REPORT

FIRST COMMUNIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS: SACRAMENTS FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE SUPERNATURAL LIFE

Customarily the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation are administered in the Spring, and usually the bulk of the annual "classes" who receive these sacraments are comprised of children, though occasionally, even adults can be found amongst the ranks.

Both occasions are preceded by months of catechetical preparation to ensure that the recipients are sufficiently aware of what the Catholic Church teaches regarding these sacraments and their importance in daily Christian life (e.g., to advance spiritually "from grace to grace"). Part of the preparation for making one's First Communion is of course even a sacrament, that of Penance, which purifies the future communicant's soul of any sin, providing him with an infusion of sacramental grace in preparation for receiving the Bread of Angels, and showing how regular confession can assist in maturing in the spiritual life.

Here we show some pictures related to these important sacraments from a variety of our chapels in the United States District.

FIRST COMMUNIONS



St. Anthony of Padua MISSION, NORTH CALDWELL (PATERSON), NJ

Pastor Fr. Kevin Robinson gives the Bread of Life for the first time to a young girl.



OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH, OAK PARK (CHICAGO), IL

On Sunday, June 10th, in conjunction with the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, 6 children made their First Communion. Here they are posing with their pastor, Fr. Michael Goldade, while holding their candles, symbolizing the first grace they received at Baptism.

ASSUMPTION CHAPEL, St. MARY'S, KS

In both pictures, Fr. Vicente Griego poses with the large group of First Communicants that partook in Our Lord's Mystical Banquet on May 6th.





QUEEN OF ANGELS CHURCH, DICKINSON (HOUSTON), TX

After Mass on Sunday, May 20th, the pastor, Fr. Stephen Stanich poses with his 12 First Communicants.

CONFIRMATIONS

ASSUMPTION CHAPEL, St. MARY'S, KS

Confirmations were administered by Bishop Richard Williamson on April 22nd, and following are a few images of the rite of confirmation in chronological order.



1. After chanting the *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, the bishop gives the sermon during which he admonishes the confirmands on their duties as *milites Christi* and adult members of the Church.



3. After being anointed with the sacred chrism and blessed, the confirmand is given a light slap by the bishop to signify the supernatural conflict that a Soldier of Christ must face.

2. With his mitre removed (to signify that the bishop is not using his episcopal powers), the bishop calls upon the Holy Ghost to descend upon the kneeling confirmands.





The 37 male confirmands pose with the sacred ministers and 3 servers after the Pontifical Solemn Mass that was celebrated after the confirmation ceremony.



And here 44 female confirmands do the same.

Continued on p.7

Society of Saint Pius X

District of the United States of America
REGINA COELI HOUSE

11485 Farley Rd. Platte City, MO 64079 (816) 753-0073 FAX (816) 753-3560

> J.M.J. August 1, 2007

Father John Fullerton District Superior

Dear friends and benefactors of the Society of Saint Pius X,

It was a pleasure to see and have the opportunity to speak with many of you at the priestly ordination in Winona this past June. Such an event gives us a solid dose of reality; helping to pull us away from the path of unreality taken by many in the modern world.

These paths become more evident when we consider what the basis of reality is. God alone is real. Anything else is real only in the exact measure that it stands in its proper relation to God. In the measure that something does not stand in its proper relation to God it is unreal. In fact, only creatures with free will, *i.e.*, angels and men, can be unreal in this way because they alone can choose to depart from their proper relation with the Creator. All other creatures, because they do not have free will, simply follow what God has prescribed for them with His natural law.

Lucifer, the highest of the angels, was the founder of the cult of unreality. He refused to acknowledge his proper relation to God by proudly attributing to himself the wonderful gifts God had given him. In like manner Adam also stepped onto the same path when, being tempted by Satan, he desired to become like God and so took and ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Both Lucifer and Adam failed to recognize that all goodness comes from God alone and so departed from their proper relation to the Creator.

