

“Dowry”

(N°1, Advent 2008)

The newsletter of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter in England



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(Picture above: Our Lady with the Child Jesus, Douai Abbey School, Berkshire. Sadly the school has been turned into flats as the monks could not maintain it any more. It is a grace that the building was saved. We chose this picture as a symbol for Our Lady’s constant presence in her Dowry – albeit ignored – where She prays that each of Her children will soon awake to God, benefiting from the intercession of His Blessed Mother.)

Presentation:

Wednesday 17th December 2008, Reading.

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Lord! We are glad to present you with this first issue of the newsletter of the Priestly

Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP) in England. We have named this newsletter simply “Dowry”, referring to England’s title as “Our Lady’s Dowry”. Unlike the previous “Videre Petrum” newsletter, which is now exclusively managed by Fr John Emerson, FSSP in Scotland, “Dowry” will focus on our English apostolates (now under the direct authority of the FSSP General House in Switzerland). “Dowry” also

succeeds the "Reading Latin Mass Community" mailings, which until now have been sent by Ann DeCruz to those supportive of this apostolate.

I would like to start by thanking you on behalf of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter for your prayers and support over the years. You will see below that the Good God is rewarding your perseverance.

New priest sent in England!

Bishop Crispian Hollis of Portsmouth has kindly allowed for a second FSSP priest to come and live with Fr de Malleray at "St John Fisher House" – our little terraced house in Reading. Below a brief presentation of our new priest:

Returning to the land of his birth, after living overseas for the greater part of his life, Father Simon Richard Francis Leworthy looks forward to participating in the Apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter here. Father Leworthy visited the United Kingdom a few times while he was obtaining his Licence in Theology [STL] in Rome at the beginning of the Millennium. While here, he supplied in the Archdioceses of Westminster and Edinburgh-St Andrews and in the Diocese of Northampton. Recently released from the Diocese of Armidale, Australia, where he was ordained in 1992, Father has spent several months in the German District of the FSSP last year and is now starting his postulancy with the FSSP.

Fr Leworthy's arrival will profitably improve our service to souls in England and will also allow for communal life with Fr de Malleray, including the recitation of the Divine Office.

Improved Mass location:

The FSSP is officially responsible for offering Mass every Sunday in Flitwick, Northampton diocese. Flitwick is near Luton, a 5min drive from the M1-junction 12, and accessible by direct trains from London St Pancras (a 10min walk from Flitwick railway station to the church).

Below is an encouraging statement from Bishop's House, Northampton, on Saturday 29 November 2008:

"Having in view the spiritual good of the faithful attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite, Bishop Peter Doyle has approved of the relocating of the Sunday Mass offered by priests from the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter (FSSP) from Bedford to Flitwick where better facilities are available (e.g. car park, parish hall). Bishop Doyle thanks the priests from the FSSP for their ministry in

that part of the Northampton diocese over the recent years, as well as the parish priests in Bedford and Flitwick who have welcomed this worshipping community. Lastly, Bishop Doyle assures all the faithful attending the EF Mass in Flitwick (starting on the first Sunday of Advent 2008) of his pastoral solicitude and of his prayer."



(Picture: Sunday Mass in Flitwick)

Parish website:

<http://www.sacredheartflitwick.co.uk/>

Postal address: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pope Close, Flitwick MK45 1JP, England.

Mass time: every Sunday at 5pm.

About forty people (half of them children) attended the three first Sunday Masses in Flitwick. We have started with a Sung Mass for the beginning of the liturgical year. Not only did the Parish Priest Canon McSweeney attend, but he even served as MC! We thank him wholeheartedly for his support and welcome, as well as his parishioners. As the church is free every Sunday afternoon, it is envisaged to offer catechism and chant and liturgical training before Mass and of course to meet after Mass for tea and sandwiches.

New British FSSP priests ordained!

Rev Mr Matthew Goddard, FSSP will be ordained a priest on May 30th, 2009 in Lincoln, Nebraska (U.S.A.). By kind permission of the Parish Priest, he will offer his First Solemn High Mass in St James' church Spanish Place, London, on Whit Saturday, 6th June 2009 at 11am. All are welcome to attend and give thanks to God and support this newly ordained British FSSP priest! Many among you will already know Rev Mr Goddard, whose father is in

charge of Our Lady's shrine of West Grinstead, a recusant place (also the resting place of Hilaire Belloc).

Please pray also for our other deacon, Rev Mr William Barker, FSSP. A French citizen as well as a British subject (his family has moved from Dulwich to Bordeaux in France a couple of years ago), he will be ordained a priest on June 27th in Wigratzbad, Bavaria. His First Mass in England will be announced soon. Not every year can we rejoice on the ordination of one traditional new British priest, let alone two. What a blessing! This is a grace for sure, but not a miracle however. Rather it is the result of at least seven years of prayers on your behalf and of our lasting commitment to the English apostolate as well. More than ever we should pray and get involved so as to ensure that more and more British men, such as Matthew and William, will answer God's call. Please read about FSSP vocations and expansion below.

