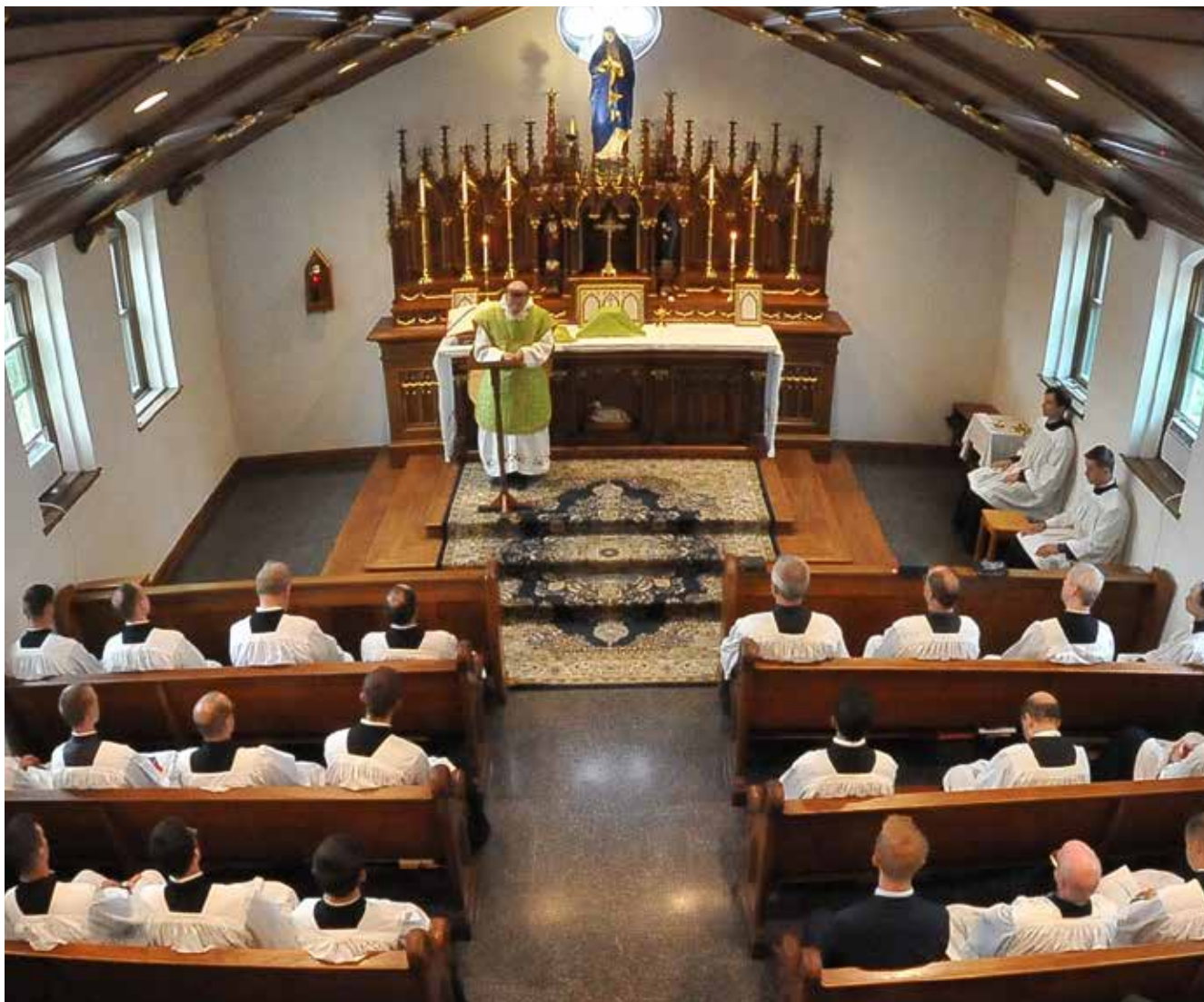
Back to religious life – the vow of poverty, by renouncing any independent act of ownership with material things, seeks to free the soul from attachments to material things. This detachment then opens the soul to a greater degree of charity. And greater charity means greater spiritual joy in the soul. St. Therese remind us, *“Joy does not reside in the things about us, but in the very depths of the soul...One can have it in the gloom of a dungeon as well as in the palace of a king.”*

One of the most precious advantages of the reli-

gious state, is that by depriving one of his material possessions, or at least of their administration, one is freed from every material preoccupation, to give oneself to the things of God.

The poor in spirit are always happy, precisely because they have no attachments...One day, the Cure of Ars accidentally hit his candle with a bank note; he showed neither surprise nor vexation. To a sympathizer, he replied, “Oh, it matters much less than if I had committed the smallest venial sin!”

It is often remarked that religious sisters or brothers are so happy. Is this to be wondered at? They have given up everything so they can belong completely to God, and God is not outdone in generosity. Part of the hundred-fold which Our Lord promised to those who leave everything and follow Him, is this real joy. **“For God loves a cheerful giver.”**



Fr. Albert preaches to the brothers on retreat in the Chapel of BVM



Father Davide Pagliarani, Superior General, with Fr. Kenneth Dean (Deacon) and Fr. Patrick Rutledge (Subdeacon) wearing gold vestments.

Brothers Maximilian (on right) and Joseph Xavier (on left) made their permanent vows.

After the vows ceremony 2024. (below)



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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Upcoming Events:

- November 10th All day Adoration
- December 8th Feast of Immaculate Conception
- December 25th Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Visit Our New Website:

www.holyangels-novitiate.com/en

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