



SSPX



Ad Orientem

Seminary Newsletter
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Brick by Brick

“Work as if everything depended on us, and pray as if everything depends on God.” ~ St. Teresa of Avila

As the first few shovelfuls of red clay were removed from the Virginian earth in October 2012, an enormous project was begun amidst much apprehension. At that time the construction of our new seminary seemed to be little more than a dream, as questions about the future multiplied: How could such a small society raise the funds for, and carry to completion, a project so extensive? Yet, trusting in God’s Providence and following its signs, we put our hand to the plough vigorously. Challenges abounded and doors closed in our path. But God, the Master of the impossible, opened other doors when we found ourselves in a difficult situation, presenting to us, in his own time, a solution. Not infrequently, this opened door took the form of your great sacrifices and continued generous efforts, allowing our little society to progress phase by phase: from

ground breaking ceremony over three years ago, to the proximate completion of so difficult and momentous an endeavor.

Your sacrifices and generosity have not gone unrewarded. While the beautiful exterior brick walls and slate roof are noticeable improvements and great strides, they remain small components of the final phase of construction. Work on the interior of the seminary has been going on in earnest; currently we are hanging up sheetrock, plastering the interior walls, building furniture, installing window sills, making trim, preparing for the tile, and finishing the installation of the HVAC system, to name a few improvements under way.

We have the great blessing and fortune to be able to employ a number of our own faithful in the construction of the seminary, who take serious pride in their work and help

reduce costs in this last and very critical phase. Thanks to their efforts and yours, we have been able to stay within our budget and continue construction, but the struggle is not yet over; we are still in great need of your generosity so that, this coming fall, our long hoped-for occupancy may become a reality. During his month of March, let us entrust to St. Joseph our appeal.



(Above) A close up view of the rock-face brick with its beautiful corner detail.



(Above) Scaffolding is rising up as the facade of the academic cloister nears completion.



(Above) Bishop Fellay recently visited the site to examine the progress for himself.



(Above) Slate and brick now cover large portions of the building's west face and roof.



(Above) The woodshop, where our doors, handrails, and furniture will be built, is steadily nearing completion.



(Above) Workers examine a soffit model which will beautifully conceal ducting in the chapel.

D.C. March for Life

On January 20 four seminarians left Winona at five o'clock in the morning and drove nineteen hours to attend this year's March For Life in Washington, D.C. Their purpose was three-fold. They went to support the anti-abortion effort; to sell tickets for the Seminary's current fundraiser, the Cadillac Giveaway; and to spread knowledge of the Seminary and the Society of St. Pius X.

The seminarians told the people they met that Americans will not recognize the right to life until they are changed deeply. The March For Life alone is not enough to bring about such a change. America needs prayer and mortification, good example, reliance on God. It is for this that St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary is training young men. That is why it is worthwhile to support the Seminary.

The venture seemed successful. "People were very generous," commented one of the seminarians when asked about the trip. The 300 SSPX parishioners who attended the event were especially praiseworthy; many of them helped the seminarians to sell tickets and drum up support for the Seminary.

One kink in the plans came from the twenty-nine inches of snow that began to fall on January 22 and continued non-stop for days, turning the four-day trip into a six-day trip. Some SSPX parishioners who live near Washington, D.C. gave the seminarians shelter from the storm for almost three days.

There are hopes that the Seminary will continue to send representatives to future Marches For Life. This will be a lot easier after the Seminary has moved to Virginia.



(Above) A seminarian and a few priests carry a statue of Our Lady of Fatima through the streets of Washington, D.C.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

SEMINARY

The Society of St. Pius X is an international priestly society of common life without vows, whose purpose is the priesthood and all that pertains to it.

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary is an international seminary of the Society currently located in Minnesota. *Ad Orientem* chronicles life at the seminary and the construction of the new St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Virginia. To find out more about the project or to contribute, visit newseminaryproject.org.

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