



## Dear Faithful,

Assumption 2025

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the European Seminary of the Fraternity of St Peter located in the Bavarian village of Wigratzbad, Germany. It is located close to Lake Constance, and is a short drive from Switzerland and Austria. The seminary is situated in the picturesque Bavarian countryside with its rolling hills, rivers, forests, villages, Catholic churches and wayside shrines dotted all around. One can even see the mountains of Switzerland from the seminary property.

I was visiting the seminary to attend a meeting of FSSP superiors, and while I was there I spent some time talking to a number of the seminarians and attended the priestly ordination of five candidates: three French and two Portuguese. Since we generally send seminarians from Oceania to Our Lady of Guadalupe seminary in Nebraska, USA, we rarely have the opportunity to meet the European priests and seminarians. It was, therefore, a pleasure to meet many of them at the joyful occasion of the priestly ordinations.

The Wigratzbad seminary is currently over capacity with 112 seminarians coming from all over Europe and beyond, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, England, Croatia, Czech Republic, Austria, Sweden, The Netherlands, Mexico, Venezuela, Hungary, and even Pakistan. It is quite a multicultural community! The seminary has a German- and a French-speaking section with each language group having separate classes but community prayers are always together in Latin. A number of these men come from countries where there is little or no Latin Mass presence, let alone any FSSP priests. The success of the seminary speaks of our Lord's goodness to us, and of the continued growth and flourishing of the traditional Latin Mass around the world, including the FSSP, despite the challenges.

At the kind invitation of Archbishop Coleridge of Brisbane, the FSSP recently assumed the chaplaincy of the St Gregory's Latin Mass Community. Please remember this new mission in your prayers. Let us pray for the continued growth of our communities and also that young men may respond to the call to follow Our Lord. Our Lady, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us! May God bless you on this great feastday,

Fr. Michael McCaffrey FSSP  
Superior, District of Oceania

## Canal of Hope: FSSP Rome Pilgrimage 2025

2025 is designated as the Jubilee Year of Hope. The biggest lesson that our 28 pilgrims learned on their May 2025 pilgrimage to Rome was simply this: Hope in God! We were blessed to spend 11 days in Rome, making, as well, some day trips to Cascia, Assisi, and Loreto. We visited the majestic papal basilicas, the venerable churches of Roman martyrs, the peaceful catacombs conducive to contemplation, and the bodies of popular saints. We were privileged to see the holy house in which



the Holy Family dwelt, and, thanks to a special gift of Divine Providence, were able to be present in Rome during the electrifying process of the papal election. *Deo gratias!*

However, the greatest gift we received was, more than any of these things, or even all of them combined: we received the gift of a great hope in God. We came to realize that the Jubilee Year of

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Hope is not just a name tacked onto a year; it is an objective reality. Just as man digs canals so that he can increase the flow of water into whichever he chooses, so God directs His grace to make certain virtues more easily attainable. This is what He is doing in the 2025 Jubilee of Hope: He opens the floodgates of the virtue of hope, giving it in a new abundance to the whole world! Whether fervent or tepid, we need more hope.

Our pilgrimage to Rome was like a model of the pilgrimage of human life. We found ourselves in a foreign land, placed together with many pilgrims we didn't know beforehand. We had to walk forward and push ourselves both spiritually, socially, and physically. We had difficult times and we had blessed times. Day after day we found ourselves being surprised by new wonders of God, who gave us more and more so that we could say in the end: "God, you are too good!"



Let us focus on this last quality of pilgrimages and life: blessings. Because of the effects of original sin, we tend to be pessimistic. We see the glass as half empty. We can easily name the difficulties in our lives, but we overlook the blessings. Our Rome pilgrimage taught us to fight against this defect of fallen human nature. God our Father has done so

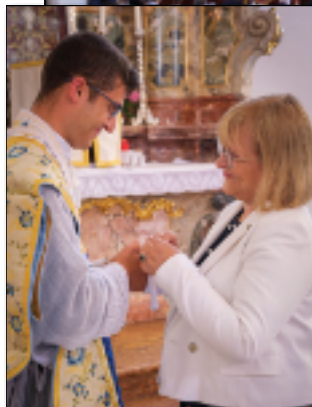
many good things for you and me, and He wants to do many more. We must believe this. Is this not why those childlike souls who approached our Lord in the Gospels obtained healing and deliverance? Consider only one example, that of the woman with the issue of blood: *"If I shall touch only his garment, I shall be healed. But Jesus turning and seeing her, said: Be of good heart, daughter; thy faith hath made thee whole"* (Matt 9:21-22). She obtained because she hoped.

