



# SSPX

## Regina Coeli Report

Number 287 April - May 2019 ∴

# Penance and Conversion

As unsavory as it sounds, the term “penance” is rich and most fruitful in our Christian tongue. John the Baptist offers the baptism of penance. He exhorts his penitents to enter God’s kingdom by the purification of their sins. “Do penance, for the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mt. 3:2). It translates from a strange Greek term *metanoia* which literally means *to know after*, to reflect, and revise. For us, it means repentance and conversion.

All knowledge carries with it a special responsibility. The knowledge of God, if received by a proud man, drags him down to vanity whereas, in a soul inflamed with charity, it unfolds into adoration and praise. Likewise, the knowledge of our sins begets thorns and thistles in soil that is unprepared

by humility. However, in souls imbued with humble love of God, it begets a genuine compunction of heart. This is illustrated perfectly by the parable of the pharisee and the publican.

What purpose does this pricking fulfill within our soul? Why is it that the finger pricked with a thorn swells and hurts so much? Because it thus prompts us to action and extract the dangerous body from rotting within. The hurt felt is a merciful warning of nature. “I would rather feel compunction than know its definition.” These words from the *Imitation of Christ* express the purpose of the penitent approaching the confessional and the Christian soul on its way to the summits of charity through humility.

# Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

You will be receiving this issue of the SSPX District News at the beginning of the *Alleluia* season. When Easter comes around, have we not often felt a definite sense of fulfillment and conquest which we have perceived as strongly as the smell of the altar lilies? The little efforts and resolutions we have taken during Lent appear now as a victory over “the world, the flesh, and the devil.” As we are less submerged by the futility and vanity of the frenzied world around us, we have the sense of being in orbit, free from gravity, more ethereal, and spiritual. This sentiment can be elating and could easily lead us into trouble if it was not checked by our daily down to earth duties and communications.

This issue of the *Regina Coeli Report* is dedicated to the sacraments which our dear priests administer and our dear faithful receive throughout the year. With the Church’s twin commandment of yearly confession and communion, we wish to stress how important it is to prepare ourselves for their worthy reception. More than moving our feet, more than going through the usual rite of confession and holy communion, Christ’s Church entreats us with maternal love to move our souls, to change our hearts. Am I the same today as I was a few months ago? Have I really conquered my evil passions and my shortcomings? Can I truly say with St. Paul that, on the whole: “It is not I, it is Christ who lives in me.”

The work of grace is invisible in the soul, but somehow, God’s elect do shine forth their resignation under trials, their peace of soul in God’s hands, their inner joy in all walks of life around them. I hope that you can discern such sentiments in the faces of the good Christians of the parish and in their varied activities. You will find as usual in these pages more photos of parish activities run by our dear flock, knowing that, in the end, it is God’s glory which is intended in all these liturgical, para-liturgical and more mundane activities. Will our life hereafter not echo the song of the Angels? “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts!” May we eternally utter to Him this glorious *Alleluia*!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jürgen Wegner".

Fr. Jürgen Wegner



# The Second Plank of Salvation

God decided that the Redemption accomplished on Calvary would differ from the Redemption applied through the world. The blood of Christ is the universal source of salvation. Just like the sun which warms all parts of the world, the blood of Christ has the power to touch our minds, hearts, and the very substance of our spiritual being. But the sun does not give light if we shut all windows; the blood of Christ cannot operate if souls are closed to it, and a pharmacy holding all possible remedies can only be a source of life if skilled doctors apply them to patients who submit to their care.

The sacrament of penance is largely the means of this mysterious application of the work of Redemption. True, other sacraments are important too, I am speaking especially of baptism and the holy eucharist as they bring, respectively, divine life and nourishment to our souls. But, it is through preaching that we acquire the virtue of faith, without which, baptism is impossible. And it is through the sacrament of penance that we recover grace, without which, the holy eucharist cannot nourish us. This explains the words of St. Pius V: “Give me good confessors, and I



shall reform the world.”

