



S S P X



The Angelus


"Instaurare omnia in Christo"

50 Years of the Society of
Saint Pius X—United States
& Canada

SSPX Timeline

Mixing Joys with Sorrows

The SSPX Canadian District:
"From Sea to Sea"



"I have been able to confirm with great satisfaction the extraordinary development of the groups of faithful Catholics both at the chapels of our priest-friends and in the Society. St. Mary's College, the school of St. Louis, Missouri, the beautiful chapel and rectory of Phoenix, and, at the last moment, the acquisition of a big church in Kansas City are reasons to hope for the continuation of the Church in the United States."—Archbishop Lefebvre (circa 1980)

SSPX Timeline

From the Regina Coeli Report (July - August, 2014)

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| 1970 | Bishop Charrière approves the statutes, canonically establishing the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X. | | |
| | Gregory Post of California becomes the first American to be accepted for seminary training in the newly founded SSPX. | 1973 | SSPX establishes the U.S. seminary in Armada, MI, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel chapel, later St. Benedict's, in Louisville, KY, is founded. |
| 1971 | Archbishop Lefebvre visits the U.S. twice to gain seminarians and discuss setting up SSPX houses in the dioceses of Covington, KY, and Pittsburgh, PA. He accepts Fr. Bonfil Battazzo's request to put the faithful of his Detroit, MI, area parish under the Society's care. | 1974 | The first U.S. District Headquarters is established under the leadership of Fr. Clarence Kelly in Oyster Bay, NY. Fr. Gregory Post establishes Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel in Campbell, CA, which later became St. Aloysius Gonzaga Retreat Center in Los Gatos, CA. |
| 1972 | Newly ordained Fr. Clarence Kelly arrives in Long Island to start a chapel in a converted garage that would later (1983) become St. Michael's Chapel, Farmingville, NY. Our Lady | 1975 | Our Lady of Fatima Chapel begins in various locations near Dallas, TX. Queen of All Saints |



Mission in Springfield, MO, joins the Society. Fr. Hector Bolduc begins celebrating Mass for the newly formed St. Michael the Archangel Chapel in Kansas City, MO. St. Michael's Church in Carmichael, CA, near Sacramento, is founded.

- 1976 First Mass is celebrated at Queen of Angels Church, Dickinson, TX, by Fr. Hector Bolduc. St. John Bosco Mission in San Diego and St. John Fisher Church in Tulsa also celebrated first Masses.

- 1977 Queen of Angels Church is dedicated by Archbishop Lefebvre. Corpus Christi Chapel, Edmonds, WA, is founded. St. Pius X Chapel, Cincinnati, OH, which would later become Our Lady of the Assumption in Walton, KY, is founded.

Queen of Angels Academy in Dickinson, TX, opens its doors.

- 1978 Angelus Press is founded at Queen of Angels Church by Fr. Carl Pulvermacher, O.F.M. Cap., and the first issue of *The Angelus* is published.

Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Phoenix, AZ, opens in a converted Lutheran church. Mission Stella Maris located in the former military chapel for Fort McArthur, CA, opens. St. Pius X Chapel, later St. Anne's (1983), purchases a church building in Redford, MI. Fr. Hugh Wish celebrates the first Mass at St. Pius V Shrine, Mukwonago, WI, in the old St. James Church. First Masses are celebrated at Assumption Chapel in St. Mary's, KS; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in St. Paul, MN; St. Michael's Chapel in Roswell, GA, and St. Thomas Chapel in Carson City, NV.

The U.S. District is divided into two sections: Southwest and Northeast.

- 1979 St. Mary's Academy and College, St. Mary's, KS, opens its doors. The U.S. seminary moves to Ridgefield, CT, and is named St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary.

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Sanger, TX, finds a permanent location. Fr. Hector Bolduc purchases Jesus and Mary Priory in El Paso, TX, and Queen of the Holy Rosary Academy in St. Louis, MO. Immaculate Conception Church in Post Falls, ID; Mary Immaculate Church in Wichita, KS; Our Lady of Grace Church near New Orleans, LA; St. Cecilia's Church in Memphis, TN, and St. Mary Magdalene Chapel in Mexico, MO, are founded.

- 1980 First Masses are celebrated at Holy Redeemer Church near Raleigh, NC; Immaculate



Priestly ordinations in 1985 at Ridgefield, CT.

Conception Mission in Virginia Beach, VA; Infant of Prague Mission in Bay City, MI; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Mission in Corpus Christi, TX; Our Lady of Victory Church in Davie, FL; St. Lawrence Chapel near Hartford, CT; and Sts. Peter and Paul Mission in Rapid City, SD.

- 1981 Archbishop Lefebvre solemnly blesses St. Vincent de Paul Church, Kansas City, MO, which was purchased the year before. While touring the church, Archbishop Lefebvre proclaimed: "*C'est magnifique, c'est une cathédrale!*"

The first Sisters of the Society of St. Pius X arrive in St. Mary's, KS.

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, Albuquerque, NM, joins the Society. The North American Martyrs Chapel in Hudson Falls, NY; Our Lady of Fatima Church in Portland, OR; and Our Lady of the Snows Chapel near Sioux Falls, SD, are founded.

- 1982 St. Joseph and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Colton, CA; Annunciation Chapel of Fort Collins, CO; Old St. Mary's Church in Goldsboro, NC; and Our Lady Immaculate Church near Chicago; Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel near Boise, ID; St. Anthony of Padua Church near Charlotte, NC; St. Isidore Church near Denver, CO; and St. Michael the Archangel Church in Spring, TX, are founded.

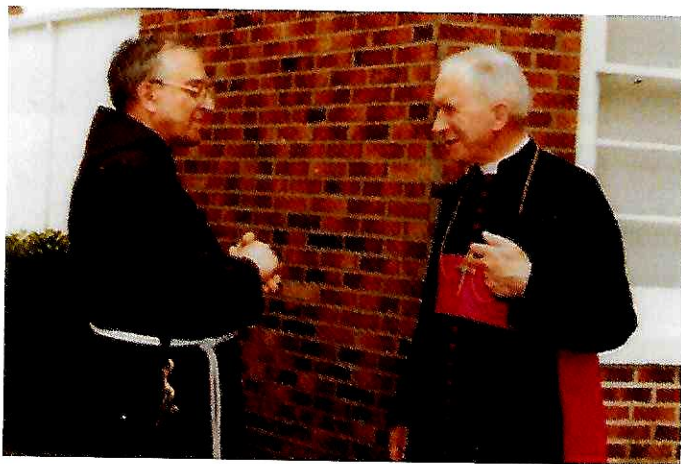
Immaculate Conception Church in Post Falls, ID, joins the Society following the retirement of Fr. Edouard DeBusschere.

