



Issue #3
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The Vine

Official Newsletter of St Charles' Seminary,

A Roman Catholic Seminary forming men for the Priesthood in WA.



Latest News

- Prior to the lockdown, the seminary hosted several discerners for a holy hour for vocations (social distancing style). God continues to call to His priesthood even when our churches are “closed.” Please pray for all who are discerning this vocation.
- Academic university studies are now being delivered online. This has been an adjustment for lecturers and seminarians, but all have taken it in their stride.
- *The Record* has written an article on our very own publication *The Vine*. Be sure to check it out at www.therecord.com.au

“ Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say ‘yes’ to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us. ”

- *Pope Francis, World Day of Vocations*



Come and See!

No matter where you are in your discernment journey, you are always welcome to introduce yourself to us and join us for a meal. Whether you're someone who has only begun to have thoughts about becoming a Priest, or someone who has already made the first steps towards seminary life - come and see! We would be delighted to meet you. No strings attached!



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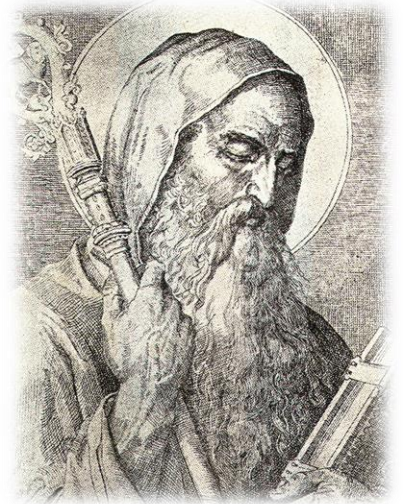
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“Our Lives with the Saints”

The conclusion of a series in which the seminarians reflect on the Saints who inspire them

Saint Benedict of Norcia

I came to know of St. Benedict through the religious order he founded; the Benedictines. During my first few years of formation I considered the possibility of a religious vocation with the Benedictines, whose disciplined life strongly appealed to me; particularly the daily routine of prayer and work. Within this natural rhythm the Divine Office and the Holy Mass are of central importance, and I saw in such a life the way I could live out daily my own love for the sacred liturgy and my keenness for manual labour. However, through further prayer and discernment, I came to know that the religious life was not the field in which the Lord was calling me to labour, but rather that He had a particular lot for me amongst the diocesan presbyterate.



I nevertheless came to realise, that the initial attraction to the austerity of the cloistered Benedictine revealed a much deeper yearning of my heart, a yearning for God Himself. St. Benedict recognised a similar yearning within himself when he was struck by the licentiousness and shameless immorality of his day. He fled the world, and in committing himself to prayer, penance and silence he came to know and love the God for whom he longed. Such radical fidelity to the Lord enabled his growth in virtue and sanctity, which naturally drew many people to seek his counsel and to imitate him.

I am similarly drawn to him, and while I do not literally imitate his radical material detachment from the world, I see value in, and seek to foster (like St. Benedict) a silence of the heart that is thus able to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Over my time in the seminary, St. Benedict has become a guide for me as I strive daily to love and follow the Lord Jesus; as I try to remain silent to hear His voice, to do His will and “to prefer nothing to the love of Christ.” (*Rule of St. Benedict Ch. 4*) St. Benedict, pray for us! **– Nicholas**

Information redacted in keeping with
the seminary's privacy policy

Saint Maria Goretti

The life of Saint Maria Goretti is the beautiful story of a young virgin's ultimate act of love. Maria was not yet twelve when she was faced with a momentous decision: sin or death. Her answer was clear, she would rather die than offend God. On her deathbed, Maria forgave Alessandro Serenelli, the man who mortally stabbed her because she resisted his attempted assault. Alessandro was sentenced to thirty years in prison for murdering Maria, and after eight years in jail, he had no remorse. However, thanks to the Grace of God and the intercession of forgiving Maria, he eventually converted after she miraculously appeared to him in a dream.

The life of this Saint offers two figures that I personally relate to, and I'm sure many others will also. First there is Maria, who because of her intimate relationship with Christ was able to forgive the person who hurt her most. I give thanks to God for the times in which He has replaced my heart of stone with His Sacred Heart, giving me the grace to forgive those who have hurt me deeply. The second figure is Alessandro, who encountered the Mercy of God through Maria, and was able to accept forgiveness. I give thanks to God for His Mercy in forgiving me, even in times when I find it difficult to forgive myself. Saint Maria Goretti, pure of heart, pray for us!



- **Nathan**

The Discerner

A column for those discerning a vocation to the Roman Catholic Priesthood

“Discerning the Call”

Jesus Christ has a plan for all of our lives, and he calls each of us by name in unique ways. A select few are called to live a life of service and sacrifice in the Holy Priesthood. Discerning whether or not this is the case for yourself can be a difficult process, but thankfully you do not have to do it alone.

The priesthood is a supernatural call from God to be offered as a gift to the Church, and as such the Church walks alongside each man throughout the process of discernment. In other words, a man does not simply decide that he is being called to the priesthood on his own: his discernment needs to be affirmed by the Church both before and during his seminary formation.

This reality helps take some of the pressure off individual men who are perhaps feeling the weight of the discernment process. Ultimately it is the Church who calls a man to Holy Orders, a fact which allows him to approach his ordination with confidence, knowing that he did not simply imagine his call but that it has been confirmed by his bishop and those charged with his formation.

[Article taken with permission from www.perthpriest.org]



Prayer to Saint Joseph for Discernment

O Great Saint Joseph, you were completely obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Obtain for me the grace to know the state of life that God in His providence has chosen for me. Since my happiness on earth, and perhaps even my final happiness in heaven, depends on this choice, let me not be deceived in making it. Obtain for me the light to know God's Will, to carry it out faithfully, and to choose the vocation which will lead me to a happy eternity.



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