
Editorial : 40th Anniversary of the Society of St. Pius X

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Magnificat! Deo gratias!

The first act of the virtue of gratitude is to acknowledge the gift received, to see that something un-due was given. Such must be our acknowledgment on this 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Priestly Society of St. Pius X, this coming **1st November 2010**. “**Virtus in infirmitate perficitur – Power is made perfect in infirmity**” (2 Cor 12:9). **We can truly apply** this to these four decades of a tumultuous existence in the aftermath of a tsunami-like Council.

Against Formidable Adversaries

40 years! And the Society of St. Pius X is still there in spite of all the possible misuse of ecclesiastical censures (the Society unjustly suppressed in May 1975 and told to close its seminary, Archbishop Lefebvre unjustly suspended *a divinis* in July 1976, unjust excommunications in June 1988), in spite of repeated prophecies of high ranked bishops on its near extinction (such as this one uttered **10-15 years ago**: “**By this Christmas, there will be no more talk of the Society of St. Pius X**”) and **in spite of the fear of hundreds of seminarians and priests who have left the Society fearing, announcing it would soon crash either on the sedevacantist/schismatic side, or on the liberal/Conciliar side of the wall.**

Ever Growing

40 years! And the Society is still alive and kicking, ordaining more than 20 priests last year and again this year, thus reaching the 530 mark, opening new schools and new priories, and not sufficing for all the apostolic needs which continue to stretch its manpower to the limit.

“It is by the grace of God that I am what I am!” (1 Cor 15:10) Indeed. “I planted, Apollo watered, but it is God

who gave the increase!” (1 Cor 3:6)

Anchored To Two Pillars

I remember how in the late 1970s, Archbishop Lefebvre insisted on our being faithful to the initial blessing given on 1st November 1970 to the Society of St. Pius X by the Catholic Church through the bishop of Fribourg, His Excellency Bishop Charrière. Fidelity to that blessing was the guarantee of continued blessing for the future. Looking back now from the height of 2010, we must admit that the Superiors of the Society, with the grace of God, have succeeded in maintaining this frail lifeboat afloat, thanks to the two pillars of the Holy Eucharist and of the Immaculate. And God surely did give a wonderful increase from the humble group of nine who showed up for the first day of seminary on that Monday 13th October 1969 in Fribourg to the more than 1000 priests, seminarians, brothers, sisters and oblates of today!

The Fight For Sound Doctrine

At the level of doctrine, there is nothing new under the sun. The venerable Fr. Le Floch taught a young Marcel Lefebvre in the French seminary in the years 1923-1926 to mould his mind to the perennial teaching of the Church, particularly in regards to modern errors, and such he lived afterwards in the various and numerous positions he held until his death on 25th March 1991. In the 1950s and 1960s particularly, he used the wisdom acquired at the school of Fr. Le Floch to denounce the enemy who had sown and who continued to oversow cockle in the Master’s field while so many men were asleep. **Then in the 1970s, “when the blade was sprung up, and had brought forth fruit, and the cockle also appeared” (Mt 13:25-26), the Archbishop continued to use the same unchanged papal encyclicals, “the armour of God, the breastplate of justice, the shield of faith”, which had announced**

and denounced the works of the “spirit of wickedness”:

“**Put ye on the armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the deceits of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and power, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places. Therefore take unto you the armour of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and to stand in all things perfect. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of justice and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. In all things taking the shield of faith, wherewith you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one.**” Eph 5:11-16

Twenty years after Archbishop Lefebvre’s recall to God, the Society of St. Pius X continues the same fight for the same faith with the same supernatural weapon: the unchanged faith of our fathers.

Thank You

So, with all our heart, and in union with the Immaculate Heart, we too sing: Magnificat! for 40 years of existence and 40 years of the visible assistance of Divine Providence. “**The finger of God is there!**” (Ex. 8:19)

We thank all our readers, friends and benefactors, all those who pray for the Society of St. Pius X. Let us continue to pray that “**He, who hath begun a good work in us, will perfect it unto the day of Christ Jesus,**” (Phil.1:6), until the triumph of the Immaculate Heart.

God bless.

Rev. Fr. Daniel Couture
District Superior.