Today this unreality has grown and continues to grow with fearful rapidity, producing chaos especially in the realms of thought, feeling, and emotion. Nothing is considered in its relation to God as every value and appreciation is unreal, false, and alien to Him. If God is thought of at all, it is in the light of the deistic philosophers who believe that after creation God was disinterested in the world He had created and so retired leaving it to itself. They reject His sovereign presence in individual lives and His absolute goodness which they claim for themselves while also denying that the wounds of original sin ever existed. Like Rousseau they believe that man can solve all problems, both personal and public, simply by returning to pure nature, which he is able to do on his own or with some education but unaided by grace. Of course, once original sin is denied it follows that man has no need for redemption.

This defiance of God quickly turns to a defiance of nature. Having thrown aside grace yet still laden with sin, man easily loses what little grasp he had on his own nature. Moral law is soon replaced by license as determined by misguided human law and science. Technology, with its ever more sophisticated electronics and machines, ensnares minds and pulls them down the steep slope of unreality.

It is important that we do not let this tide of unreality also carry us away. We must cultivate the real, which we can do by giving proper value to persons and things. First things must come first. Therefore God must be treasured above all. He alone is good. He alone is the source of any good we have in us. He alone can heal our fallen human nature, injured by original sin, by raising it with His grace to a supernatural level. We must have a simple and sincere desire for the things of eternal life. The challenge lies in firmly electing the unique satisfaction of mind and heart found only in the supernatural and at the same time making a definite renouncement of the tendency to seek satisfaction that does not lead to God in the natural world. God alone is good and so He must be chosen as the term of all our activities and not just some of them. We do not have a problem when it is a matter of seeking something we like but often there is a difficulty in liking what we, as children of God, should seek. We tend to be half-hearted in our quest for sanctity. We believe that we earnestly desire eternal life but at the same time we long for things that are an impediment to this life; cherishing them in our hearts. If this continues our interest in created things will grow and inevitably we will find ourselves losing any interest in God.

We must also be careful that these likes and desires are not based on mere pious sentiments or emotions. Sentimentality is unreal. Our intellect and will must be firmly set so that we seek Him with constancy regardless of whether we feel a sensible devotion or a repelling dislike. Our desire must be independent of taste and feelings.

After God and our share in the divine life we must also place value in our proper relation to creation; as shown in our behavior towards persons, things and the many situations life throws at us. All that I have said in previous letters regarding the development of natural virtues by the 3Rs can help to develop this sense of value for the real. Whether in cultivating proper respect toward persons or things, showing responsibility in daily occupations or being resourceful in our use of the things of this earth, our behavior must be simple, sincere and direct.

Remember that man was created by God to be the steward of creation. Yet, unaided by grace, we see creation, especially in the form of technology, enslaving not only children but also adults who are too weak to resist its dominating attraction. Take for example the world of video games. Through computers we are now able to generate a three dimensional artificial world, which we call virtual reality. With this technology, games are developed to make the gaming experience as "real" as possible. You can completely develop your own virtual character, live your own virtual life, and have virtual relations with a whole virtual world of other virtual people and virtual creatures using your own virtual morality. The only thing that is not unreal in these games is the real money that must be spent to develop one's virtual experience and the effects they have on individuals. The rest is completely unnatural and unreal -and yet it is put forward as something worthwhile and admirable. Children and adults easily become addicted to these games. Many use them as an escape from real life situations. As they become slaves to technology there is a perversion of the right values of things and their grasp on nature is loosened if not lost altogether.

Let us try to turn the tide on the growing cult of unreality. We can cultivate the real and help our children to do the same by giving them real life experiences. Throw out the computer games and get them involved in real activities that teach them about real relations with real person and real things. Show your children, by example, the importance that should be placed on the Faith and eternal salvation, which necessarily implies a certain detachment from the world.

Finally teach them the greatest reality —that God alone is good.

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Jr. John D Tullerton

Fr. John D. Fullerton

ACADEMIC ACHIE

GRADUATIONS



St. Mary's College in **ST. MARY' KS**, held its graduation ceremonies in conjunction with the academy's high school's on the Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, May 26th. Here the college graduates pose with their headmaster, Fr. Vicente Griego.



