



S S P X



Holy Angels

Novitiate



“For I reckon that the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come...”

— Romans 8:18



Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Peace in a time of conflict. Without doubt there has been a barrage of constant conflicts in the normal daily lives of the faithful over the last couple of years. You know well... election deception, vaccine deception, government business lockdowns, mask mandates, endless false propaganda from the media, and the drums of war are pounding. It has been turbulent. All of this produces fear and then anxiety. Nothing sells like fear. Governments have used fear for centuries to control the population. How do we find peace in such conflict?

The answer is that Catholics must reject fear. What are we really afraid of? Maybe it is loss of health, loss of livelihood, loss of our property and maybe even the loss of our life. Now of course, these are not small matters, they are serious. But it is not for us to worry about them. It is for us to take action. Do some research, find ways to mitigate the possible outcomes. Consult the wise. Stop watching or listening to the main stream media including Fox News. Turn away from fear and take action. Reject the media hysteria. Attack negative, dark, and all or nothing thinking and take positive action. There is a big difference between burying one's head in the sand and making a decision not to allow ourselves to be affected by the fears of the world.

We cannot be pessimistic or overly realistic. It is too heavy for those living in Christ. No matter how scary the world becomes Catholics must take courage in Christ. Courage is a decision says General Michael Flynn. It is not necessarily an internal characteristic. You can decide to be courageous. Take courage, Christ has overcome the world.

We must live in Christ. He must be the center of our day. We have countless reasons to adore, love and thank Him. Pray for wisdom. When doors seem to close in one direction, Christ can open doors in another. Set your mind on the heart of Christ. There you will find peace and happiness. In His heart you can find tranquility. The Redemption of Christ is infinitely more important than any fears that the world can throw at us. The work of Christ touches all of mankind from the beginning of the world to its end. No one is allowed to dismiss this truth. Christ yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His supreme sacrifice for mankind is the center of history, whether the world accepts it or not. All men will face Christ one day. So now is the time of salvation. Christ has come to save not to condemn. He has risen from the grave. Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always. Phil.4:4-6

We must remind ourselves every day to look at the reasons to rejoice. They are found in God and what he has done for mankind. We must daily look at the good and not the negative. There was a good monastic who recited his favorite prayer: O' Sacred Heart of Jesus I put my trust in Thee. This prayer was often said by Father Urban Snyder (RIP) a Trappist monk from Kentucky and good friend of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.

Father Dean's article The Joy of Serving God helps us to understand the essence of happiness in this world in God's plan.

Spring projects are before us: The exterior cleaning of the sandstones (natural to this area –see Building photo) that encompass the building. This is approximately a thirty thousand dollar project. We will also be erecting a Calvary Scene for our cemetery. Other stone work will be necessary this summer.

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 our religious brothers. The brothers pray the entire rosary daily for our friends and benefactors.

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



The Joy of Serving God

By Fr. Kenneth Dean

“God means earth to be a preparation for, or rather, the vestibule of heaven.”

— Fr. Edward Leen

We all seek happiness. We live everyday seeking happiness. Whatever we do, we are seeking happiness, of some sort. But what sort of things we seek happiness in makes all the difference.

Christians do not make the mistake about where their ultimate happiness lies. They know it is in the world to come; the life after death. But the real question for the Christian is: Where does happiness lie here below? What sort of happiness can we have here below? Or must we renounce happiness on earth in order to have it one day in heaven?

Fr. Edward Leen says, *“To many [people], religion appears to demand actual misery as a condition of future well-being. [i.e.- I must be miserable in this life in order to be happy one day in heaven.] This is a totally mistaken view of things. God does not demand unhappiness as the price of happiness... It is not the way of God to give things at a price. This would be inconsistent both with His infinite generosity and with His Fatherhood of men... He plans happiness here as a prelude and foretaste of happiness hereafter.”*

The good Christian just might be asking himself,

“Is this really true? What about the words of Christ, *‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me?’*”

Here we hit upon the key issue which is at stake. How can we reconcile denying ourselves and carrying the cross with happiness and joy in *this* life? Yet before we suggest the answer to this apparent difficulty, let’s remember another quote of Our Lord to his apostles: *“...but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no one shall take from you.”* Recall that Jesus here is not talking about heaven, but a short time later on earth, after His resurrection.

So, let us restate our pressing question: How can we reconcile denying ourselves and carrying the cross with happiness and joy in *this* life? *Is it possible?* Does God mean us to be happy on earth or miserable?

The truth is God made us to be happy both here and hereafter. As Fr. Leen says: *“The life of glory is but the final development of the life of grace. Hence the life of glory is meant to be enjoyed here below, in an inchoate form. As God planned things, life was to be an unbroken line, beginning at birth and continuing everlastingly...”*

Those Christians who know their catechism will



understand that death and suffering and misery came about as a result of sin – which God had no part in. Our father Adam threw a wrench into God’s original plan for man’s continual happiness. Now God did not scrap His plan because of sin, but He did modify it. He built suffering, misery, and death *into* His plan – which would still be one of happiness for man both in this life and the next.

The main difficulty, then, is to realize this plan of God - a plan in which suffering has a part to play *in* our happiness. *“Man is blind to this truth because of his inveterate tendency to identify suffering and unhappiness. If man were, once for all, to rid himself of that false prejudice and allow himself to see the truth, that suffering and happiness are not mutually exclusive terms, he would be well on the way to the solution of the chief problem of life. The great problem for man is, how is he to realize for himself a happy life on earth,”* says Fr. Leen.

