



SSPX



Regina Coeli Report

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First Communions

We have all learned from the catechism that Our Lord instituted the seven sacraments as the means of grace for men on earth. Advancing painfully as pilgrims towards the promised land of heaven, we are in need of all the help we can get. Yet, the one thing a traveler in the desert absolutely needs is food and drink. And so Our divine Lord invented the sacrament of Holy Communion to feed our souls with His Body and Blood, under the appearances of bread and wine.

Because the earthly journey towards the celestial Jerusalem is paved with varied obstacles, Our Lord literally wished to be God with us, partaking in our daily needs, joys, sorrows, and consoling us in our last moments. Isn't the communicant another St. Christopher, that is to say, Christ's bearer? Indeed, as

he leaves the communion table, he bears Christ in his heart and his communion attests to his wish to be one with Him in mind, and heart and soul throughout the day.

Archbishop Lefebvre expressed the same thoughts: "Holy Communion is the source of Christian civilization. Here, Jesus manifests Himself as our Savior and also as our King: the King of our intellects by giving us the truth; the King of our hearts and wills by giving us His commandments to help us act in accordance with His holy will. The Christians who nourished themselves with the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ understand better their duty and how they must conduct themselves in daily life at home and in society."

Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

In a previous issue, I quoted Bishop Fellay marveling at the material growth of churches in this country. He was praying that spiritual growth may follow suit with this material growth. No doubt, God has blessed our faithful flock with initiative and energy to pursue the work of tradition in the Northern hemisphere, and this includes Canada and Mexico.

There has been some development in the traditional front. With all too few outspoken bishops holding the flag of tradition—albeit 50 years after our founder—the name of Archbishop Lefebvre is spoken in ecclesiastical corridors in reverential awe. Two generations later, the conservatives are singing his praises for having “transmitted what he had received”: The Catholic priesthood and the Mass of all times. It seems fair to say that, without his fortitude in the face of modernist assault, the traditional landscape would be quite different than it is today: a routed and leaderless army.

It might take another generation before Archbishop Lefebvre’s Society be also recognized as a legitimate and fertile branch of Holy Mother Church. In any case, the sterling work of our priests and religious in leading their flock and students through thick and thin during the COVID era has also won over thousands and thousands of sympathizers. Whether it is through the official websites (FSSPX.news and SSPX.org, which totaled about 5 million visits), or Twitter (3.5 million viewers) and Facebook (200 thousand views), there has been steady progress to keep in touch with our message of hope. What is encouraging is the interest of many in the highly instructive podcast and video (sspypodcast.com) on “The Crisis in the Church” series (which has garnered over 600 thousand visits).

We can only encourage our faithful to make use of these means to deepen their faith and grow spiritually in the love of the mysteries of our faith. As our Superior General, Father Pagliarani, explained at Lourdes when speaking about the Mass: “We defend it because it is the best means to make known to men the love of Our Lord at the altar; the best means to enter fully into the same love and into the same sacrifice, through adoration and the giving of self: this is the ultimate reason of our battle for the Mass; this is the true meaning of the word: ‘Tradition!’”

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "John P. Fullerton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. John Fullerton



The Real Presence

Do any of us truly understand what an incredible gift we have in the Real Presence of Our Savior in the Blessed Sacrament? The Son of God waits for us in the tabernacle, but few take advantage of this incredible opportunity. As St. Peter Julian Eymard wrote, “Man has time for everything, except visits to his Lord and God, Who is waiting and longing for him in His tabernacle. The streets and houses of amusement are filled with people; the House of God is deserted.”

In the Old Testament, no one was permitted into the Holy of Holies, except the high priest, and he was allowed to go in only once a year. Yet, we have the true holy of holies available to us almost any time night or day. “Blessed are the eyes that see the things that you see!” It is so amazing, that even Catholics

have trouble believing It could really be Jesus in His very person.

