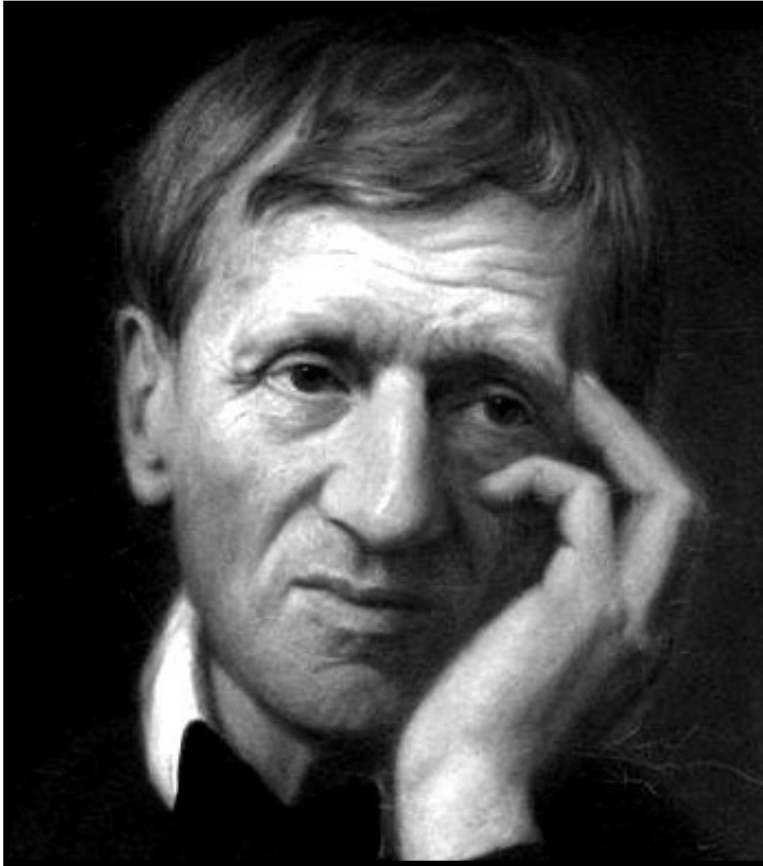


The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri

ANNUAL APPEAL / NOVEMBER 2019



God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

(Newman *Meditations and Devotions* 1893)

The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri

TORONTO

November 2019

Dear Friends of the Toronto Oratory,

Once again it is time for me to appeal to the long-standing generosity of benefactors to the Toronto Oratory.

Our fundraising campaign *Renovatio*, dedicated to renewing St Philip's Seminary and developing other Oratorian apostolates, continues to gather donations large and small. The demolition of two of the old Seminary buildings commences within a month. By year's end the foundations of our new Seminary building will be laid, with completion scheduled for a year hence. The Fathers and Brothers are immensely grateful for the generosity which is helping us to realize this and the other goals *Renovatio* has in view.

The Oratory also incurs regular operating expenses, and it is with these that our annual appeal is chiefly concerned. This campaign brochure focuses on various initiatives of liturgical celebration and theological reflection we undertook in the wake of the recent canonization of the Oratorian Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Three events provided occasions for theological reflection. We dedicated the second week of our annual Summer School to Newman; the Fathers and Brothers delivered a course of fifteen lectures, organized chronologically, which expounded Newman's biographical, religious and intellectual development. The current season of talks at the bi-monthly meetings of the Secular Oratory has also focussed on Newman, especially his spirituality, his hagiography and his understanding of the Oratory. In September Dr Christopher Wojtulewicz, a Free Research

Associate at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), gave a stimulating lecture presenting Newman as the Augustine of the modern world, under the auspices of St Philip's Seminary.

This brochure also evokes a trio of liturgical events. We made a daily Novena in the Oratory church, approaching the canonization on October 13. The Mass celebrated on Newman's Feast Day (October 9) was the happy occasion for two of our Brothers to receive the ministry of Lector, a stage on the way to priestly ordination. Finally, the annual Forty Hours Devotion, this year in the immediate wake of the canonization, attained an unprecedented height of splendour in honour of the new Saint, concluding with a Rosary Holy Hour which featured Newman's meditations on the Glorious Mysteries.

