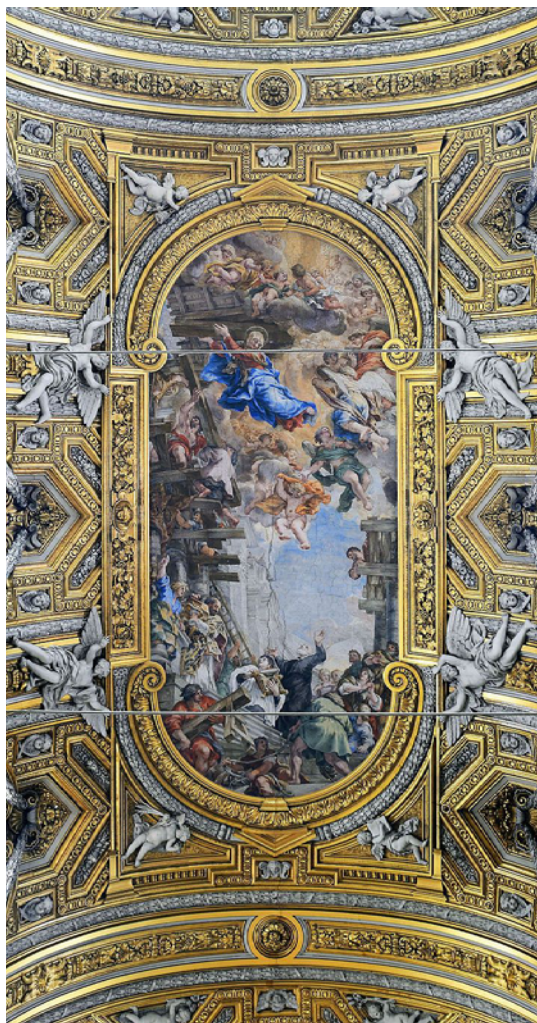


The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri

ANNUAL APPEAL • NOVEMBER 2020



The Firm Push of Providence

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28



Passiontide online: a deeper experience of the redemptive veiling of the Word made flesh.

The Push

WE ORATORIANS ARE noted for our trust in the time-tested traditions of the Church. From our liturgies and our way of dressing to our preaching and teaching, the living tradition of the Church is our guide. Being “on-trend” is not usually our way.

Trusting that God works “in everything” means trying to see his providence at work, even through viruses! But when Covid brought about the closure of our churches and schools in March, we were not thinking about God’s big plan—we were trying to salvage the academic year for our seminarians and to support and stay connected with our parishioners and



Filming *Amare Nesciri* – ‘Love to be Unknown’ – our commemorative documentary of Fr Robinson; paradoxical, perhaps, but very enlightening. A final version will be available soon.

benefactors. Finishing the seminary year online was not what any of us really wanted. Nothing replaces learning in one another's presence. But we needed to do whatever we could to ensure that the work of the Church was not locked down! We needed to make sure that our parishioners and benefactors

would have whatever spiritual nourishment we could provide them. Something obviously needed to be done. Making our work accessible online seemed to be the only way forward in the circumstances. God was pushing us to expand the ways in which we communicated our traditions.



Ancient Philosophy,
Contemporary Community.

The Confirmation

BY A GRADUAL shift from in-class instruction to online classes and exams, all of our seminarians were able to complete their academic year. Their formation for the priesthood would not be delayed by the lockdown or the travel restrictions, even though many of them were required to return to their own countries as borders began to close. This year we are offering a hybrid of in-class and online instruction. This has allowed fourteen seminarians who would not have been able to be present here at Saint Philip's Seminary to take part in our intellectual formation from a distance—the United States, England, and



Their sound has gone forth into all the earth, and
their words unto the ends of the whole world.

....but, as time has gone on, a vision of what may become possible has begun to emerge.



In the early days we relied on improvising both technology and the spaces to host it...



Wales. And despite the liturgical restrictions because of the pandemic, fifteen of our alumni around the world were ordained priests this summer. We have had the honour to play a role in the formation of more than 216 priests so far.

The experience we gained from the Seminary encouraged us to offer our regular Theology Summer School for laypeople in

July. Although we were only able to have ten people physically present, live-streaming the classes allowed 110 people around the world to experience the course. Some might have been able to come to Toronto in person, but many would not. One student's thank you note sums up the unintended blessings from this new way of doing things.

“I am very fortunate that these Summer Classes were made accessible via online. I feel blessed that even though I am here in Kazakhstan I was able to participate in the profound and theological lessons these past two weeks... I am delighted with my experience and have shared what I have learned to my family in the Philippines; and have even discussed some points of the lectures with a friend in Sweden. I look forward to the next Summer School. And as it is accessible to attend online, I pray that more from other countries would join in the future.”



Teaching the laity as well as seminarians has always been an important dimension of our mission to educate; with the provision of the right technology and proper spaces it is now poised to expand greatly

In addition to the Seminary courses, the Summer School, and the live-streamed masses (twice daily during lockdown), various of our fathers have been posting talks on various subjects and live-streaming novenas and prayers, to help feed not only the intellectual lives of those around us but their devotional lives as well.

YouTube

CA

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Solemn High Mass (Usus Antiquior) for May 26: Saint Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratory

1,216 views • Streamed live on May 26, 2020

42

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SHARE

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The Toronto Oratory

1.13K subscribers

Solemn High Mass (Usus Antiquior) from the Toronto Oratory for May 26, 2020, S. Philippi Neri Confessoris. If there are major interruptions during the stream, you can check back later in the afternoon for a complete recording of the mass.

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October 16: Rosary Holy Hour (Closing of Forty Hours' Devotion)

440 views • Streamed live on Oct 16, 2020

29

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The Toronto Oratory

1.13K subscribers

The Rosary Holy Hour for the end of the Forty Hours' Devotion from the Toronto Oratory on October 16, 2020.

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For so long it seemed as if building work on
our seminary extension would never begin;
but then it did...

The Response

SINCE WE ARE in the midst of the Saint Philip's Seminary first major new construction (a building housing two large and one small classrooms and residence for sixteen additional seminarians), we think it would be a proper response to the present times to ensure that the new classrooms are media-ready. These technologies, however, are expensive. The opportunity to make it happen now, before construction is complete, is another gift of providence. We ask for your assistance in cooperating with the rather insistent suggestions God has sent our way. Help us to make our work available to more and more people. Help us to train

Opposite

Despite all appearances, he doesn't know how to operate one...

As the contours of the completed building begin to take shape, so does the significance of this project for the Oratory, the neighbourhood, the city and the wider Church.




more seminarians for a Church so in need of them. God always has plans—for every twist and turn in human history. We have the chance to assist in the accomplishment of those plans. 🙏

WHILE THEY WERE building the church, Giovanni Antonio Lucci, who superintended the work, had left a piece of roof above a part of the old church, where there was an ancient picture of our Blessed Lady, very devotional, the same which is now at the high altar. He had done this in order that mass might be said under it, and the Blessed Sacrament reserved. One morning the holy father sent for him in great haste, and ordered him to have the roof taken off immediately, because he had seen that it would have fallen that very night just passed, if the glorious Virgin had not held it up with her own hands. Giovanni Antonio immediately went with some workmen to execute the obedience, and found that the principal beam had started from the wall, and was apparently self-supported in the air, so that all who saw it cried out, “A miracle! a miracle!”

An account of the building of the original Oratory church
Bacci, Life of Saint Philip Neri, vol. 1, 154.



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