In order to procure the most from the sacrament of penance, God has given much. What exactly? To the priest, He gave the grace of zeal against sin, fatherly instincts, a surgeon’s skill, and adequate eloquence. To the penitent, God granted the courage to unload painful avowals, the grace of repentance, and the conversion of the heart. Both the priest and the penitent are left free to follow their own counsel therefore, they could be gravely negligent in their

respective duties.

In confession, before all else, let the confessor as well as the penitent “aim” at the sacrament. By this, we mean aiming that the matter of confession (which is sin) should be as integral as morally possible, in such a way that absolution be granted to a soul who is duly prepared. This means that, first and foremost, while not neglecting the future, both the judge and the penitent should concentrate on avoiding further sin. The practice of the virtues is good indeed, but the extirpation of sin is also a great good.

And this zeal against sin is an act of charity for the greater glory of God because, here, not only does God provide the sinner with the graces of infinite mercy, but He receives the homage of the repentant sinner. Confession is the return of the prodigal son to his fatherly home: it is the joy of the father, the joy of the son, the joy of the banquet. It is the passage from the dishonor of God to His glorification, from the true evil of man to his entrance into happiness.

Yet, Jesus Christ demands much from both the priest and the penitent. To the faithful, He gives a variety of graces: grace of confession which moves them to confess their sins to a priest, grace of awakening of the conscience which urges one to be reconciled, grace of faith which sees Jesus Christ behind the priest and the virtue of Christ’s blood in the absolution. To the priests, Jesus Christ confers some sacred instinct which prompts them to hear confession as a father healing his child, a quasi-miraculous

discretion which corrects the weaknesses of the human tongue, and supernatural aptitudes which allows them to draw water out of the rock, that is to say, repentance from the most hardened hearts.

The confessional is also the choice place for spiritual direction. After the introductory interview when the priest begins to understand the state of the soul which he is about to guide, the personal and discreet encounter in the confessional is most appropriate for spiritual talks about one’s temptations, trials and progress in virtue. The fact of bringing up regularly our temptations and falls is the perfect introduction for the priest to give spiritual advice and for requesting resolutions for the coming month.

Magdalen is the eternal type of the happy and perfect penitent. The Gospel presents her as the public sinner who sat at the feet of Christ, begging for pardon. Our Lord then brought up the parable of the two debtors and gave this lesson: he who is more pardoned loves more. And yet, different is the word of absolution which Christ directed to the penitent woman: “He who loves more is pardoned more.” This can be rendered thus: The more we love, the more we are pardoned; and the more we are pardoned, the more we love. O happy circle, and cycle of mercy and benignity! God knows the abyss of our sin and of our weakness. God alone knows how much we are in need of His loving forgiveness and forgiving love.

—Fr. Desurmont, C.Ss.R.





# “Flowers in Hell”: On Prison Ministry

*Editor’s Note:* The following is a priest’s personal reflection on the unique graces and challenges of ministering to the incarcerated. The informal, first-person style of the priest’s thoughts and recollections have been retained throughout.

To begin, I am reminded of a time when I made my way through security at a major American airport and came across two grey-cowled Franciscans. After making their introduction, they informed me that they were from Bronx, New York, which instantly reminded me of a book I had read covering their apostolate. The title in French, which eluded me at first, was *Des fleurs en enfer*, that is, *Flowers in Hell*. The book was a collection of stories—“flowers”—about the holy work these Franciscans did in some of the poorest and most downtrodden neighborhoods in New York.

It was not long after that I began to connect their work with my own ministry to the earthly hell that is prison. It is an environment beset by depression, degradation, and despair—a place where the flowers of faith, hope, and love rarely blossom. Yet it remains incumbent upon me, a priest of Jesus Christ, to see that even these poor souls receive a chance at redemption in the next life even if their crimes demand they suffer in this one.



## Behind the Walls

There is an old saying, “You don’t know what you have until it is gone.” This is never more true than behind prison walls. Catholics faithful to Tradition and full of zeal are to susceptible to taking for granted the traditional Latin Mass, sacraments, and catechesis, especially if they are fortunate to live near a chapel administered by the Society of Saint Pius X. What about those behind bars? Most immediately find themselves sealed off from the

reservoir of Catholic Tradition, leaving them to wonder if the struggle for Salvation has been nullified forever.

