

THE ORATORY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI – TORONTO

Mark your calendars:

- **Wednesday, October 5, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass in honour of St Aloysius Scrosoppi of the Oratory.
 - **Wednesday, October 12, at 8:00 p.m.** Opening Mass of the Forty Hours' Devotion. **Friday, October 14, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Rosary Holy Hour at end of the Forty Hours' Devotion.
 - **Wednesday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m.** Evening at the Oratory: 'Male and Female He Created Them'
 - **Tuesday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass of All Saints. (This is the 30th Anniversary of the official foundation of the Toronto Oratory.)
 - **Wednesday, November 2, at 8:00 p.m.** Sung Latin Mass to commemorate All the Faithful Departed.
 - **Wednesday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m.** Evening at the Oratory: *The Mass and Modernity: Walking to Heaven Backwards*: a new book by Fr Robinson
 - **Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Family Day of Recollection.
 - **Thursday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.** Sung Latin Mass in honour of the Immaculate Conception.
 - **Wednesday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m.** Evening at the Oratory: 'The Big Bang'
 - **Thursday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass in honour of Bl. Anthony Grassi of the Oratory.
-

1372 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6K 1H3
416-532-2879 mail@oratory-toronto.org
www.oration-toronto.org

Dear Friends of the Toronto Oratory:

Our Triennial Elections

As you know there is an election every three years for the Superior of the Oratory. Last May the Fathers decided I should once again take over the direction of our House.

I am grateful for the confidence the members of our community have again shown in me. All of us, but most especially myself, owe a great debt of gratitude to Father Hilbert's generosity, hard work and good will. For his part, he has benefited greatly from his experience as Provost in the last triennium, and our House has benefited from his willingness to shoulder the burden of the leadership of the community and for providing continuity in the direction of our House.

Novices

Brother Michael Eades has finished the first year of his novitiate and is beginning to study theology in house. For his vacation, he joined three of the Fathers on a trip down the French River, the waterway used by the Canadian Martyrs to get to Huronia, and has come to the conclusion that Ontario has scenery to rival the mountains of his native North Carolina. Brother Michael was joined in the novitiate by Brother Matthew Harrison who was clothed in the habit of Saint Philip on September 11. Brother Matthew is no stranger to our house. He was a residential student in our seminary and so comes to us with his degree in philosophy. He has also lived with us over the past three summers, helping out with sacristy work. And there is at least one other man who might join us in the not too distant future. Please pray for these and others that St Philip may send us.

Ordination

Brother Neil Maunder will be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Attila Mikloshazy on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. He is currently finishing off his theological studies, besides training altar boys and doing much administrative work in the Seminary. We hope that many of you will be able to join us on this happy occasion in January.

Summer School

Twenty people took part in the first week of our Summer School. At the beginning of the course, there were three who were not Catholic. Since then, all three have been received into the Church – *Deo gratias*. The topic for the second week was the Papacy. We had selected the topic before the death of John Paul II and the election of Benedict XVI. These subsequent events made the week even more topical. Sixty people took part in the second session. Of these, fifteen stayed in the seminary residence. Most of these people have been coming for years and have formed a pleasant community of sorts, but newcomers are always welcome.

WYD 2005

Fathers Daniel Utrecht and Thomas Trottier took a group of 34 pilgrims to World Youth Day in Cologne. The young people, who ranged in age from 15 to over 30, worked hard to raise money for the trip. They spent a week in the Münster diocese before descending on Cologne to see Pope

Benedict XVI. The young pilgrims came back more mature in their faith. They gave a presentation of the trip at our Evenings at the Oratory in September. They have learned to sing some of the Church's more common Gregorian chants, such as the Salve Regina. And the younger ones are a promising nucleus for a youth group that we are in the process of starting. I hope to be able to report on this project in the next newsletter.

Oratory Children's Choir

The Children's choir continues to improve under the enthusiastic and competent leadership of Katherine Mahon. The children are in the process of raising money for sheet music and a road trip to Ottawa on Canada Day by selling chocolates. We have yet to put their music on our web site, but it will eventually get there.

St Philip's Seminary

This year we have sixteen seminarians in residence: seven from the diocese of Hamilton, seven from the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica, one from the diocese of Peterborough, and a novice from the London Oratory. An additional thirteen students take classes as day students. This year, the number of our graduates who have been ordained has surpassed one hundred. One of Philip's achievements in 16th Century Rome was the reform of the secular clergy. We hope that we are contributing toward this important goal in our time.

Ryerson Chaplaincy

After nearly seven years of work at Ryerson Polytechnical University, we asked to be relieved of this work. With more students at our Seminary and the increased work that a growing novitiate demands, we decided that we could no longer spare a priest to carry on the work at Ryerson. We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with university students, and we are also grateful that the Archdiocese understood our need to develop our own community first.

The Mass and Modernity: Walking to Heaven Backwards

I hope that St Philip will forgive me if I bring to your attention a book that I wrote on the liturgy, which will be published by Ignatius Press in October. The Evening at the Oratory on November 9 will be a book launch. I hope that you will be able to buy a copy from your local bookstore. But if not, you can buy it directly at the launching, from Ignatius Press or from our online bookstore.

Two Pilgrimages in 2006

You may be interested to know that Fr Martin Hilbert is leading a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico) in January 2006 and that Fr David Roche will lead a pilgrimage tour to the major

sites of Central Europe in May 2006. Details can be found on our web site on the 'Calendar of Events' page. There is still plenty of room on both these tours.

Forty Hours' Devotion

Saint Philip introduced this devotion to the Blessed Sacrament to Rome in 1551; the Forty Hours has been an annual event at the Toronto Oratory for over twenty years. This year, it will start with a sung Mass on Wednesday, October 12, at 8:00 p.m.; and it will conclude with a Rosary Holy Hour on Friday, October 14, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Holy Family Church will be open throughout and the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed night and day, except during the regularly scheduled parish Masses. We hope that many people will spend some time before the Lord, especially during this Year of the Eucharist, which John Paul II hoped would rekindle 'Eucharistic amazement'.

I hope that we will see many of you at the Oratory in the not too distant future. Pray that our house be a faithful reflection of Saint Philip's apostolate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr Jonathan Robinson