



THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael's School and Parish • Harts Lane • Burghclere • RG20 9JW

No. 22

October 2019

Dear Parishioners,

After 23 years as Rector of the St. Curé of Ars Seminary in Flavigny in France, Fr. Patrick Troadec gave an interesting interview about the lessons he has drawn from his many years devoted to the formation of future priests and brothers of the Society of St. Pius X. I have included below some excerpts from this interview which, I hope, will be thought-provoking.

Sadly, a major symptom of the current Church crisis is now apparent in Traditional Catholic circles. After a time of relative bounty (considering our small numbers), vocations have slowed to a trickle. Across the world, the Society of St. Pius X cares for and educates hundreds of boys and young men. Few enter the seminary or the novitiate. It seems that the priesthood or religious life are no longer ideals that inspire. It seems that youngsters are no longer prepared to give up their lives to our Lord and to the service of our Holy Mother the Church.

The crisis in vocations has multiple causes. Prevalent hedonistic secularism is no help. But, mysteriously, many of our youngsters are blessed with good and stable families who shield them from many of the world's temptations.

We priests are not always the best examples. Youngsters are quick to pick up on personal failings, where preaching is not always followed by practice. But they also see priests over-worked or over-wrought who are not mentally and morally available for them in time of need, something everyone expects from a priest, and rightly so.

Parents, too, carry some responsibility. Too few really desire and hope for a vocation in the family, enough to pray daily and to offer penance and alms for that intention. I would be nice to have a vocation in the family, but meanwhile...

Five decades of commentary on and reproof of Church authorities, and a sometimes dismissive attitude in regard to priests, bishops and popes is also poor publicity for vocations.

We should pray unceasingly for vocations, that young men and women accept the call and that priests and religious persevere in their calling. We should pray also for good families who are able to pass on the spirit of frugality, mercy and selflessness, without which a vocation cannot flower and bear fruit.

This month is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. The family Rosary is a seedbed for vocations.

Fr. John Brucciani

Thoughts on Vocation: Interview with Rev Fr Patrick Troadec

In August, you will leave the position of Rector of the seminary of Flavigny, which you have occupied since 1996. During this time period, you must have met an impressive number of seminarians and brothers...

“Indeed, during my time as Rector, I received 459 seminarians and brothers, that is, an average of 20 young people per year.

Is there a particular kind of family that these vocations come from?

The seminarians come from families that have an average of 6 children. Three quarters of the French seminarians were formed in true Catholic schools, and most of them have their mothers constantly at home.

The Church has always supported large families, and has encouraged the mothers to remain at home. She has also insisted that the children should be formed in profoundly Catholic schools. The analysis of the origin of the candidates to the priesthood and the religious life confirms the soundness of these instructions.

....

Did you see any difference between the young men that you received during these most recent years and those you had formed 20 years ago?

Most seminarians, during their childhood and adolescence, received exceptional graces enabling them to develop the grace of their baptism. They have often been protected from the world. Nevertheless, they are still men of this time, and the world left a mark on some of them.

When I was seminarian. Archbishop Lefebvre said that we were affected by the liberalism which surrounded us. Today, it is the same: the lifestyle of our contemporaries affects us, whether we like it or not.

When I arrived in Flavigny, I spoke about the "fast-food mentality" that affected certain seminarians, i.e. the difficulty they had in understanding difficult subjects. Even back then, it was necessary to express oneself in simple terms to be understood. Eight years afterwards, I noticed what could be called a "channel-hopping tendency", i.e. the inclination not to remain for too long a time on the same subject, a desire for constant change. Nowadays, and for approximately the last eight years, some of our young people have been affected by what I will call the "click era," the desire to have an immediate answer to everything. Farmers know that time must pass between sowing and harvesting, but today's Google users forget this fundamental fact of nature.

Fortunately, the exceptional location and surroundings of the Flavigny seminary help the seminarians to return to reality by living away from the computing world and in an atmosphere favorable to contemplation.

What is the specific characteristic of the first year at the Seminary?

The rule of the Seminary is a product of the wisdom of the Church and is designed to forge balanced personalities. The main purpose of the first year is the search for an intimate union with God. Silence is one of the conditions to achieve this union. Since God speaks in silence, the atmosphere of the seminary is one of silence. Yet, the silence of the Seminary is not a void, or an emptiness, but a fullness. Silence makes it possible to harmonize the advantages of solitude and of life in common.

Another characteristic of the Seminary is the liturgical life. As St. Pius X said, the liturgy is the first source of the Christian spirit. There are specific graces attached to each feast. The seminarians are well disposed to receive these graces.