Christmas, and regular ministry in Reading:

In this, the main apostolate of the FSSP in England, there will be Sung Traditional Midnight Mass at *midnight* at St William of York church, Upper Redland Road, Reading, RG1 5JT, preceded with carols from 11.15pm onwards. Mass will be followed with refreshments in the hall.

Rev Mr Matthew Goddard, FSSP will give the homily. You are most welcome to attend and meet with our soon-to-be-ordained future priest on this his last stay at home until he comes back for his First Mass in June 2009.



(Picture: Feast of All Saints 2008, Reading)

In Reading we now have an average of 100 souls attending, almost half of whom are younger than 12. The very youthfulness of our community shows that the "Old" rite undoubtedly appeals to families and young people, giving hope for the future. We have Holy Mass every day in the church, which is used for only two Masses in the Ordinary Form each Sunday. This is the only place in England where priests belonging to a Fraternity under the Ecclesia Dei Commission serve souls on a daily basis. We are grateful to the Parish Priest, Fr Dominic Golding, who has welcomed us and who, among other things, advertises all our Masses in the parish newsletter, as well as the retreats, prayer group and family days organised by our community. Relations with the parishioners are cordial. Some of them occasionally attend our Masses and last month (November) some of our faithful who live locally attended the Blessing of graves with Fr de Malleray and other clergy and laity from the Reading pastoral area. Fr de Malleray also readily meets – when he is not on the road – with the local clergy.



(Picture: Sung Requiem on Remembrance Sunday 2008, Reading)

Like in Flitwick, the FSSP is committed to offering Mass every Sunday. Our priests also make themselves available for hearing confessions and administering other sacraments, sacramentals and for teaching the faith. This availability is a very important element for pastoral fecundity. Like any faithful, those attending the Extraordinary Form of

the Roman rite need not only the Mass but the whole range of the means of sanctification offered by Holy Mother Church.

Every first Saturday of the month we hold a family day with Holy Mass, catechism, picnic and ending with Benediction. With two priests from January 2009 onwards, it will be possible to ensure that the parents also receive some doctrinal nourishment on this monthly occasion.

Gentlemen – whether married or not – are also welcome to attend the St Bruno group every first Friday of the month in the evening. We start with Holy Mass (obviously accessible to all) and say some prayers concluded with the Holy Rosary. Confessions are then being heard while the rest of the group has silent meditation. In the silence of the night, at the end of a busy week of work, it is a most fruitful opportunity for the fathers of family or workers or students to take time with the Lord, and also with his priest, always available for spiritual direction. Father then gives a doctrinal talk to the men and the evening ends with some prayers. Even if you do not live in Reading, do not hesitate to contact the FSSP for more details and schedule (some drive one hour after work to attend).

Lastly, although we don't have a bookstore as yet, I am happy to recommend the "The Desert will flower Press" books, run by the former "Transalpine Redemptorists" community now happily reconciled with Holy Mother Church under the Ecclesia Dei Commission. From their base in Papa Stronsay, Scotland, they send every month good Catholic popular literature, as I could read from the samples sent to me, purely aiming at sustaining souls. Please contact and order directly at: Golgotha Monastery Island, Papa Stronsay, KW17 2AR, Orkney Islands, United Kingdom.

Website: www.papastronsay.blogspot.com.

In the dioceses:

Portsmouth: In the same diocese of Portsmouth, for years now FSSP priests have travelled normally once a month to the Isle of Wight to offer Mass and give pastoral support.

Cardiff: Fr de Malleray was invited to visit the Welsh capital city where he met with young adults and clergy and offered Mass. He also went to Abergavenny where he was told of the lasting commitment of the Catholic faithful during penal times. Across the border in Hereford, Father had the grace of offering Mass at the altar where the hand of Blessed Fr John Kemble is venerated. Father also visited Belmont Abbey.

Birmingham: Fr de Malleray has been requested to be the celebrant at the solemn Benediction ending this year's Procession in honour of the English martyrs in Oxford on October 25th, 2008.

Westminster: Father did also assist Bishop Stack during the Confirmations and Benediction at St James' Spanish Place on November 15th, 2008. Two candidates attend Holy Mass in Reading. One week before, on November 8th, for his 5th consecutive year Father managed the FSSP booth at the "Towards Advent Festival of Catholic Culture". Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor officially opened the day and graciously exchanged a few words with Father at the FSSP booth. Lastly in December, Father did offer Mass at the Good Counsel Network's oratory in London, where much prayer is needed to obtain from God inspiration and courage for women with undesired pregnancy.

In the next semester a visit is being envisaged in Yorkshire where several friends of the Fraternity and Confraternity members live.