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Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

1983 Corpus Christi Chapel, Edmonds, WA, purchases a church and priory from Church of the Open Bible. Archbishop Lefebvre dedicates Old St. Mary's, Goldsboro, NC. Queen of the Miraculous Medal Chapel near Little Rock, AR; St. Michael the Archangel Church in Farmingville, NY; St. Thomas Becket Church in Veneta, OR, and Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Albuquerque, NM, join the Society.

The Southwest U.S. District Office moves to Queen of Angels Church, Dickinson, TX. Fr. Richard Williamson is temporarily Northeast District Superior when "The Nine"



Fr. Carl Pulvermacher speaking with Archbishop Lefebvre

are dismissed from the Society and then temporary District Superior of the unified U.S. District with offices in Dickinson.

1984 Fr. François Laisney is named District Superior and moves the U.S. District office to Queen of the Holy Rosary, in Webster Grove, MO.

Our Lady of the Bitterroot Chapel in Victor, MT; St. Athanasius Church near Binghamton, NY; and St. Therese Chapel near Madison, WI, are founded. St. John Fisher Church in Fort Wayne, IN, joins the Society.

1985 Archbishop Lefebvre visits Armada, MI, and administers the sacrament of confirmation in St. Louis at what later became Our Lady's Assumption parish.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Church in Syracuse, NY, which later became Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Warners, NY, and Corpus Christi Chapel near Nashville, TN, are founded.

1986 The "Catholicism in Crisis" radio program begins its every Sunday afternoon broadcast in Honolulu, HI. St. Therese, Patron of Alaska Mission begins with 20 families in

Anchorage, AK. Archbishop Lefebvre visits St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Ridgefield, CT.

1987 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, South Bend, IN, starts in a rented motel room. Fr. Carl Pulvermacher, O.F.M. Cap., blesses Our Lady of Fatima Church in Portland, OR.

Jesus and Mary Academy in El Paso, TX, opens its doors.

1988 St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary moves to the newly acquired property in Winona, MN.

Child Jesus Chapel in Pittston, PA; Immaculate Conception Chapel in Kalispell, MT; Our Lady Queen of Angels Chapel in Ft. Myers, FL; and St. Michael's Mission in Erie, PA, are founded.

St. Ignatius Retreat House opens in Ridgefield, CT.

1989 Bishop Williamson blesses Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sanger, TX. First Masses are said at Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel in Crookston, MN, and St. Therese's Church in North Lawrence, NY.

Frs. Paul Kimball, Timothy Pfeiffer, Paul Tague and John Young are the first priests to be ordained in Winona, MN.

1990 Fr. Peter Scott becomes U.S. District Superior. Construction of Our Lady of Sorrows Retreat House and Chapel begins in Phoenix, AZ. St. Joseph's Academy, Richmond, MI, and St. Anne's School in Livonia, MI, open.

Two new chapels in North Dakota join the Society: Guardian Angels Mission and St. Michael's Church.

1991 St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Cloud, MN; St. John Vianney Chapel in Long Prairie, MN; and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Retreat Center, Los Gatos, CA; Our Lady of Fatima Church near Pittsburgh, PA; Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Honolulu, HI; St. Joseph Mission in St. Maries, ID; St. Peregrine Church near Cleveland, OH; and St. Peter Chanel Mission in Hilo (The Big Island), HI, are founded. Our Lady Queen of Angels, Fort Myers, FL, joins the Society.

First pilgrimage to the North American Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, NY, is organized.

St. Vincent de Paul Academy, in Kansas City, MO, opens. Immaculate Conception Academy in Post Falls, ID, is founded. Holy Family Academy begins in Belle Plaine, MN.

U.S. District Office moves to Kansas City, MO. The Brothers' Novitiate begins in El Paso, TX. >



The first U.S. seminary in Armada, MI.

The ordination of Fr. Gregory Post in 1972 at Our Lady of the Prairies Shrine in Powers Lake, ND.

Archbishop Lefebvre on a visit to St. Marys, KS.

St. Ignatius Retreat House in Ridgefield, CT.

Archbishop Lefebvre celebrates Mass in Phoenix in 1983.

Profession ceremony of the Sisters of the Society of St. Pius X.

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, MN.



Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

- 1992 Angelus Press moves to Kansas City, MO. The first *Regina Coeli Report* is published by the District Office.
- St. Thomas More Chapel starts with the first Mass being celebrated by Fr. Paul Kimball at the Radisson Airport Hotel, Orlando, FL. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel in Clayton, TX; Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Chapel in Lake Worth, FL; and St. Margaret Mary Church near Grand Rapids, MI, are founded.
- St. Therese Academy in Nicholville, NY, opens its doors in a new school building.
- 1993 In Kansas City, MO, Superior General Fr. Franz Schmidberger blesses Regina Coeli House; enthrones the Sacred Heart, and consecrates the U.S. District to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Holy Family Chapel in Belle Plaine, MN; Mission Santa Maria near Prescott, AZ; and St. Francis of Assisi Mission in Austin, TX, celebrate first Masses.
- St. Robert Bellarmine Academy in St. Cloud, MN, is founded. St. Pius X Academy in Cincinnati, OH, opens its doors. It will later become Assumption Academy in Walton, KY.
- 1994 Bishop Fellay is elected Superior General and blesses St. John Fisher Church in Fort Wayne, IN. Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Girard, OH, near Youngstown is founded.
- 1995 Our Lady of Sorrows Retreat House and Chapel are completed in time for the first Ignatian retreat hosted in November.
- Our Lady Help of Christians Academy is founded in Watkins, CO. St. John Vianney Academy in Long Prairie, MN, starts in the fall and Our Lady Immaculate Academy opens its doors in Oak Park, IL.
- The Archconfraternity of St. Stephen is introduced for the proper formation of altar servers.
- 1996 St. Joseph Academy, a boarding school for boys, opens in Armada, MI. St. Padre Pio Academy opens in Ridgefield, CT.
- Maria Stella Maris Mission in San Pedro, CA, and Our Lady of the Angels Church near Los Angeles join the Society.
- 1997 St. Louis, MO, parish purchases St. Mary's Assumption, a formerly Catholic Ruthenian Rite church in downtown St. Louis.
- Our Lady of the Angels Academy in Arcadia, CA, opens its doors. Immaculate Heart of Mary in Oak Grove, MN, begins its first school year, and St. Michael's School in Carmichael, CA, is founded.
- 1998 First pilgrimage along the Santa Fe Trail to the Padilla Cross just outside of Lyons, KS, is held.
- 1999 St. Pius V Church, Mukwonago, WI, joins the Society. The first Starkenburg pilgrimage is organized by Fr. Kenneth Dean, then pastor of St. Vincent de Paul in Kansas City, MO.
- 2000 Immaculate Conception Church, Post Falls, ID, sponsors the first pilgrimage to the Cataldo Indian Mission of the Sacred Heart. Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Academy is founded in Syracuse, NY. BVM later became Mater Dei Academy in Warners, NY.
- St. Margaret Mary Chapel, Grand Rapids, MI, moves into new chapel building. The priory for Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Syracuse, NY, is completed. A first Mass is celebrated in the new St. Thomas Chapel, Hartford, CT. Blessing of St. Thomas Becket Church, Veneta, OR, by Bishop Williamson. A new chapel for Sacred Heart Novitiate, Browerville, MN, is blessed. St. Christopher's Mission in New York City is founded.
- 2001 St. Isidore's near Denver, CO, constructs a new church. St. Michael's in Roswell, GA; Holy Redeemer Church, Wake Forest, NC; St. Anthony's Church in Mt. Holly, NC, are blessed.
- St. Thomas Becket, Veneta, OR, becomes a priory. St. Botolph's Mission in Boston, MA, and St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Mission in Salem, MA, start. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, Louisville, KY, joins the Society.
- Angelus Press moves to a newly constructed office/warehouse on property adjoining the District Office in Kansas City, MO.
- 2002 Fr. John Fullerton becomes District Superior.
- St. Theresa in Klamath Falls, OR, opens.
- St. Peregrine's constructs a new school in Richfield, OH.
- St. Mary's College in St. Marys, KS, begins a traditional Catholic radio station: KSMK-LP at 98.3 FM.
- St. Isidore's, Watkins, CO, sponsors the first pilgrimage to the Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO.



Old Regina Coeli House, Kansas City, MO [1991- 2007].

Notre Dame de La Salette Boys Academy.

Jesus and Mary Church and Priory, El Paso, TX.

St. Isidore's in Watkins, CO.

Lyons Pilgrimage, KS.

Bishop Bernard Fellay.

Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

2003 St. Theresa Mission, Klamath Falls, OR, moves to a new church. Our Lady of Victory Church, Las Vegas, NV, completes its rectory. St. Thomas More, Sanford, FL, breaks ground for a new church.

2004 Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel, Louisville, KY, purchases a new building which is blessed by Fr. Brendan Dardis as St. Benedict's Church. First summer boys camp in Georgia held with 36 boys in attendance and led by Frs. Christopher Danel and Kenneth Novak.

Our Lady of Sorrows Academy in Phoenix, AZ, opens its doors.

2005 St. Joseph's Boys Academy of Richmond, MI, moves to Notre Dame de La Salette Boy's - Academy, in Olivet, IL. St. Benedict's Academy in Louisville, KY, is founded.

The Brothers' Novitiate moves from El Paso, TX, to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, MN.

has a new church and parish complex blessed.

A second Rosary Crusade is requested for the withdrawal of the excommunications of 1988.

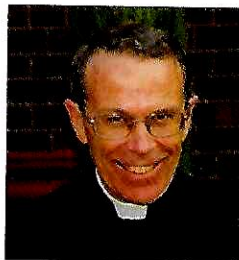
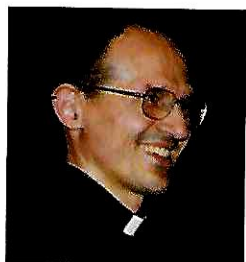
2009 New priories are opened at St. Isidore Church, Watkins, CO; Our Lady of the Assumption, Walton, KY, and St. Thomas More Church in Sanford, FL.

Catholic Cadets of America is founded by Fr. Jean de l'Estourbeillon, Immaculate Conception Church, Post Falls, ID.

A third Rosary Crusade is announced for the intention of the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. More than 19 million rosaries are offered in the U.S. District.

2010 First annual Angelus Press Conference is held, celebrating 40 years of the Society.

St. Thomas Beckett Academy in Veneta, OR, is founded.



2006 A Priests' Training Program is inaugurated for priests who want to learn how to properly offer the Tridentine Mass and complete a traditional formation. First Mass is celebrated in the newly constructed Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Albuquerque, NM.

2.5 million rosaries are said in the U.S. for the grace to free the traditional Roman Mass, to promote the Social Reign of Christ the King and for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Bishop Fellay blesses the newly built Regina Coeli House in Platte City, MO.

2007 St. Thomas Beckett Church in Veneta, OR, adds a cemetery and enlarges its school.

2008 Fr. Arnaud Rostand becomes U.S. District Superior.

St. Catherine of Siena, Woburn, MA, is formed by the merger of St. Botolph's, Boston, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini's, Salem, MA. Queen of All Saints Church, Springfield, MO,

2011 Our Lady's Assumption Church, Walton, KY, is consecrated by Bishop Fellay. The Shrine of St. Philomena in Miami, FL, and St. John Bosco Chapel in Geneva, NY, join the Society.

2012 A new chapel building is blessed at St. Theresa, Patroness of Alaska Mission, Anchorage, AK.

Christ the King Mission near Lexington, SC; St. Michael's Church in Bethany, OK; St. Therese Church in Chico, CA, and St. Pius X Mission near Washington, D.C., join the Society.

St. Joseph's House constructed at the U.S. District Office to accommodate guests and add conference rooms.

Angelus Press business office moves to St. Marys, KS.

