



S S P X



in  
**Mission**

Foreign Mission Trust **MAGAZINE**



# The Communion of Saints

All the faithful make up one and the same immense family who, as members of the Church militant, suffering and triumphant, share their benefits with one another. There seems to be nothing more apt than the dogma of the “Communion of Saints” for bringing home to the people the utility and importance of the missions.

— Pius XII, *Evangelii Praecones* (June 2, 1951)





# Letter from the Publisher



Dear Faithful,

We, priests and religious of the Society of St. Pius X, are the spiritual sons of a missionary in the bush, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. And, however little he stressed the mission work in the statutes which he gave us as his legacy, his flame has lit our minds and we have assimilated something of his missionary spirit. Added to which were the numberless examples and memorable anecdotes from Gabonese and Senegalese bush life that fell from his lips to our eager ears.

Thus, it is with pride and joy that we bear witness of the blossoming of this missionary spirit, so very Christian, among our younger generation of priests. These are laboring in the vineyard of the Lord, in the open field where millions of souls have heard next to nothing of God's infinite love for men. Some of us are almost envious of the exhausting way of life of compatriots in ungrateful lands, foreign cultures and language, taxing climates, all of which are reminiscent of the lives of the early heroes of the primitive Church or of the first priests landing in the new world.

Our present issue offers a panoramic view of life in Central and South America of Hispanic language, mostly Mexico and Argentina. Yet, the first article turns our eyes to Central Africa, although it is seen from the vantage point of a missionary priest living in Nigeria, the latest country to open its borders to our Society. How does a Western man deal with this largely populated country, under precarious conditions and with limited resources? What are his main challenges? These and other details from the other scripts may provide an insight into what it is to trust in divine Providence and see the fruits when we let God take control.

*In Mission* is in your hands for the purpose of making all of you grateful for the gift of faith, which is not the privilege of few, but is offered to all, rich or poor, Greek or Jew... Grateful too for the fruitful labor which some portion of the Society of Saint Pius X, as well as its satellite religious congregations, are performing throughout the world. Eager too so that you may contribute with your daily prayers and sacrifices to the success of Christ and His Mother in our extended apostolate. Let all this be "*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*"—For the Greater Glory of God.

In Christo,

Handwritten signature of Jürgen Wegner in blue ink.

Fr. Jürgen Wegner  
Publisher



S S P X

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FOR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

# An Atypical Daily Routine

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Facts



- Full name: Federal Republic of Nigeria
- The name Nigeria was taken from the Niger River, which runs through the country.
- Capital city: Abuja
- Known as the "Giant of Africa" being the most populous country in Africa.
- Divided into 36 states and one Federal Capital Territory, and has a presidential system of government.

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***Your daily routine is quite different from that of our readers. Would you please describe it for us?***

Our days resemble those of the majority of the priests of our congregation. During the week, we have the common prayer four times a day in the chapel. The meals followed by a short time of recreation are also in common. Between these times of communal activity, we are either working in our offices or in the parlor hearing confessions and receiving such faithful as may wish to consult a priest on anything. The weekend sees us dispatched to our various outstations. What makes our apostolate different, are the circumstances under which we have to carry it out. For example, by the time we come to the chapel for common prayer at 6:30 in the morning, we already have to contend with the heat and the humidity which have one freely transpiring in spite of being directly under the fans. As if that weren't enough, the morning meditation often turns into a mosquito hunt! They have the annoying tendency of sneaking under the cassock and biting one's ankles through the socks. It's often hard to study owing not only to the heat but also to the neighboring "pastor" who fills the whole neighborhood with the noise of his "exorcisms" thanks to a P.A. system that rivals that of a football stadium. Our being located in the city also ensures that we have persons other than our faithful popping in for the occasional confession. This is always a good opportunity to introduce them to Tradition even though it be sometimes necessary to literally summarize the whole catechism in doing so.





***How much of a challenge is it to have access to drinking water? Can the local diet prove to be a source of health problem for the Western missionary?***

Yes, water is a big problem for us. One can't only drink whisky! Unless of course our benefactors were to bring in many more donations... We hope to solve the problem after the completion of the new priory which has provision for a deep borehole (328 feet) and a system of mechanical and ultraviolet filters. Our new cook, who knows his job quite well, takes care of us and we now have the joy of a decent menu, at least during the week. The difficulty will always be the weekend when we travel to the various chapels for our apostolates. There will always be something to convalesce from during the week in the oasis of our future priory.

