

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Towards the end of October and into early November, we hosted three weekend retreats at the seminary: one for boys and two for men. The retreatants came from various parts of the country, as far as California, and numbered nearly one hundred and sixty. During retreat they had the opportunity to fortify themselves spiritually by their attendance at Mass, Holy Hour, and portions of the Divine Office, as well as by daily meditation, the Rosary, and spiritual reading. This year's series of conferences was centered around the Rosary: its importance in our lives and its place in the spiritual combat.



*After the Boys' Retreat*

Pope Pius XI once wrote: "On retreat the soul trains itself to weighing things carefully; the will is made strong; passions are restrained by thought; action and contemplation are brought into harmonious interplay; and the soul attains its proper stature and dignity." Thus, each year we look forward to the opportunity to provide these retreats, for they are of the utmost assistance in the work of saving one's soul.



*Bishop Santay Giving a Conference at the Men's Retreat*



*All Souls' Day Masses During Men's Retreat*

As November nears its end and we look towards Thanksgiving and the beginning of another ecclesiastical year with the First Sunday of Advent, let us reflect on the blessings we have received from Almighty God. Though we have our trials and hardships, all too often we tend to focus on them. Let us, as Charles Dickens once wrote, “Reflect upon our present blessings of which every man has many—not on our past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

Thanksgiving Day provides us with an opportunity to do this. On October 3, 1789, President George Washington signed a proclamation in which he instituted the first national Thanksgiving Day. In this proclamation President Washington declared that Thursday, November 26, 1789, be set aside “to the service of that great and glorious Being Who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. This is to be a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God.” Thus, when George Washington inaugurated the first Thanksgiving Day for the United States, he instituted it primarily to give thanks to God.



*A Procession in Round Top for Our Country on the Feast of All Saints*

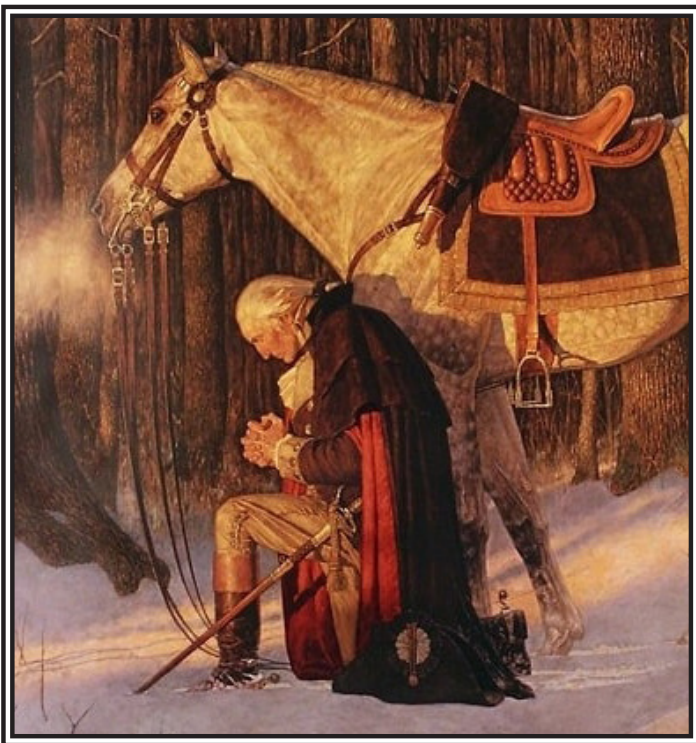
On Thanksgiving and as we begin the Church’s new year on the First Sunday of Advent, let us call to mind several particular blessings we have received and thank God in prayer for them. Let us show our gratitude by making some specific resolutions to keep the Commandments better and to avoid the occasions of sin. In the spirit of gratitude, let us also continue praying for the United States that the incoming administration may uphold the rights of God and sound morals and that God may continue to bless our great nation.

We are grateful for your continued prayers and support. Immaculate Heart Seminary would not be what it is today without the spiritual and temporal assistance of our benefactors. You remain in our daily prayers. May you have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

In the Sacred Heart,

*+James Carroll, C.S.B.V*

The Most Reverend James Carroll, C.S.P.V



*Washington’s Prayer at Valley Forge*