

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST



March 21, 2014
Feast of St. Benedict

Dear members and friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart,

Lenten greetings to you on this Feast of our patron, St. Benedict, from the Shrine of Christ the King in Chicago! After a long winter of cold and snow in many parts of the country, the first signs of spring make us think of the approaching month of June, when our Society's yearly national retreat is customarily held. This month dedicated to Our Lord's Most Sacred Heart is most appropriate timing for our spiritual family's annual reunion, which will take place this year from Friday evening, June 13, through noon-time on Sunday, June 15.

As the Institute family continues to grow worldwide, our Founder and Prior General, Monsignor Wach, keeps a very active schedule as father of this global spiritual family. Monsignor will be preaching the annual priestly retreat for Canons of the American Province at St. Francis de Sales Oratory in early May. He will be returning to the United States later in summer for the Ordinations of several Americans to the holy priesthood by His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, on August 5, Feast of Our Lady of Snows, at St. Francis de Sales Oratory in St. Louis. Because of this second trip to the United States for this extraordinary occasion, Monsignor Wach will unfortunately not be able to preside at this year's Society national retreat, much to his regret. Thus, he has delegated Monsignor Schmitz as Vicar General to preside at the retreat in his place and to receive new members in the Society by the bestowal of the Cross of St. Francis de Sales.



Msgr Wach blesses new members' crosses.

Over the past several years God has blessed our Society with continual growth since our first retreat in 2008. In the subsequent years the retreat was held at the Shrine of Christ the King in Chicago, where with charitable dedication the local faithful were happy to offer welcome hospitality in the spirit of our Institute patrons. While the Shrine is a most appropriate place for the retreat inasmuch as it is the home of the Institute devotion to the Holy Infant Christ the King, the sometimes challenging logistics of the city, such as lodging for example, which were made known to us thus prompted the consideration of another location option which would foster the most conducive atmosphere to the spirit of recollection desired in such a retreat.

Last summer seventy young adults participated at our annual Sursum Corda weekend at the University of St. Mary of the Lake (USML) Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois. The successful experience of this event moved us to study the possibility of having the Society's National Retreat in this same place. Located on the shores of scenic St. Mary's Lake about 30 miles north of Chicago, USML is home to the seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago as well as to the Liturgical Institute. Designed and built in the 1920s under the distinguished Archbishop of Chicago, George William Cardinal Mundelein, the beautiful campus of 930 acres is distinctive for its neo-Georgian architecture. The buildings are laid out symmetrically and are centered upon the large chapel (*right*), which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception, patroness of the Archdiocese of Chicago as well as of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.



The USML Conference Center often hosts large groups for Catholic events, workshops, and retreats. Lodging is available with private bathrooms in the South Residence Hall (and should the RSVP response be very great, the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, which is located within walking distance, could also accommodate overnight guests as well). Meals are provided in the roomy Dining Hall.

The Liturgies, Rite of Admission ceremony, and spiritual conferences can be offered in the gorgeous Main Chapel (*right*). These buildings, as well as a large parking lot, are all conveniently located within a couple of minutes walking distance from one another. The surrounding lawn, gardens, woods and walkways are an ideal setting for a Rosary walk and quiet prayer. Thus we believe that this splendid and spacious setting in a centralized location which is conveniently equipped would be helpful to the Society's members and friends who are seeking a weekend of spiritual refreshment and renewal.



Since the Retreat is a spiritual event for families, children, of course, are welcome. Please note the information on the enclosed invitation flier regarding the activities and lodging of children. In light of USML's mission as an Adult Ministry Center for the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Center is unable to provide overnight lodging for children and youth under 18 years of age (nursing infants excepted). Thus we indicate helpful information on the invitation flier regarding affordable family lodging with children at a nearby hotel.



Everyone is highly encouraged to make the most of this spiritual experience by attending all of the Liturgies and activities over the whole weekend. This is the best way that you can participate in the life of your Institute spiritual family. Full participation also allows you to receive abundant spiritual fruits from your association with the Society and to foster friendships with other like-minded members. Furthermore, Our Lord will certainly reward you for the generous efforts of time which you make over this whole weekend of spiritual exercise for the glory of His Most Sacred Heart.

However, if you are for some reason unable to participate in all the events which are offered, the enclosed RSVP card also contains participation packages which may suit your situation. We kindly ask the favor of a reply by Friday, May 16, in order that we can finalize all of the necessary arrangements for your retreat experience. Full payment for the retreat weekend should be made upfront along with the RSVP. Thus, please enclose along with the RSVP card a check made out to the "Institute of Christ the King." You may also make your payment with credit card by calling our Office Administrator, Mrs. Mary Hall, at 773-363-6409, ext. 3. We have made special efforts to keep the fee as low as possible. All things considered, it seems that the costs of the retreat in this new location are very competitive with the total costs which are required in local city area near our Shrine.

Remaining at your disposition for any questions you may have, I look forward to seeing you in mid-June for a blessed weekend with our spiritual family. Wishing you all a fruitful Lent in the meantime, I assure you of a prayerful remembrance at Holy Mass and remain,

In the Most Sacred Heart of Christ our King,

Matthew Talarico

Canon Matthew Talarico
Society Chaplain

P.S. In your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of our recently deceased members who have entered eternity since last June's retreat: Mrs. Marlys Rihl, Mr. James McLaughlin, and Mrs. Adele Bohne. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Group photo with Monsignor Wach at June, 2013, retreat