2013 The Society of Saint Pius X is consecrated to St. Joseph, Protector of the Universal Church.

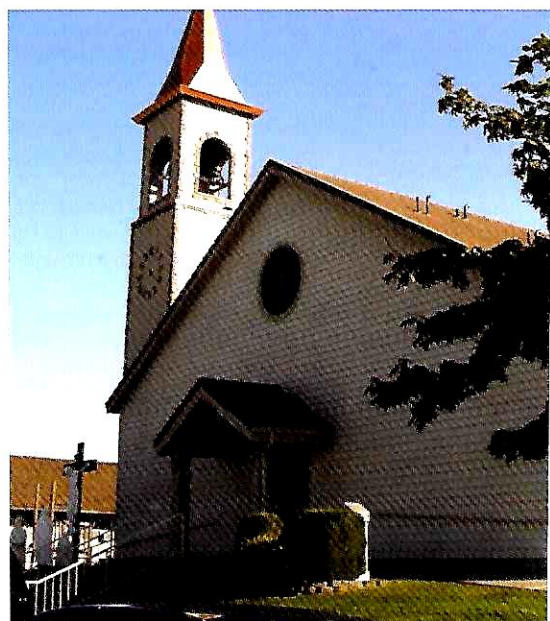
New priories are opened in Chicago, IL, and Nicholville, NY. St. Joseph's Church of

Our Lady of Sorrows
Church in Phoenix, AZ.

Our Lady's Assumption,
St. Louis, MO.

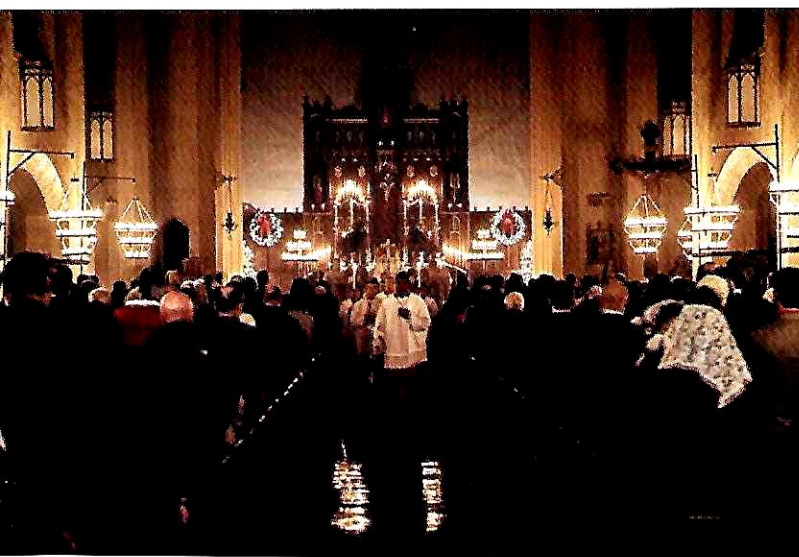
Immaculate Conception
Church, Post Falls, ID.

St. Thomas Aquinas
Seminary, Dillwyn, VA.



Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

- Greenwood, IN, and Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Richmond, VA, become SSPX chapels while St. Anthony Mary Claret Mission begins in Miramar Beach, FL.
- Construction of a new seminary begins in Dillwyn, VA.
- 2014 A new Rosary Crusade is launched to implore special protection for the traditional apostolate, the return of Tradition within the Church and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the consecration of Russia.
- A new church for Our Lady of Sorrows is constructed in Phoenix, AZ.
- St. Philomena Mission in Bremer, IA, is blessed by Fr. Arnaud Rostand.
- Acquisition and renovation of the Bank of Farley as the Child Jesus Office for the U.S. District to house the offices for the lay staff.
- First Eucharistic Congress is hosted at La Salette Boys Academy, Olivet, IL.
- Fr. Jürgen Wegner is assigned District Superior for the U.S.
- 2015 Two Oblate Sisters arrive in the U.S. to aid in the work at San Jose, CA.
- Angelus Press acquires the Immaculata Bookstore in St. Marys, KS
- Blessing of St. James Pittsburgh. Acquisition of a new property for the Armada, MI, church and school. Consecration of the new Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Phoenix, AZ, by Bishop Bernard Fellay.
- Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima begins her journey to visit all of the chapels in the U.S. District (from mid 2015 till Dec. 2017).
- 40th anniversary celebration in Armada conducted by Fr. Pfluger. Acquisition of the new Armada property.
- 2016 Oklahoma City, OK, public Mass in reparation for a black mass.
- Groundbreaking for new school in Albuquerque, NM. Sanford groundbreaking and blessing of construction site for expansion of the priory complex.
- New Rosary Crusade for the 100th anniversary of Fatima, from 8/15/16 to 8/22/2017.
- Blessing of new seminary in Dillwyn, VA.
- Old St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona becomes Holy Angels' Novitiate for SSPX Brothers.
- 2017 Priory of Dickinson, TX, celebrates its 25th anniversary.
- First ordinations ceremony at new seminary in Dillwyn, VA.
- Dominican Sisters open new girls' school in Walton, KY.
- December 8th marked end of Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin's nation-wide journey. Final festivities were held in Walton, KY.
- The U.S. District publishes a free online Ordo.
- SSPX takes over the apostolate in San Jose, CA. SSPX takes over the chapel in Jacksonville, Florida
- Decision to build a new church in St. Mary's, KS: start of the planning for the project
- 2018 SSPX takes over the chapel in Lacombe, LA.
- Rev. Fr. Davide Pagliarani is elected Superior General.
- Convent for Benedictine nuns opens in Silver City, NM.
- 2019 Institution of yearly vocations retreats for men and women.
- Bells for Walton, KY, chapel blessed. Our Lady of Good Success Church, Dickinson, ND, is completed and holds its first Mass. St. Vincent de Paul Academy in Kansas City, MO, purchased a new school building and completes a renovation of the church interior. Building and property acquired for the Falls Church parish in Upper Marlboro, MD.
- 2020 COVID-19 happened: New Rosary Crusade and Continuous Masses for deliverance from the virus.
- Angelus Press warehouse moves from Kansas City to a newly constructed facility in St. Marys, KS.
- Groundbreaking for new Immaculata Church in St. Marys, KS.
- Fr. John Fullerton is named District Superior.
- New Rosary Crusade for the 2020 presidential elections.



Procession with the US District's Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Virgin statue at Mission Santa Maria, Prescott, AZ.

A public Mass is celebrated in reparation for a black mass, Oklahoma City, OK.

Annual Christ the King Procession, St. Marys, KS.