On the same day here the 19 high school senior boys pose with Fr. Griego...



... as do proudly the 23 high school senior girls.



On the previous day, Friday, the Kindergarten through 8th grade diplomas and academic awards were passed out, while here, the future class of 2019 poses with all smiles demonstrating the bright future of Catholic Tradition.



Our Lady Immaculate Academy in OAK PARK (CHICAGO), IL held its 8th grade ceremonies for 5 graduates on Saturday, June 9th, and here they pose with their principal, Fr. Michael Goldade.

NATIONAL RELIGION TEST WINNERS

The annual District-wide religion test was administered to all 8th and 12th grade students in the schools of the SSPX in February and rendered the following winners:

BEST SCORES IN 12TH GRADE:

Winners received \$1,500, \$1,250 and \$1,000 respectively toward future tuition in an SSPX institution of higher learning, or an SSPX-sponsored pilgrimage.



1st Place: Marie Clare Melechinsky; St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's, KS (94%)



2nd Place: Stephen Jackson; Immaculate Conception Academy, Post Falls, ID (92%)



3rd Place: Sarah Zaharia; St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's, KS

BEST SCORES IN 8TH GRADE:

Winners received \$500 (for 1st place) and \$200 (for 3rd place) toward future tuition in an SSPX school.



1st Place: Isabella Morgali; St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's, KS (tied 100%)



2nd Place: Meghan Brauner; St. Vincent de Paul Academy, Kansas City, MO (tied 100%)



3rd Place: Bridget Zaharia; St. Mary's Academy, St. Mary's, KS (99%)

SCHOOLS SCORINGTHE HIGHEST:

12th Grade: Notre Dame de LaSalette Academy in Olivet (Georgetown), IL **8th Grade:** Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Oak Grove (St. Paul), MN

VEMENTS FOR 2007

Immaculate
Conception
Academy
graduated 15
senior boys on
Saturday, June 9th
in conjunction
with a Solemn
High Graduation
Mass, after which
they received
their diplomas
from their
principal, Fr.
Christian Granges.





The Post Falls graduating senior class of 2007 proudly pose with their diplomas in front of the church.



The entire Immaculate Conception Academy, staff and students, for the 2007 academic year.



Graduations for 9 seniors were held at Our Lady of LaSalette Academy in **OLIVET** (**GEORGETOWN**), **IL**, on Saturday, June 2nd. Here they make their profession of Faith during the Solemn High Graduation Mass. Watching is Fr. Michael McMahon (center and the principal) as the celebrant, Fr. Gerard Beck (on the right and the District's Superintendent of Schools) as the deacon and Fr. Kenneth Dean (on the left and academy professor) as the subdeacon.



The faculty and students of LaSalette Academy pose with the sacred ministers after the ceremonies, which were preceded the night before with a rendition of Shakespeare's play, Love's Labour Lost.



In another achievement, after finishing in the Midwest Rugby Championships, LaSalette's varsity team went to the Rugby National Championship Tournament in Salt Lake City, UT (from May 18 – 19) and took 12th place, as well as the praise and admiration of the other teams and coaches for their gentleman-like conduct and their topnotch team-playing skills. Here the varsity team proudly shows off its well-earned championship pendant.

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (Sunday, June 10th)

Many chapels in the United States District solemnized the Feast of Corpus Christi (this year on June 7th) on Sunday, June 10th to ensure a large participation of faithful at the annual ceremonies that honor the Blessed Sacrament.

Having prepared the monstrance after Communion, the celebrant and pastor at St. Michael's, Fr. Stephen Stanich, finishes the prayers of the Mass *in coram Sanctissimo* after which the Eucharistic Procession takes place.



Preceded by the thurifers (out of view), accompanied by torchbearers and beneath a royal canopy, the King of Kings is carried in triumphant procession with the faithful following, as shown here at Queen of Angels ...



... and here at St. Michael's.