It is fitting to note two further events, not directly related to Newman but very much in accord with his spirit. Fr Paul Pearson's *Spiritual Direction from Dante: Avoiding the Inferno* was published in February; two companion volumes, on the spiritual teaching of the *Purgatorio* and the *Paradiso*, are forthcoming. The University of Toronto Press publication of Fr Michael Eades' doctoral dissertation *And in Our Hearts Take Up Thy Rest: The Trinitarian Pneumatology of Frederick Crowe SJ* appeared in July. This publication won Fr Michael an ecclesiastical Doctorate in Sacred Theology.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first name "Jonathan" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Robinson" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. There is a small dash or flourish at the end of the signature.

Fr Robinson

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THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI

Summer School



From first to last education, in the large sense of the word, has been my line...What I desiderate in Catholics is the gift of bringing out what their religion is. I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it. (Newman addressing Brothers of the Little Oratory 1851)



THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI

Lecture



I wish you to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason, to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other, what are the bases and principles of Catholicism...I have no apprehension you will be the worse Catholics for familiarity with these subjects, provided you cherish a vivid sense of God above and keep in mind that you have souls to be judged and saved.

(Newman addressing the Brothers of the Little Oratory
1851)

* * *

In Newman, according to Przywara, both polarities are true: Christianity is dogmatic and personal. It is both exterior—that is, institutional—and interior. Newman [also] shows us that the ‘dogmatic principle’ and the ‘principle of conscience’ are *one living principle*. Analogy shows that God dawns in the personal interiority of conscience, and fully manifests Himself in His infallibly authoritative Church.

(Dr Chris Wojtulewicz ‘Erich Przywara’s Case for
Newman as Doctor of the Church’ 2019)

Newman Mass and Installation of Lectors



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THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI



Little Oratory





St Philip lived in an age as traitorous to the interests of Catholicism as any that preceded it, or can follow it...and he perceived that the mischief was to be met, not with argument, not with science, not with protests and warnings, not by the recluse or the preacher, but by means of the great counter-fascination of purity and truth. He was raised up to do a work almost peculiar in the Church...for Philip...preferred to yield to the stream, and direct the current, which he could not stop, of science, literature, art, and fashion, and to sweeten and to sanctify what God had made very good and man had spoilt...[His] weapons should be but unaffected humility and unpretending love.

(Newman 'The Mission of St Philip' 1850)

THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI



Forty Hours/Holy Hour



The Son of God is called the Word, as declaring His glory throughout created nature, and impressing the evidence of it on every part of it. He has given us to read it in His works of goodness, holiness, and wisdom. He is the Living and Eternal Law of Truth and Perfection, that Image of God's unapproachable Attributes, which men have ever seen by glimpses on the face of the world, felt that it was sovereign...Such has He been from the beginning, graciously sent forth from the Father to reflect His glory upon all things, distinct from Him, while mysteriously one with Him; and in due time visiting us with an infinitely deeper mercy, when for our redemption He humbled Himself to take upon Him that fallen nature which He had originally created after His own image.

(Newman 'The Indwelling Spirit' 1835)



THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI



Novena



O God, who bestowed on the Priest John Henry Newman the grace to follow your kindly light and find peace in your Church; graciously grant that, through his intercession and example, we may be led out of shadows and images into the fulness of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Collect of the Mass of St John Henry Newman)

THE ORATORY *of* SAINT PHILIP NERI



In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often... I know, O my God, I must change [...] Oh, support me, as I proceed in this great, awful, happy change, with the grace of Thy unchangeableness. My unchangeableness here below is perseverance in changing.

(Newman *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* 1878/
Meditations and Devotions 1893)

*In a flash, at a trumpet crash, | I am all at once what Christ is, |
since he was what I am, and | This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, |
patch, matchwood, immortal diamond, | Is immortal diamond.*

(Gerard Manley Hopkins 'That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the
comfort of the Resurrection' 1889)