(Picture - ©LMS: Pontifical Benediction, Spanish Place, November 2008)

Once a month Fr de Malleray also gives a doctrinal conference in French for a fairly large group of Francophone Catholics in London. The French indeed are the largest minority in London with about 300.000 individuals among whom many are practicing families. This ministry has the support of Bishop Alan Hopes, Westminster Auxiliary, to whom Father reports regularly, as is the case with Bishop Doyle of Northampton and Bishop Hollis of Portsmouth under whose authority we fulfil permanent ministries.

Time lacked to resume the monthly "Art for Souls" tours guided by Fr de Malleray in the main London art galleries, but this well-attended activity might

start again this next semester (website: www.lartpourelame.com).

Support to priests:

Fr de Malleray also visits priests who wish to learn the traditional Mass. We offer this in discretion as some priests feel more comfortable learning that way and cannot always attend liturgical workshops. It is very humbling to see priests with long pastoral experience or important responsibilities make the effort to learn and carefully listen to the instructions as if they were seminarians again. Some priests in the USA and also in England have told us how learning the 1962 rite of the Mass had deeply renewed their Eucharistic devotion and had helped them better appreciate the sacrificial nature of the Mass. We consider this liturgical support to fellow priests part and parcel of our vocation, and a service the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter is particularly apt to give to the Church due to the 7-year formation of our members, all of them priests or future priests.



(Picture: the coat of arms of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter)

Our support to priests somehow starts with our own confreres within our Priestly Fraternity. In this perspective, I seize the opportunity to thank Fr John Emerson, FSSP, in charge of FSSP Scotland, for his fraternal collaboration in setting up FSSP England. I also thank my predecessors Fr Nicolas du Chaxel, FSSP and Fr Benjamin Durham, FSSP for the work they have done in this country during several years. Among other things, the permanent ministries we have been granted in the dioceses of Portsmouth and of Northampton are due to their initiatives in a large part. I am glad that their pastoral zeal is fruitfully used in the schools where they now serve as chaplains in France, Fr Nicolas in a boarding school for boys in the Vendée and Fr Benjamin in another boarding school for girls in the Lorraine. They will always be welcome whenever they have an

opportunity to travel back in England and meet with so many friends they have made. May they be assured of our prayers and may they remember us all here in theirs. On the same topic, we are glad to welcome in Reading 5th Year Seminarians Marek Grabowski, FSSP from Poland and Damonn Sypher, FSSP from Australia, who will spend some holiday in England before travelling back to Wigratzbad. They will attend Mass in Reading on Sunday 4th January 2009. It is also a joy to meet again with our British FSSP priests Fr Konrad Loewenstein and Fr Brendan Gerard whenever they travel back home. Fr Brendan, although based in Rome, has been busy flying once a month to Ireland to say Mass at the invitation of Bishop Moriarty of Kildare, a diocese (and a country) where the FSSP and the Confraternity of St Peter have good and prayerful friends.

Launching of the FSSP- EWTN DVD:

A DVD made in collaboration between the FSSP and EWTN (Mother Angelica's famous Catholic television network) will soon be released. It is the best possible such tutorial available on the market and is professionally and especially designed to help clergy get familiar with the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. Some of our priests spent several weeks at Mother Angelica's shrine in Alabama – also the EWTN studio – for the filming. Included in the DVD are an interview by Dario Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos, a presentation by Very Rev Fr John Berg, FSSP and a liturgical commentary by Fr Calvin Goodwin, FSSP. This is the ideal present for a friend cleric, whether a priest, a deacon or a religious. It is also definitely suited for lay people, including the young (e.g. altar servers) who want to know more about this "most beautiful thing this side of heaven"! The video includes over three hours of footage on two DVD discs, giving a step-by-step explanation and demonstration of the Low Mass in the Extraordinary Form. The production includes multiple appendices with instructions on the general principles of gesture and movement, as well as commonly encountered variations in the elements of the Mass. Also featured is a real-time demonstration of the Mass, which is viewable from multiple camera angles on demand. Please note that so far the disc is "US Version NTSC Format." The DVD is not region encoded and will work in any region as long as the DVD player supports NTSC format. Almost all laptop computers in the UK should be able to play the DVD without any problems.

Dario Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos, President of the Pontifical Ecclesia Dei Commission, provides an introduction for the DVD. The Ecclesia Dei Commission is tasked with the implementation of Pope Benedict's Motu Proprio on the 1962 Latin Mass. In the cardinal's introduction, he explains that Pope Benedict XVI hoped to foster a "spiritual and theological richness" by promoting wider use of the Mass of St. Pius V through the Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum. The cardinal also emphasized that this Mass was a universal gift: "All this liturgical richness, all this spiritual richness, and all the prayers so well-preserved during the centuries, all of this is offered by the Rome of today for all. As a gift for all, it is not a gift merely for the so-called traditionalists. No, it is a gift for the whole Catholic Church," Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos said. The "sacred silence" and contemplation of the ancient rite, the cardinal said, "makes present the Lord Jesus in an expression of rich liturgical beauty, as the conqueror of death and sin... this rite brought unity to the faith and became the single expression through which the Church adores God." Interestingly, he added that the Pope wants this Mass to become normal in parishes, so that "young communities can also become familiar with this rite."