***Living close to your faithful is demanding. What have been the greatest obstacles you have had to surpass in the past five years? Are the local customs and traditions an obstacle to evangelization?***

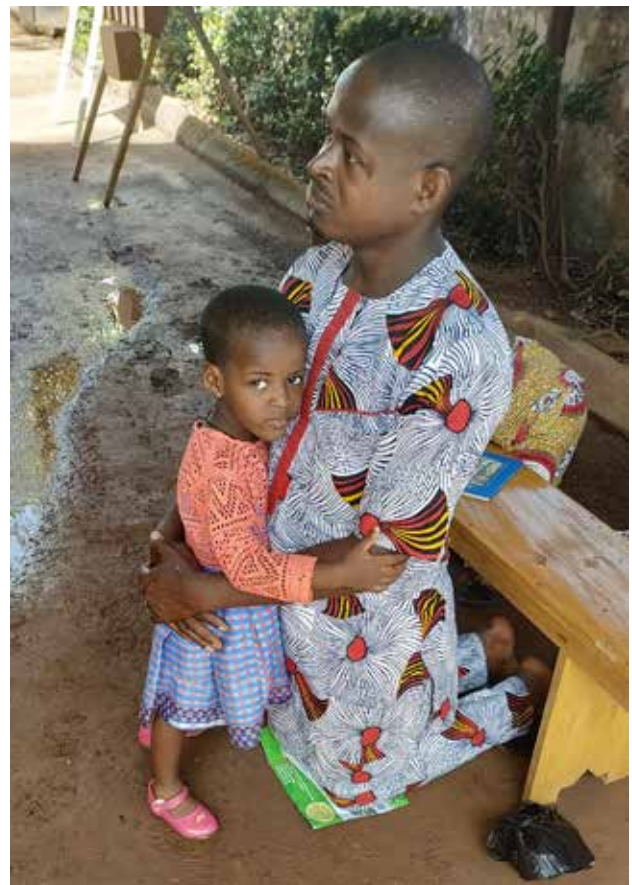
The greatest obstacle is most certainly the language, more so at the beginning. The cultural differences can also disorient one but as we learn to know our faithful, it suffices to analyze that which can be of use to them (for example their highly developed religious sense, their piety, *etc.*) and that which needs to be overcome (over-credulity which favors superstition, an overly acute business sense which often leads to a facility in lying.)

Most other difficulties are part and parcel of living in this country: poor infrastructure, which

makes travelling tricky and even dangerous as well as the generalized insecurity. A lack of hygiene in the preparation of food often disturbs our "interior life."

***SOS accompanies you in your daily activities. How are things taking form?***


In a very real sense, the financial assistance coming from the association plays an essential role. The sheer extent of it is truly impressive especially in light of how it is all collected, but even that is not the essential. Our mission is essentially for souls and the Foreign Mission Trust, by bringing you into contact with the mission, offers you the opportunity of participating in this rescue operation; primarily by your prayers and sacrifices and then by your gifts. As for us priests, the encouragement from you is a pillar of strength in difficult times. We are not now three but hundreds and possibly even thousands laboring for the salvation of souls. Thank you. Thank you, for your support. God, as always knows how best to recompense you, that is to say, lavishly!



# 500 Years of Christianity in Mexico

✦

District of Mexico



- District House
- 5 Pories
- 33 chapels
- 20 priests

The District House is in Mexico City. There are four pories located throughout the Mexican territory, and another in Guatemala's capital city.

✦

The years 1492, 1518, 1519, 1521 and 1531 marked the Mexican Nation, defining its essence.

In 1492, the American continent was discovered. The celebration of the first Mass in the now Mexican territory took place in 1518. The great Hernán Cortés arrived in Veracruz in 1519; that same hero conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521, and finally, to close with a flourish, in 1531, took place the apparitions of the “Morenita del Tepeyac,” Our Lady of Guadalupe, that defined the identity of the Mexican people.

## The Discovery of America

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered a large continent. In the month of April of 1493, he arrived in Spain eager to show the Spanish Monarchs what he had brought back, and to tell them about his trip and offer them evidence of the new lands: rare birds, gold, gemstones, and even some natives, men and women, wearing their indigenous attire.

