

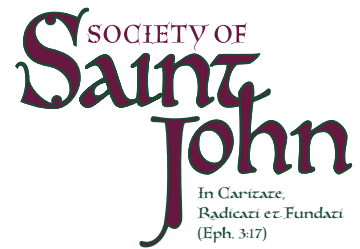
SOCIETY OF  
**Saint  
John**





SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

FEAST OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS



Dearly Beloved of our Lady,

I am writing you today at the request of our bishop. For some time now his Excellency, Bishop Rogelio Livieres, has desired to contact you in order to assure you of his official approval of the Society of Saint John. On the following page, therefore, I am enclosing his letter to you together with a few photographs.

The Bishop's approval gives us an official mandate to preach the Gospel in the name of Christ. As Saint Paul teaches: *How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?* (Rom 10:14-15).

With our canonical establishment in the Diocese of Ciudad del Este, we have been sent into the vineyard. The Church has given us a command, and we are to respond with diligence. In doing so, we are working among the needy of Paraguay (and internationally) to promote the traditional Mass and Sacraments in their solemn form. We are also preaching retreats and workshops, retreats which we hope to bring close to you one day. (To get a flavor of the retreats, please have a look at [ssjohn.org](http://ssjohn.org).)

None of this work can be done without you. As Isaiah and Saint Paul say: *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, and that preacheth peace...* (Is. 52:7, Rom. 10:15). The feet in this passage signify the means by which the Gospel comes to be preached. Thus, Saint Paul and Isaiah are really speaking of you as someone who promotes the Gospel through groups like the Society of Saint John. You make preaching the Kingdom possible. You, therefore, become a vehicle of salvation for God's little ones.

In a poor country such as Paraguay, we are able to maintain a very lean budget. But our work depends on your generosity. We are planting and nourishing the seeds of faith. To be sure, the fields we are now working are far from your home. But, as we are all members of the Mystical Body, each good deed strengthens the whole of the Body. Further, the actual fruits of our labor might reach you one day soon.

Indeed, [two more men](#) will be sent into the vineyard already as deacons in December and, hopefully, as priests by July. This is thanks to you. It is your support that allows us to concentrate on their priestly formation. We hope you will have the opportunity to meet them in one of their travels.

In closing, I ask you to continue to be generous in [promoting the work](#) of the Society of Saint John. The Church has given a us mandate. If you help us fulfill it, there will be a true flowering for the Church and a richer heritage for the days to come.

Yours in our Lady and Saint John,

  
Brother Anthony Myers

8 SEPTEMBER 2006

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



Dear Friends of the Society of Saint John,

I am writing to ask you to continue your support of the Society of Saint John. I am Monsignor Rogelio Livieres, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. I have received the Society of Saint John into my Diocese, and I want now to voice my personal and official support for this young and promising community.

I consider myself as continuing the work of Bishop James Timlin of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Before his retirement, Bishop Timlin had established the Society as a Clerical Public Association of the Faithful in Scranton. I have confirmed that work and am now pursuing the final canonical stage of approval, that is, its establishment as a Society of Apostolic Life. Therefore, though they are no longer a part of the Diocese of Scranton, I want to assure you that the Society of Saint John is in every way a Catholic institution and, I would like to add, a credit to the universal Church.

I have accepted these men into my diocese for the sole purpose of allowing them to pursue their aims and specific charism. Indeed, I command it. I have known some of these men for many years and now have come to know each of them. While I have a great regard for their character, it is their important mission which moves me to offer my support.

Indeed, I believe that such work is critical to the Church. I especially appreciate their promotion of the solemn celebration of the traditional Latin liturgy, as approved by the Church and governed by the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*. The Holy Father himself has made it very clear that he is in favor of such promotion of the liturgy.

Pope Benedict XVI has likewise insisted on the importance of reviving Biblical studies and prayer, especially under the form of *lectio divina*. The Society of Saint John sees the practice of *lectio divina* as the second of the three main goals of their apostolate. Their third goal—that of forming Christian leaders through classical education in the context of small Catholic communities—is also critical to the future of the Church.

I am fully aware that your Society has suffered much over the past years, and I know that it has grown wiser and stronger in the process. Indeed, our Faith teaches us explicitly that the Lord chastises those he loves. *For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives (Heb. 12:16).*



Thank you for the role you have played in the work of the Society of Saint John. The work is good for the Church. Through their liturgical prayer and the publication of prayer materials, the Society of Saint John has helped thousands of faithful. It is my hope they will expand and open other houses, perhaps one day being much closer to you.

With your help, the Society of Saint John will continue to flourish and do much good for the Church. I, therefore, strongly encourage you to continue to be generous to the Society, both in your prayers and in your financial support.

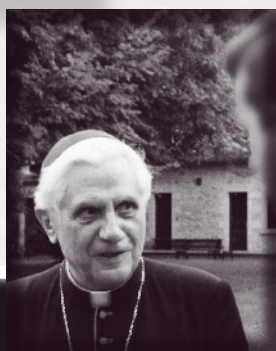
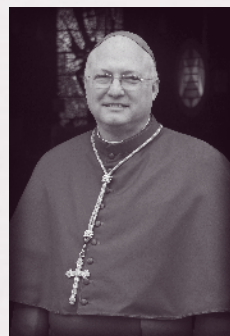
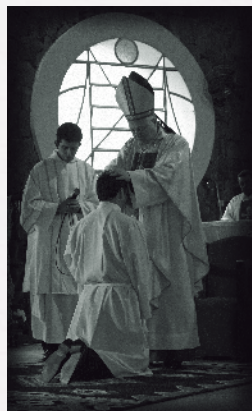
I extend to you my blessing and prayers.

Yours in Christ,

+ *Rogelio Livieres*

Mons. Rogelio Livieres Plano

Bishop of the Diocese of Ciudad del Este  
Paraguay



*Photos (from upper left): 1) Bishop Livieres ordaining a new deacon into his diocese; 2) Pope Benedict XVI discussing one of his favorite subjects: the liturgy; 3) Bishop Livieres with Kevin Lieberman and Anthony Myers; 4) Holy Mass at the Society of Saint John; 5) Portrait of Bishop Rogelio Livieres; 6) Bishop Livieres with the Holy Father at the Vatican*