An official presentation of the DVD will take place at the London Oratory, St Wilfrid's Hall, on Thursday 5th February 2009 at 7pm, preceded with Holy Mass at 6pm. Copies of the DVD will be available. Free entrance. All are welcome.

New "old" FSSP- Nova & Vetera breviary:

A fruit of two years of hard work in collaboration with the German publishing house "Nova et Vetera", the FSSP is pleased to present a completely retyped and redesigned version of the traditional breviary. For the first time since 1962, there is now a brand-new complete edition of the Breviarium Romanum – the traditional prayerbook for the divine office. Just like other "1962 editions", this new two-volume edition has been prepared according to the rubrics set forth by the Motu Proprio "Rubricarum Instructum" of Bl. Pope John XXIII on July 25th, 1960. This new edition complies with the canon law and regulations and was granted the Imprimatur according to can. 826 II CIC by his Excellency Bishop Gregor Maria Hanke, O.S.B. These volumes present the psalms in the traditional Latin Vulgate. They also follow the high standards of the great liturgical publishing houses of old, in text layout,

and in the beauty of the book exterior. FSSP priests and seminarians have spent thousands of hours proof-reading the Latin texts retyped and checking that each page bore all necessary information. A special font was chosen, elegant and easy to read; and the best available paper as well, both light and strong.

When people refer to the motu proprio Summorum Pontificum, they generally think of the Missal of Blessed John XXIII. However, it should not be forgotten that the Holy Father did include all the liturgical books in force in 1962, that is, the Roman breviary as well: "Clerics ordained "in sacris constitutis" may use the Roman Breviary promulgated by Bl. John XXIII in 1962" (art.9§3). No conditions are mentioned. This makes the publishing of this new version of the Roman breviary a very appropriate undertaking, to which the FSSP is glad to have contributed for the benefit of clergy and of the laity as well who may like to join in in the official prayer of the Church in its Extraordinary Form.

Inquiries and orders are to be addressed directly to the publisher.

Website: www.breviariumromanum.com

Retreats:

Retreats are privileged moments for us all Catholics to withdraw from our daily routine and make ourselves available for the Lord in a more complete manner. There is something very special in plainly telling to ourselves: "Tomorrow, I will still be in this place where I have come to listen to God". On retreats, one takes time for God in a way which our normal framework does not allow.



(Picture: Advent retreat at Douai Abbey, 8-11 December 2008)

At the request of about 13 British faithful, a first 5-day retreat was preached by Fr de Malleray in the beautiful Cistercian abbey of Hauterive in Switzerland after Easter 2007. Another one followed in Douai Abbey, Berkshire, in November 2007. Building on the friendly welcome received at Douai, Fr de Malleray being back in England proposed three further retreats in this same location.

This very month, 13 persons attended the Advent retreat preached at Douai Abbey by Fr de Malleray, FSSP on the theme: "Our Lady and the Incarnation". As usual the group had permanent use of the parish church, situated within the Abbey premises, for daily Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman rite and for other prayers, including Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. There was one conference every morning and every afternoon, and table readings during meals. Opportunity was also given and seized for personal meetings with Father and confession.

A Lenten Retreat scheduled in Douai Abbey between March 2nd and 6th, 2009 will follow the same format. The theme will be "Through His Wounds we are saved". In between, a shorter retreat scheduled between January 7th and 9th also at Douai Abbey will focus on priestly vocations. Please ask any questions about either retreat or book directly with Fr de Malleray. All details on our website www.fssp.co.uk.



(Picture: Colouring St Nicolas on his Feast day, also a family day, Reading)

Regrettably some faithful are prevented from attending retreats – parents of large families in particular, who cannot afford it and cannot either leave their numerous young children during several days (unless a providential Nanny appeared, in whom the mother could reliably trust when she would be away). This is all the more unfortunate since these parents often need a spiritual break even

more urgently than other faithful. We are glad that some answer to this need is provided by the St Catherine Trust (www.stcatherinetrust.org) which we warmly recommend. As priests we welcome any collaboration and suggestions to meet possible further expectations from families, since the Church will never do too much to support and encourage Catholic families – our beautiful "domestic churches" – wherever they live and whatever difficulties they may be confronted with.

Fr de Malleray also travels the country regularly to give days of recollection, as took place in Ryde (Isle of Wight), in East Sussex and in Kent. Further days of recollection are planned in Portsmouth and in other parts of the country.

Caring for youth:

The Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter in general cares a lot for young people. The fact that many of our priests and seminarians are still fairly young facilitates spontaneous contacts with the youths. For several years Fr de Malleray has been actively involved in the Juventutem International Federation, whose aim is the sanctification of youth according to the Roman traditions of the church. There are groups affiliated in England ("Young Catholic Adults") and other Juventutem groups in Scotland and in Ireland (as well as on every continent).

