

# The Oratory *of* Saint Philip Neri

ANNUAL APPEAL / NOVEMBER 2018



The way to love anything is to realize that it might be lost.  
(G. K. Chesterton)

# The Oratory *of* Saint Philip Neri

## TORONTO

November 2018

Dear Friends of the Toronto Oratory,

Once again I am writing on behalf of the Fathers and Brothers to ask for your valuable assistance. To those of you who have contributed to our major fundraising campaign *Renovatio*, I would like to renew my very sincere thanks for your support. The funds we have raised through *Renovatio* will provide a new seminary building, which will be a great enhancement of our work in the formation of priests, and will help to provide long term financial support towards the maintenance and development of the Oratory and its apostolates.

After a year in which *Renovatio* absorbed our energies, this letter resumes our annual appeal for support towards operating expenses. In earlier campaign brochures I have focussed on liturgy, on music, on our noviciate and on the unique programme of education which the Oratory offers at St Philip's Seminary. This year the emphasis falls on Art at the Oratory.

Pride of place in our presentation goes to Mr Ken Woo's decoration of the sanctuary in the Oratory Church, made possible by a generous private donation.

Next I want to draw your attention to the work of Brother Jason Flammini who is engaged in a long-term project of creating and restoring liturgical vestments. The vestments that Br Jason is making are largely for our own use; an exception is his production of a fine mitre for a new Oratorian bishop who over the years has been a good friend of the Toronto Oratory.

Beautiful vestments of course require beautiful settings. During the past year we have restored two chapels: one for the use of our Norbertine students, and another for our diocesan seminarians - both projects again under Brother Jason's direction.

The final examples of Oratorian artistry featured in this year's brochure represent smaller-scale enhancements of liturgical and devotional life: calligraphy, rosary making, and the decoration of the Paschal Candle.

All of this unfolds of course alongside the hidden but vital arts of spiritual direction and the apostolate of the confessional, through which we seek to continue and extend St Philip's mission in the contemporary world.

Yours very sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jonathan Robinson" in a cursive script, followed by a small dash.

Fr Robinson

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[www.oratory-toronto.org](http://www.oratory-toronto.org) · [oratorianvocations.blogspot.com](http://oratorianvocations.blogspot.com) · [mail@oratory-toronto.org](mailto:mail@oratory-toronto.org)

THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI

O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory.

(Psalm 63:1-2)