Yet it is prison that Catholics, from the most faithful to the wayward, can be granted the opportunity to reflect long and hard on their sinfulness and recall that what they need above all else is God. I have found that prisoners enduring harsh conditions, such as Texas inmates who go long summers without air conditioning, are often the quickest to find solace in Our Lord. They are able to lay aside earthly comfort in the hope of heavenly reward by leading prayer groups, public recitations of the rosaries, and catechetical studies. Prison walls may keep out the world, but they cannot keep out Catholic Truth.

In prison, a priest is often confronted with death. What is impressive is to see the many ways the dying react, and more so the way their surrounding family deals with it. As expected, souls closest to God through life find the encounter with death to be almost a prayer and an encouragement

to total surrender. Even when death's sting snatches a soul from the cradle, the Church's prayers act as balm over the heart of the bereaved, and helps them endure the separation with Christian resignation. These souls are really "bearing fruit in patience."

## From Darkness to Light

Let me conclude with a thought from one of the prisoners I have had the chance to pastor: "As inmates we are in our own sort of hell in a literal form. It is almost like we are dead. To those outside we are ghosts. We are not relevant to the daily lives of our loved ones. We are as dead, waiting for God to resurrect us to the life of the living. So, until then, we are paying for our sins."

All of us have sins to pay for, whether in this life or the next. Without excusing the incarcerated for the crimes they have committed, let us offer up prayers for these men that they may endure their temporal punishments and find their way with God's grace to eternal salvation.





# The SSPX in Ridgefield, Connecticut

## Standing the Test of Time for Generations of Faithful

St. Ignatius Retreat House, Christ the King Church, and Padre Pio Academy, in Ridgefield, CT hail from a long and interesting past.

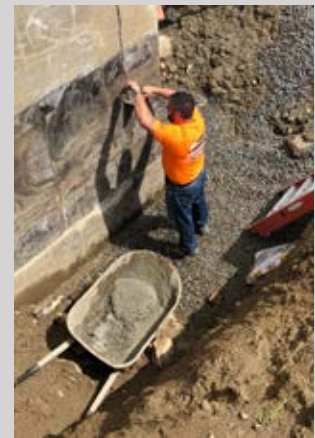
Built in 1915, the Retreat House building served many purposes over the years, from private home to Jesuit Retreat Center. Purchased by the SSPX in 1979, it became St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary. Seminarians and laity worked to renovate the property and buildings which were home to future Society priests between 1979-1988. The year 1982 was a milestone, as Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre conducted the first priestly ordinations in the old stable, now known as St. Joseph's House.

The seminary quickly outgrew their basement chapel, and construction began on a new church in the early 80's but came to a halt when the seminary moved to Winona, MN in 1988. The church building stood deteriorating for 18 years before construction resumed and it was transformed into the Christ the King Church we have today. Through parishioner contributions and craftsmanship, the Church opened its doors for Christmas Midnight Mass in 2000, nearly 20 years after construction began. It was officially dedicated in October 2001. Padre Pio Academy was founded in 2006 and continues to flourish.

Four decades from its noble beginnings as home to the first U.S. seminarians, St. Ignatius Retreat House, Christ the King Church and Padre Pio Academy remain a vital hub of U.S. Society activity. With over a century of use for the Retreat House—



and Christ the King Church having stood vacant and deteriorating for so many years prior to its completion—the property and buildings are facing extensive structural repairs. It is the task of the next generation of faithful to embrace the new opportunities and challenges which abound.





The faithful await Christmas Mass in the decorated Church of Our Lady of Victory in Davie, FL.

Talented parishioners from St. Anthony of Padua in North Caldwell, NJ entertained residents of a local nursing home on a recent visit.



On the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the students of St. Joseph's Academy in Ray Township, MI celebrated with a Cultural Literacy Bee. The three house teams tested their knowledge of history, literature, logic, Latin, math, art and music.



