



S S P X

preserving
Catholic Tradition



*For the Love of
Our Fathers*

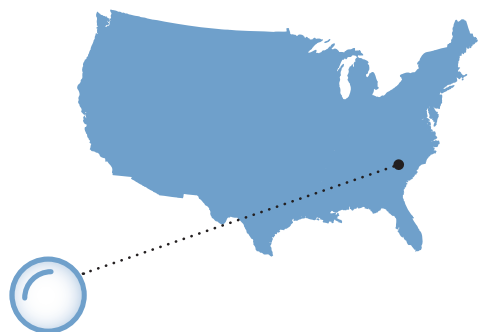
Dear Friend,

Last month I wrote to you in the context of Mother's Day, held annually in the month of May, the very month Holy Mother Church has assigned a series of special devotions to our Heavenly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

June, as you well know, is the month when the secular holiday of Father's Day is honored. Though this day has taken on a secular character in the United States, its Catholic roots run deep. March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, had been kept in Europe since medieval times as special day honoring fathers. This commemoration was later brought to the Americas by Portuguese and Spanish settlers. As the centuries ticked by, Father's

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary

Dillwyn, VA



Day was transferred to the third Sunday in June, where it continues to be celebrated by Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

In the Society of Saint Pius X, June is designated as the month when we welcome to the Altar of Christ new fathers—spiritual fathers—for the faithful. Many of these men, forged into soldiers for Christ at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Buckingham County, Virginia, began their journey to the priesthood much earlier in the chapels, schools, camps, and retreat houses operated by the Society. By being exposed at an early age to the riches of Catholic Tradition and the fruits of the priesthood, these men, and many more like them, were prepared to answer Christ's call to find the lost sheep and lead them back into His fold.

The relationship between U.S. District of the Society of Saint Pius X and St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary is a symbiotic one. While it is our chapels and schools that supply young men to the Seminary, it is the Seminary that provides new clergy to minister to the faithful throughout the U.S. District. Moreover, because of its size and growing resources, the Seminary also trains missionary priests who leave these shores to fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations (*cf.* Mt. 28:16-20).

This relationship, my friend, is indispensable to the Society's apostolate. For without the seminary, particularly a seminary as sweeping and grand as the one in Virginia, the fight to restore Catholic Tradition would be exponentially harder. Each year I am faced with numerous requests for the Society

of Saint Pius X to send priests to an ever-growing list of locales where Catholics starve for the traditional sacraments and catechesis. As always, I must weigh these requests against the reality of our resources and the hard reality that, even as the total number of Society clergy worldwide continues to grow, a number of our longer serving members are beginning to show the effects of age and need to slow down or curtail their work.

Just last month I presided over the Requiem Mass for Fr. Daniel Cooper, a beloved priest who served the Society of Saint Pius X for 31 years. Fr. Cooper's repose reminds us both of the fragility of life and the tragedy that the great crisis afflicting the Catholic Church and society is outliving our clergy. His death also brings into focus the importance of cultivating vocations and giving the young men of the U.S. District a fitting environment in which to become holy servants of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I ask you, then, to consider making a donation to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary. While the main seminary building reached a state to begin housing and training seminarians two years ago, there is an immense amount of work to be done—work that my dear brother priest and rector of the Seminary, Fr. Yves le Roux, will share with you in his accompanying letter.



With blessings in Christ,

Father Jürgen Wegner
United States District Superior

Dear Faithful,

I write to you in tandem with U.S. District Superior, Fr. Jürgen Wegner, to inform you about our ongoing efforts in Buckingham County, Virginia to make St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary into a fitting center of spiritual and intellectual formation for not only the young men ministered to and trained in the U.S. District, but at Society of Saint Pius X chapels and institutions throughout the world.

As you may know, the new St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary opened two years ago. On weekend of June 22, following Father's Day, we will celebrate our second round of ordinations to the holy priesthood in Virginia with faithful from all over the country expected to attend. While first-time visitors to the Seminary will undoubtedly be impressed by its size and grandeur, I must stress that our facilities remain incomplete and much work needs to be accomplished before the full vision of what St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary can be is made a reality.

Currently, administrative and other activities outside the Seminary's primary purpose, such as meetings and gatherings, occur within the main Seminary building that is intended mainly for our priests and seminarians. The business of *running* the seminary is different than the business of the seminary itself, which is education and spiritual formation. Within the seminary walls we must maintain a rich spirit of prayer and piety, both for the seminarians, themselves, and the clergy who instruct them. Such an environment is almost impossible to maintain side by side with the practical obligations necessary to running the business of the Seminary.

At this time, the Seminary is badly in need of a fully functioning administration building which, among other things, will house in its west wing offices for accountants, the facilities manager, and rooms in which our clergy can meet with vendors, contractors, and the faithful. Those of you who have visited the seminary may have noticed the empty building across from the main entrance to the seminary. The outside and the structure is built, but the inside is mostly cinderblock and cement. The rooms and offices are completely unfinished and the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fire protection, electrical, plumbing, doors, sheetrock, painting and finishing are yet to be started.

In addition to office space, the basement of the building will also contain a fully functioning wood shop where the seminarians can work to produce trim and furniture to finish and furnish the seminary in a cost-effective manner. Finally, the administration building is designed to serve as a "parish hall" for the faithful living nearby, who routinely come to the Seminary for Holy Mass and other sacraments celebrated according to the traditional Roman Rite. In order to complete this work, we need to raise almost \$1 million and, to do that, we need your help.

Prayer is oxygen for the soul. It is what fuels our seminarians through many years of formation and gives their vocations vitality up until their ordination and beyond. And with prayer there is the need for silence, periods of recollection where seminarians can meditate upon their studies and draw closer to God. We need to complete this administration building so that we can restore the natural order and

 [view all our fundraising programs on our website ssp.org](http://ssp.org)



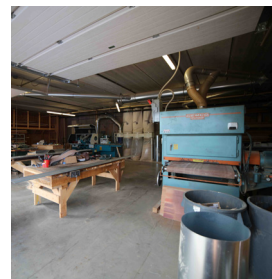
the silence of the seminary that is so necessary to the spiritual formation of our future priests.

Our seminarians, your future priests, deserve a proper, contemplative environment in which to grow, before going forth to serve in chapels, schools, and retreat centers throughout this country and the world. I ask you, in solidarity with Fr. Wegner, to contribute to the completion of our administrative building. Should we be able to raise the money needed for its completion, we can begin making use of the building as early as this November.

Please consider making a sacrificial gift for the seminarians who will become the priests to serve you and your families for many years to come. Whatever you can give materially, I ask also that you continue to pray for the growth of St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary and for blessings and strength to this year's crop of ordinands. Please know that as you pray for us, we at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary pray for you.

With appreciation for your support and wishing you continued blessings, in Christ,

Fr. Yves le Roux
St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary Rector



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for a promising future.