



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING
SOVEREIGN PRIEST
SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART



September 29, 2017
Dedication of St. Michael the Archangel

Dear Members and Friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart,

It is with a joyful heart that I greet you from the Priory of St. Michael the Archangel during a beautiful autumn in Wausau, Wisconsin. I am grateful to our superiors that I have been named Prior of this house and Rector of St. Mary's Oratory for another year. My presence here will allow my continued close collaboration with Dr. James Sutherland, our Governor General, and I feel strongly that remaining in this blessed place leaves me in a special position to offer prayers for all of you during this year when we are so keenly aware of our need of grace from the court of heaven. The priory here in Wausau is adorned with a beautiful private chapel dedicated to St. Michael, and on the ceiling a painted skylight contains within the clouds the Archangel's name whispered, as it were, in Latin: *Quis ut Deus?* "Who is like God?"

Today's triumphant feast prepares us for the month to come – the month of the Holy Angels, the month of the Holy Rosary, the month of the little way of St. Therese of Lisieux. The Gospel for today's feast is in fact the same as that of feasts of the Guardian Angels and of St. Therese. On this feast of the Prince of the Heavenly Host, we are greeted with the words, *Unless you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.* St. Michael receives special veneration among the angelic spirits because of his childlike humility. Like the one called to the wedding feast in last Sunday's Gospel, the Archangel was content with his place among the lower ranks. And when he who was once the Angel of Light made bold to lead a fearful throng of angels in rebellion against the Most High, St. Michael rallied the good angels with the cry, *Who is like God?* And when Lucifer and his cohorts were cast down, God turned to Michael and said, *Friend, go up higher.*

In our current struggle against *the spirits of wickedness in the high places* (Eph. 6:12), we must be ever mindful of the teaching of the great Cardinal Siri: "we do not save the Church; the Church saves us." Our Prior General tells us that our place in the Church is small, and as canons, sisters, oblates and lay members of the Institute, we are content to remain small. Our

sanctification and, indeed, our missionary efforts towards our neighbor consist in that little way proposed to us by that smallest and humblest of the doctors and patroness of the missions, the Little Flower St. Therese. What does it avail us to scour the latest news of crises in the Church, the latest postings on social media, the latest *rumors of wars* (Mt. 24:6), if we neglect the quiet fulfillment of the duties of our state of life?

What then, are your particular duties as members of the Society of the Sacred Heart? You are called to be men and women of prayer. Devout assistance at Holy Mass should be the anchor of your existence as members of a community which recognizes the liturgical celebration of the Sacraments as the source of all graces conferred on us by the Incarnate Word. Whenever possible, you should assist at the chanting or recitation of the Divine Office, in which God Himself has given us the words which He finds most pleasing as a sacrifice of praise in His sight. During this month of October, I exhort you to remain very faithful in your recitation of that devotion extolled above all others by the Church, the Most Holy Rosary. Sanctify this coming month by keeping certain days in particular remembrance. October 1 (11 AM Central Time, or before or after Mass time) is when we say the Rosary for the Church and the world in union with all other members of the Institute. October 7 is the first Saturday and the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, as well as the ninth anniversary of the Institute's elevation to Pontifical Right. October 13 marks the centenary of the final apparition and miracle of the Sun at Fatima. On the feast of Christ the King we all recite the consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Finally, do not forget that October 31 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Revolt. I invite you to offer a Rosary that day especially for the conversion of our separated brethren.

Let us pray for the 24 young men who have entered the seminary this September. Though we are content to remain small, the good Lord is pleased to have Gricigliano overflowing! Pray as well for all the young women joining the Sister Adorers this month, and those preparing to receive the veil or make their first profession. Fervent prayers for all those among you who are preparing for marriage, all newlyweds, and for expectant mothers. Finally, during this coming month of the Rosary, let us offer up our sacred beads for one another, regardless of our state of life, that we may persevere, simply and humbly, in that one essential vocation to sanctity which St. Francis de Sales dubs *the devout life*. Despite all the cruel discouragement we receive from the world, our patron assures us that it is "a sweet, happy, and most lovable life" (*Int.* I.2).

With my priestly blessing,

In Christo Rege,
Canon Aaron B. Huberfeld
Chaplain, Society of the Sacred Heart