

Meménto



THE PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

ASSUMPTION ISSUE
AUGUST 2022

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

"He who prays will be saved; he who does not will be lost."

– St. Alphonsus de Liguori, Doctor of the Church.

Which of us can say: "My prayer needs no improvement; the quality and quantity of my prayer is perfectly fine the way it is"? Given the extreme importance of prayer in our lives, it is helpful for us to take stock of our prayer habits from time to time.

First of all, does our prayer reflect all four interior acts of the virtue of religion? The virtue of religion regulates the conduct of human beings toward God whereby we acknowledge God's majesty and dominion over us and our dependence upon Him. The four interior acts are adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and propitiation. Adoration is both acknowledging and honoring God as the Almighty Creator and Ruler of creation and submitting ourselves to Him as our first beginning and final end. Thanksgiving is due to God for our existence, for the existence of all creation and every good thing, for our preservation in existence, for our redemption, our continued sanctification, and anything at all that is good in our lives. Petition is humbly asking God for what we need. It is necessary since anything good which we can ever hope to possess can only come to us from God and not from ourselves or from any other person without God's permission. God has requested us to ask: "Ask and you shall receive." Propitiation, closely connected to reparation, is appeasing the all-good and all-perfect God whom we have unjustly offended by our sins.

It is common for us fallen human beings to focus almost exclusively on petition in our prayer, to the detriment of the other three acts. The Greatest Commandment is to love God with all of our being, but how is this possible if almost the only reason for our approaching God is to ask Him for favors? If the only thing a poor man did when he spoke with

a rich one was to ask for money and favors, we would rightly judge that the interaction was an expression of the poor man's love for himself rather than his love for the rich man. So let us be sure to unite our acts of adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and propitiation to the offering of each Holy Mass we attend. When we approach God in prayer, let us not neglect any of these. One of the beauties of Eucharistic Adoration as well as the practice of the daily Holy Hour encouraged by Venerable Bishop Sheen is that they are in response to Our Lord's words in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Could you not spend one hour with Me?" (Mt. 26:40) and are much more than just prayers of petition. This is also true of the practice of daily mental prayer and, to a certain extent, the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

How much should one pray? In light of the very grave situation in the world today—not only all of the physical suffering and dangers but also the moral evils and the ubiquitous presence of impurity, to name just one very deadly temptation—I fear for the salvation of someone who does not at least pray Our Lady's Rosary daily. If we are tempted to say that we don't have time to pray, we can always do an experiment: on a typical day make a log of how much time we unnecessarily spend on the internet, social media, watching television, etc. I think most of us would discover that we do have time to pray after all! But if it truly seems that we don't have time to pray, we can pray to God asking that He show us time to pray. This is a prayer which God seems very eager to answer, for Our Lord Himself has said: "Pray always." ✝

Fr. William Lawrence, FSSP

Fr. William Lawrence, FSSP
North American Provincial

In 1950 Pius XII defined as a divinely revealed dogma the doctrine of the Assumption: that is, he declared as a truth to be believed that the Virgin Mary at the end of her earthly life was taken up body and soul into heaven. This privilege of Our Lady he tied to her Immaculate Conception. By a special grace of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free from every stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. “She, by an entirely unique privilege, completely overcame sin by her Immaculate Conception, and as a result she was not subject to the law of remaining in the corruption of the grave, and she did not have to wait until the end of time for the redemption of her body.” And so the Holy Father speaks of her Assumption as a culmination of her privileges. Yet in that same document in which he defines that doctrine he further describes her glories: he speaks of her as being taken up into heaven “where, as Queen, she sits in splendor at the right hand of her Son, the immortal King of the Ages.” A few years later, Pius XII returns to this theme of the queenship of Our Lady in his encyclical letter *Ad caeli Reginam* (1954). Therein he promotes this teaching regarding the royal dignity of Mary and institutes the feast of Mary the Queen, which is celebrated in the traditional liturgy on the last day of May.