Jesus embraced His cross with the greatest love

this world has ever seen. He willingly endured the greatest miseries so we could be truly happy *both on earth and in heaven*. But the Christian finds his happiness on earth in following his Lord and willingly sharing his little portion of the cross. Blessed are those who realize that suffering and unhappiness are *not* the same thing!

We do not have to go out seeking suffering and the cross. It’s enough if we accept it when it comes into our lives, *as coming from God*. That is the key. The thought has to come to us that this trial, this suffering actually comes from God. He might not be the direct cause of it, but He allows all things for a good purpose. If ever we are in doubt whether any good could come from our suffering or trials, all we need do is glance at the crucifix.

“A good life is always accompanied with joy and cheerfulness, and a bad life with pain and torment,” says St. Bernard. While St. Augustine adds, *“Joy is not to be sought in exterior things, but there*



Spring has started Fr. Dean taps the trees for sap.

within, in the secret chamber of the heart...

If, then, you wish to banish sadness from you and live happy and cheerful, the way is to live well and do your duty according to your state in life. “But that’s just the problem,” some might say, “I don’t do my duties as well as I could, nor serve God as I should, and this causes me to be sad.”

Those who are inclined towards this way of thinking should listen to the following words: *“Father Avila with much reason blames persons who walk in the way of God full of useless sadness, with hearts embittered, without taste for the things of God, disagreeable to themselves and disagreeable to their neighbors, out of heart and disconsolate. And many of them there are, he says, who do not commit mortal sins, but say that they behave this way because of the venial sins they commit, and for not serving God in the way they should. This is a great mistake. For much greater are the losses which ensue upon this distress and unmeasured sadness than upon the fault itself; and when they might have cut the evil short, these people make it grow, and tumble from one pit into another. That is just what the devil wants to bring about by this sadness, to rob them of all energy and strength for work and not suffer them to succeed in doing anything well.”*

From this we can conclude that there are no valid reasons for a Christian to live in sadness. Yes, we all sin, and sin should sadden us. However, *“The saints set so much value on our keeping up our courage and cheerfulness that they say we should not be discouraged even over our falls, nor lose heart, nor go about sad and melancholy. Sin being one of the things for which we may reasonably be sad, nevertheless, says St. Paul, this sadness should be tempered and allayed by the hope of forgiveness and the mercy of God, so as not to cause discouragement and disheartenment...”* So says Fr. Alphonsus Rodriguez, and Fr. Avila adds, *“If for the ordinary faults that we commit we are to go about crestfallen, sad, and disheartened, which of us shall have rest or peace, seeing that we all sin?”*

One of the greatest advantages of religious life comes from having taken the vow of obedience. This vow assures the religious that he is doing God’s will at all times. He has simply to observe the rule of his congregation and obey his superiors and he knows he is pleasing God. For him it is very clear. If he is faithful to these things, he will always receive the joy and peace which come from doing God’s will. For as Fr. Rodriguez states, *“If, you wish to be always cheerful and at peace, put your contentment in doing the will of God in all things, and put it not*

in this or that, or in doing your own will, for that is no way to find contentment, but rather to find a thousand discontents and troubles.”

Because of this, St. Lawrence Justinian concludes, *“God has designedly concealed the happiness of the religious state, because if it were known all would relinquish the world and fly to religion.”*

That being said, it is clearly not God’s will that all become religious. Yet *“Whoever can take it, let him take it.”* Everyone, however, can follow the beautiful advice of St. Claude de la Colombiere: *“We must serve God with our whole heart and do all in our power to prevent ourselves from sinning, but all this is to be done with joy, liberty of heart, and entire confidence, in spite of all the weakness we feel and the faults we commit.”*

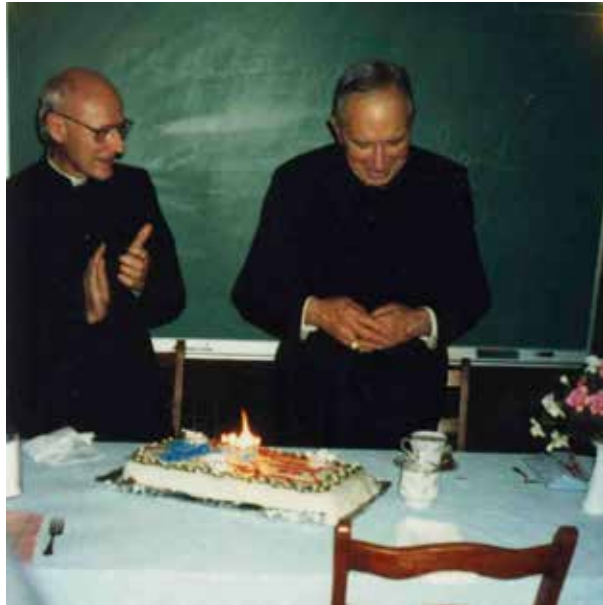
We can conclude with the words of St. Theophane Venard who said, *“Be merry, really merry. The life of a true Christian should be a perpetual jubilee, a prelude to the festivals of eternity.”*



Beekeeping helps our fruit tree orchard.



Archbishop Lefebvre and Fr. Urban Snyder



Brother Stan displays his wild turkey shoot.



Building Sandstone Discoloration.

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

—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