Following are a collection of images from St. Michael the Archangel Church in **SPRING** (**NORTH HOUSTON**), **TX** and Queen of Angels Church in **DICKINSON** (**HOUSTON**), **TX** in chronological order of the ceremony.



At Queen of Angels Church, Fr. Stephen Zigrang, having removed his Mass vestments and donned a cope, imposes incense into 2 thuribles for the Eucharistic Procession, which in the Roman Rite, is the only time when an additional thurible is permitted.



At a temporary altar prepared outdoors, the faithful of Queen of Angels pause for a break during the procession to adore Our Lord.



After a few moments of reflection on the great mystery of Transubstantiation, the Host is incensed again and then the celebrant (here Fr. Zigrang), blesses the faithful with Our Lord in the monstrance. The procession then continues back to the church.



Upon the returning to the high altar at St. Michael's, Our Lord is incensed to the singing of St. Thomas Aquinas' hymn *Tantum ergo* and then a final benediction is given.

CONFIRMATIONS.., continued from p.2



St. Anthony of Padua Mission, North Caldwell (Paterson), NJ

On Sunday, April 14th (the same day of the chapel blessing as we will see later), Bishop Williamson confirmed 17 young adults, making them Soldiers of Christ and bestowing on them the further distinction of being the mission's first confirmation class.

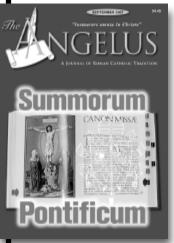


QUEEN OF ANGELS CHURCH, DICKINSON (HOUSTON), TX

On May 6th, the SSPX's Superior General, Bishop Bernard Fellay, administered confirmation to 35 candidates. Here they happily pose with the servers and their pastor after the ceremonies in front of the old convent.

Look at what you're missing this month!

The Angelus is America's premier magazine of Catholic Faith and culture. Every month, The Angelus brings you the best in Catholic history, literature, theology, analysis of the crisis in the Church, family life, liturgy, news of the work of Catholic Tradition, Questions & Answers, and much, much more. All this and more for the low annual price of \$35.00. It's worth it.



- Summorum Pontificum: the full texts, SSPX reaction, interview with Bishop Fellay
- Can traditional Catholics avail themselves of Summorum Pontificum to attend the traditional Mass?
- The Church Fathers on Limbo
- Ought priests of the conciliar church to be "re-ordained" when they come to tradition?
- Catechism of the
 Crisis in the Church
- Letter from the Editor
- Monthly Photo Writing Contest
- Q&A: Can a Catholic invest in a company that makes profit from immoral products or activities?

Online subscriptions: \$15.00/year (the online edition is available around the 10th of the preceding month). To subscribe visit: www.angelusonline.org.

Register for free to access back issues 14 months and older plus many other site features.

ANGELUS PRESS

www.angeluspress.org • 1-800-966-7337

EUCHARISTIC CRUSADE

MONTHLY INTENTIONS

August: For the return of the schismatics

and the conversion of the infidels

September For the elderly

October For the conversion of sinners

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE—May 2007

Daily Offering	10,199
Masses	4796
Sacramental Communions	4115
Spiritual Communions	12,502
Sacrifices	16,299
Decades of the Rosary	44,629
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament	4625
15 minutes of silent meditation	4047
Good Example	10,436
Number returned	377

RETREAT SCHEDULE

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT HOUSE 209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-0201

MEN: Oct 15-20, Dec 10-15

WOMEN: Sept 17-22, Nov 12-17, Jan 14-19, 2008

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

19101 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033 (408) 354-7703

MEN: Sept. 10-15, Oct. 22-27, Nov. 29-Dec 2

WOMEN: Aug. 20-25, Oct. 1-6, Nov. 12-17, Dec. 13-16

OUR LADY OF SORROWS RETREAT CENTER 750 E. Baseline Road, Phoenix, AZ 85042 (602) 268-7673

MEN: Sept. 10-15 (Virtues), Nov. 12-17

WOMEN: Oct. 8-13, Dec. 17-22

MIXED: Dec. 27-Jan. 1, 2008 (Marian)

