



Vox Clamantis

Bulletin of the Society of Saint Pius X in Scotland

October 2018

"The will to do, the soul to dare"

Dear Faithful,

The month of October is traditionally when we celebrate Our Lady's Holy Rosary. The feast itself this year falls on a Sunday and, according to the new rubrics, is reduced to a commemoration, and in sung Masses not even that. Nonetheless, a hundred years after the appearances of Our Lady at Fatima the vital importance of the rosary remains undiminished.

Our Lady Herself has told us that it is the means by which God wishes to save the world and she similarly emphasised its intercessionary power by saying that there is no problem great or small which cannot be solved by the Holy Rosary. At a time where assisting at Holy Mass very often requires an arduous journey, particularly during the week when Mass is just after the rush hour, the rosary becomes for many the bastion of faith and devotion.

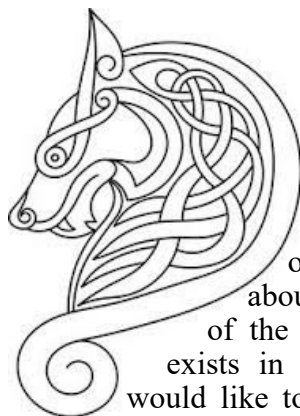


Last month, four of our children at St. Andrew's in Glasgow made their first confession and received Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. This was a cause of celebration for the families of the children but I think also for Catholics as a whole in Scotland for it is an encouragement to see four young souls embarking on their life of sacramental union and holiness and, as our holy Patron, St. Pius X said, may they be united to Jesus Christ, may live His life, and obtain protection from all danger of corruption.

With every good wish and blessing,

Rev. Sebastian Wall (Prior)

Spirit of the Society (II)



And so to the second in the series of articles on the spirit of the Society of St. Pius X. Last time we looked at what Archbishop Lefebvre, the founder of the Society, had to say about the basic *raison d'être* of the Society, why it actually exists in today's world. Today I would like to look at the first of the qualities that make it what it actually is.

Now, considering that Archbishop Lefebvre thought the spirit of the Society to be little more than the spirit of the Church, at least in its healthy state, we should not be surprised that in his next article he refers the Society's members, and I suppose by association also those of the faithful who want us to be their priests, to the Letters of St. Paul and particularly the one to the Ephesians and the one to the Hebrews.

And what we find *there* is the importance which the Church has always given to the Sacrifice of Our Lord and therefore to the sacred Priesthood. It sounds so familiar, it's almost banal. But the importance of those two concepts cannot be stressed enough. Otherwise, if we don't understand Sacrifice and the Priesthood we cannot understand at all why the Society should not go along with the vast majority of churchmen who have, to all intents and purposes, abandoned both the Sacrifice of the Cross and the Priesthood which is necessary to perpetuate it in today's world.



Without this understanding, you see, we cannot see *why* we go to Mass on a Sunday. I'm sure many Catholics, indeed, many Christians in general can see that it's good to go to church on a Sunday and *that* has kept them going for years now, although I think we can see that again, in general, church attendance is dropping off. But what makes the Society different and

what made the Church different in the past, was that Catholics didn't just go to *church* on a Sunday, they went to *Mass*. Indeed, because they went to *Mass* and not just church, that meant that Catholics also used to go to Mass during the week, at least when they could. That is the key to understanding Catholicism and today, I think, to understanding the Society of St. Pius X. For us, the mystery of the Holy Mass is the centre of our thoughts, of our hearts, of our entire interior life. Living the spirit of the Society is living the spirit of the Church.



I mentioned those two epistles of St. Paul just now but in fact the whole of Sacred Scripture is geared towards the Cross; both the Old and New Testaments are turned towards the altar of sacrifice and therefore, because the life of the Church is geared towards this sacrifice, the principal concern of the Society today is the sanctity of priests.

It's of course rather dismal to have to put myself in print and write that, when perhaps you may be thinking, "well, if that's the spirit of the Society, where are the holy priests?" Well, holy priests in fact or not, that is what the Society is at least aiming for - the sanctity of its priests. That the priests' first thought is the prayer of the Church: Holy Mass and the Breviary. If he cooperates with this, then the priest is at least on the road towards holiness.

That is why the Society's principal efforts in the world today are concentrated, not on the faithful in themselves, but on the formation of priests. That should be the first concern of the seminaries obviously, but it should also be at the back of the mind of those running schools - the fostering of priestly, and of course religious, vocations. It is also the first concern of opening and maintaining priories. For if the priories throughout the world do not have as their first concern the fostering of the holiness of priests through, for example, community life, then, although the priests will for a time at least be able to say Mass and hear confessions, there



will come a time of crisis and if holiness has not been fostered then it will end badly.