Christmas concerts were presented by the students of St. Vincent de Paul Academy in Kansas City, MO (top) and St. Joseph's Academy in MI (below) depicting the Nativity of Our Lord in drama and song.





Sr. Mary of the Holy Spirit, Mother Superior of the Franciscan Minims of the Perpetual Help of Mary in Mexico, gave a presentation at St. Vincent's in Kansas City, MO regarding their order.



Extensive renovation work is being carried out on the interior of the beautiful Church of St. Vincent de Paul in Kansas City, MO.

The 22nd "Trad March Madness," initiated by Fr. Stephen Stanich, took place on March 23 in St. Louis. It engaged 12 teams from the Midwest but also all the way from Florida. The final game opposed the two teams of St. Mary's, KS which were playing their 7th game of the day, with the victory given to Fr. John Carlisle's team.





Students and staff of Assumption Academy in Walton, KY travelled to Old St. Mary's Church in Cincinnati, OH where they venerated the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney.

The Society Brothers chose a snowy Winona day to get outside for some football.



Middle school girls perform Irish step-dancing for Blessed Virgin Mary Church's St. Joseph Festival to benefit the poor in Warners, NY.



Eucharistic Crusaders from St. Therese Chapel in Nicholville, NY process behind their Eucharistic King.



Approximately 130 faithful from Los Gatos, Sacramento, and San Jose stop for a group photo at a recent 15-mile pilgrimage to Carmel Mission where St. Junipero Serra is buried and where the statue of Our Lady of Bethlehem resides. This is the same statue that accompanied St. Junipero on his journey from Spain to San Diego and up and down the coast of California as he established 21 missions.

## US Pilgrimages

**Pascua, Florida Pilgrimage**                      **April 23 – 28, 2019**  
 Come walk the path of the martyrs from St. Thomas More Church in Sanford, Florida, to St. Augustine, the oldest known site of the First Mass in North America. Visit [sspflorida.com](http://sspflorida.com) for more details.

## Eucharistic Crusade

### Monthly Intentions

#### April:

That Christians will renew the spirit of the Sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ



*Glorious Queen of Martyrs, obtain for us true courage and a holy patience to bear well the troubles and adversities of this miserable life, and, by crucifying the flesh with its desires in following the mortification of the Cross, to show ourselves truly thy children. Amen.*

#### May:

For Purity of Heart and Soul

*By thy Immaculate Conception, O Mary, make my body pure and my soul holy. Amen.*

E-mail: [eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org](mailto:eucharistic-crusade@sspx.org)

## International Pilgrimages

**The Holy Land & Jordan**                      **September 16 - 27, 2019**  
 Meditate and pray at the sites where Our Lord lived, taught, and suffered, while also visiting biblical sites in Jordan. Take advantage of this 12-day semi-retreat to increase your knowledge and love for Our Lord. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Ein Karem, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, Petra, Mount Nebo, Jerash, and much more! Accompanied by Fr. Paul Robinson, professor at Holy Cross Seminary in Australia. Space is limited to 40 pilgrims.

**Benedictine Abbeys of Italy**                      **October 21-31, 2019**  
 A unique opportunity to travel with a Benedictine priest while visiting Benedictine abbeys of Italy. Fr. Matthew, OSB will accompany the group as chaplain and provide a wonderful insight into the building of a Catholic civilization in Europe via the Benedictine Order. Visit the Benedictine abbeys of Montecassino, Subiaco, Sant'Antimo, Monte Oliveto Maggiore, Vallombrosa, Camaldoli, Bobbio, and Sacra di San Michele. Also visit Rome, Siena, Bologna, Pavia, Turin, Milan, and more.