Website: www.juventutem.org.

Fr de Malleray will give a retreat for the young people linked with Juventutem (any other youth interested are welcome) at Douai Abbey from 18th to 20th September 2009.

A more festive and longer event will take place in France this summer from 18th to 23rd August 2009 when Juventutem will organize an international youth gathering in the medieval Marian shrine of Le Puy-en-Velay (between Saint-Etienne and Clermont-Ferrand). Like in Wigratzbad in August 2005, there will be lectures in English, beautiful solemn liturgies and cultural excursions in the breathtaking landscapes of the Massif Central.

Fr de Malleray readily meets with English teenagers and young adults and is willing to give them every support. Like the two previous years, Father will accompany a Juventutem English chapter on pilgrimage to Chartres. This 70-mile traditional pilgrimage from Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris to Notre-Dame cathedral in Chartres is the largest all-walking pilgrimage in the Catholic world on a weekend every year. If you haven't done it yet, you may like to consider attending this time and see the 8.000 young people walking and singing canticles,

preceded by superb banners and processional crosses, while dozens of clergy from all the “Ecclesia Dei” communities hear confessions, gives spiritual advice and preach. A shorter and smoother itinerary is designed for families, even with pushchairs! The Order of Malta is in charge of the pilgrims’ good health, with teams of doctors and nurses (specialized in blisters) posted every 4 miles! Whatever your age if you like walking, we hope to see you among the about 80 British pilgrims: starting on Whitsun Eve (Saturday 30th May 2009), ending on Whit Monday (June 1st, 2009). Please contact the FSSP for more information.



(Picture: Juventutem President Gregory Flash holding banner during lunch break at the Chartres pilgrimage)

CTS booklet on “Catholic Traditionalism”:

We were happily surprised to find that the recently published CTS booklet entitled “Catholic Traditionalism” had on its cover the picture of the Solemn High Mass offered by Fr de Malleray (and assisted by Rev Mr William Barker, FSSP) at the FSSP motherhouse on the first anniversary of the Confraternity of St Peter this year (22 February 2008). Fr de Malleray had worked with CTS some years ago on a similar booklet, not conclusively, and was glad to see that some text had eventually been published. Although author Dr Raymond Edwards does not seem to have interviewed representatives of traditional institutes – which would have been helpful – most of the information offered in this booklet is accurate. One regrets the absence of distinction between the respective sizes of the various “traditional entities”, in lists where for instance the Regular Canons of the New Jerusalem with one priest and two friars is mentioned without

more precision next to the FSSP numbering about 220 priests and 130 seminarians or next to the ICKSP with about 60 priests and 60 seminarians. The main objection however is that the author seems to underestimate the potential vitality and strength of the traditional movement, despite its relatively small numerical importance. One would have wished that the long term perspective which must have motivated the Holy Father’s recent *motu proprio* had been better taken into account, as well as the crucial enrichment these Roman traditions actually bring to the Church as a whole. That being said, this CTS booklet has the merit of providing a fairly objective overall view, with concision and in a style which should allow for a wider awareness and interest for what many Catholics may discover as “the traditional movement”.

Perspectives and figures from the General House of the FSSP:

Just five years ago in December 2003, Fr Armand de Malleray was asked by his Superior General to leave his pastoral ministry in England – then based at St Bede’s church, Clapham Park, in London – in order to take up the position of General Secretary of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, to be based at the FSSP’s international headquarters in Fribourg, Switzerland. Next month (January 2009) after five years, Fr de Malleray will officially cease this function, becoming once again fully available for the English apostolate. The figures below come from the General House and provide an overall view over the rapid increase of the FSSP.

It will soon be ten years since the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP) has started serving souls in Our Lady’s Dowry. The FSSP is the “traditional” priestly community operating with permanent official mission from English Bishops. Through difficult circumstances, the FSSP has persevered in its service to souls in various parts of the country, with the conviction that many among the English people would understand what is at stake with the Roman traditions of the Church. Last year the *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum* has confirmed that our ministry has an important role to play within the Church, and in particular in England where the Heenan indult was meritoriously requested and granted as early as 1971.

The FSSP as a whole has been blessed with a very significant increase, starting twenty years ago with twelve founders and now numbering 350 members (including 220 priests) on four continents.

Anticipating the current shortage of priests, our main effort has been the formation of future priests to be later sent where souls need us, at the invitation of the bishops. To that end we have invested the best of our resources in building (from scratch) two international seminaries with faculty, where about 130 seminarians are currently on formation, taught by FSSP priests and by other qualified teachers. Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, situated in Nebraska, U.S.A., is the only English-speaking seminary in the world delivering the full 7-year curriculum according to the liturgical, spiritual and disciplinary traditions of the Church as defined by Pope John Paul II in his *motu proprio Ecclesia Dei* (1988). We also run Ezechiel House, a First-Year seminary in Sydney, Australia for candidates from Asia and Oceania. And here in Europe, we have English-speaking seminarians as well at the St Peter International Seminary in Wigratzbad, Bavaria.

have two British deacons coming up for priestly ordination before next summer, while three British seminarians are on formation in our seminaries.