The King and Queen heard the account of Columbus and, in thanksgiving to God, they ordered the singing of the *Te Deum*. The natives were then baptized, the Infante Don Juan being the godfather, and they immediately arranged for them to be formed in the Catholic Faith. By this act, the King and the Queen established what would be the attitude of Spain towards the natives of the new lands: “Convert them to Christianity and civilize them, treating them with care and kindness.” In a letter from the Queen to Columbus, she orders him to, “Treat of all them rightly and tenderly.”





When the Queen was told that they had not found any gold or riches in America, she replied: “Even if there were only stones, they would still be in America as long as there were souls to save there.”

## Hernán Cortés

Hernán Cortés landed in Veracruz on April 21, 1519, together with 600 men. Twenty-seven years had already passed since the taking of Granada by the Catholic Monarchs, and 26 and a half years since the discovery of America.

Two very religious and warrior peoples were faced: On one hand, the Spaniards, who had fought for almost 800 years, over more than 30 generations, to get rid of Islam. Those centuries had bolstered the courage and the Faith of the Christians with the banner of the Cross and under the patronage of Our Lady and St. James the Apostle.

On the other hand, the Aztecs were a pagan people. They were a warrior tribe, followers of a very cruel religion, with which they had enslaved



many peoples, overshadowing their spirit. Each subdued community had to surrender, among many other tributes, an indeterminate number of young men and maidens to sacrifice them to their gods. There was not a single “*cacique*” who did not tremble at the very mention of Moctezuma. The Aztecs were very zealous for the worship of their gods to whom they offered human sacrifices:

# Mexico



Veracruz de Ignacio de la Llave. (above)  
Itinerary of Hernán Cortés in Mexican Territory. (left)

The Spaniards, to put an end with the human sacrifices, covered the “Templo Mayor” of Tenochtitlán and built the Metropolitan Cathedral of México City. In the front we see part of the “Templo Mayor” and in the back the Metropolitan Cathedral.



80,000 people were sacrificed at the inauguration of the main temple.

Saving the soul of the pagans of America, even against their own will, and spreading the kingship of Christ, were the main reasons for *La Conquista*. The call came directly from God, and the means, from those young people, many of whom would die in the process.

## Conquest of the Aztec Empire

Hernán Cortés came from that great caste of Spaniards who took up weapons with courage and bravery to bring the Faith to the pagans through either preaching or conquest.

To the conquerors, all human beings were Christians, regardless of whether they were infidels or pagans, and they all had to be brought to the Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the light of the Gospel, and to the acknowledgment of the Emperor of Spain.

Before engaging in battle with the natives, Hernán Cortés read them, through the interpreters, the “*Requerimiento Legal*” (legal requirement); if they accepted to be friends, they were granted peace, but if they refused it, war was declared.





## Conquest of Tenochtitlán

Zealous for the glory of the true God, Cortés did not condone that men worshipped the devil, and so was born the Mexican nation. One of his companions writes: “His banner was a red Cross on a black background, in the midst of blue and white fires, and it could be read in it: ‘Friends, let us follow the Cross of Christ, and, if we have Faith in us, we shall conquer with this sign...’

“Through this Captain, God opened the door for us to preach the Holy Gospel. He taught the Indians reverence for the holy sacraments, and obedience to the ministers of the Church, that is why I have taken the time, seeing that he is already defunct, to make some defense for his memory...”

On May 10, 1521, the siege began, and finally on August 13, the fall of Tenochtitlán took place. This date is known as the Day of Conquest.

Thus, with the fusion of the two races, the great Mexican nation was born. It is not Tenochtitlán, it is not Spain either, it is Mexico. This merger brought unity, a necessary union to constitute a nation, not only in the language, but in the very ideals needed to become a great nation.

## Divine Intervention


But this fusion was not enough to give identity to this emerging people. A much stronger bond that marked the very essence of the nation was necessary. Our Lady of Guadalupe is that firm, strong, indestructible bond that would give identity to Mexico. We can safely say that, to be true Mexicans, it is necessary to be faithful children and subjects of our Mother and Queen, the “*Morenita del Tepeyac*,” the “*Guadalupana*.”

And so, in December 1531, the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Indian Juan Diego took place in Cerro del Tepeyac.

## Present Time


Five hundred years have passed since the arrival of the Spaniards in our territory, and throughout these years, the Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother has spread and strengthened. Persecutions, attacks, invasions, spoils... Mexico has faced all that having always emerged victorious.

