



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST
Saint Philip Neri International Seminary
Gricigliano



to our friends and benefactors

Dear friends,

SAINT JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY once told his parishioners that *"The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus."* Through the priestly ministry, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate, re-presents the holy sacrifice of Calvary on the altar, and He renews His presence in all the tabernacles throughout the world. Through this same ministry the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, is constantly vivified by the abundant graces of the sacraments. How can we fail to recognize along with the Curé of Ars that the priesthood is the manifestation *par excellence* of the infinite love of God for His children?

In another light, the love mentioned by the Curé of Ars can be understood as the love that Christ bears for His priests. *"For you did not choose me, but I chose you"* (Jn XV, 16). As the blessed day of our ordination approaches, our hearts are full of gratitude. We desire now more than ever before to respond generously to the Saviour's call by reciprocating His love. May we, with His help, and following the example of the Curé d'Ars, become priests according to the Heart of Jesus.

As our years at seminary come to a close, we thank you with all our heart for your help, and for your much-needed prayers. We would also like to take this occasion to thank our families who, by their prayers and sacrifices, ceaselessly supported us during our years of formation in Gricigliano.

Finally, we ask that you continue to pray for our fellow seminarians. Next July, 18 of them will be ordained deacons or subdeacons, and over fifty will receive minor orders or tonsure. More than ever, we are all counting on your prayers. Rest assured that every day we entrust you, our families, friends and benefactors, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven.

Our Lady of the Priesthood, Mother of Christ the High Priest and Mother of all priests in the world, protect us and watch over us!

your future priests.



Abbé James
HOOGERWERF
United States



Abbé Miguel Ángel
CAÑADAS CARPIO
Spain



Abbé Edward
TURNER
United States



Abbé Ryan
POST
United States



Abbé Jorge
VELA MARTIN
Spain



Abbé Ross
BOURGEOIS
United States



Abbé Axel
RINGEVAL
France

A FORMATION BOTH INTELLECTUAL...

AFTER PRAYER, intellectual formation comes first in the life of a seminarian. In addition to our usual courses (Philosophy, Theology, Spirituality, History of the Church, Latin, Liturgy, ...), which make up the principal part of our curriculum, we also benefit from occasional lectures on diverse topics, both historical and contemporary.



Church History

DR THIERRY LAVABRE-BERTRAND visited the seminary a few weeks ago to give us a lecture on bioethics. The seminarians learned about contemporary issues (the sanctity of life, artificial intelligence, and transhumanism), as well as about the history of medical ethics, from the origins of medicine until the present day, and about the various bioethical theories held by our contemporaries.

We recently had the grace of welcoming Miss Anne Bernet, who delivered a fascinating lecture on the decisive role played by bishops in the 4th and 5th centuries. While these *defensores Civitatis* (defenders of the city) were by their courage bulwarks of civilization in the face of barbarian invasions, it was by their sanctity that they came to be the founders of Christian Europe. Let us trust in their intercession!



Anne Bernet's lecture

AS BEAUTIFUL sunny weather returns to Italy, life continues at the seminary beneath the maternal watch of the Blessed Virgin. As you know, besides our prayer life and studies, our daily routine is marked by various more practical activities, depending on our different responsibilities. Here are some highlights.

OUR LIBRARY recently acquired an essential element of any seminary's collection. Though the shelf of Church Fathers was already well stocked by volumes of the *Sources Chretiennes* collection, it lacked the famous *Greek and Latin Patrology*—the compilation of patristic texts undertaken by the renowned Abbé Migne. Now, with readier and direct access to their teaching, the seminarians will be able to profit from the Fathers' timeless wisdom.



Library & Office Work

Olive Harvest

THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING and the beginning of summer mean plenty of work for the seminarians who care for the gardens and the farm. Trimming flowers, pruning olive trees, and harvesting honey—the seminarians, are keeping busy, and of course they are already preparing for the grape harvest at the end of August. We are looking forward to using the new wine vats, acquired over the winter!



The cellar



Groundskeeping



Farm work

“Ora et labora...”



Hospitality

AT THE SAME TIME, the sacristy is already preparing for ordinations. With the help of some climbing gear and a few handy seminarians, the sacristans will hang the tapestries which decorate the vaults of the Church of Saints Michael and Cajetan each year for the ordinations. The other seminarians, led by the guestmaster and his assistants, are preparing to welcome the many guests—priests, friends and relatives—who will attend the ordinations. Their presence is always a great joy during those beautiful days!



The workshop

HOLY WEEK



*Mass of the Presanctified
offered by Cardinal Burke*



*Tenebrae at the
seminary chapel*



*Blessing of the
pascal lamb*

Msgr Gilles Wach washing the first year seminarians' feet

THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY PILGRIMAGE to Lourdes took place this year from 30th April to 1st May. After High Mass on the first day, we had the opportunity to visit the baths and pray the Stations of the Cross before reciting the rosary at the grotto of the Marian apparitions. Once again, we were pleased and honoured to spend these two days with Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, who gave a lecture on the fourth commandment (*Honour thy father and thy mother*) and its implications, especially with regard to one's nation. His Eminence celebrated Mass the following day in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Our pilgrimage concluded with a talk by Msgr Gilles Wach, Prior General of the Institute, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a *Te Deum* of thanksgiving.



Rosary procession

LET US SPEAK TO OUR MOTHER in heaven with the words of Dom Guéranger: "We desire, O Blessed Virgin, to heed thee and to combat both within ourselves and everywhere our universal and only enemy: sin, the supreme evil, from which all other evils spring. Praise be to thee, who, free from the slightest debt of sin, redeemed our debts by the Blood of thy Son, and by the tears of His Mother, thus reconciling heaven and earth, crushing the head of the hateful serpent!"

*O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee!*

After the Solemn High Mass



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