(Picture: Cardinal Ratzinger visits FSSP motherhouse and offers Mass on Easter 1990)



(Picture: Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos offering Mass at the FSSP's personal parish church in Rome on our XXth anniversary, October 18, 2008)

Every year we admit about new 30 seminarians. But this year, an unprecedented number of 46 men have been admitted in our international seminaries. Since 2000, we have ordained an average thirteen new priests per year. No need to say that in our modern era, regrettably the list with priestly communities or dioceses blessed with similar numbers would be rather short.

Over the last six years we have ordained two British priests (Fr Konrad Loewenstein and Fr Brendan Gerard, the former serving in Venice, Italy and the latter studying exegesis in Rome). We also now

Furthermore, two diocesan British priests are currently trying their vocation with the FSSP (Fr Philip de Freitas, serving in the USA, and Fr Simon Leworthy, assigned in Reading, UK). One may also mention further recently incardinated or ordained FSSP priests who have never lived in Britain or not for many years but are linked with this country either through family background and possibly hold a British passport, such as Fr Matthew McNeely (serving in Sacramento, California) and Fr Calvin Goodwin (a teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, Nebraska); or else through the British Commonwealth, such as Frs Marko Rehak and Dominic Popplewell, ordained priests last month in Canberra, Australia, and Fr Anthony Sumich, ordained a priest last month as well in Christchurch, New Zealand and now serving in our personal parish in Nigeria – not to mention our dozens of Canadian priests and seminarians. Since my return in England I have been in contact with over a dozen British individuals inquiring about possible vocation, two of whom intend to apply for the FSSP over the summer 2009, whereas seven have already booked for a Vocation retreat I will give in January. Lastly, the recently launched Confraternity of Saint Peter – a sodality whose members (both laity and clergy) support our ministry and vocations through daily prayer – numbers 86 members in England (and 2.330 members worldwide), not necessarily living near our current Mass centres. To the Confraternity members: dear Friends, we thought you may like to receive this newsletter and have therefore added

your addresses on the FSSP England database. We hope to have an article about the Confraternity in each further issue of ‘Dowry’.



(Picture: Mass and recollection, Ryde, Isle of Wight)

More FSSP priests in England?

Although the FSSP is essentially international and cannot guarantee at this stage that every prospective member will serve all his life in his native country, we surely see it fitting for British nationals to be able to serve souls in Great-Britain. One may therefore ask when more of our British FSSP clergy listed above are going to be sent in Our Lady’s Dowry. The answer is, as soon as a stable and self-sustaining pastoral framework will be provided. At this stage our priests in Great-Britain are not sponsored by the dioceses where they are invited to serve. The costs for our accommodation, transport, food, telephone and Internet and basically all our personal and pastoral needs cannot be covered except by the faithful. We are assimilated to religious as far as status is concerned, as was confirmed by the Reading Borough Council when, after some correspondence we were eventually granted full exemption from council tax under the category “Religious community”. A letter from the parish priest in Reading attested that we do not receive any salary or treatment from the parish or diocese. This situation may improve in the future, as has been the case in many of the 110 dioceses where the FSSP now has official contracts for apostolates

on 4 continents. But at this stage, we have no other choice than to rely on your generosity and commitment if we want to continue the work described above, and hopefully expand it. Of all the clergy offering Mass in England according to the more ancient liturgy, FSSP priests are likely to be among the ones whose services depend most crucially on the faithful’s regular support. To give you an example, in order to rent our small house in Reading (a 25min walk from the church), we need to raise monthly £900. This amounts to less than half the overall cost for our presence in England each month.

We believe that this money is surely not wasted, considering the variety of our undertakings, the official permissions granted by several bishops, the absence of any other similar priestly order in England and the priestly vocations expected and confirmed, as described above. All this combined provides reasonable hope for subsequent expansion of our ministry in England. As you know, our apostolates in Scotland and in England now operate independently, each of them under the direct authority of our international headquarters in Switzerland. In Edinburgh we inherited a fairly large house some years ago, where our priest lives, where Holy Mass is offered on week days and where visitors both lay and clerical can come and stay. In England, where no less work than in Scotland has been done – certainly not to slow down in the coming years – our ministry would greatly benefit from such stable residence. It would deeply benefit all those supportive of the *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum* in England, however far or close from our house they would live. A house of our own would put in concrete form our lasting commitment to the English mission; it would embody the aspirations and manifold support of so many individuals praying for a tangible sign of perennity in traditional priestly ministry in England; it would be a home for our British members and applicants; it would demonstrate the viability of a traditional ministry in England and the confidence in the future. Until we possess a place to dwell in England, building up and projecting will be uneasy.