But the devil does not rest; he is always seeking ways to do evil. And since the external attacks could not harm the Catholic peoples, he perpetrated the attack from the very inside of our Holy Mother, the Catholic Church.

**The State of Veracruz**

- Veracruz de Ignacio de la Llave, also called just Veracruz, is one of the 31 States, which, together with Mexico City, form the Mexican United States. Its capital is Xalapa and its most populous city is Veracruz, also call Veracruz Harbor.
- Veracruz has traditionally been less of a tourist destination than pacific parts of Mexico due to its hot, humid weather. Yet the area incorporates a range of climates, from the damp jungle areas in the northwest to the cooler, mountainous heights of Xalapa (also spelled Jalapa).
- Highlights of the State of Veracruz are Xalapa with its colonial architecture, the laid-back beach towns such as Tuxpan and Teolutla, and the more lively city of Veracruz in the south.
- The state is noted for its mixed ethnic and indigenous populations. Its cuisine reflects the many cultural influences that have come through the state because of the importance of the port of Veracruz.



Coat of Arms of the State of Veracruz





Our Lady of Guadalupe Pre-Seminary Chapel

The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) started within the very heart of the Church. Its errors and ambiguities were maliciously imposed, in the most pernicious way, in her entire structure. These errors were topped by the development and implementation of the New Mass (*Novus Ordo Missæ*) in 1969. It has been 50 years since the NO took over our churches, and the results were not long in coming.

Time has passed, and the greatness of Spain and Latin America is long gone. It is very sad to see the state in which these nations now find themselves, and among them, our Mexico. Almost unrecognizable now, riddled with sects, vices, corruption, and all kinds of depravation. Not only have they ceased to be Catholic, but many of them have become anti-Catholic, falling into debauchery, to such a degree that not even the natural law itself is respected anymore.

## Pre-Seminary “Our Lady of Guadalupe”

Faced with this current situation, not only of Mexico but of the world in general, one could easily think that the “prince of this world” has triumphed, and this could lead us to discouragement.

But how can we explain that, in spite of this generalized chaos, the SSPX apostolate in Mexico and in the world keeps increasing? The will of God and the intercession of His Most Blessed Mother are what make this possible.

The two main difficulties with which we are confronted in Mexico to carry out our apostolate are the lack of priests and limited economic resources.

Therefore, following the advice given to us by different authorities, priests, and faithful of our Congregation, we have decided to open a pre-seminary in the District of Mexico, which will be under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and will have as headquarters the Priory Rafael Guízar y Valencia in the City of Orizaba, Veracruz; the



first State in which Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico and where the first chapel was built.

The pre-seminary was designed as a necessary preparatory course for young men who wish to enter the seminary, whether in the humanities year, as brothers or in the seminary as such.

We pray to the Queen of Mexico to take care of and direct the young men, priests and lay people involved in this important work. We ask you, dear faithful, to support us with your prayers and with the necessary material support for the beginning and good development of this project.



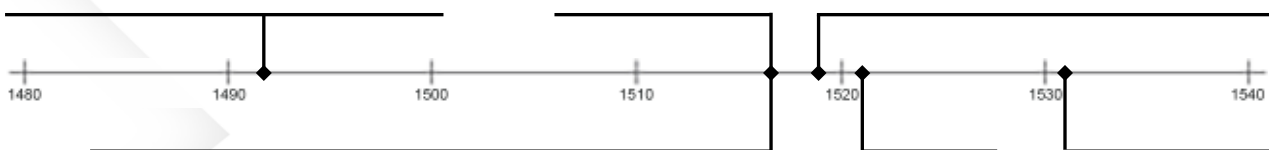
Our Lady of Guadalupe Pre-Seminary, Main Cloister and Chapel in the background

## Timeline

1492: Reconquest of Spain from the Muslim invasion with the taking of Granada by the Catholic Monarchs—Expulsion of the Jews from Spain—Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, on behalf of the Catholic monarchs.

1518: Juan de Grijalva discovers the island of Cozumel, where the first Mass is celebrated in Mexico, on May 6.

1519: On February 10, Hernán Cortés arrived on an expedition to Mexico. The founding of Veracruz, the first town instituted with a government, took place on July 10. On August 16, began the march to Tenochtitlán, arriving there on November 8.



1518: Arrival of the Spaniards in Río de las Banderas where the Indians loyal to Moctezuma wined and dined them and burned incense in their honor—Arrival on the *Isla de Sacrificios* where they found a temple, and inside it four sacrificed Indians (with their chests open and their arms and legs cut off).

