



Sanctitas Fidelitas Fraternitas
Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

“A Catholic priest has no political principles except the Word of God.” ~ St. John Bosco

June 1, 2023

Dearest Brothers,

I wish you a blessed month of the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts!

It seems that Catholics today are confronted at every turn with challenges to our Faith, and we priests are at the forefront of many of these battles.

We signed up for the *Church Militant*, didn't we? Well the “militant” aspect of our vocation is upon us and will perhaps increase in intensity as we march into the future.



We hope in Christ, and we offer our priesthood to the service of souls.

As the vision of St. John Bosco pointed out so long ago, the world will always be stormy and **will batter the Church from every side**, but if we remain between the twin pillars of the Eucharist and Our Lady, we have nothing to fear.

Finally, brothers, I'd just like to **give you a heads up** about one particular storm this month: the so-called *Association of US Catholic Priests* (dissenting group of priests) is meeting in San Diego in *curious timing* with “Pride” Month (I'm sure it was just a coincidence).



We will send you a **special email** with our response later this month.

Peace in Christ and Our Lady,

Fr. John Trigilio, PhD, ThD

Confraternity President, and Director of Pastoral Formation, Formation Advisor, Spiritual Director, faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

PS – Feel free to contact me by hitting reply to this email. As always, *Ad multos annos!*

Cause for Concern About the State of the Church

The Featured Articles on the front page of the CCC website this month bring up some serious causes of concern for clergy, as indeed for all Catholics. In fact, a couple of **highly respected lay scholars** in both Europe and the US are making their voices heard and clamoring for needed reform.

The other concern is the precipitous drop **invocations to the priesthood**, which should have us all concerned about the future. This burden falls squarely on our shoulders. Read the articles and continue the prayer.

Check out the Confraternity's
Website

Also from the Web

We keep our website updated on a regular basis. Most of the front page is news of interest to clergy, but please note that we especially **welcome any contributions from priests** for our Blog. Here are a few of the recent highlights:

(Click on the underlined Titles below to go directly to the individual sections of the site where you can find links to all these articles:)

[Burning Issues & Perspectives](#)

Main Features: [The Incredible 21 Martyrs of Libya](#) | [“Schism Plain and Simple” – German Bishops Vote to Bless Same-Sex Unions](#)

[Shepherd’s Voices](#)

Main Features: [Bp. Tobin: “Grave Moral Evil” for Joe Biden to Receive Communion](#) | [Cardinal Burke's Message to the Faithful Priests of the Church in Germany](#)

[Clergy Online](#)

Featured: [Fr. Martins](#) | [Fr. Stravinskas](#) | [Fr. Pokorski](#) | [Fr. Barthe](#) | [Fr. Jenkins](#) | [Fr. Gough](#) | [Fr. McTigue](#), and other priests.

You may also wish to check out our feature pages:

[Priests in Action](#)

[Priest Bloggers](#)

[Priest Books](#)

Domus Dei

The Cathedral of St Cecilia in Albi, France



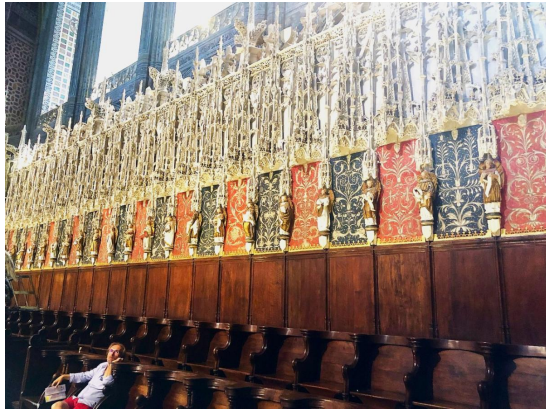
The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Cecilia was built in the aftermath of the 12th century **Albigensian Crusade**. The grim exterior resembles a fortress, but the interior is lavishly decorated with art and sculpture, a unique and very ornate rood screen, which was made between 1474 and 1483.

Its walls are ornamented in bright blues and golds, in the Southern French Gothic style. It was begun in 1282 and was **under construction for 200 years**.

It claims to be the **largest brick building in the world**. It boasts the widest Gothic nave in France, 59 ft., compared with 48 ft. at Rheims Cathedral and 46 ft. at Notre-Dame de Paris.

The **French Revolution** brought devastation to the cathedral. In 1791, it was officially declared a revolutionary Temple of Reason, and became the property of the local revolutionary council, which declared that the rood screen was "a

symbol of fanaticism and superstition".



They destroyed the statues on the exterior of the rood screen, sparing only the statues of Adam and Eve, but **fortunately did not destroy the interior** of the screen. The celebrated reliquary of the True Cross and other treasures were seized, stripped of jewels and melted down for their gold in 1792.

(Excerpts and images from Wikipedia, [Albi Cathedral](#))

PS — Please forward this email to any other priests or deacons who may wish to join our team.

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