Launching the “Haven for Priests” Campaign!

Most ecclesiastical institutions own some or several houses in England, most of which were donated to them or purchased through the generosity of the faithful. For such institutions, acquiring one more house would mean no significant change in their

position. The contrary is true for the FSSP, since for us indeed such a haven would immediately mean the end of our "pilgrim status" in England. Now I will not deny that under penal times, priests shipped by night from the Continent would lead such wandering existence from barns to priest holes. Thanks be to God and to our English martyrs, Catholic priests are now – and still – allowed to serve publicly and in a stable manner for the wider benefit of souls.

I have visited a suitable house which would suffice for two priests and one occasional guest. It is surely not a palace, but is located near St William of York church where I offer daily Mass in Reading, whereas our current habitation is a 25min walk from the church. According to a real estate expert, also a friend of the FSSP, the announced price of £180.000 is an acceptable deal.

The house is located near Reading University, which makes it in any case a good investment, as every year students are looking for houses for rent in this area, and it is walking distance from the town centre and shops. This location would be very convenient for our priestly ministry as it would secure for us a much easier access to the church and would also bring together in people's minds the priestly residence and the place of worship.

As the parish priest lives in a presbytery next to the main parish church of St James, Fr Leworthy and I would be the only priests in residence near St William of York's, which would make sense since we also are the only clergy offering Mass there on week days.

As such, £180.000 is a lot of money – particularly under the current "credit crunch" circumstances. But it is not out of proportion when one considers the great advantages of securing a base for the apostolic work of the FSSP in England.

I would be most grateful if you would reflect on the options below.

1. The easiest for us would be simply to be given the £180.000. "FSSP England" has charity status under the Portsmouth diocese and tax reduction would apply (please see details below).
2. Another option would be to be lent the £180.000 (preferably free of interest) for a period of 4 to 7 years – to be determined with you – until we reimbursed you. We would own the house from the beginning. There would be no other guarantee than our priestly word to do our utmost to raise the

money in that period of time – unless or until we inherited property or significant amount of money.

3. Or else, you could buy the house and retain ownership, allowing us to move in it. It could be specified in our agreement that you would be entitled to sell the house if after 4 to 7 years you had not been fully reimbursed. The house would become ours if we reimbursed you in time.
4. You may also choose to make "FSSP England" one of your inheritors. Anything you may give us in your will, whether a house or money, would help us greatly as we would then be able to make plans for the future.

I thank you for your charity and consideration in taking the time to read this appeal, our "Haven for Priests" Campaign. May the saints of England and Wales intercede for this limited tool of ours – the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter in England – that it may become worthy of God's favour and may be supported by the benevolence of influential souls. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have, either over the telephone or by coming to see you when possible, if that pleased you.

May I also request you to recommend our cause to some other benefactors unaware of our needs and likely to succour us, that we may do more for the greater glory of God and the conversion of this country? Please be assured of our prayer for lasting fruit in all your undertakings and for the souls of all those dear to you.



(Picture: blessing of graves, November 2008, Reading)

Money Matters, by our Treasurer

With the help of the Portsmouth Diocesan Finance team we have two charitable accounts set up to handle the funding of the Fraternity's apostolates in England. Both accounts are linked to the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity which gives them charitable status, and enables us to benefit from tax rebates through the Gift Aided Donations scheme.

The first account bears the name 'FSSP England' and is used for the Fraternity's work in England, and the second, named 'Reading EF Community' is currently where the collection from Reading and Gift Aid donations are deposited, and from which the rent for our house and the bills connected to it, are paid to ensure that all 'household' costs are met. It also covers costs incurred in running events at St William of York. Both accounts are for the benefit of the Fraternity in England and under its control.

If you wish to make donations to support the Fraternity and its work by bank transfer, the account details are listed below for you. If you wish to make donations by cheque, please use one of the account names given below. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider taking part in the Gift Aided Donations scheme which will allow us to reclaim 28p for every £1 donated. Forms and information about the scheme are included with this mailing. Please note that for administrative purposes we are running the

gift aid scheme on the Reading EF Community account only at this time.

The 'FSSP ENGLAND' account details are:

Bank: Lloyds TSB Bank plc

Branch: Southsea, Palmerston Road

Sort code: 30-93-04

Account number: 01787153

Account name: Portsmouth RC Dioc T'tees Regd Reading FSSP

The 'Reading EF Community' account details are:

Bank:Lloyds TSB Bank plc

Branch: Southsea, Palmerston Road

Sort Code: 30-93-04

Account number: 02025559

Account name: PRCDTR Reading EF Community

The Head of Finance and Property Department, Rev Mr Stephen Morgan, is personally in charge of the FSSP England charity. He can be contacted at the Department for Finance and Property, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA, England.

