

THE ORATORY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI – TORONTO

Mark your calendars:

- **Tuesday, October 5, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass in honour of St Aloysius Scrosoppi of the Oratory.
- **Wednesday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.** Evening at the Oratory: ‘Holy Disciples of St Philip – Blessed Juvenal Ancina and Saint Aloysius Scrosoppi’
- **Wednesday, October 13, at 8:00 p.m.** Opening Mass of the Forty Hours’ Devotion. **Friday, October 15, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Rosary Holy Hour at end of the Forty Hours’ Devotion.
- **Monday, November 1, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass of All Saints. (This is the 29th Anniversary of the official foundation of the Toronto Oratory.)
- **Tuesday, November 2, at 8:00 p.m.** Sung Latin Mass to commemorate All the Faithful Departed.
- **Wednesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m.** Evening at the Oratory: ‘Evolution – More than a Hypothesis?’
- **Saturday, December 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Family Day of Recollection.
- **Wednesday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m.** Sung Latin Mass in honour of the Immaculate Conception.
- **Wednesday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m.** Sung Mass in honour of Bl. Anthony of the Oratory.

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Dear Friends of the Toronto Oratory:

Vocations to the Oratory

In my last Newsletter at Easter, I mentioned that we would soon have two new Oratorians. We now have two, but not the same two I had in mind – mysterious are the ways of the Lord. Brother Michael Eades was clothed in the habit of Saint Philip on Sunday, August 1. Although only 23 years old, Brother Michael has had a devotion to Saint Philip for many years, nourished in part by his contact with several priests from his native North Carolina. He comes to us with a licentiate in philosophy from the Catholic University of America. Brother Xavier Travaglini was clothed on Sunday, September 26. Brother Xavier, an architect, is a native of Toronto (Woodbridge), but his very name reveals his Italian background and outlook, which will no doubt add to his (and our) understanding and love of Saint Philip.

Several other promising young men are taking an interest in the Oratory. Please pray that when I next write I shall be able to announce the names of more novices.

Holy Family Church

The long-awaited bas-relief of the Holy Family for the front of the church finally arrived in May. You may now see it on our web site, on the page dedicated to Holy Family Church.

St Philip’s Pantry

For the past twenty years we have been operating a food bank in Holy Family Parish. It started in the rectory of the

church, but the large number of clients soon made it necessary to use the basement of the church. When the church burned down in 1997, we were very fortunate that a nearby low-cost apartment building (operated by the City of Toronto) opened its doors to us so that we could continue to feed the 800 or so families that depend on us every month. Last fall, the management announced that it would soon need to recover the space that had been leased to us for one dollar per year. So, as of last April, we have been operating the food bank out of a part of a house we have leased on King Street. There are several advantages to the new arrangement. We can stay open longer as a service to the poor. And the premises are closer to Holy Family Church. The disadvantage, of course, is that the rent is a lot higher than a dollar per year.

Oratory Children's Choir

For several years, Fr Roche had been thinking of practical ways of starting a children's choir. He must have been praying about it too, because, last March, one of our parishioners came to ask whether she might be allowed to direct such a choir. Katharine Mahon has much experience with liturgical music from her days as an Anglican. As a Catholic, she has now generously put her talents to use at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays at Holy Family Church. And she is making a very positive contribution to the education of approximately twenty young children. Many parishioners have expressed their delight with the music. The choir will be making its first road trip on October 30 / 31 to sing at two Masses at Saint Mary's in Collingwood. A CD is not yet on the horizon, but if you cannot come to Holy Family Church, you may hear them soon on our website.

St Philip's Seminary

This year we have twelve seminarians in residence: six from the diocese of Hamilton, four from the Missionaries of the Poor in Jamaica, one from the diocese of Charlottetown, P.E.I., and a novice from the London Oratory. An additional fourteen students take classes as day students. We had to make some renovations to our buildings to accommodate the increased numbers

The Mass for the inauguration of the Academic Year took place on September 11, which turned out to be a beautiful day for the reception in the seminary courtyard.

Capriccio's Crew – Young Adults Group

Several parishioners approached us to start a young adults' group that is both social and apostolic. Presently, they are meeting on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory of Holy Family Church to read ancient Christian writings. Several of the regular members teach in the parish catechism program and help out the Missionaries of Charity. They are also a big help in organizing and supervising programs for youth, such as bike rides and soccer.

Fr Robinson

Fr Robinson continues to be well. In the last newsletter, I asked you for prayers that the book he was working on at the time should see the light of day. I am very pleased to let you know that Ignatius Press has agreed to publish this work on the liturgy. We hope that Father's increasingly

busy schedule as novice master, to say nothing of his regular turns saying Mass, hearing confessions, and acting as spiritual director will not prevent him from producing more books.

Masses for Your Intentions

With the increased number of priests in the community, we are in a position to accept stipends for Masses for your intentions by mail. Although we cannot accept stipends for a Mass on a particular day or at a particular time – such arrangements can be made only by coming to the rectory of Holy Family or St Vincent de Paul – we will say Masses for your intentions within a short time of receiving your request. The Mass stipend is \$10. (No tax-receipts are issued for Mass intentions.)

Blessed Juvenal Ancina (1545-1604)

This is the fourth centenary of the death, by poisoning, of Blessed Juvenal Ancina of the Oratory. In order to encourage devotion to Juvenal, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted a plenary indulgence (under the usual conditions) to anyone who attends a Mass in honour of Blessed Juvenal from 30 August 2004 until 30 August 2005 in a church served by Oratorians. (You will have to wait until next August 30 to gain this indulgence.) But you can gain a partial indulgence every day during the same year by coming to Holy Family or St Vincent de Paul Church and saying an approved prayer in front of Juvenal's picture. One such prayer is on the back of this newsletter. You can read a short account of Blessed

Juvenal's life on our web site under 'Notable Oratorians'; and you can come to listen to a talk on Blessed Juvenal at the Evening at the Oratory on October 6.

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 13, at 8:00 p.m.; and it will conclude with a Rosary Holy Hour on Friday, October 15, 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 the Holy Father hopes will 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 Martin Hilbert