

2022-23 SEMINARY APPEAL



Dear Friend of the Fraternity,

Earlier this year, you may have joined the FSSP in a novena consecrating our apostolates and our priestly fraternity to the Immaculate Heart of Our Mother, beseeching her to intercede for us and defend us in these threatening times. As we were thus praying, our leaders prepared for a meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis. There was a great deal of uncertainty in the wake of the *motu proprio Traditiones Custodes*, and so we turned to Our Mother for assistance and guidance.

On February 11, 2022, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we consecrated ourselves and our Fraternity to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. That very day, we received the Holy Father's endorsement to continue living out our charism. *Deo gratias!* We know that this good news from our Holy Father is a sign of Our Lady's maternal care for our congregation.

The work to preserve and spread the Catholic Faith and its rich traditions is far from over. But with Our Lady's unflagging support—and yours—the FSSP is preparing for the future. **We'll continue to work tirelessly to build a more Catholic society, in spite of the adversity in these modern times.**

Many of us are perhaps familiar with the multitude of annual conferences, retreats, and recollections that have come to the fore in recent years, in which many notable speakers encourage us and describe the efforts we must take to build a Catholic Society. We certainly need that encouragement and that vision. But it is the work of communities like our Fraternity to bring that vision into reality, with a firm foundation in the spiritual life and most essentially our liturgical worship.

We are focused on building a society in which there will be more sung Masses. More opportunities to make a good confession. Traditional catechesis for all those who seek it. More enriching sermons and spiritual talks. Greater access to traditional Baptism and Extreme Unction. And more opportunities to encourage a joyful Catholic life for our families in their parish homes. None of these things are possible without priests who are well formed in the traditional life of the Church. While we have many parishes to tend to and our priests are working hard in the Lord's vineyard, it is precisely the formation of solid and well-formed priests that is at the heart of our Apostolate.

Thanks be to God, Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary is full and continues to accept large classes of new men each year. Despite recent moves taken to limit traditional worship, more men are inquiring about priestly life in our Fraternity than ever before. But the state of the economy and inflation affect all of us and are making it harder just to keep our seminary at its current size.

Our overall costs are rising by hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. Like you, we're paying more for gasoline, electricity, books, food, and nearly everything else as we meet the spiritual and physical needs of about 85 mostly college-aged men. We have responded by implementing cost-saving measures in our budget. **In spite of this, our cost of formation has increased by about 20 percent to over \$36,000 per seminarian per year.**

That's why we've set a fundraising target of **\$3.5 million for our Seminary Appeal**. This might seem to be a great increase over last year's 1.5 million dollar goal. But until now, we have used our Annual Appeal to only partially



meet fundraising goals for the seminary. We have relied on other means to do the rest; but as we grow, we see the need to be streamlining all our efforts and initiatives into one seminary appeal. Doing so will help us more easily keep up with our longtime friends and supporters and make some new ones along the way.

Will you help us meet our goal of funding the seminary this year? If 30 friends of the Fraternity make monthly (recurring) donations of \$100, we'll be able to pay the tuition of one seminarian for the year! But we also urgently need recurring gifts of \$75, \$50, or even \$20.

This is the most ambitious goal we've ever had to set—but I believe it's attainable. In previous years, we've raised close to \$3 million from all our seminary fundraising campaigns combined. This year, we want to focus on raising all this money through the Seminary Appeal so that we can spend less time fundraising and more time meeting your spiritual needs.

The sum of 3.5 million will fund our seminary operation for an entire year and give our formators peace of mind as they seek to form each man into an *Alter Christus* in the troubled waters of our current world. It will also enable us to invest in the future growth of the Seminary. Young men are more interested than ever in a traditional formation!

In addition, these funds will help us begin to make much-needed improvements to our seminary. After 22 years, some of our ovens, heaters, and air conditioning

units etc. will soon need replacing. What a time for them to go! But we trust the Good Lord will provide, knowing we have such incredible support from faithful souls like yourself.

When you invest in the Seminary Appeal, you invest in the future of the priesthood—and of the Church. Without your support, none of this is possible. You enable us to form more of the holy priests who will bring the light of Christ into the darkness of the world. Please make a sacrificial donation to the Seminary Appeal:



fssp.com/seminary-appeal

Thank you for your friendship and support. Our seminarians remember you and your intentions in prayer and at Mass. Please pray that Our Lady will continue to keep the FSSP under her mantle, and may almighty God reward your charitable consideration,

Yours in Christ, Our Lady, and St. Peter,

Fr. Anthony Dorsa, FSSP

Fr. Anthony Dorsa, FSSP
Director of Fundraising Operations

P.S. Help us form holy priests who will keep Tradition alive. *It's easy to make an automatic monthly donation of any size online. One-time gifts of any size go a long way to support our seminarians.*

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