



# Serrapost

June 2010

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Mary, Mother of Vocations,  
pray for us

**Joanne McGarry**, Executive Director, Catholic Civil Rights League, our speaker on June 2, has been in journalism, public relations and media training for over 25 years. She was the managing editor of the Catholic register in the 1980's and editor of a group of magazines for the Canadian jewellery industry and then public relations manager for one of Canada's leading application development software providers. Joanne became director of the CCRL in 2004. She is often interviewed by the media to discuss freedom of speech, religious freedom and fairness in the portrayals of faith groups. She has appeared on most of the popular discussion programs on TV and radio as well as being quoted in national newspapers. She has a regular column in the Catholic Register.



The League, founded in 1985 as an independent lay organization, is faithful to the teachings of the Magisterium and works in cooperation with local bishops across Canada.

League activities include combating defamation and prejudice in the media, defending those challenged in courts and human rights tribunals for upholding religious teachings in the public arena. It also promotes a culture of life through participation in abortion and euthanasia debates.

**Sister Maureen Baldwin CND**, Executive director of NAVFD spoke at the June 16 luncheon, following Mass celebrated by Chaplain Ed Curtis.

Sister hails from Sydney, N.S. and has been a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal for 22 years and spent 17 years as a teacher and counsellor in the Fredericton NB school system. She came to Toronto in 2007 to do graduate studies at Regis College and is now a doctoral student at the Toronto School of Theology.



In May 2009 she became the first Executive Director of the National Association of Vocational and Formation Directors. NAVFD developed formation events for new sisters, brothers and priests. It now includes those in vocation ministry as well as leadership positions in religious congregations.

Recently, NAVFD has taken as its primary purpose to create and foster a **Vocation Culture** in the Catholic Church of Canada, a culture where each Christian by virtue of his or her baptism is empowered to identify and respond to the mission to which he or she is called as a member of the Body of Christ. Sister Maureen firmly believes that through collaborative ministry, the Church will continue to grow and be a source of strength in today's world.

## R.I.P.

Remember in your prayers

**Rosemary Marziliano**

April 13, 1956 - June 14, 2010

Daughter of Downtown Serran Vince DeMarco

## Prayer Request from Rome

John Cardinal Foley writes: "As you know, the Church and indeed the Holy Father himself are going through a difficult time and are in need of prayers. I would ask that, on or near the feast of SS Peter and Paul on June 29, all make a special effort to go to Mass and offer special prayers for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI."

## Coming Events:

June 22 Memorial of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher

June 24 Solemnity of John the Baptist

Sept. 2-5 Serra Inter. Conv. Anchorage, Alaska

Oct. 23 Altar Servers Awards-St. Paul's Basilica

Nov. 12-14 Fall Conv. Ont. Region - Niagara Falls

## John the Baptist

June 24, Solemnity of the birth of John the Baptist the Forerunner, patron saint of politicians and statesmen, is the only saint other than the Virgin Mary whose birthday is marked by a liturgical feast.

## Inspiring Letter

Sir Thomas More, at one time one of King Henry VIII's most trusted ministers was beheaded on July 6, 1535 by order of the king. He and St. John Fisher had resisted the King's divorce from Catherine of Aragon and the remarriage to Ann Bolyn. Following is an excerpt from a letter Thomas wrote to his daughter while in prison.

*Although I know well, Margaret, that because of my past wickedness I deserve to be abandoned by God, but I cannot but trust in his merciful goodness. His grace has strengthened me until now and made me content to lose goods, land, and life as well, rather than to swear against my conscience. God's grace has given the king a gracious frame of mind towards me, so that as yet he has taken from me nothing but my liberty. In doing this His Majesty has done me such great good with respect to spiritual profit that I trust that among all the great benefits he has heaped so abundantly upon me I count my imprisonment the very greatest. I cannot, therefore, mistrust the grace of God.*

*By the merits of his bitter passion joined to mine and far surpassing in merit for me all that I can suffer myself, his bounteous goodness shall release me from the pains of purgatory and shall increase my reward in heaven besides.*

*And finally, Margaret, my own good daughter, do not let your mind be troubled over anything that shall happen to me in this world. However bad it may seem, it shall indeed be best.*

### **Eucharistic Miracle**

On Aug 14, 1730, the eve of the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, all the priests of Siena, Italy met in the main Cathedral, after consecrating additional hosts in their own churches, for the Feast the next day.