Please note that all monies in these accounts (under the supervision of the Portsmouth R C Diocese) are meant to serve the development of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter in England, as distinct from Scotland and from foreign countries, and not restricted to the diocese of Portsmouth but for any dioceses in England and Wales where adequate provision would be made for our ministry.

For your diaries:

December 25: Sung Midnight Mass followed with refreshments, and 11am Mass, Reading

(Due to holiday, no St Bruno Group on January 2nd, 2009)

January 6: 12 noon, Epiphany Mass followed with picnic and family gathering, Reading (please bring and share picnic)

January 7-9: Vocation retreat for celibate men, age 16-46 (places still available), Douai Abbey

January 23: 8.30pm, Westminster, Doctrinal conference in French

February 5: Mass 6pm followed at 7pm with conference on FSSP DVD, London Oratory, Westminster

February 6: Mass 7.15pm followed with St Bruno prayer group for gentlemen, Reading

February 7: Mass 12noon followed with family day, Reading

March 2-6: Lenten Retreat, Douai Abbey (open to all; places still available)

March 6: Mass 7.15pm followed with St Bruno prayer group for gentlemen, Reading

March 7: Mass 12noon followed with family day, Reading

March 14: Day of recollection, Portsmouth cathedral

March 28: 3pm Mass and talk, Lyndhurst, New Forest

April 3: Mass 7.15pm followed with St Bruno prayer group for gentlemen, Reading

April 4: Mass 12noon followed with family day, Reading

April 9-11: Sacred Triduum, Reading

May 30: Priestly Ordination Fr Matthew Goddard, FSSP, Lincoln, NE, USA

May 30-June 1: Pentecost pilgrimage to Chartres, France (depart from England on Friday 29 May)

June 6: 11am First Solemn High Mass Fr Goddard, FSSP, St James' Spanish Place, London

June 27: Priestly Ordination Fr William Barker, FSSP, Wigratzbad, Bavaria (direct Ryanair flights Stansted-Friedrichshafen)

August 18-23: international Juventutem youth gathering, Le Puy-en-Velay, France

September 18-20: Youth retreat, Douai Abbey

Christmas greetings:

I end this first newsletter of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter in England by wishing you a very merry Christmas! I thank in particular all those who have kindly sent Christmas cards to "Fisher House" in Reading, and have Mass offered for our priests. To all our acquaintances and friends, both laity and clergy, supportive of what we try to do in Our Lady's Dowry, I express here my heartfelt gratitude. I will offer the Midnight Mass of the Nativity specifically for every soul spiritually or concretely associated with "FSSP England".



(Picture: feast of Christ the King, 2008, Reading)

Today at Vespers we start the 7 great "O" antiphons, which initiate the final countdown until the Nativity of Our Lord. The last one reads:

Latin:

*O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster,
expectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum:
veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.*

English:

*O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:
Come to save us, O Lord our God.*

Let the Divine Infant pour in our souls abundant graces as He comes to save us from sin and from perpetual death, and lead us into his Father's Kingdom!

Your devoted servant in Christ,
Rev Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP

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Prayer for priestly ministry and vocations, said daily by members of the Confraternity of St. Peter:

Following a decade of the Rosary:

V. Remember, O Lord, Thy congregation.

R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, born to give testimony to the Truth, Thou who lovest unto the end those whom Thou hadst chosen, kindly hear our prayers for our pastors.

Thou who knowest all things, knowest that they love Thee and can do all things in Thee who strengthen them.

Sanctify them in Truth. Pour into them, we beseech Thee, the Spirit whom Thou didst give to Thy apostles, who would make them, in all things, like unto Thee.

Receive the homage of love which they offer up to Thee, who hast graciously received the threefold confession of Peter.

And so that a pure oblation may everywhere be offered without ceasing unto the Most Holy Trinity, graciously enrich their number and keep them in Thy love, who art one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, to whom be glory and honour forever. Amen.

Nihil obstat: Vic. Gen. FSSP, 05.II.2007 Imprimatur: Vic. Gen. Diœc. Laus. Gen. Frib., 28.II.2007

On June 13, 2008, General House, Fribourg

The Apostolic Penitentiary, by virtue of the faculties granted to it by Pope Benedict XVI, has kindly willed to grant (by decree of June 7, 2008, for 7 years ad experimentum as is customary) to the members of the Confraternity of Saint Peter at the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer at the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff):

1. A plenary indulgence:

- a) On the day of their admission into the Confraternity;
- b) On February 22nd, Feast of the Chair of St Peter and anniversary of the foundation of the Confraternity;
- c) On June 29th, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul;

2. A partial indulgence:

Whenever they partake in pious or charitable activities as members of the Confraternity.

Let us pray with gratitude for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI who kindly permitted that the Confraternity of Saint Peter be used as a particular means of sanctification.

Fr Armand de Malleray, FSSP, General Chaplain of the Confraternity of St Peter