



Congregation of St. Pius V

IMMACULATA



Immaculate Heart Seminary

• www.congregationofstpiusv.com •

August 2026

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Each year on August 22, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we celebrate the ceremonies of vestition and religious profession at the seminary. This year, two young men received the cassock, two made their first profession of vows, and two renewed their temporary vows for another year. It was a day of great rejoicing as these young men took another step forward in their vocations. Their generous response to God's call reminds us that every vocation is a journey—a path that contains both roses and thorns. There is a beautiful story from the life of one of our patrons, St. John Bosco, which illustrates this perfectly.

In 1847 Don Bosco dreamed that Our Lady led him into a beautiful garden. A path ran through the garden, covered with roses. "This is the path you must take," she told him. Don Bosco began walking, but he soon discovered that the roses were covered with thorns. As he continued, the thorns grew thicker, tearing his clothing, cutting his face and arms, and causing his feet to bleed. Some of his companions turned back when they encountered the suffering; others persevered with him. Meanwhile, those standing along the path could see only the roses. "How fortunate Don Bosco is!" they said. "His path is always covered with roses." They could not see the thorns.

At the end of the path, Our Lady explained the meaning of the vision. The roses represented the charity that would characterize Don Bosco's work; the thorns represented the obstacles, sufferings, and disappointments he would encounter. Her message was that he should not lose heart. Don Bosco persevered



Receiving the Cassock, Surplice, and Sash



Vesting a Novice in the Cassock

through countless difficulties, and God blessed his fidelity. The congregation he founded eventually spread throughout the world.

That story applies to the history of our own Congregation and seminary. When Bishop Kelly began this work, the path often seemed to be covered more with thorns than roses. There were chapels and missions to serve, but no seminary and few priests. Yet, Bishop Kelly did not lose heart. He continued to trust in God and Our Lady. Through God's providence Bishop Kelly established the Congregation of St. Pius V and Immaculate Heart

Seminary, providing a means to form and train priests and religious to serve future generations of Catholics.

This October marks thirty years since the establishment of Immaculate Heart Seminary. When we look at what God has given us today, we can see how dramatically that path has changed. What once appeared to be a path of thorns has, by God's grace, become a path of roses. We now have bishops and priests, seminarians preparing for the priesthood, brothers assisting in the apostolate, chapels and missions throughout the country, and faithful Catholics whose numbers continue to grow. We have reason for great hope.

However, we must never forget that those roses were purchased by sacrifices. The roses did not appear because there were no thorns; they appeared because people were willing to walk through the thorns. In laboring for souls, the priests, seminarians, and brothers will encounter thorns: difficulties, sacrifices, and disappointments. Yet, with confidence in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and with the assistance of your prayers and sacrifices, we will persevere.



*A Newly Professed Brother
Receiving the Profession Crucifix*



Signing the Formula of Profession

May God continue to preserve and bless our Congregation for many years to come. May He inspire many more young men to follow Him so that we will have more laborers in the vineyard to continue the work Bishop Kelly began thirty years ago for the love of the Sacred Heart and the salvation of souls.

In the Sacred Heart,

+James Carroll, C.S.B.V

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