see

One Faith Exhibition: An Artist's Journey  
by Ken Woo

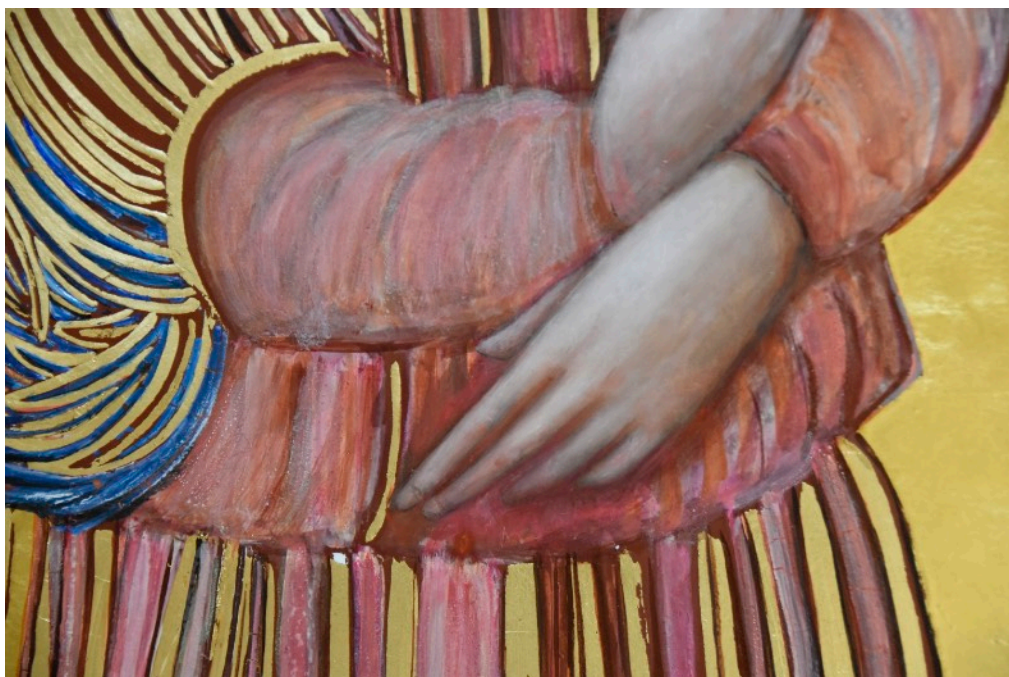
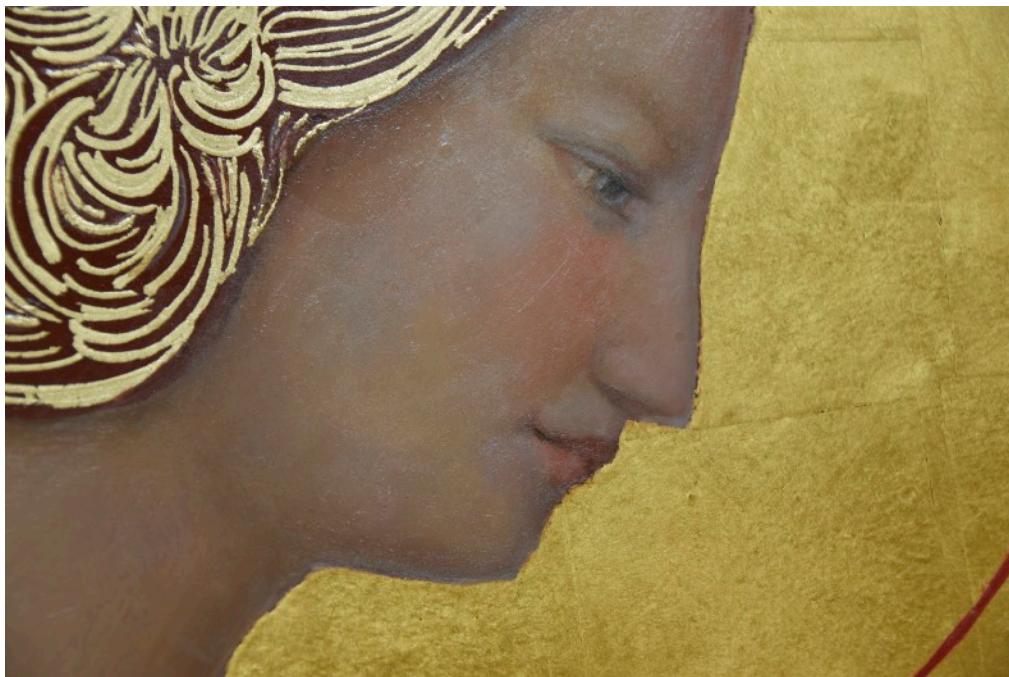
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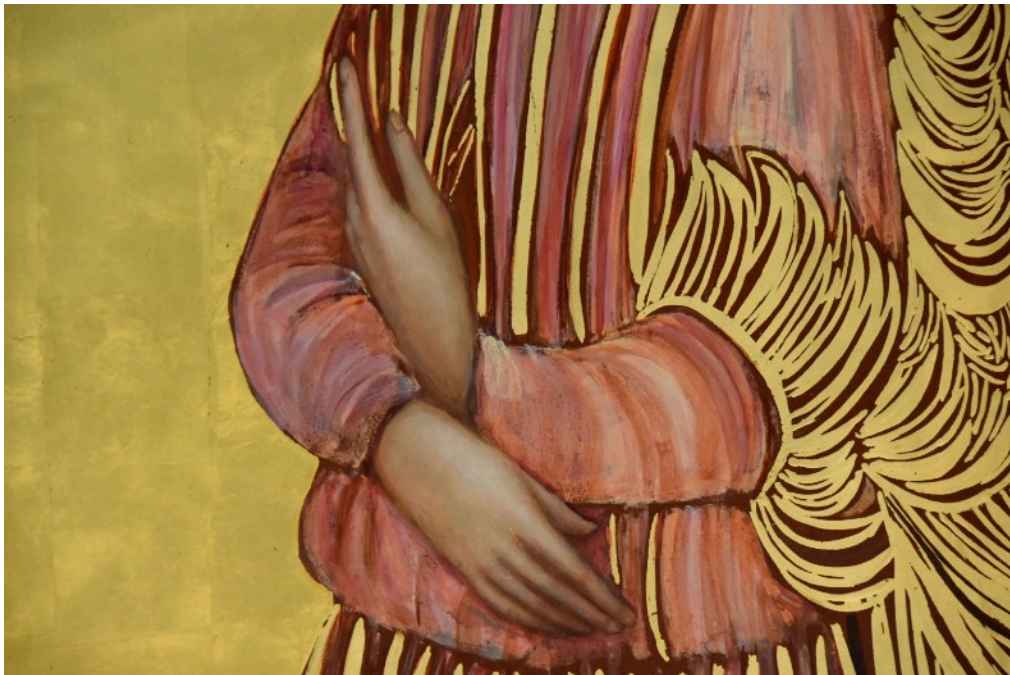
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## THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI

When I passed by you again and looked upon you, behold, you were at the age for love; and I spread my skirt over you, and covered your nakedness: yea, I plighted my troth to you and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord God, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you, and anointed you with oil. I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with leather, I swathed you in fine linen and covered you with silk. And I decked you with ornaments...

(Ezekiel 16:8-11)



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## THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI







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Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, “Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my ordinances and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”

(1 Kings 6:11-13)





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Before



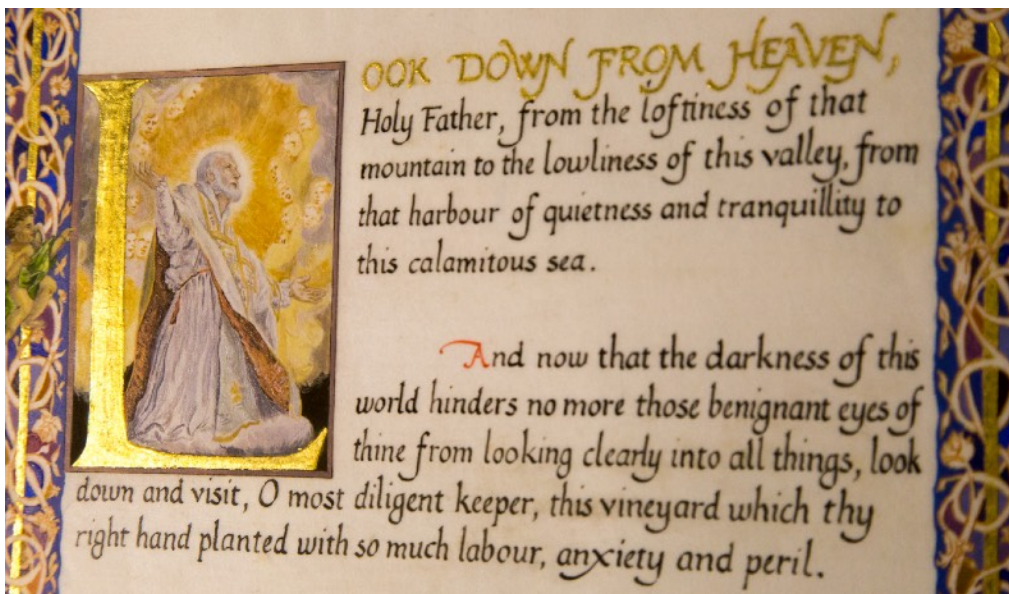
After



## THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI

The Lord said to Moses, “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every craft.”

(Exodus 31:1-5)



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No longer loved or fostered by religion, beauty is lifted from its face as a mask, and its absence exposes features on that face which threaten to become incomprehensible to man. We no longer dare to believe in beauty and we make of it a mere appearance in order the more easily to dispose of it. Our situation today shows that beauty demands for itself at least as much courage and decision as do truth and goodness, and she will not allow herself to be separated and banned from her two sisters without taking them along with herself in an act of mysterious vengeance. We can be sure that whoever sneers at her name as if she were the ornament of a bourgeois past — whether he admits it or not — can no longer pray and soon will no longer be able to love.

(Hans Urs von Balthasar)