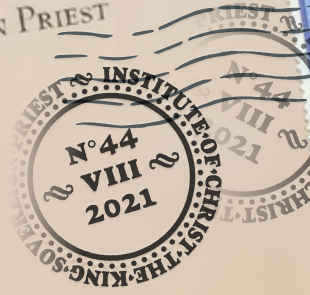




INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST
Saint Philip Neri International Seminary
Gricigliano



LETTRE

to our friends and benefactors

Dear friends,

We do not know how one could exaggerate the gift of God which is the Catholic priesthood. The Curé of Ars once said to his parishioners on this subject: *"Go to confession to Our Lady or to an angel. Would they absolve you? Would they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. Our Lady cannot make her Divine Son descend into the Host. You could have two hundred angels present, and they would not be able to absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, has that power. He can say to you: 'Go in peace, I absolve you.'"*



The first year seminarians with their Prefect, Canon Louis Poucin de Wouilt

We all need priests! Thus, the start of this academic year at seminary is an occasion to thank Divine Providence — this year, 26 new seminarians have joined us. Some came early for a week of French immersion, and all were present at the convent of our Sister Adorers in Switzerland for a retreat to start the new year. During the past year, most of them prepared for their entrance to seminary in various apostolates of the Institute, especially in the United States, Great Britain and Germany. Their places there did not stay empty for long, as these

houses have already seen new candidates arrive, who will be welcomed to Gricigliano next year.

Let us entrust all these young vocations to Our Lady, without forgetting the eight new priests and four new deacons ordained this year.

Our Lady of the Priesthood, pray for us!

In Christo Rege,

your future priests

THE NEW YEAR

Retreat in Gricigliano



The new chapel entry to the right of the pilaster awaits the staircase's installation

THE COMMUNITY is always growing larger — more than a hundred seminarians this year! Even if a certain number go offsite to study and assist the canons in our apostolates, every year the seminary must accommodate more people.

Thus, September is always the occasion to find more room. This year, we have succeeded in making 10 new bedrooms available. The chapel is undergoing some modification to accommodate more seminarians in choir.

But how to make the classrooms larger? To solve the problem, we had to disassemble, saw, narrow and reassemble all the tables in the classrooms. This allowed us to fit more tables, and therefore have more places in a classroom. Everything is now ready for the seminarians!



BEFORE: 24 places

AFTER: 30 places



DEO GRATIAS!



WE HAVE GOOD NEWS at the start of this year: His Eminence Cardinal Burke, who was gravely ill with the coronavirus, after several days in an artificial coma, is now definitively out of danger, even though it seems that his recovery will be long. Let us thank God for this providential healing and continue to support His Eminence with our prayers, so that he may continue his mission in the service of the Church.

For more than four months now, Canon Fragelli has been hospitalized in Florence after falling ill with covid. His recovery slowly continues. He is beginning to regain his strenght, and has been visited during the chapter by his family and some of his missionary confreres. The canon was able to follow the conversation, without responding with his voice yet. Let us continue to pray for his prompt and complete recovery!



THE CHAPTER MEETING



Renewal of the sacred engagement in the Institute



Procession before the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with His Eminence Cardinal Betori



Several conferences were given. Here, one by M^{sr} Schmitz, the Vicar General.

THIS YEAR AGAIN, nearly all the Canons were able to come to Gricigliano for the Chapter Meeting of the Institute.

During these joyful days of reunion, our priests have at heart, before all else, to put the Lord in His proper place, that is, the first place: *"To serve my Lord God first"*. The Mass and the Divine Office are at the centre of every day.

On Wednesday, His Lordship Bishop Giovannetti, bishop emeritus of Fiesole, celebrated a Pontifical High Mass. The following day, His Eminence, Cardinal Betori, presided at the *Te Deum* of thanksgiving for the past year and blessed a new image of Saint Joseph in our chapel. He graciously accepted our dinner invitation for the conclusion of the Chapter, and assured us of his prayers, affection and reliable support.



The blessing of the new image of Saint Joseph by His Eminence Cardinal Betori



Bishop



THIS CHAPTER MEETING is truly a time of grace for the Institute because it renews your links of fidelity and fraternity, reminding you that you are of one heart and one soul.

When I was invited to preside at this holy celebration, I was told that it would be the feast of Saint Louis — Louis IX, the king of France. And I asked myself, why then, is it precisely on this feast of Saint Louis, the king of France, that this important moment of the chapter of the Institute of Christ the King is celebrated? In reading the page of the gospel for the Mass, the reason becomes clear. But it becomes even clearer in the prayers of this Mass. In fact, in the Secret, we will say: *solī Regī Christo placere studuit*; Saint Louis, king of France, wished to please Christ alone. And in the collect, we said: *Regis regum Jesu Christi, Filii tui, facias nos esse consortes*. This feast is like a programme for the Institute: to be pleasing to Christ the King alone, and to be participants in the life of the Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is the Institute of Jesus Christ, our King.

Regnavit a ligno Deus (Hymn *Vexilla Regis*). Christ reigns through the Holy Cross; that is the central, royal moment of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And so the mystery of the Holy Cross is always a part of our lives. These times of the cross are important times. Certainly, they make us suffer. But they are precious moments in our existence, personal and communal: “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mt XVI, 24).

The celebration of the Holy Mass is the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Cross, and we cannot separate the Mass from our lives. We must always unite them profoundly, and live the mystery of the Mass, which is the mystery of the suffering of the Cross, with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is truly a time of great joy, which is the triumph of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And here is the wish that I make, from the bottom of my heart, for each one of you. This is my wish and my prayer which I make for your Institute, in particular for your seminary: that the fruitfulness of your ministry, of your apostolate and of your mission might always be, through the mystery of the Cross, a celebration of the Holy Mass lived and witnessed throughout the whole world.



Bishop Giovannetti after the Pontifical High Mass



ORDINATIONS



ON JUNE 29, 23 seminarians received the cassock from the hands of our Prior General at Gricigliano. The next day, they were tonsured by His Eminence Cardinal Burke.

Then on July 1 at Florence, eight deacons became priests for eternity by the imposition of hands from the Cardinal. This day was the feast of the Precious Blood of Our Lord, and in receiving the power to celebrate the Holy Mass, each one of them was able to meditate on the demands and renouncements which their vocation entails. Like Christ, *"the priest is a man crucified"* (Ft. CHEVRIER). Following the example of Jesus, they wish to give themselves without measure for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. However, *"unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required"* (Lk XII, 48). Let us therefore pray for them wholeheartedly and offer sacrifices for them that they may always be faithful to the grace of God.



Conferral of the Tonsure on the first-year seminarians



Sermon by His Eminence Cardinal Burke



Our eight new priests



ON THE DAY of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 8 seminarians went one step closer to the altar. *O Crux Ave, spes unica!* 4 deacons and 4 sub-deacons were ordained by His Lordship Bishop Giovannetti. Two of the new sub-deacons are from England. They entrust themselves in particular to your prayers, and thank you for your faithful support which has brought them this far.