Candlelit Midnight Mass at St. Vincent's, Kansas City, MO

“Beacon on the Plain”:

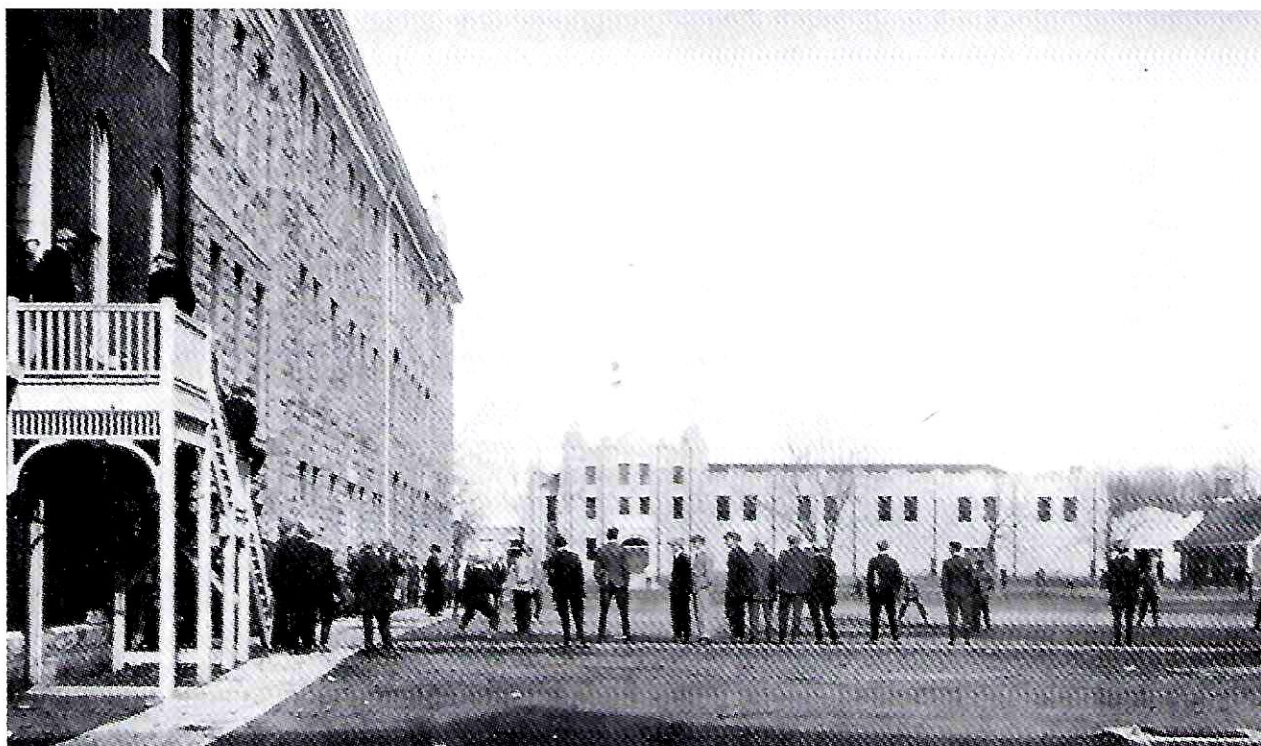
Saint Mary's

By Andrew J. Clarendon

During the summer of 1967, in response to falling numbers of vocations, the Jesuits left Saint Mary's, Kansas, abandoning the site they had established almost 119 years before. In turns, an Indian Mission, a boarding school for boys, and a seminary—the campus, carved out of the prairie year by year until it was a self-sustaining complex, then fell prey to the blistering summers and freezing winters. The buildings that had housed and educated thousands of boys and men and theologians were scarred by vandalism and neglect. In the middle of campus, the old Immaculata Chapel, in which some 1,000 ordinations took place, was empty, the sanctuary lamp extinguished.

The history of the current Saint Mary's is intertwined with the dark days that followed; the post-Conciliar period with the imposition of

the New Mass, a time when the Church seemed to change overnight, and when things sacred to our ancestors were largely rejected. As the young Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) was reaching out to nascent traditional Catholics in the United States, the faithful were already looking for places not only to take refuge but also to lay the foundations for renewal. In January 1978, Fr. Hector Bolduc, SSPX, based in Dickinson, Texas, began coming to Topeka to offer Mass in the home of the David Gayner family. Later, when they showed him the nearby Saint Mary's campus, he predicted that the Society would acquire the property. That May, Archbishop Lefebvre, making the first of eight visits to Saint Mary's, inspected the grounds, and especially admiring the Immaculata Chapel. He urged Fr. Bolduc to continue negotiations for the



property, working and praying to find the means to turn Saint Mary's into a center of traditional Catholicism. For the Archbishop, the chapel was a symbol and a hope, a hope that this work, here in the heartland, would launch a Catholic renaissance.

The Resurrection of Saint Mary's

The resurrection of Saint Mary's is a story that is familiar in many places, especially in the west. While the altars and furnishings of venerable churches were smashed and trashed to update the architecture to a new vision of prayer, other places were sold or left abandoned. For those who inherited these places, it was like the Dark Ages; they experienced how difficult it is to restore that which is easily destroyed. What is more, it is one thing to renovate a physical building; it is far more difficult to restore a parish, a teaching staff with a reliable curriculum, or a seminary that forms holy and learned priests. The battle of restoration in Saint

Mary's has been unceasing since the campus was formally acquired on June 23, 1978, the Vigil of St. John the Baptist. The material aspect reflects the immaterial: to revive and rebuild, to take up what has been cast away, to pass on what has been received.

With only a handful of volunteers, work on the physical campus began during the hot Kansas summer. As with the original mission in the mid-1800s, the primary goal was to establish a chapel and then a school. Only now, instead of building from scratch, there was the immense task of cleaning and repairing the buildings, the oldest of which being over 100 years old. Catholics from other parts of Kansas and Missouri devoted their weekends; some of these early volunteers moved to Saint Mary's permanently and became the earliest parishioners. Other families, confident that Saint Mary's would feature a traditional Catholic school in addition to a chapel, began moving into the town and surrounding areas. On September 8, 1979, the Academy officially opened, offering grades K-10, with grades 11 and 12 added over the next two years. Recalling that the old SMC had covered both the high school >



and college years, the new SMC was opened on August 31, 1981. Catholic families and schools, in the words of Bishop Tissier de Mallerai, “offer to God the raw material for solid religious and priestly vocations,” vocations that Saint Mary’s and the wider District have been blessed with over the years.