Another important element for the future priests is the common life. The SSPX is a Society-of common life. The seminarians are led to the practice of virtue by mutual support. Living alongside other young men who are animated by the same ideal is an invaluable help for the seminarians. Likewise, there is a real diversity among the seminarians, which is also a source of enrichment: some are eighteen years old. others are older; some have only gone through high school, others have gone to college; some were born in Tradition, others are converts; there are

Frenchmen and foreigners. There is, then, a wide array of seminarians and brothers, and this makes life very pleasant. But we should not idealize seminary life.

There is no mystical life without the ascetical life; there is no union with God without renouncement. To be happy at the Seminary, it is necessary to be generous, to give oneself without reserve. The seminarians must learn to adapt so as to get along with the others, who may be very different from themselves (indeed, if these differences can be a source of enrichment, they can also generate disagreements). Archbishop Lefebvre gave this invaluable advice: "[Seminarians] will strive to show towards all the same esteem and concern, especially during recreations and outings. They will always keep in mind what unites them more than what separates them. [...] Let us not be under any illusions; such happiness is gained through obedience, self-denial, humility, forgetfulness of self, and true zeal for the Our Lord's Kingdom."

....

You spoke about an average of 20 seminarians and brothers entering the seminary every year. The number of the vocations seems to have stagnated, then, because today there are many more pupils in SSPX schools than there were 20 years ago. How do we explain the difficulty of developing vocations?

There are several factors that explain this stagnation. The most important is undoubtedly internet access, which leads souls away from what is essential by locking them up in what is secondary, superficial, transitory and accidental, in what is event-driven, immediate... The invasion of this digital world wreaks havoc in people today. It prevents the development of an interior life. To this difficulty, we can add - alas! - the major problem of impurity: highly inappropriate and even aggressive images in films and advertisements sully so many teenagers and even children. The more one yields to the life of the flesh, the more one cuts himself off from the life of the spirit. St. Paul says rightly that "the sensual man does not perceive the things of God."

Another major obstacle to the blossoming of vocations is the spirit of criticism. The criticism of priests stifles in the teenager the desire to give himself to God. A child believes and obeys, but a teenager admires and chooses. Constant criticism of priests kills that admiration. The internal difficulties that our Society has suffered have certainly contributed to slowing down the flow of young men into the seminary. Even if that is not quantifiable, it is nonetheless undeniable. The devil is the great divider. We must not enter into his game.

What leads these young people towards us?

In general, the two things which these candidates prefer as reasons for their entrance into the SSPX are "coherence" and "Archbishop Lefebvre." Young people who knock on the door of the Seminary appreciate the doctrinal rigor of the SSPX as well as its liberty to denounce the errors that have infiltrated the Church since Vatican II, and which continue today.

Moreover, listening to Archbishop Lefebvre's sermons or reading his works, they are overcome by his spirit of faith and by the depth and simplicity of his remarks. They see in him a man of God chosen by Providence to lead souls towards Heaven in the context of this painful crisis that the Church has suffered for the past 50 years.

What advice would you give to parents to support the blossoming of vocations in their homes?

It seems to me that the two essential points to support vocations are summarized in the spirit of piety and of sacrifice.

The spirit of piety arises naturally in the child when he sees that God occupies the first place in his family. When the child notices that the major decisions of his parents are made in the sight of God; when he sees that trials are accepted with a supernatural spirit; when he realizes that his parents think highly of the priestly and religious vocation; when he sees them respecting the priests; when he hears them speak well of them; all of that naturally generates in him a high regard for the priestly vocation.

By breathing in this supernatural fragrance from a young age, the child acquires a supernatural instinct, which greatly facilitates his receptivity to God's call. Of course, prayer in the family helps immensely, as well as pilgrimages, attendance at ordinations, and the daily reading of spiritual books.

It is important that the young men also unite a spirit of sacrifice to this spirit of piety. The parents must communicate the spirit of sacrifice by being firm in face of the whims of their children, and by encouraging them not only to renounce forbidden things, but also what is permissible, in a spirit of atonement for the many sins committed in the world. The lack of the spirit of sacrifice makes man vulnerable and leaves him without any strength, especially faced with the vice of impurity.

Paul Claudel said to his friend Jacques Riviere: "It is said that youth is made for pleasure; actually, it is made for heroism."

Youth is not made for pleasure because pleasure is not an end in itself. As soon as one seeks pleasure for itself, one looks for oneself, one nourishes his own selfishness, seeks to satisfy his ego, and sinks little by little into narcissism. Man is not made to take, but to give; he is made to be given to the Good Shepherd who gave His life for his sheep. Let us develop in our young men the spirit of piety and sacrifice to allow them to resist evil and to find their happiness in God.

Attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the means par excellence to support the spirit of piety and the spirit of sacrifice. Seeing all that Our Lord endured for us in His Passion, seeing Him immolate Himself on our altars, encourages us to follow Him on the path of virtue, which is the way to Heaven.

What would you say to young men in order to help them discern the will of God?

First of all, I would invite them to have a spiritual director. One of the means most suitable to help young men discern the will of God is indeed spiritual direction. It helps them discover the beauty of a life of union with God and it helps them set up a strategy to fight against the "old man."