1521: On May 10 began the siege, and the fall of Tenochtitlan took place on August 13, date known as the Day of Conquest.

1531: In December, the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe took place in Cerro del Tepeyac.





# Glory and Honor

The Feast of Corpus Christi in South America is celebrated with the utmost solemnity. Here, honor is rendered to our God as the faithful pass through the courtyard leading to the church, which has the drawings of our dear founder. Can there be a better way to honor him along with the Blessed Sacrament. Can we not claim that Archbishop Lefebvre has preserved the priesthood and the Mass in the face of a never-seen ecclesial revolution?





# The SSPX in Mendoza



The monotony of the vast plain that crosses Argentina from one side to another is suddenly interrupted in the west by the imposing wall—the Andes mountain range. It is here, under the shadow of these colossal heights bristling with dizzying peaks where the majestic condor soars that the city of Mendoza nestles. Notwithstanding the desert-like aridness of these lands, the passing of time has seen city's growth, given life by extensive network of canals. Everywhere, the vine and the olive tree prosper.

After the conciliar debacle, islands of resistance sprung up in Argentina as in many corners of Christianity. In Mendoza, the principle support for Catholics desirous to remain faithful to the Faith of all times was a priest named Fr. Gobbi, the image of the accomplished pastor to his sheep, who was called to God in 2009 decorated with priestly virtue. Following Archbishop Lefebvre's trip to South America in 1978, the men of tradition in Mendoza joined themselves to the Society of Saint Pius X. From then on in 1980, Mendoza was regularly visited by the priests of the Society [in charge of the apostolate in the





country.] The work grew rapidly, making the way for the foundation and building of San José Priory in 1993. However, near the end of the 90s, an unusual event forced the priory to move elsewhere: a big business moved in and began to buy all of the surrounding real-estate, looking to make the our chapel into its parking lot. After negotiations and agreement was reached between both parties: the international superstore could have its parking lot, but they would have to rebuild the chapel and priory 500 yards away. Truly a providential turn of events, this would allow for a much larger space to build a more spacious chapel which later developments in the apostolate would appreciate. Later, in 2007, a primary school under the patronage of St. Dominic Savio would also take advantage of the change in size. At first in modest proportions, this new work will promptly take on greater proportions thanks to the aid of Providence, until arriving at its current 160 students.


## Mendoza Today

Now 600 faithful fill the pews of the chapel in Mendoza every Sunday under the shepherd's crook of 4 priests there to carry out their ministry. It is blessed by a good number of large and fervent families which secure the expansion and future of the priory. The parish life and school rhythm are overflowing with activity throughout the year. The faithful join in with enthusiasm staunchly supporting their chapel: processions, patron feast, [shows], theater events, evenings of folk singing around the inevitable "asado," the grilled steaks which constitute Argentine national plate. The varying groups of young men and women are there to assure the organization and to give it all life.

That is how the priory in Mendoza holds a wholly special place among the works of the Society today in South America, both by the quantity and the activity of its parishioners.

In spite of the unending opposition and the ever-increasing number of obstacles placed by the enemies of the kingdom of Our Lord, the school continues to prosper as well, animated by some 20 educators and sustained by the unfailing devotion of the faithful who know how to appreciate the price of a truly Christian education.





Argentina

ARGENTINA

MENDOZA

Mendoza

- Mendoza is the capital of the province of Mendoza in Argentina. It is located in the northern-central part of the province, in a region of foothills and high plains, on the eastern side of the Andes.
- As of the 2010 census, Mendoza had a population of 115,041 with a metropolitan population of 1,055,679, making Greater Mendoza the fourth largest metropolitan area in the country.
- Two of the main industries of the Mendoza area are olive oil production and Argentine wine. The region around Greater Mendoza is the largest wine-producing area in Latin America.
- With its endless rows of vineyards and world-famous wines, Mendoza in Argentina is a wine-lovers heaven. Travelers come from all over South America to visit the wine capital and its many *bodegas*.
- Set in the hot, dry desert, Mendoza enjoys sunshine all year round but a clever irrigation system flows throughout the city, allowing for greenery and the all-important growth of grapes.



