

Adorno Fathers' Missions

FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Laborers for the Vineyard

*"Pray to the master of the harvest to
send out laborers into his vineyard"*
Matthew 9:38



Dear Friends,

The Catholic World Report magazine has published two well-documented articles in July and August of this year informing its readers that the Church worldwide is enjoying growth in the number of seminarians since 1978. The data, taken mostly from the official Vatican newspaper, *The Osservatore Romano*, and the Vatican's statistical yearbook, show how the number of diocesan and religious major seminarians has increased in the last 30 years from 63,882 to 114,439 – an increase of 79.1 percent! Most of the growth in the number of candidates for the priesthood took place in Africa and in Asia.

Interestingly, this has also been true for the Adorno Fathers, who in the 80's and 90's were able to open seminaries in Africa, India and the Philippines. While priests in the United States and Europe were experiencing "graying" in their ranks, new energies were throbbing elsewhere. These forces are now being readied for the work of the Church. At present the Adorno Fathers have about 150 college candidates in training and about 25 others already professed, that is, they have committed themselves to our religious family with vows, and are studying theology in Rome, Nairobi, Bangalore and here in Ramsey as they complete the last leg of their formation.

While this turn of events was totally unimaginable in the 70's and must be credited to the goodness of God, who always provides for his Church, it does pose challenges every day for the ongoing work of recruiting and discernment, human and spiritual formation, financial support and placement – not to speak of the cultural meshing which must take place, if we are to work as a team.

This is truly a Catholic moment in the life of the Church and in the Order of the Clerics Regular Minor. In centuries past, the "West" brought our Faith to millions in faraway countries, today these countries are ready to re-pay by offering fresh forces to labor in the Vineyard of the Lord. Somehow, I cannot help but see the hand of God in this.

Father Nicholas Capetola, CRM
Rector

St. Michael the Archangel and the Adornos

September 29th is an important day for the Adorno Fathers. As we celebrate the feast of St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael, the Archangels, we also recall the death of our Founder, Ven. Augustine Adorno, who died on September 29, 1591, the feast day of St. Michael to whom he was devoted in life.

St. Michael is mentioned in several places of the Old Testament, especially in the Book of Daniel where he is described as the protector of the friends of God (Dan. 10:13), and he who watches over the people (Dan. 12:1). The name itself in Hebrew means, "Who is like God?". The Book of Revelation presents him as the guardian and champion of Israel (the Church): "Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it" (Rev. 12:7-9). St. Michael has always been regarded as the defender of the Church.



Our Father Adorno, born in Genoa in the year 1551, is one of the Founders of the Clerics Regular Minor together with Fabrizio Caracciolo and St. Francis Caracciolo. As a young man he studied diplomacy and spent some time in the Court of Philip II, King of Spain. Later, however, he became convinced that God was calling him to the religious life and the founding of a new congregation in the Church. He returned to Genoa and then went to Naples, where he met the other two founders. He obtained the approval of the Order from Pope Sixtus V in 1588. But he died soon after. Nonetheless, he is rightly called the *First Father of the Order*, because, chronologically, he is the first to receive the call to establish a new Order and the first member of it to go to heaven in virtue of his holy and inspiring life.

Tradition has it that Father Adorno had great devotion to St. Michael, the Archangel. The fact that he died on the feast of St. Michael did not go unnoticed by the Order. Soon they prescribed in the Constitutions that St. Michael be venerated as the principal Patron of the Order: prayers were to be recited regularly in all the Houses of Formation; and churches were named after St. Michael, including our St. Michael Seminary here in Ramsey.



This background explains also why the Adorno Fathers promote the purgatorial society of the Saint Michael Pious Union. We commit ourselves to offer a Mass every day for the souls of purgatory, especially those souls enrolled in the S. M. P. U., with the hope that under the leadership of St. Michael they will attain the glory and peace of God's kingdom.

In past issues of this Newsletter, we have reported that during the Jubilee Year in honor of St. Francis Caracciolo, the Adomo Fathers would build a chapel within the compound of our seminary in Vinzons, Philippines.



The 200 seat chapel would satisfy the needs of our seminarians and provide ample worship space for their families when they visit. Construction began last February and is well underway right now. It is anticipated that the chapel will officially open around Christmas or early spring 2009.

Again through this Newsletter, we invite our friends to join our efforts toward the completion of this project. Donations can be sent here in Ramsey, but, please, indicate clearly that they are “for the chapel in the Philippines”.



The above three pictures illustrate the progress in the construction of the chapel. The top picture shows the chapel's front facade, the middle the chapel's back and the bottom the chapel's side.

Our Chapel in Vinzons

Introducing Our New Seminarists: The Twins



Our community is blessed with two new members, Brothers Arnel (right) and Arman (left) H. Hagos, from the Philippines. They are not only religious brothers, but biological twin brothers as well. They are the sons of Estilito and Rosario Hagos and hail from Gabao, Irosin, Sorsogon. They were born on October 1, 1982. After six years of religious formation at the Adorno Fathers' Seminary in Vinzons, they professed their simple vows on June 4, 2008, the feast of St. Francis Caracciolo. On August 13, 2008 they arrived in the United States to begin their theological studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall. At first the change seemed difficult for them as they had to adjust to a new culture in a new country, but by God's grace they continue on in their vocation. We ask you, our readers, to please keep Brothers Arnel and Arman in your prayers as they fulfill their goal of becoming good priests of Jesus Christ.

Notices and Reminders

1- We have a new driveway and parking lot at St. Michael Seminary, thanks to the generous donation of a friend. For those who had to put up with the painstaking work and the inconveniences, the improved outcome has made them all worthwhile.



2- Our priests in Vinzons, Philippines are still in need of Mass intentions. If you like to have a Mass for a relative or friend on a special day or within a reasonable time, our priests can accommodate your wishes. Send intention and stipend to us and we will forward them as soon as possible.

3- This year we have lost two of our close friends, Bart Testa and Iggy Stravato. Through this Newsletter we express again the love and prayers of all the Friends of the Adornos to their families. May Bart and Iggy rest in peace!

4- For the benefit of St. Michael's seminary, another pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama is being planned for Nov. 8-14 2008 by Ramon & Gloria Ramos of Lodi and Gerry & Naning of the St. John's Prayer Group (Cid) of Leonia. The pilgrimage will also stop at the Eternal Word TV Network (EWTN), Belmont, N. Carolina, and at the Cathedral of Baltimore. Bus and accommodations \$500 4 occupancy, \$600 2 occupancy. For further information and details call Gloria at (973) 473-7366 or Cid (201) 568-2967.



5- Our 38th Annual Country Fair will be held on our grounds on October 12th from 10 am to 6 pm. In connection with it, we are also running a 50/50 raffle which is enclosed with its letter in this mailing. We are counting on you to give us a hand in manning the stands at the Fair and to sell these raffle tickets. Mark October 12th on your calendar, come to the Fair, bring your children and do some advertising for us among your friends. Our Fairs have always provided plenty of fun and interest for all.