As with the Assumption, Pius XII saw himself in teaching about the queenship of Mary not to be proposing some new doctrine but to be recalling and promoting a truth that was present in the ancient writers and tradition of the Church. In support of this claim he cites, among others, St. Ephrem, who calls her “majestic and heavenly maid, lady and queen,” and St. John Damascene, who describes her as “queen of every creature” and “queen forever beside her Son, the King.” Moreover, the Church sings to Our Lady as queen, e.g., in the *Salve Regina*, the *Ave Regina Caelorum*, and the *Regina caeli*. Also, when praying the fifth glorious mystery of the Rosary,

one meditates upon her crowing. There is, in addition, the Litany of Loreto, which addresses Our Lady with several titles as queen. Among these are “Queen of the Most Holy Rosary” (added by Leo XIII in 1883), “Queen of Peace” (added by Benedict XV in 1915), and “Queen assumed into heaven” (added by Pius XII in 1950). Pope Benedict XVI, among others, teaches that the woman depicted in the Apocalypse represents not only the Church but also Our Lady. “And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the

sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. . . . And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with an iron rod” (12:1-5).

Pius XII says, “The chief reason for the royal dignity of Mary is her divine Motherhood.” The angel Gabriel tells her that her Son “shall be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of David His

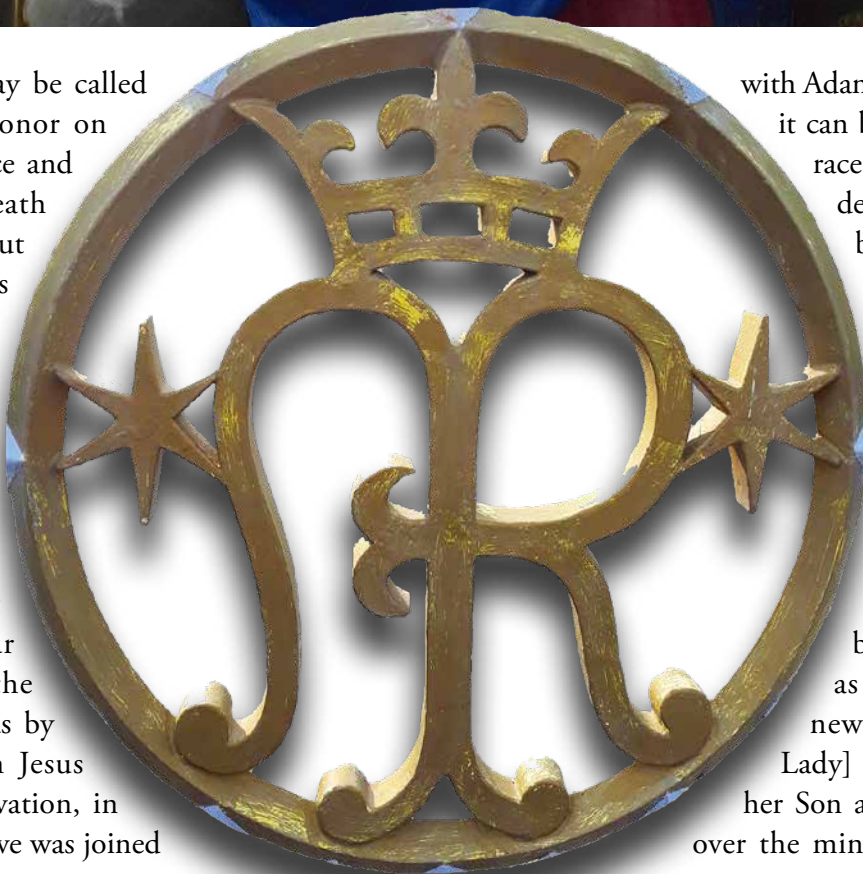
Father, and He shall reign in the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33). He is indeed “the King of kings and Lord of lords” (Apoc. 19:12). At the Visitation, St. Elizabeth says to Mary, “Whence is this to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” From these words it is clear that Our Lady is worthy of a special honor on account of her unique connection to Christ. St. John Damascene says, “She became queen of all creation when she became the mother of the Creator.” Pius IX says that in choosing and preparing a mother for His Son, God endowed her with heavenly gifts “far above all the angels and all the saints” to such an extent that while “under God, one cannot even imagine anything greater, and which, outside of God, no mind can succeed in comprehending fully.” We find, along these lines, in the encyclical of Pius XII: “From the first moment of her conception she was filled with an abundance of grace far beyond that of all the saints.”

“The chief reason for the royal dignity of Mary is her divine motherhood.”