While the Basilica of St. Francis was unattended, thieves broke in and stole the gold chalice with the consecrated hosts.

Three days later while in a nearby church praying for the return of the Body of Christ, a parishioner discovered the 351 hosts in 'a poor box'.

The priests carefully cleaned the hosts of dust and arranged a day of adoration. Thousands of faithful attended. The hosts were not distributed as the Franciscans wanted pilgrims to adore them until the moment they deteriorated and the real presence of Christ disappeared.

The hosts remained intact and people began to consider them miraculous. A few were distributed on special occasions.

Today 280 years later 223 hosts physically retain all the characteristics of a newly made host.

In 1914, by order of Pope St. Pius X, a rigorous examination of this miracle was carried out.

It was determined that under normal circumstances the hosts should have deteriorated.

On Sept. 14, 1980 Pope John Paul II traveled to Siena to celebrate the 250th anniversary of this Eucharistic miracle.

### **False Headlines**

The Canadian Press, Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Sun referred to a group "Catholics for Free Choice," as if it were authentically Catholic with headlines such as "Catholic group urges Harper to include abortion, contraception in G8 policy."

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has declared that the group "Catholics for Free Choice" is not Catholic and does not represent the teaching or views of the Catholic Church.

### **Images of Apostles Andrew and Paul Found**

Using laser technology to cut away layers of white carbon calcium. Images of Paul and Andrew were found in what is believed to be the tomb of a Roman noblewoman in the Catacombs of St. Tecla, Rome.

The images are part of a set of four Apostles—Peter, Paul, Andrew and John dating back to the fourth century. The discovery of Paul, last year, is thought to be the oldest image of him.

### **The Golden Rose**

Pope Benedict XVI, visiting the Chapel of Apparitions at Fatima, on May 12, 2010, gave Our Lady a Golden Rose.

In 1982 Pope John Paul placed the bullet that shot him, in the crown of the image of Our Lady.

The Golden Rose is a papal decoration conferred on prominent Catholic personalities. Initially, kings and dignitaries received it, later it was conferred almost exclusively on queens and now, on Our Lady.

### **Serra Downtown Vocations Report 2009-2010**

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations was held in the following parishes:

St. Patrick's Church - every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

St. Basil's Church - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday after Vocations Mass

St. Boniface Church - every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 1:30-3:00 pm

Evening watch for Vocations :

York University, St. Bernard's Residence

January-June, August-December

Serra Papal Vocation Monstrance brought to different churches for Holy Hour 4 to 5 times per month.

Travelling Vocation Chalice Program

St. Boniface Church

Precious Blood Church

Vocations Fair

St. Joseph the Worker Parish

St. Paschal-Baylon Parish

23 displays by religious communities, 7 Catholic organizations including two Serra Downtown Vocation Displays

OCY Weekend Canadian Martyrs Shrine, Midland - Papal Monstrance and Vocations Displays provided by Serra Downtown

NAVFD Vocation Conference attended by Vice-Pres. of Vocations, Zinnia Milburn and nine youth leaders under the direction of Zinnia.

Altar Servers Prayer Cards with Vocation message for parents - 1500 distributed

Let Me Walk the Way I Should - new vocation program for youth, 18-25, being developed by Zinnia and Fr. Len Atilia SJ



**"I was with my boyfriend, and he said, "Well, why don't you join them?" And I replied, "Well, maybe I will."**

Sister Therese Saglimbeni, 31  
Sisters of Life



Have a good summer. We'll be back in September.  
Meantime, **It's Your Choice**