I would also encourage young men to participate in a good youth movement, which will help them develop selflessness and missionary zeal.

Lastly, I would advise them to make a spiritual retreat at least every two years. The framework of a retreat supports the development of the interior life and puts us in the most favorable conditions to hear the voice of God.

You are leaving the seminary to go into a priory. That will be a big change for you!

Yes, it is true. I will be in a position similar to what I knew before coming to Flavigny. Yet, the SSPX has the priesthood and all that belongs to it as her primary mission, and so in the priory of Brest. I will transmit to families and children the foundations that will make it possible for vocations to flourish among the young. My next mission will therefore remain turned towards the priesthood and what is its *raison d'être*, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, from which we receive all the graces of redemption. †

Militia Immaculatae Conference - Burghclere

Oct 27 OCTOBER 27, 2019
ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, BURGHCLERE RG20 9JW



We welcome Rev. Fr. Karl Stehlin, the Fr. Director of the Militia Immaculatae, for a day of sanctification and instruction. Please turn-up in large numbers.

- 15:00 1st Conference
- 16:00 Tea
- 16:30 2nd Conference
- 17:30 Vespers
- 18:00 Rosary & Benediction

Feast of Christ the King

**Sunday
Oct. 27**

WEEKLY CONFESSIONS

- Saturday: 11:00
- 1st Friday during Holy Hour
- Sunday before Masses

CHAPEL CLEANING
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CONTACT
katsudlow@gmail.com

BENEDICTION & ROSARY

Sunday 18:00



Worn Kneelers

Thank you for the renewed kneelers. More fabric has been ordered to complete those still in need of repair. Contact:

headmaster@sanctusmichael.com

Saturday 9th November

Family Quiz

At Portal Hall, Burghclere

- 13:30: Open Doors
- 14:00 - 16:00 : Quiz
- 16:30: Close Doors
- ✓ £5 per adult, kids under 14 free.
- ✓ 3 to 10 persons per team, come as a team or get together on the day.
- ✓ Nachos, hot dogs, beer, soft drinks, snacks...

Organized by St. Michael's PTA

NOTE ABOUT CONFESSIONS

Please be aware that some Sundays a priest might not be available for confessions during mass, only before. This is due to obligations elsewhere (covering other mass venues or boarding school obligations).

A plenary indulgence for the poor souls in purgatory may be obtained each day from Nov. 1-8. Plenary indulgence means the complete remission of the debt due to sin. To obtain a plenary indulgence for the holy souls, one must:

1. Between Nov. 1-8 : visit a cemetery and pray for the poor souls.
2. Receive communion on the day of the visit.
3. Go to confession 8 days before or after.
4. Offer the Our Father, Hail Mary and Apostles' creed for the Pope's intentions.
5. Have no attachment to sin, even venial. Partial indulgences obtained otherwise.

	Liturgical Calendar October 2019	SMS
1	Feria	7:15
2	Holy Guardian Angels	7:15
3	St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Virgin & Doctor	7:15
4	St Francis Assisi -1st Fri - Holy Hour 6:00 PM	7:15 / 19:00
5	Saturday of Our Lady. - 1st Sat.	7:30 / 12:00
6	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
7	Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary	7:15
8	St. Bridget of Sweden, Widow	7:15
9	St. John Leonardi, Confessor	7:15
10	St. Francis Borgia, Confessor	7:15
11	The Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	7:15
12	Saturday of Our Lady	7:30 / 12:00
13	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
	PTA Cake Sale for St. Michael's	9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
14	St. Calistus I, Pope & Martyr	7:15 am
15	St. Teresa of Avila, Virgin	7:15 am
16	St. Hedwig, Widow	7:15 am
17	St. Margaret Mary Alacocque, Virgin	7:15 am
18	St. Luke the Evangelist	7:15 am
19	St. Peter of Alcantara, Confessor	7:30 / 12:00
20	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7:30 Low
		9:00 Low
		18:00 Benediction
21	Feria	7:15 am
22	Feria	7:15 am
23	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop & Confessor	7:15 am
24	St. Raphael the Archangel	7:15 am
25	Feria	7:15 am
26	Saturday of Our Lady	7:30 / 12:00
27	Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ	7:30 Low
	<i>Daylight Saving Time Change</i>	9:00 Sung
		18:00 Benediction
28	Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles	7:15 am
29	Feria (Mass of 20th Sunday after Pentecost)	7:15 am
30	Feria	7:15 am
31	Feria	7:15 am



Rosary for St. Michael's School

Thanks to parents' initiative, the holy rosary will be recited between Masses each Sunday for the protection and welfare of St. Michael's School. This extra spiritual help comes at a time when State intervention seeks to erode the fundamental parental right to their children's education.

Evening benediction and rosary will continue as usual.