With an initial foundation in place, a tragedy familiar from the early years of Saint Mary’s struck: on November 8, 1978, a spark from an electrical short started a fire in the wall of the choir loft of the nearly restored Immaculata. The fire gutted the building, leaving only stone walls that later succumbed to the strong Kansas winds. While Archbishop Lefebvre noted that “the fire was a true catastrophe, a stroke of the devil,” the SSPX Superior General, Fr. Franz Schmidberger, encouraged perseverance, saying, “The physical rebuilding of the Immaculata will be the outward sign of the spiritual rebuilding in our own hearts.” In the meantime, the old seminary refectory was turned into a chapel where, year by year, the sacraments were administered to growing numbers of faithful. Over the past 40 years, Saint Mary’s has grown so large that rebuilding a chapel that seated 500 for a parish of now 4,000 does not make sense. On the Feast of Pentecost,

May 31, 2020, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Immaculata took place. This new church will be the largest in Kansas and the largest SSPX church in the world, a monumental material manifestation of the spirit of traditional Catholicism.

The Experiment of Tradition Continues

In the U.S. District, Saint Mary’s may be the largest sign, but is by no means the only sign, that what Archbishop Lefebvre called “the experiment of tradition,” has yielded fruit. Often accused of a backward isolationism by the world, Saint Mary’s is more a place of ideals than anything else. While there is a certain withdrawal from the corrosive effects of today’s culture (families being drawn to an authentically Catholic community with a vibrant parish and school), Saint Mary’s also requires engagement with the surrounding area: from growing businesses and cultural events to grand parish events during the year (a candle-lit Rosary procession, another large procession for the Feast of Christ the King, all of the Holy Week ceremonies, and other observances through the liturgical year).

Now, well into the second generation of the post-Conciliar era, it has often been observed that traditional Catholicism is a youth movement. Particularly for those who visit Saint Mary’s, one of the more remarkable features is the many children. As far back as 1979, during one of his sermons preached at the campus, Archbishop Lefebvre said, “I congratulate you with all my heart to see that you have so many children. We observe that half of the assembly here is composed of persons less than twenty years old. This is a sign, a sign of your fidelity to the Catholic Church, a sign of your fidelity to the commandments of God. I congratulate you, and I am sure that God’s blessings are upon you.” With over 100 baptisms a year and nearly 900 students enrolled in the Academy, Saint Mary’s continues to grow as a living contradiction to the culture of death.

Now, 50 years after the founding of the Society, which takes as its mission the motto of Pope Saint



Pius X “to restore all things in Christ,” the heroic stand taken by traditional Catholic pioneers like Archbishop Lefebvre continues to bear fruit. As the long lines for Confession attest, Saint Mary’s is far from a utopia; as Eliot sings, we are those “Who are only undefeated / Because we have gone on trying.” We have, even in 2020, by the grace of God, the sacraments, the grace that sustained our ancestors in the Faith. In Saint Mary’s the swish of cassocks is still heard, and sisters in full habit are still seen walking to teach catechism. The old ways that the modernists thought to be finally buried have been preserved and are being passed on. In this way, Saint Mary’s is, as some of the

words from our school hymn proclaim:

the beacon on the plain,...

Ennobled and by truth remade,
Forever hopeful we remain:
Assisted by our Mother’s aid
Celestial joys at last to gain—

Full of gratitude to Our Lord and Our Lady,
Who have not abandoned us, their devoted
servants, we celebrate this anniversary of the
SSPX and pray *ad multos annos*.



Mixing Joys with Sorrows

By Fr. Dominique Bourmaud, SSPX

In response to the turmoil which upset the Catholic landscape after the Vatican II Council, Archbishop Lefebvre officially founded in 1970 the Society of Saint Pius X in Fribourg, Switzerland. As soon as the Society's work was consolidated in France and Europe, he envisioned extending the benefits of tradition to other continents. The first to draw his attention was North America, particularly the United States and Canada. The Archbishop, as a Holy Ghost Father and, later on, as the order's superior, had been familiar with both. Canada had sent many religious brothers and nuns to run hospitals and schools of Senegal. The United States had a prominent presence of Holy Ghost communities which the Superior had to visit regularly. Added to these, Lady Kinnoull from Carmel in California had offered him large funds

“to fight against the subversion in the Church. Her help provided much of the needs for the first years of the Society's foundation.

The First Seminary and Hardships

The first seminary was created in Armada, MI, as early as 1974, with Fr. Anthony Ward as its rector. But soon, he butted heads with the headstrong Frs. Kelly, Sanborn, and Dolan. The Archbishop, grieved by the situation, thought it wise to take the side of the three priests, although he had been warned of their harsh tendency by Fr. Urban Snyder, a great priest and Cistercian monk from Gethsemani, KY, who taught at Écône from 1972 to 1976. The future



would prove Fr. Snyder right, but the situation was delicate at the time. Also, the seminarians who had studied philosophy at Armada continued their theological training at Écône in 1978 with us. By 1979, Fr. Sanborn was put in charge of the American seminary and relocated to Ridgefield, CT, near New York City.

Forty years later, it is difficult for us to visualize the difficulties which these pioneer priests met as they put the hand at the plough. These were the “heroic” years when the few SSPX priests from the District would gather faithful in hotel rooms and, little by little, establish churches for the Mass of all times. In Canada,

Blessed Virgin, who alone is capable of stopping the moral corruption which does not cease to grow in this immense country.”

A Prudent Division

Very much aware of the tensions between the older priests, the Archbishop wisely divided the U.S. District into two: the North East District under Fr. Clarence Kelly, centered in Oyster Bay Cove near New York City, and the South West District under Fr. Bolduc, centered in Dickinson near Houston, TX. Each district had its own zone



Fr. Hector Bolduc with Archbishop Lefebvre in 1981 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Kansas City, MO.



Seminarians outside St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Ridgefield, CT [1986].

Fr. Normandin, an SSPX friend, was running the width of the country each month in the back of a Greyhound bus to administer to souls. In the U.S. also, priests were spreading themselves very thin in a time when they were few and sparse but the demands for the traditional Mass were coming from all corners. In 1978, Fr. Bolduc acquired the Jesuit College of Saint Mary's, KS, which was graced by the Archbishop's visit the next August 15 for the Marian Pilgrimage. He himself congratulated the workers in the field, giving them his blessing:

“It was a magnificent success. More than 2,000 people came from everywhere. I wish that this place become a great sanctuary for all America, and a center of devotion and prayers towards the

of apostolate and each ran its own magazine: Fr. Kelly had *The Roman Catholic* and Fr. Bolduc edited *The Angelus* magazine, which was printed by a Franciscan friend Fr. Pulvermacher. Fr. Bolduc also created Angelus Press whose first book was by the English writer and apologist Michael Davies. The North East District paced its apostolate according to its manpower. It also took advantage of the seminary staff for Sunday mission runs. Working on a more extended area, Fr. Bolduc had too few priests and was working around the clock with most “prieories” manned by one lone priest. And so he took the bold decision to get outside help by bringing in priests from India who were familiar with the traditional Mass, a move that was criticized by the

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Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

Archbishop as soon as he heard of this strange initiative.