Conversion of Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was converted in this way. She was a devout Protestant and was astonished by what the Catholic Church claimed to possess: “How happy would we be, if we believed what these dear souls believe: that they possess God in the Sacrament, and that He remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick! O, my! . . . how happy would I be, even so far away from all so dear, if I could find You in the church as they do . . . how many things I would say to You of the sorrows of my heart and the sins of my life.”

As Elizabeth prayed for guidance to know the Truth, she was drawn to the Real Presence, even while still attending her Episcopalian church: “I got in a side pew which turned my face towards the Catholic Church in the next street and found myself twenty times speaking to the Blessed Sacrament there, instead of looking at the naked altar where I was.”

Elizabeth was Catholic in her heart, and despite fierce opposition from family and friends, she joined the Catholic faith in New York City (the city of her birth) on March 14, 1805, at the age of 30. She would move to Emmitsburg, Maryland, and become the foundress of the Sisters of Charity in the United States. She was to become the first American-born



saint, being beatified in 1963 and canonized in 1975.

Jesus Christ is truly on our altars. Protestants of good heart, like Mother Seton, recognize that there is a sacred presence in the Catholic churches. I had a Protestant lady tell me as much in the Society's beautiful church in Dickinson, Texas. She was in awe, almost scared, as she stood before the Communion rail. "There's something or Someone here," she exclaimed, knowing nothing of the doctrine of the Real Presence.

Conversion of Hermann Cohen

The conversion of Hermann Cohen (1821-71) is even more amazing than Elizabeth Ann Seton, since he was not even Christian, but a German Jew. A world-class pianist, protégé of Franz Liszt, Hermann was something of a celebrity and traveled in elite circles, but nearly lost everything due to his gambling addiction. Asked to direct a choir during a church service in Paris, Hermann made his first visit inside a Catholic church. During Benediction he felt himself deeply stirred and touched by some unknown power. "My mind" he wrote, "found itself perturbed, so to speak, and withdrawn from the agitation of the world, penetrated by something totally unknown to it previously. I was constrained to bow, against my will without a doubt. The following day, I had the same experience and, suddenly, the thought touched me to become a Catholic." Baptized on August 28, 1847 (the feast of St. Augustine), Herman Cohen received his new Christian name, Augustin-Marie Henri, and he vowed then and there to live and die for the Truth.

As one converted by the Blessed Sacrament, he spent hours in front of the tabernacle. In order to pay off his debts, Hermann continued to give concerts. His last concert was in Paris and it was a tremendous success. "Now I am done with the world forever," he wrote, "What happiness I had when I bowed after the last note!" On July 16, 1849, he joined Carmel, receiving the name Augustin-Marie du Très Saint-Sacrament. Ordained a priest on April 19, 1851, and, despite his limited training, became known as a fiery preacher, promoting Eucharistic devotion in all his sermons. His life was like St. Augustine's, showcasing a complete about-face from his former ways. He had the joy of knowing that his old teacher, Franz Liszt, had also changed. Liszt became a Franciscan tertiary, and even received the four minor holy orders.

In 1867, Fr. Augustin-Marie or Fr. Hermann (as he came to be known) rejected surgery for his failing eyesight, instead putting his trust in Our Lady. Going to Lourdes, he bathed his eyes in the miraculous

spring and was instantly cured! During the Franco-Prussian war in 1870 he became a chaplain for the French prisoners at the Spandau prison just outside Berlin, but contracted smallpox during his ministry there and died on January 19, 1871.

