



Serrapost

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Mary, Mother of Vocations
Pray for Us

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The February 2nd speaker did not say anything! Commentators on TV and radio had constantly been warning of a big storm coming, with high winds and 30 centimetres of snow. The schools were closed and working mothers scrambled to find caregivers for their children. Some businesses also closed and police advised against driving. The “storm” fizzled with only about eight centimetres of snow falling. Our speaker will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Mary Kelly has worked with the Archdiocese of Toronto since 1986. Initially serving in the Chancery Office, she also administered the Pastoral Mission Fund, worked for Sharelife and engaged in faith-based fund-raising in many parishes across the Archdiocese both for operational and capital purposes. Mary is now Manager of Stewardship and spoke on this subject at our Club February 16th.

Mary explained that the Stewardship office has been absorbed by the Office of Formation for Discipleship for the Archdiocese. Formerly the office responded only to requests from parish priests. Now the mandate is to set up training programs in each parish. This is a large task because of the size of the Archdiocese (225 parishes). The pastors are asked to pick a number of potential leaders with whom he could work with. These leaders are then trained for a number of ministries such as the RCIA, Children’s catechists, pastoral council, etc.



The training sessions are divided into three parts: Spirituality, using the video “Knowing God Better,” Faith Teaching of the Catholic Church and Stewardship. Included are two retreats each year and a number of Days of Recollection.

Mary distributed two booklets written by Archbishop Thomas Christopher Collins – “Stewardship: Well done, good and faithful servant” and The Eucharist: “It is the Lord!”

Wanted: Missionaries for distant parts of Canada. Must have a degree in Theology and snowmobile maintenance.

The skills and talents of our priests, sisters, brothers and lay missionaries are amazing. I know of missionaries who repair a rectory by day, devote themselves to catechesis in the evening and lead communities in worship on the weekends. I know of a lay missionary who drives a hundred kilometres at night to be with a family that is grieving an elder’s passing. In another area, people come long distances to gather around a religious sister who can no longer drive, to listen to her message of good humour, peace and the love of God.

Fr. Philip Kennedy, President of Catholic Missions in Canada

The Parish Picnic is the first of a new children’s series, tales of not-so-long ago. Set-in pre-electric times, the book is filled with charm and fosters in children and parents a love for our faith and appreciation of our Catholic heritage. The ‘Parish Picnic’ tells the story of three little boys who learn that, when we make sacrifices, God meets our needs. Goodness cannot be outdone!

Co-authored by James and Carmen Marcoux and beautifully illustrated by their 17 year old daughter Rebekah.

www.onewaypublishinghouse.com/ book preview/

Abortion – *the direct, intentional killing of an unborn boy or girl is not health care.*

Cardinal Justin Rigali

YWA?

No longer is there a YWCA in Britain. The Young Women’s Christian Association has dropped the word “Christian” from its name to “better reflect its role in society.”

Coming Events:

- Mar. 1 Ordinandi Dinner
- Mar. 2 Meeting cancelled
- Mar. 16 Dr. Martin Mark, Director, Office of Refugees
- April 6 Fr. Peter Coughlin, Charismatic Movement
- May 4 Celebration of Religious Life Dinner Hamilton

World Youth Day – Madrid

The Spanish authorities have agreed to issue free visas to pilgrims travelling to Madrid for World Youth Day, and to contribute the services of 6,000 security forces.

Communion on the Moon

Forty-one years ago, two humans, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong made history by walking on the surface of the moon. Just as astonishing is a fact that few people know about.

Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented, felt he should mark the occasion somehow and asked his minister to help him. The minister consecrated a communion wafer and small vial of wine which Buzz took with him out of the earth’s orbit and onto the surface of the moon.

“This is the LM pilot. I’d like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening, wherever or wherever they may be, to pause and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in their own way.”

Ending radio contact, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and, pouring the vial of wine into the Chalice his church had given him, he took communion.

“I intended to read my communion passage back to earth but at the last minute NASA requested I not do it.” “They were already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O’Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas.”

It’s interesting to think that the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ and the very first foods eaten there, were the communion elements

Special Collection

The Church in the United States will take up a collection on Ash Wednesday, March 9, to aid Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe.