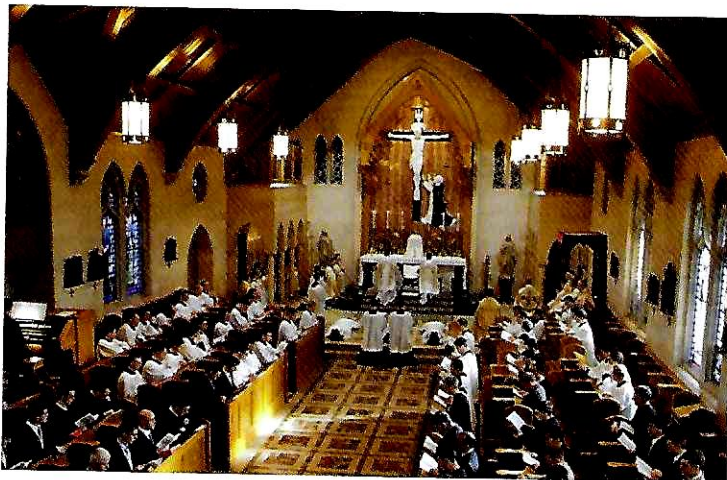
As soon as he could spare a few new priests, our founder sent some solid reinforcements to the seminary as well as the districts. Fr. Richard Williamson was sent to second Fr. Sanborn, and Fr. De la Tour to take care of St. Mary's Academy and College.

A Rupture Within the District

These reinforcements arrived just in time because the smoldering embers were ready

North East District, including Ridgefield. The Ridgefield seminary, in these tense months, was virtually under siege and had to be protected with seminarians turned into sentinels with baseball bats stationed at strategic points.

I recall an occasion when Fr. Kelly and some men came to take control of an unfinished floor, which was to be the foundation of the future seminary rooms of Ridgefield. Fr. Williamson came out to let him know he was not welcome here, and as he turned his heels, Fr. Kelly mumbled to his friends, "Anyone have a gun?" Things were rather strained between the two groups (the SSPX and the newly formed Society



St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, MN.



Christ the King Franciscan Convent, Kansas City, MO.

to flare up again. Early in 1983, things came to a head in the North East district when the Archbishop came to ordain two priests. One of them refused his first assignment to the South West District, under the pretext that the district was using the 1962 Missal and Breviary which, in his mind, were not Catholic.

The final act took place in Oyster Bay Cove a few days later. The Archbishop was asked to accept conditions which would make the American priests virtually independent from his authority. Following his surprise and square refusal, the North American priests told him that all of the 13 properties purchased for the SSPX were still under their name and the Archbishop and his Society would lose everything in the

of Saint Pius V), and it would take three years before they settled the property issues. An old friend of the Society and of the Archbishop, New Yorker Al Skidmore, deserves mention here in the lawsuit which vindicated the Archbishop.

Such were the circumstances of the split of "The Nine," the catch name given by Fr. Williamson in a memorable letter from Ridgefield. To make things worse, the following year three of the four priests ordained defected from the SSPX in favor of the nine priests just weeks after their ordinations. That is when Fr. Schmidberger, newly elected superior, said that he was about to throw in the towel on America. And, thank God, he did not because the following years saw a resurgence of the work of tradition, faithful to the

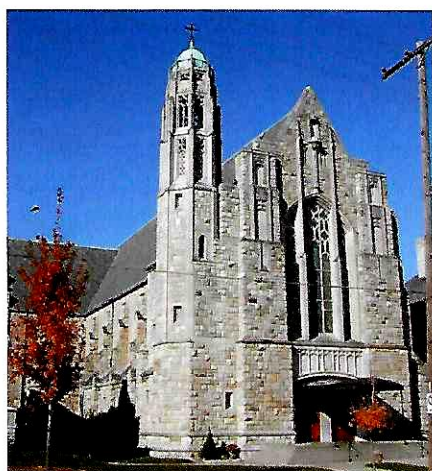


French Archbishop, headed by Fr. Laisney at the District and Fr. Williamson at the seminary and, later on, Fr. Angles at St. Mary's, KS.

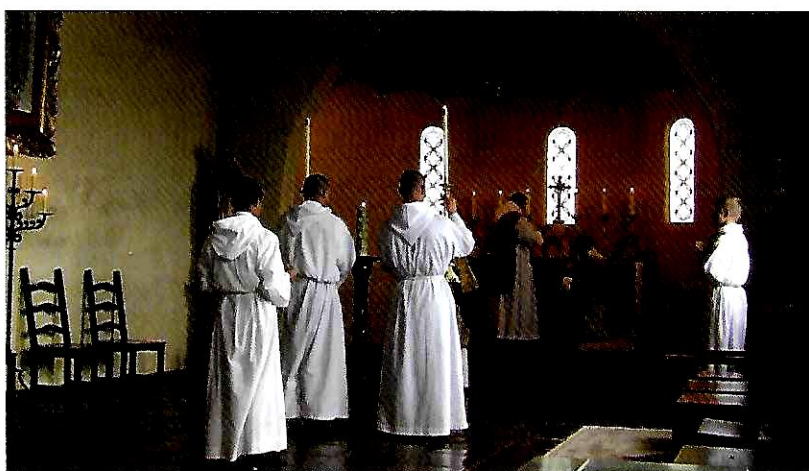
The Growth of Tradition in America

Fr. Laisney, from 1984 till 1990, spent himself with his zeal and endless energy across the country to build up the District, now reunited after the unfortunate defection of Fr. Bolduc from the Society. Fr. Laisney was an indefatigable writer for Angelus Press and *The Angelus*

1988 from the cramped quarters at Ridgefield (the U.S. seminary for nine years) to ample Winona was the obvious sign of a spiritual revival of tradition in line with the spirit of Archbishop Lefebvre. That was the year of the episcopal consecrations, and a newly consecrated rector, Bishop Williamson, settled in a building worthy of a bishop. Meanwhile, Ridgefield became a retreat center for much of the Midwest and the East Coast.