Come to Him and Be Enlightened (Psalm 33:6)

These converts put most of us to shame, so well did they perceive and understand the beauty of the Real Presence. Until we realize the same, we may easily be led astray. It is the firm faith in the Real Presence that will keep us Catholic. This is the reason we say *Mysterium Fidei*—"the Mystery of the Faith" at the consecration. The belief in the Real Presence has always been the divider between real faith and a weak, superficial faith. Our Savior had already shown this to us. In John VI, He said, "I am the Living Bread that has come down from Heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world." When the Jews were shocked by this doctrine, Our Lord did not back down or try to explain it in another way, but insisted: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eats My flesh and drinks My blood, has everlasting life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed..." Christ Our Lord lost many followers at that time, because they could not accept the Real Presence of His flesh and blood in the Holy Eucharist. The same thing is still happening today.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen had a great faith in the Real Presence, and had a theory that if he could just get souls before Him, Our Lord would increase their faith and devotion. Once when giving a retreat in a large monastery church, he genuflected before the altar, only to be told that the Blessed Sacrament was not present. Finding out that Our Lord was kept in a little room way down the corridor, Sheen refused to start the retreat until Our Lord was restored to His proper place. Sheen was rewarded for his faith, for he made a remarkable number of converts, restored the lost faith of many priests and had the grace to die on his knees in front of the Blessed Sacrament on December 9, 1979.

— by late Fr. Daniel Cooper, SSPX



First communicants in Walton, KY pose for a photo with their pastor, Fr. Muscha.

The children of Assumption Chapel in St. Marys, KS are privileged to be prepared for the sacraments by the Sisters of the SSPX. This year, 52 boys and 45 girls received their first Holy Communion.



Children who made their First Communion on May 16, 2021 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Crookston, MN. The Sisters of the Novitiate of Browerville came the day before to give a recollection to prepare the children to receive Our Blessed Lord for the first time in their hearts.



The Joys and Challenges of Preparation

Interview with Franciscan Sisters and Lay Catechism Teachers

Sister, you have prepared the First Communicants for their recollection and ceremony. How can one judge that a child is ready?

Once a parent wondered whether such little children can comprehend the Mystery of the Eucharist. Our response was: “Do any of us really understand?” If a child knows that Jesus loves him and wants to come into his heart in Communion, then he understands well enough. If he knows his basic prayers and demonstrates by his behavior that he wants the Eucharist, then he is ready for his First Holy Communion! God will work in his soul!

What is most important in preparing the children?

Preparation for holy Communion is so much more than rote memorization of a list of questions. The children need to come to a real understanding of what the sacraments are and Who it is they will receive. During Mass I help them to pay attention at the Consecration and to understand that it is Our Lord Himself on the altar Who wants to come to them in the Blessed Sacrament.

Are there obstacles which come up regularly?

Our greatest challenge is children who do not know the basic prayers given for their penance. I do not mean that child who came out of the confessional in tears because his penance was to say three Hail Marys, sniffing “but I only know ONE Hail Mary!” That is a difficulty that is easily rectified! But a child who says “Our Father, full of grace, as it was in the beginning...” will need a lot of coaching.

How does the child get ready for his first confession?

The child must know his basic prayers and the ten Commandments. He should be confident enough to “get into the box” when he wishes to. A big help is to have them make “practice confessions” and have them examine their

consciences with parental help, to have them peek into the confessional to overcome their fear of the dark.

What difficulties do you encounter in preparing for the first confession?

The child tends to focus on the mechanics and forget the most important factor of sorrow for sin. This is where the parents need to come to the rescue. While a sin list can be useful for children who can read, we do not recommend it for children who cannot read well. Priests remind us that confession is not a spelling bee. The use of the memory will be important for successive confessions, and that includes remembering the penance given.

Do you have any anecdotes you could share with us?

While children were getting ready for their second confession, one boy announced that he would not confess again because he had not committed any sins! I tried everything, even asking him to talk to Father. Finally, his older sister took him aside for a chat. Two seconds later, he marched right into the confessional with no more scruples!

One of our greatest joys is watching the glowing faces emerging from the confessional. Children who were so nervous they asked Sister to come in with them to help them make their confession still come out happy, and she did not have to go in with them!

What other creative tools do you use in the classroom?

We have a set of child-sized vestments and altar vessels which Father uses to explain the Mass. Children make a coloring book of pictures of the items they see at Mass. We hold “religion bees” and other contests where the children can test their knowledge.



