

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support; they are greatly appreciated. The semester is moving right along, and classes are going well. I just take one assignment at a time.

The seminary has been very busy this semester with many events, including Solemn Vespers, the seminary golf outing, and the dedication of the new building (containing: thirty new student rooms, conference rooms, a full student kitchen, etc.). The next big event here at the seminary is the annual Advent Lessons & Carols, on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30p.m. So, if you are interested, please come see the school and enjoy the music of the Athenaeum Chorale and the Seminary Latin Schola.

At the end of October, we had our fall break, including our annual retreat, which was held at the Spiritual Center in Maria Stein. The retreat for me was excellent. The speaker talked all week on different areas concerning the priesthood, from the role of a priest, maturity, celibacy, and fatherhood. Here were some of the major points that I had in my notes.

- The role/mission of a priest is for the salvation of souls. To get souls to God/Heaven, by rescuing them from sin by preaching, & through the sacraments & the Mass. The priest is the guardian of the supernatural (God's grace).
- A priest needs to have a mind/head that's strong/hard for reasoning, and a sensitive heart. He needs to be a lion when needed, like from the pulpit & when defending the faith; & other times like a lamb, as in the confessional.
- A culture of death comes from the absence of the supernatural (God's grace) in souls. This grace comes to us through the Eucharist, the Mass, the sacraments, and prayer.
- Celibacy is a self-sacrifice offering to God. It is lived for love of God and for love of people.
- As a husband procreates children for life on earth, priests procreate children for eternal life (**FOREVER**) in Heaven. As a dad protects/leads, and provides for his family, so too does the priest. A priest protects/leads the church by fighting evil for the souls of his spiritual children (his family, friends, parishioners, etc.). He provides for them by educating them through the Word of God, nourishing them through the Eucharist, the Mass and sacraments, and by being with them from birth (baptism), throughout the ups and downs of life, until death.
- Like all dads, at times, they raise their voice and need to discipline their kids, so too does a priest need to do. For both, do it out of love for their children. So, too teach their children right and wrong, to make sure they will make the right choices, so to live a life that is in line with God's Will. For it is only when we live our lives/vocation in accordance with God's Will, that we will truly be happy and no longer restless.
  - ❖ Lord, we are restless until we rest in You. (St. Augustine)
- Fear of God = Respect for God = Trust in God = Love for God
- To be truly thankful (for your life, talents, faith, family, friends, health, treasure/possessions, etc.), you can only give thanks to God. For he is the creator of all. It is God who has made it possible for you to have everything in your life, whether in the past, present, or the future. We must always remember to give Him thanks in return. For just as we here on earth remember, who says thank you and is kind to us; so too will God, when we see Him face to face.

God Bless,

*Eric T. Kaufman*

P.S. If you are ever in Cincinnati and would like to visit. The address is:

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Toledo Seminarians at the Golf Outing



Dedication Ceremony



In the Year of Our Lord – 2019  
(Cornerstone in Latin)