St. Vincent de Paul, Kansas City, MO.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Benedictine Monastery, Silver City, NM.

magazine, and corrected the harsh position of The Nine, including their sedevacantist tendency. Not only did he consolidate the undisturbed parishes of the South, he also made sure to protect his priests from over-activism and isolationism. He proudly gave the result of his achievements: the number of priests and faithful almost doubled in six years.

A distinctive sign that the tables had turned was the purchase of the former Dominican novitiate outside of Winona, MN, in 1987. The campaign for funds had been very successful, and, within two years of the purchase, much of the mortgage had been cleared, as well as the much needed repairs which were headed by Long Islander Pete Sardegna and his sons. The move in

Years of Growth

By comparison with the troubled decade of the 1980s which finally saw the work of tradition being placed on a solid foundation, the 1990s were years of extraordinary growth under the leadership of Fr. Peter Scott (1990-2002). Shouldered by strong support from the seminary and St. Mary's, seconded by a united clergy, he launched into a veritable real estate enterprise, buying magnificent churches in rundown cities in the hope of reviving them in Cincinnati, in St. Louis, in Kansas City (the District House, as well as the Franciscan convent), in Chicago, and in Atlanta. The U.S. seminary provided newly ordained priests who would be sent all over >

Theme 50 Years—United States & Canada

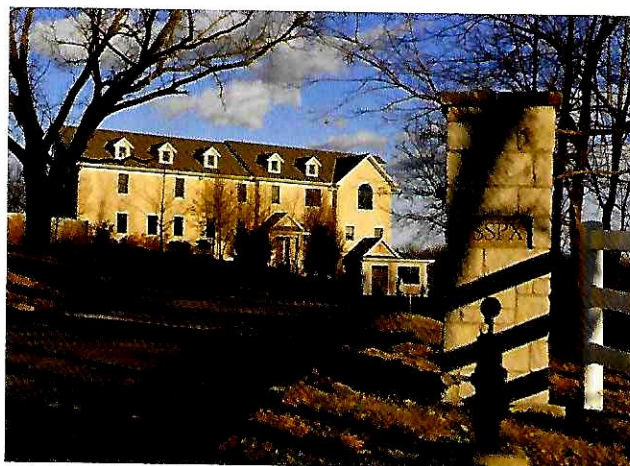
the world to all continents with a real missionary spirit.

There was also a resurgence of religious life with various congregations invited to the country. The traditional Carmelites had made a foundation in Phoenixville, PA, near Philadelphia, and soon relocated to Spokane, WA. Close to the Carmelites, the teaching Dominican sisters of Fanjeaux, France, built a graceful complex to run the Post Falls girls' school in Idaho. The SSPX Sisters purchased an old hospital building to turn it into a novitiate in Browerville, MN. The Franciscan Sisters founded earlier on by Fr. Heidt, came from Oregon to set up their

consolidation and centralization. Fr. John Fullerton, District Superior from 2002 to 2008, used his talents to build the District House in Farley, MO, near Kansas City. He also purchased La Salette in Georgetown, IL, which was to become the first boys only boarding school of the Society and a greenhouse for vocations. Fr. Rostand headed the District for the next six years and centralized the District activities, directing his attention to thinkers and intellectuals: he expanded communications with a redesigned website and new branding in tandem with Fr. Jürgen Wegner of the Canadian District; produced videos promoting tradition;



Starkenburg Pilgrimage.



The new District House in Platte City, MO.

community in the magnificent Benedictine convent of the Perpetual Adoration in Kansas City, and Fr. Cyprian started building his monastery in Silver City, NM.

During Fr. Scott's 12-year tenure, the Society extended its apostolate to pilgrimages (the most popular among them were Starkenburg in MO; Lyons, KS; Cataldo, ID; Auriesville, NY; and Chartres pilgrimage in France). Not least of these was the "pilgrimage" to Winona for ordinations, which became the yearly meeting of tradition where thousand of faithful from all over the country enjoyed meeting like-minded souls and build companionships.

The two decades beginning the new millennium may be called the time of

and launched the Angelus Press Conference in 2010, a highly successful event which reconvened with a different yearly theme. These were crucial years, especially in response to the infamous "Resistance" movement which rejected the authority of Bishop Bernard Fellay on the pretense that he was going to sign an "agreement" with Rome, thereby betraying the SSPX into the hands of neo-Modernism.

The Work Continues

Fr. Jürgen Wegner came to the U.S. District in 2014 and headed a united and peaceful front. With German dedication and precision,



he proceeded to further organize things. He directed a strong administration by extending the accounting department which oversaw over 100 chapels. He set up the “Plan to Protect” commission for the protection of minors, along with much work on expanding the Society branding all over the traditional Catholic world. He travelled extensively through the country to meet over 60 bishops so as to obtain the official recognition of marriages performed by SSPX clergy.

He also, with the cooperation of Fr. Rutledge and Br. Marcel, oversaw the plans for Mary’s new Immaculata church, presently under

COVID-19 may just be one such challenge that needs to be overcome.

Without a doubt, the real challenges will be spiritual. More than ever, souls and especially our faithful need to be reminded of the legacy left them by Archbishop Lefebvre: the Mass of all times, the integral catechism, the unveiling of the inner poison of some key Vatican II teachings. Along with this, his priests and elite members will have to deal with a new enemy: ignorance and sloth. We are far removed from the founders and fighters of the first hour who upheld the banner of tradition against the progressive agenda. Two generations later, there is a sense of



Angelus Press Annual Conference.

construction. It was during his tenure that Fr. Yves le Roux, who had been in charge of the Winona seminary since 2005, succeeded in building and moving the seminary to Dillwyn in 2015, in order to accommodate the numerous vocations knocking at his door.

No doubt, the saga of the 46 years of SSPX presence in the U.S. has been a mixed bag of joy and sorrow—*Miscens gaudia fletibus*—to borrow the words of the Vespers hymn of St. Joseph. True, the forecast of tradition looks optimistic. It may seem as if things are in perfect order for the stability and extension of Tradition now that Fr. Fullerton is again taking the reins of the U.S. District. No doubt, reality will not be as smooth and easy going as planned and

comfort and the natural inertia saying “go with the flow” and “do not make waves.” Forty years ago, we used to say: “They have the churches, we have the faith,” but perhaps we need to wake up now that we have our beautiful temples, lest we lose the faith in our spiritual slumber.