ENGLISH RETREATS IN THE CANADIAN DISTRICT ST. PIUS X RETREAT HOUSE,

905 Rang St-Mathieu E., Shawinigan, QC, G9N 6T5 (819) 537-9696 tel, (819) 537-6562 fax

MEN: November 4-9
WOMEN: October 14-19

Please contact the retreat house in question to ensure availability before making any travel plans

Regina Pilgrimages

(accompanied by a SSPX priest)

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO ETERNAL ROME

A 10-DAY PILGRIMAGE VISITING VATICAN CITY, THE MAJOR BASILICAS AND RELICS, AND THE CATACOMBS

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 8, 2008

This unique pilgrimage is ideal for both the first-time visitor and the experienced traveler. Enjoy time to thoroughly visit the Catholic treasures of Rome you•fve been wanting to see. Learn more about the great saints who were the cornerstones of our civilization. Discover the history of the Catholic Church and its impact on society. Gain spiritual blessings from praying at the major shrines of Christendom.

\$1,949 pp plus air taxes and surcharges, includes roundtrip air from JFK to Rome

Take advantage of this unique opportunity! Space is limited. For more information please contact:

REGINA PILGRIMAGES BY ORBIS VACATIONS 866-369-8149 (toll-free)

www.reginapilgrimages.com info@reginapilgrimages.com

Saint Pius X Pilgrimage Co.

(Fully escorted pilgrimages accompanied by an SSPX priest)

HOLY LAND

(Back by great demand...Our 4th annual Lenten Holy Land Pilgrimage!) (February 14-25, 2008)

We will visit the Holy Places from the Annunciation in Nazareth, to Bethlehem to Mt Beatitudes, to the Sea of Galilee, to Mount Tabor, to the first Miracle of Jesus in Cana, to Mount Nebo where Moses died, to Petra the lost City, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, we will renew your baptismal promises on the Jordan River, to the Mount of Temptation in Jericho, to the raising of Lazarus in Bethany, we will follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem from the Palm Sunday road to the Garden of Gethsemane to the Via Crucis to Golgotha and more. This is living the Passion with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Price includes roundtrip airfare accommodations, pilgrimage transportation, hotels, three meals a day, lunch and dinner with bottle water, tips, fares for the Galilee boat, cable car, taxi to Mt. Tabor. *etc.*: \$2650.

IRELAND, ENGLAND, FRANCE

(June 16-25, 2008)

Cashel, Our Lady of Knock, Slane, Dublin in the footsteps of St. Patrick, the Book of Kells, the Church of St. Valentine, Ladywell, York, London, The Tyburn Martyrs Convent (Edmond Campion), Alysford (the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel where Our Lady gave St. Simon Stock the Brown Scapular), St. Jude's Shrine, Canterbury (where St. Thomas Beckett was martyred), Cathedral of Amiens (the Head of St. John the Baptist), Paris–Rue du Bac (the Miraculous Medal), Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, and more.

Price includes round trip airfare from Newark, accommodations, pilgrimage transportation, 3 meals a day, lunch and dinner with bottle water and wine /beer, tips, admissions. \$3775.00 per person

Daily Mass ● 4-star or better accommodations
 experienced Catholic tour-guides

For itinerary brochure, reservations contact: Saint Pius X Pilgrimage Co., Robert & Christine di Cecco, 38 Ten Coat Lane, Shelton, CT 06484; telephone 203-922-0096; or e-mail: info@stpiusxpilgrimage.com

For more information: www.stpiusxpilgrimage.com

MOTHER CABRINI PILGRIMAGE

St. Isidore's Mission in Watkins (Denver), CO will be sponsoring their annual 50-mile, 2-day Pilgrimage of Thanksgiving to the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Morrison, CO on August 24-25.

The pilgrimage starts at Watkins and concludes in Morrison, CO.

For more information, please contact the chapel coordinator, Mr. Grider Lee, either by telephone, 303-903-1627, or by e-mail, griderlee@saintisidore.org.