Statistics are not very reliable and anecdotal evidence less so, but one statistic that I gave the priests of this district when I gave them a retreat last year was the number of priests who passed through South Africa, that is, went to the Southern African district and have then left. The number is 12. Some, of course survived but 12 priests came and went there during my own assignment to the district. Of those only four left under what we may call normal circumstances. That is why the life of the priory, and that means principally community life, is so vital. Now, South Africa is an enormous country and many of the problems there are unique to its situation. But many of the cases which have ended in spiritual shipwreck have their roots in a lack of community life/isolation.

It ought to be said that in seminary we are trained for this life of the Society which is basically the life of sacrifice - renouncing the world and its vanities and sillinesses: I'm thinking particularly of the tv, but I could mention all sorts of other things - lay clothes and therefore fashions, comforts, new things, what I might call gadgets. Already in seminary we are trained in a spirit of silence - surely the antithesis of today's modern world which is so full of noise and chatter.

The priest is geared principally towards holy things and, in that sense, the priest is that



holy man mentioned just now. His life is a life to do with holy things, to do with sacred things: giving the sacred character of baptism, giving the sacred Body of our Lord, giving the other sacraments, handling the sacred vessels, on the sacred altar in the sacred building. The world doesn't want things to be considered sacred or sanctified anymore. That's why modern churches are built like ugly concrete excrescences on the face of the earth, that's why nuns don't wear uncomfortable habits, or why priests don't wear uncomfortable cassocks. If we do dress like that, then it is a reminder that we consider things from a supernatural point of view and that stands out in today's world. Because the world wants to eliminate God as well as anything that reminds people of God or anything that communicates God to replace it with denatured man. Which means that society becomes a place without God, and the theological name for the place where God *isn't* is Hell. Modern society, and I'm sure you'd all agree with me, is Hell.

So, our role in today's world, and your participation in this role, is the acknowledgment of God and the respect which you show for holy things. For the Holy Mass first of all, for holy things, the altar, the tabernacle, the sanctuary, blessed objects, holy pictures, medals. This respect you show by your presence, every Sunday, by your punctuality, by your careful observance of the rubrics, by your dress. All these things which I complain about from time to time surely don't happen because you deliberately want to offend God but because somehow the reason why you *should* do all these things has been clouded in your minds by the constant wearing down of the world.

So, let us renew that sense of respect for holy things and let us thank Archbishop Lefebvre for having saved this spirit of the Church for us all and passed it on to us as the spirit of the Society of St. Pius X. Let us thank him in Holy Mass and let us live that spirit in our daily lives. Amen.



Mass Schedule

	CARLUKE	GLASGOW	EDINBURGH
Monday 1 st October	11am		
Tuesday 2 nd October	11am		
Wednesday 3 rd October	11am		
Thursday 4 th October	11am		
Friday 5 th October (<i>First Friday</i>)		6.30pm	
Saturday 6 th October (<i>First Saturday</i>)		11am	11am
Sunday 7 th October — 20 th Sunday after Whitsun		10.30am	11am
Monday 8 th October	11am		
Tuesday 9 th October			6.30pm
Wednesday 10 th October	11am		
Thursday 11 th October	11am		
Friday 12 th October		6.30pm	
Saturday 13 th October		11am	11am
Sunday 14 th October — 21 st Sunday after Whitsun		10.30am	11am
Monday 15 th October	11am		
Tuesday 16 th October			6.30pm
Wednesday 17 th October	11am		
Thursday 18 th October	11am		
Friday 19 th October		6.30pm	
Saturday 20 th October		11am	11am
Sunday 21 st October — 22 nd Sunday after Whitsun		10.30am	11am
Monday 22 nd October	11am		
Tuesday 23 rd October		6.30pm	
Wednesday 24 th October	11am		
Thursday 25 th October	11am		
Friday 26 th October		6.30pm	
Saturday 27 th October		11am	11am
Sunday 28 th October — Christ the King		10.30am	11am
Monday 29 th October			
Tuesday 30 th October			
Wednesday 31 st October			

Contact details:

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Email: standrews@fssp.x.uk

Resident priests:

Rev. Fr. Sebastian Wall (Prior)

Rev. Fr. Anthony Wingerden

**Saint Andrew's
House**

31, Lanark Road,

CARLUKE

ML8 4HE

**Saint Andrew's
Church**

202, Renfrew Street,

GLASGOW

G3 6TX

**Saints Margaret and Leonard's
Church**

110, Saint Leonard's Street,

EDINBURGH

EH8 9RD

If you require any further information concerning one of these places, or need to talk to a priest e.g. in case of emergency for the Sacraments, please ring the phone number mentioned in contact details.