Many needs exist in countries such as Albania, where 95% of the churches were razed or forcibly converted to secular uses. The Catholic Cathedral in Shkoder, for example, was degraded to a sports arena.

The human toll is even worse. There were 300 Albanian Catholic priests in 1944 but by the fall of Communism there were 30. The Catholic community which dates to the time of St. Paul, is again a mission territory where bishops and priests are working hard at a Catholic revival but it will take decades to reverse the damage.

Free Tickets!

Tour Operators are offering assistance, for a service charge, in obtaining tickets to Pope John Paul II's beatification Mass May 1. One hotel will include tickets with a two day stay, although no tickets will be required.

Similarly tickets for General Audiences and papal ceremonies where tickets are required, there is no charge.

Tickets to papal audiences can be obtained by sending a request via fax to Archbishop James M. Harvey, the American prefect of the Papal Household (+39 06.69.88.58.63).

The request must include the names of the attendants, the date of the audience or ceremony, and the number of tickets required. Newlyweds should state clearly that they have been recently married, as they are eligible to receive tickets for the "Sposi Novelli" section.

It is best to send the request as early as possible. The tickets will be sent by fax, post or can be picked up a day or two before at the "Bronze Door" entrance.

Buyer Beware: Asian members belonging to the Leaders Club of the Leading Hotels of the World, a luxury hospitality chain, are currently being offered through the five star Hassler Hotel in Rome "an opportunity of a lifetime" to enjoy the privilege of a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

The Pope rarely holds private audiences, even with apostolic nuncios, preferring to spend his time in study, prayer or taking care of other pressing matters.

"Pew Cards"

The Magnificat publishing house is teaming with the U.S. bishops conference to supply "pew cards" with the new translation of the Roman Missal, which will begin to be used this Advent.

The pew cards will be sturdy and conveniently sized, and contain the complete revised Order of Mass. They will give parishioners a quick and easy way to learn the revised responses and to become acclimated to the new way of praying the Mass.

I have been told the Canadian Bishops have not yet decided on their approach.

Prayer is not a "spare tire" that you pull out when you are in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.

Seminaries Full

Ukrainian seminaries are having to turn away up to half the young men seeking to become priests because of lack of space.

Bishop Jaroslav Pryriz of the Eparchy of Sambir- Drohobych reported to Aid to the Church in need that in some places, there are three candidates vying for every place in the seminary.

He thanked the agency for its support, noting "it enabled our Church to regain a normal presence in the public life of our country" after the fall of communism.

The agency is offering particular support to the diocese's 86 seminarians and 287 priests.

New Female Order

The first U.S convent for the feminine branch of the Norbertine Order was established in the Fresno Diocese with the solemn profession of nine sisters.

The sisters, called canonesses due to the specific vocation of the Norberitines, made their final and perpetual vows on Jan.29.

In May of 2000, Bishop John Steinbock welcomed them as the first community of cloistered nuns in the Fresno Diocese. He was unable to physically conduct the solemn professions as he passed away Dec 5, of lung cancer. Over 50 priests concelebrated the Mass.

The community increased to 20 members, some of whom entered as young as age 18.

Little iApps

Although so stated in some press releases an iPhone application that aids in confession preparation is not a substitute for the personal dialogue between the priest and the penitent required for the sacrament.

The program, "Confession: A Roman Catholic App," was developed by the Indiana-based company Little iApps as an aid "for those who frequent the sacrament and those who wish to return."

The user can go through the examination of conscience, checking off items they are pertinent to their confession and making personal notes.

"To be very clear, only a priest can minister the sacrament of Confession."

Although other similar programs, such as "Mea Culpa" and "iConfess" have been created this latest release is the first known to receive Episcopal approval for its text.

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

505th Anniversary

In Vatican City the Swiss Guard celebrated its 505th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Fernando Filoni.

Following the Mass the Guards, composed of 110 soldiers and a chaplain, paraded in St. Peter's square with flags and a band.

Pope Julius II, 500 years ago asked the states of the "Confederatis Superioris Allemanniae" to permit the recruitment of young Swiss men for a papal guard. On Jan.22, 1506, the pontiff welcomed 150 Swiss Guards, who must be Catholic, males and over 5ft. 7in. with basic military training.