## Opportunity

Traditional Catholic Retreat House seeking full-time maintenance man. Knowledge of various construction fields—carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, *etc.* would be most helpful. Perfect opportunity for a retired contractor or maintenance man. Single traditional Catholic man preferred as position involves living on site with the members of the resident religious community. Room and board as well as monthly stipend included. Daily Mass and access to all the sacraments are obviously the greatest of “fringe benefits.” Please send resume as well as letter of recommendation from your local pastor to Fr. Thomas Asher, c/o St. Aloysius Retreat House 19101 Bear Creek Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95033

For more information please contact: **Regina Pilgrimages**  
 866-369-8149 | 785-437-2883 | [info@reginapilgrimages.com](mailto:info@reginapilgrimages.com)  
 P.O. Box 67, St. Marys, KS 66536 | [www.reginapilgrimages.com](http://www.reginapilgrimages.com)

## US Summer Camps

### Name of Camp: Our Lady of the Rosary Girls' Camp

Location: St. Aloysius Retreat House,  
Los Gatos, CA  
Dates: June 27 - July 5  
Ages: 8-17  
Cost: \$300  
Deadline: Register by May 25, 2019  
To register: 408-354-7703 or st.aloysiusoffice@gmail.com

### Name of Camp: Don Bosco Boys' Camp

Location: Holy Angels Novitiate, Winona, MN  
Dates: June 29 - July 7, 2019  
Ages: 9-16  
Cost: \$275  
To register: app.campdoc.com/register/donbosco  
For questions: donboscoboyscamp2019@gmail.com

### Name of Camp: Ven. Teresita Quevedo Girls' Camp

Location: Sibley State Park, New London, MN  
Dates: July 7-15, 2019  
Ages: 12-18  
Cost: \$175  
Registration: venerableteresitacamp.ssp@gmail.com or (320) 406-5450

### Name of Camp: Camp de Smet (Boys)

Location: Trinity Mountain Ranch,  
Black Hawk, CO (near Denver)  
Dates: July 10-19, 2019  
Ages: 8-16  
Cost: \$250 per camper  
Deadline: Registration ends on June 12, 2019,  
limited to 80 campers  
Registration: campdesmet@gmail.com or  
303-344-5830

### Name of Camp: Los Gatos Boys' Camp

Location: St. Aloysius Retreat House / Big Basin  
Redwoods State Park, Los Gatos, CA  
Dates: July 15-26, 2019  
Ages: 8-17  
Deadline: Register by June 1, 2019  
Registration: 408-354-7703 or st.aloysiusoffice@gmail.com

### Name of Camp: Camp Honor (Boys)

Location: Summit Lake Camp, Emmitsburg, MD  
Dates: August 5-17, 2019  
Ages: 8 - 17  
Cost: \$295  
Deadline: Register by June 15, 2019  
Registration: damihianimas1815@gmail.com or  
315-328-4027

## Upcoming Retreats

### Men:

April 1-6	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
May 6-11	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
May 27-June 1	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
July 8-13	Fatherhood	Sanford, FL
July 8-13	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 15-20	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 22-27	Ignatian	St. Louis area, MO*
Aug 26-31	Ignatian	La Salette / Ridgefield
Sep 9-14	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 18-23	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Nov 18-23	Ignatian	BVM / Ridgefield
Dec 9-14	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Dec 18-21	3-Day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Women:

Apr 8-13	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Apr 29-May 4	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
May 13-18	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
June 24-29	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 1- 6	Ignatian	Sanford, FL
July 8-13	Ladies' Retreat	St. Louis area, MO*
July 22-27	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Aug 5-10	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Sep 30- Oct 5	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 14-19	Ignatian	BVM / Ridgefield
Oct 21-26	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Dec 4-7	3-Day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Mixed:

Oct 23-26, 2019 3.5 Day Matrimony Phoenix, AZ

Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:  
816-733-2500 | www.ssp.org

\* contact the St. Louis Priory: smasspx@gmail.com

## Confirmation Schedule 2019

Chapel	Date	Bishop
El Paso, TX	Apr 28	Fellay
Walton, KY	May 1	Fellay
St. Marys, KS	May 3	Fellay
Kansas City, MO	May 4	Fellay
Nicholville NY	May 4	Tissier
Long Prairie, MN	May 5	Fellay
Farmingville NY	May 5	Tissier
Dillwyn, VA	May 11	Tissier
Bismarck ND	May 18	Tissier
Post Falls ID	Jun 16	De Galarreta
Watkins, CO	Aug 11	Fellay
Honolulu, HI	Aug 15	Fellay

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