—Pope Pius XII



Our Lady, then, may be called “queen” as a title of honor on account of her excellence and perfection that is beneath only that of her Son, but the Holy Father points out that she is rightly so-called also because she has a “royal power to distribute the treasures of the kingdom of the Divine Redeemer.” By the will of God she has been called to “a great part in the work of our salvation.” “Mary in the work of redemption was by God’s will joined with Jesus Christ, the cause of salvation, in much the same way as Eve was joined



with Adam, the cause of death. Hence it can be said that . . . the human race, just as it was doomed to death by a virgin, was saved by a virgin.” Thus Pius XII teaches, “Just as Christ, the new Adam, is our King not only because He is the Son of God, but also because He is our Redeemer, so also in a somewhat similar manner, the Blessed Virgin is Queen not only as Mother of God, but also because she was associated as the second Eve with the new Adam.” Likewise, “[Our Lady] shares in the power which her Son and our Redeemer exercises over the minds and wills of men.” ✝

SPRINGDALE WELCOMES A NEW PRIEST



Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Springdale, Arkansas welcomed Fr. Edgar Ramirez as associate pastor. Fr. Ramirez celebrated his first Holy Mass on Sunday July 3rd. A reception was held that evening in his honor. We give thanks to Our Lord and His Most Holy Mother for blessing our parish with a second priest. Photos by Mr. John Dellinger (top) and Mr. Michael Gray (below). ✝



KENTUCKY
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MARYLAND
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Minneapolis

NEBRASKA
Lincoln, Omaha

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Nashua

NEW JERSEY
Pequannock

CATHEDRAL MASS FOR SS. PETER & PAUL

The Cathedral Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul in Philadelphia hosted a very special parish celebration of its patronal feast. Fr. Carl Gismondi, who was also celebrating the 20th anniversary of his ordination, was the celebrant, with Fr. Kick as deacon and Fr. Biedrzychi as subdeacon. The homilist was the rector of the cathedral, Fr Gill. Photos by Allison Girone. ✝



OHIO
Dayton, Vienna

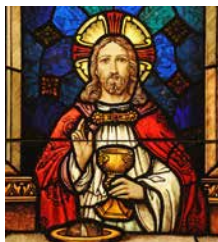
OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City, Tulsa

PENNSYLVANIA
Allentown, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Scranton

RHODE ISLAND
Providence

SOUTH DAKOTA
Rapid City

VANCOUVER FIRST COMMUNIONS AND CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



TEXAS
Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Tyler

VIRGINIA
Chesapeake, Richmond

WASHINGTON
Seattle, Tacoma

CANADA
Calgary, Edmonton, Montréal, Ottawa, Québec City, Saskatoon, Thorold, Vancouver



PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

2022-23 SEMINARY APPEAL

Dear Friend of the Fraternity:

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 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.**

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.**

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.

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.

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.

Fr. Anthony Dorsa, FSSP

Director of Fundraising Operations

fssp.com/seminary-appeal

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New Apostolate in Saskatoon

On June 1st, the Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen, Bishop of Saskatoon announced the appointment of Fr. Kenneth Webb, FSSP as the Moderator and Chaplain of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Latin Mass community, temporarily located at St. Joseph's Parish on 8th Street East.



The community was first founded all the way back in 1990 and has long had an agreement to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 Missal.



Fr. Webb has been among the priests who occasionally supported the Latin Mass in Saskatoon, and Bishop Hagemoen was pleased to welcome him into the fraternity of the local clergy.

We will be highlighting the Saskatoon Latin Mass community and their recent addition to the FSSP family in a future issue of *Meménto*.

In the meantime, you can find out more at their website: www.saskatoonlatinmass.com.

Plenary Council Meeting

The Fraternity held a Plenary Council meeting at its motherhouse, St. Peter's Seminary in Wigratzbad, Germany on June 22–24. The council meets every two years and consists of the Superior General, Extraordinary General Council, Provincial and District Superiors, and Seminary Rectors.



In the photo L-R: Fr. Paul Giard, Fr. Stefan Reiner, Fr. William Lawrence, Fr. Arnaud Evrat, Fr. Josef Bisig, Fr. Andrzej Komorowski, Fr. Stefan Dreher, Fr. Benoit Paul-Joseph, Fr. Michael McCaffrey, Fr. Vincent Ribeton. Not pictured: Fr. Daniel Geddes.

Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA)

- Guaranteed Income for Life *and* a Charitable Tax Deduction
- Easy to establish; Terms are simple and fixed for life
- Gifts of \$25,000 and above; Fund with cash or securities
- ***Rates have increased as of July 1, 2022!***

Are you interested in helping the FSSP via a CGA?

Contact Joe Gardner, Director of Planned Giving, to receive examples, more information, or a gift illustration: (570) 319-5271, jgardner@fssp.com, or via mail at Provincial Headquarters.

Meménto is a publication of the PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER.

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