Many people do not have the capability to go on a pilgrimage to Rome despite their wishes to do so. But the Church, knowing this, has graciously let dioceses set up their own holy doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope. This is a sure and objective way to receive the graces from the channel of hope open to us this year. Just as a pilgrimage to Rome is a model of the pilgrimage of life, so is a pilgrimage to a diocesan holy door a model of a pilgrimage to Rome. Let us take advantage of this opportunity. May we gratefully realize ever more: "God is too good!"

Fr Richard Wallace FSSP

## Priestly Ordinations

Ten candidates were recently ordained to the priesthood for the FSSP at two FSSP seminaries: five from the English-speaking seminary in Nebraska, and five from the European seminary in Germany. We wish the newly ordained priests all the best and God's blessings as they commence their priestly service. Here are photos from Germany:



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# Ezechiel House: Forming the good shepherds of tomorrow

The Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP), founded July 1988, pursues the goal of sanctification through faithful observance of the liturgical and spiritual traditions of the Roman Rite using the 1962 liturgical books. Since October 1988 we have been blessed with the canonical status of being a “clerical society of apostolic life of pontifical right”.

On June 8th 2004, His Eminence George Cardinal Pell canonically erected Ezechiel House as a house of formation for the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter in Sydney.

We strive at Ezechiel House to realise the object of the FSSP, which is “...the sanctification of priests through the exercise of the priesthood, and in particular, to turn the life of the priest towards that which is his *raison d’être*, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, with all that it signifies, all that flows from it, all that goes with it” (Constitutions, c. 8).

The year-long novitiate at Ezechiel House enables men to be formed in the spirit of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter before further testing their vocations at one of the international major seminaries. During that year—known as the Year of Spirituality—candidates are introduced to the study of ascetical theology, Scripture, our Constitutions, Latin, Catholic doctrine and the fundamentals of philosophy. Human formation is also an important part of the training. Ascetical theology is combined with a schedule of prayer and study to inculcate that deep spiritual life which is so important to the priesthood today. In the early 20th Century, God inspired Venerable Mother Louise Claret de La Touche to remind us that God is infinite love and wishes His priests to pour His mercy and love into the world. However, in order to do so, they must be filled with a divine charity and be led into the secret recesses of His Heart through contemplation where Our Lord reserves graces for them. Formators are charged by the Church to form men in a spirit of prayer and compassion, so that the priests of the future may be true fathers to the ecclesial communities that come under their pastoral care. This is certainly a challenge as the modern world challenges these ideals. And yet there are men out there who still hear the Master’s call.

In recent times, the priesthood is being disprized, misunderstood, and re-defined in some places. However, it is a participation in the priesthood of Christ and therefore cannot be re-defined in worldly terms.

We could not have supported so many men in formation without the generosity of our benefactors, past and present. The formation of priests is both labour-intensive and expensive, for the average seminarian can expect a further six years of formation after completing his Year of Spirituality at Ezechiel House. In a certain sense, the local

house of formation is a votive offering of thanksgiving to God for His blessings bestowed upon our apostolates.

Let us continue praying for vocations both to the priesthood and the religious life. We are reminded by St John Mary Vianney that “*without the priesthood, there can be no Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*” and that “*the priesthood is the Love of Jesus Christ*”. Let us heed Our Lord’s request, “*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into His harvest.*” (Matthew 9:38).

If you are interested in discerning a vocation to the priesthood with us, please contact us: [fssp.net](http://fssp.net)

Donations to support seminarians can be made to the following bank account:

Ezechiel House  
BSB 062784  
Acc# 100006750

FSSP priests and seminarians pray daily for benefactors, both living and deceased, in their Masses, Divine Office and devotions, and the Holy Mass on the first Friday of the month is always offered for this intention.

Thank you also for your prayers and sacrifices. May God reward you.

Fr Duncan Wong, FSSP



## Women’s Retreat

**7 – 11 November**

Journey with St Bernard to  
Union with God.

Location: Hartzler Park, NSW  
Contact: Fr Adrian Wee FSSP,  
[theoudoulos@gmail.com](mailto:theoudoulos@gmail.com)

## Christus Rex Pilgrimage

**23 – 26 October**

Ballarat to Bendigo (90km over 3 days)  
Daily Mass (1962 Missal),  
Children’s Chapter, meals and  
accommodation provided  
For more information see:  
[www.crex.org](http://www.crex.org)





## Priestly Ordinations

These photos are from the recent FSSP ordinations in the United States. Our Oceania seminarians are all currently studying in the Fraternity's US seminary in Nebraska. Please keep them and their classmates in your prayers.



For more information about the Fraternity of St Peter please visit our website [fssp.net](http://fssp.net) or contact us via email at [enquiries@fssp.net](mailto:enquiries@fssp.net) or phone (02) 96884287