Low Sunday, April 11, 2021 was a day of rejoicing at Sacred Heart Novitiate in Browerville, Minnesota. After a magnificent Easter week retreat preached by His Excellency Bishop Fellay, the Sisters of the Society Saint Pius X had their ceremonies of taking of the habit, religious profession, perpetual vows, and renewal of vows during a pontifical High Mass.



All 42 of the Sisters of the Society Saint Pius X in the US were reunited at the Novitiate for the ceremonies.



Young ladies of the Children of Mary Association from Oregon (Portland and Veneta), Idaho (Post Falls), Kansas (St. Mary's), and Minnesota (Oak Grove), as well as High School students from Walton, KY joined us for the unique opportunity to see these ceremonies and visit with the Sisters.



US Pilgrimages

Cataldo Pilgrimage

July 23-25, 2021

Walk in the footsteps of the great missionary, Fr. De Smet, and join this 50-mile journey through North Idaho wilderness to Idaho's oldest Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart Mission. Pilgrims can choose to participate for one, two or all three days of the pilgrimage. For more information and to register, go to cataldopilgrimage.org.

Santa Fe Pilgrimage

July 23-24, 2021

Join this unique 33-mile pilgrimage to the Padilla Cross near Lyons, KS, where the Catholic Faith was planted in the USA in 1541. Men and boys are invited to "take the nail" and tread in the footsteps of America's Protomartyr. For more information and to register, contact Luis Jacas at santafepilgrimage@gmail.com.

Regina Pilgrimages

Catholic Roots of Texas

October 2-9, 2021

Journey to the heart of Texas to witness the Catholic roots of this beautiful state. Spend seven nights in San Antonio, visiting missions and many of the most beautiful churches in Texas. Explore the surrounding area and learn about the early Christianization by missionaries and about European immigrants' toils and efforts to establish Catholic communities in this region. Make a walking pilgrimage to the San Antonio missions and visit some of the oldest Catholic churches in Texas, including the oldest: the Cathedral of San Antonio. Visit New Braunfels, Fredericksburg, Praha, High Hill, Schulenburg, Shiner, Victoria, and Goliad. Accompanied by an SSPX priest.

For more information please contact: Regina Pilgrimages
866-369-8149 | 785-437-2883 | info@reginapilgrimages.com
PO Box 67, Saint Marys, KS 66536 | www.reginapilgrimages.com

Mass Stipends

To request a Mass intention, please note the current requested stipends:

- For one Mass: \$20
- For a novena of Masses (9 consecutive Masses): \$200
- For Gregorian Masses (30 consecutive Masses): \$800

Eucharistic Crusade



Monthly Intentions

June: So that souls know and love the Sacred Heart of Jesus even better.

Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love of Thee!

July: That Our Lord Jesus Christ reign over our ungodly societies.

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of Truth, come into our hearts; shed the brightness of thy light on all nations, that they may be one in Faith and pleasing to Thee..

August: That Christian souls would shine with purity.

O most pure and ever-immaculate Virgin Mary, Daughter of the Eternal Father, Mother of the Eternal Son, and Spouse of the Holy Ghost, august and living temple of the most adorable Trinity, lily of purity and mirror without stain, obtain for me, dear Mother, I beseech thee, from the good Jesus, purity of mind and body, and beg of Him to cause this beautiful virtue to flourish more and more among all classes of the faithful. Amen.

E-mail: eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org

Upcoming Retreats

Men:

June 23-27, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 5-10, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 22-25, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
Sept 13-18, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 8-13, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Nov 30-Dec 4	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

Women:

June 21-26, 2021	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 7-11, 2021	Ignatian	Kansas City, MO
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 12-17, 2021	Ignatian	St. Louis, MO
July 19-24, 2021	Vocation	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Oct 11-16, 2021	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ

Mixed:

Oct 27-30, 2021	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
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Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:
816-733-2500 | www.sspix.org