## Developments and Projects

The developments of the apostolate have led to the realization of various and consecutive add-ons and constructions. After completing all the essential elements of the school life, in 2011 the educational building found itself enriched with a vast complex made up of three preschool classrooms, a multipurpose room for theater and reunions, amply funded by constant school fundraisers and parochial contributions. In 2015, further amplifications were made on the second floor, comprising a teacher's lounge and an additional classroom for the primary school, but the work isn't over yet! The new students flood in, the families grow, and the rooms destined for these children call for expansion, adaptation, and improvement.

Various projects hold our attention at present: one is already underway after a year's worth of work. It is a prolongation of the school building with two rooms for reunions, the occurrence of which are ever-more abundant as the priory's works grow in number and frequency. The con-

struction also consists of two new rooms destined for the priory. The walls have risen, the roof has been placed, but the interior work and finishing touches have yet to be undertaken. We still need around \$6,000 dollars to finish. Among other things, there is needed:

- \$1,550 dollars to tile the floors
- \$1,200 dollars to install the interior doors and windows and \$1,400 dollars to make the doors and windows.
- \$1,360 dollars for the gating

On the other hand, the increasing number of students is making the school playground smaller and smaller. We need to expand its size as well as restore the worn-down ground work. That means more than 5,300 square feet to be renewed or \$6,600 dollars of work and materials.

That is not to forget the administration building which is for all the same reasons already inadequate to support the people working within; the future will need to see limits of its walls widened as well.

## Fruits of Our Labor

The labors of the Society of Saint Pius X in Mendoza have reaped their rewards in a number of priestly and religious vocations in the past years. To date, many seminarians of the priory's families are studying within the recollected walls of the Society's seminary in La Reja, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. We pray to God that their example will foster, in turn, new vocations.

In the end, toward this end tend all of the efforts of the priests of the Society: to awaken vocations, to allow the formation of priests worthy of the name. It is always a joy when the first Mass of a new priest brought forth by the priory concludes and crowns the year's work.







# *Work of Atonement of the Franciscan Minims of the Perpetual Help of Mary*

Fr. Jürgen Wegner  
District Superior of the United States  
District Headquarters  
Platte City, Mo.

Mexico City  
March 25, 2019

## **PAX ET BONUM**

In Christ, most reverend Father,

May God's blessings be with you.

I am Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit, one of the Franciscan Minim Sisters who made the visit to the Society chapels last month. On behalf of Reverend Mother Superior and Community, we would like to thank you most sincerely for having permitted us to make this visit and acquaint the faithful with our Congregation and its goals.

We were looking forward to meeting you, Father, but it wasn't possible on this occasion. However, we hope you received our little gifts.

Regarding our visit, the reception at every location was very heartwarming and both the priests and the faithful, as well as the families who hosted us were all very kind and generous. Once more, we were able to witness the fervor and perseverance of the American traditional Catholics who prove their love for God and His Church, in spite of the trials and sacrifices they have to undergo to maintain the Faith in this godless world.

Since our Congregation has been assisted by the Society for more than 30 years, I was able to encourage them to remain faithful to the Society and to be convinced that it is a Work blessed by God, as we indeed can give testimony!

We also want to thank the staff of Regina Coeli House for their kindness and Cheryl Justin's excellent job at organizing the trip (flight schedules, transportation, lodging, etc.)

Lastly, we are grateful for all the financial support of the U.S. Catholics and we assure you, Father, that all your and their intentions are included in our daily prayers. The Catholic Priesthood is our treasure and our special prayers are offered for the sanctification of priests and religious.

Please keep us in your prayers, that we may obtain many and holy vocations.

In Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph,

*Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit P.H.f.m.*  
Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit of P.H.f.m.

A.M.D.G.



Society of Saint Pius X



S S P X

The Society of Saint Pius X is an international priestly society of almost 700 priests. Its main purpose is the formation and support of priests.

The goal of the Society of Saint Pius X is to preserve the Catholic Faith in its fullness and purity, not changing, adding to or subtracting from the truth that the Church has always taught, and to diffuse its virtues, especially through the Roman Catholic priesthood. Authentic spiritual life, the sacraments, and the traditional liturgy are its primary means to foster virtue and sanctity and to bring the divine life of grace to souls.

Faithful to the words of Our Lord—“Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”—the Society of Saint Pius X strives to bring the Gospel and Tradition to souls around the world. As a lifelong missionary, Archbishop Lefebvre passed on this charism to the Society. This magazine aims to both inform souls about the work of the missions and how they can be helped.