



SERRAPOST

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*Mary, Mother of Vocations,
Pray for US*

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Gregory Beath, consultant with the Office of Formation for Discipleship in the Archdiocese of Toronto explained the New Missal to Downtown Serrans on November 2.

Gregory has a Master of Divinity degree from Regis College and a Masters of Arts from St. John's Abbey and University College in Collegeville, Minnesota, important in the liturgical renewal.

Gregory explained that worship is not private prayer. Our liturgy provides us with a unity in the way we worship and encounter the Risen Lord. Our missal is built on generations of prayer, which were written down, and at the 16th century Council of Trent, it was all put into one book.

After Vatican II that one book became the lectionary and the sacramentary, which includes all the prayers said throughout the year. All of the prayer texts help us to understand the mystery of Christ. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy stressed that there should be full participation of all the people.

To accomplish this participation it was necessary that much of the liturgy be in the vernacular but translation is difficult. The translation which came out of the mid-70's was a "dynamic equivalent" not a close translation. In 2000 John Paul II asked for a new Roman Missal with more saints and new prayers. In 2001 the Congregation for Divine Worship called for a translation as close as possible to the Latin, so nothing would get lost in the translation. The texts are more poetic and more theologically rich.

Using a handout, Gregory looked at "and with your spirit" at four key moments in the Mass and explained how this new and closer translation of "et cum spiritu tuo" was more meaningful than "and also with you." He also explained how the fuller translation of the Gloria pays close attention to the Latin style of giving praise and honour to someone higher than the speaker.

Overall it was an excellent introduction to the New Missal which was introduced at all English-speaking Catholic masses on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27th.

Martha Kremer

Ian T. Benson Barrister, Solicitor, Consultant, Senior Associate Council, Miller Thompson. Mr Benson, Professor Extraordinary, Department of Constitutional Law & Philosophy of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa was our guest Nov. 16th

He recently argued a case at the Supreme Court of Canada on behalf of the Canadian Catholic Trustees and the Council of Christian Charities. The unique opportunity to hear Mr. Benson speak on the topic of "The shift from Virtues to Values" came about when Judge Lou Beaulieu learned he was lecturing to the Bio-Euthenics group at St. Michael's University later in the day.

Sunday November 24th a good number of Downtown Members attended a Wine and Cheese Reception at the home of Serrans John and Rose Generaro, in honour of the Episcopal Advisor to Serra Canada, His Excellency Bishop Gordon, of the Diocese of Whitehorse. Bishop Gordon entertained the Serra members from the Greater Toronto Area with his stories of the far north and witty comments on the "GTA".

He gave several examples of vocation programs for Serra Clubs, such as Holy Hour for students, placing a picture of a newly-ordained priest in his school and obtaining permission to talk to students about their choice of vocations. He was surprised at the variety of Vocational programs already instituted in Toronto.

Coming Events:

- Dec. 7 Father Damien MacPherson, Catholic-Anglican Dialogue
- Dec. 10 Annual Christmas Social, Saturday 12 noon – 37 Bannatyne Drive
- Jan. 4, 2112 Cancelled
- Jan 18 Nancy Crawford, Catholic School Board trustee.

Can You Hear Him? Our Youth Discernment program for youth 18 to 35 is underway at St. Bernard's Convent Residence 685 Finch Ave, West, North York, with 23 participants.

Father Allan MacDonald, Vocational Director of the Companions of the Cross is this year's spiritual leader. Subsequent Sessions will be held Saturday Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Mar. 24 and June 2, 2-4 p.m.

The Sisters of Life welcomed 34 young candidates for discernment in November. The Serra Club of Toronto Downtown supplied the noon luncheon. The Sisters said that since World Youth Day they have been inundated with applicants forcing them to acquire another Convent in the USA. The number of Sisters working in Toronto from their "Sisters of Life Centre" 1099 Danforth St., at has increased dramatically.

Strang

By Carl Hetu

ACLU

I was speaking to an acquaintance about the middle East when he asked “why would they want to live in such a hopeless place?”

“Yes,” I answered “many are distressed, they feel ignored and misunderstood, but they love of the land of their birth – its their home.”

Then he asked, “Who are these people anyway? Aren’t they all Muslims?”

That question goes to the heart of the problem. To Canadians, Middle East Christians are strangers. We don’t know who they are and how they live. We don’t know their hopes and their fears. We don’t know that throughout this often unstable region,

Christians play an important role in educating the young, feeding the hungry and healing the sick.

When Israel and Hamas went to war in December 2008, our TV screens were filled with Jewish and Muslim soldiers praying for victory. But news reporters overlooked the Christians of Gaza who, while praying for reconciliation, mobilized emergency relief for the war’s innocent victims.

Also last year, Louis Sako, the Chaldean Archbishop of Kirkuk, Iraq, brought together Christian and Muslim religious leaders to strengthen interfaith relations in a country torn apart by war and sectarian strife. The highly respected archbishop may be the only person in northern Iraq who could have accomplished this feat.

Pope Benedict XVI recognized the special role of Christians when he recently visited the Holy Land. He encouraged the peacemaking efforts of Middle East Christians and urged Catholics in the west to pay special attention to our brothers and sisters in the land of Christ. It’s the only way Christ’s message of love and hope will survive.

Because of our faith in the resurrection, Christians give hope. But we aren’t strangers to hardship and despair. Good people like you need to boost the hopes of our brothers in the Middle East . They too, dream of peace and prosperity and better lives for their children.

Carl Hetu is the national secretary of CNEWA Canada, a n agency of the Holly See that provides humanitarian and pastoral support to the churches and peoples of the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe. Founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926, it continues under the guidance of Pope Benedict XVI. For more information or to donate www.cnew.ca CNEWA Canada, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa ON K1H 6K9

Good News – Since printing the first page the number registered for our discernment program “Can You Hear Him” has increased to 31 participants.

35 new Deacons: Bishop Javier Echevarria, prelate of the personal prelature, Opus Dei, conducted the ordination Mass on Nov. 8th in the Basilica of St. Eugene in Rome where the deacons will be ordained priests in six months.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit to have all military cross-shaped headstones removed from the military cemeteries and a suit to end prayer from the military entirely. US Navy Chaplains can no longer mention Jesus in prayers – thanks to the AVLU and the Obama administration.

This same organization supports legalization of child pornography, prostitution, sex acts in public, sex between adults and children, removing prayer from school and public events, physician assisted suicide, etc. They are against parental notification for minors having abortion, student led prayers in schools, nativity scenes On public property, tax exceptions for churches and “Choose Life” licence plates. etc.

Common Agreement on Recognition of Baptism

Last year the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voted in Baltimore to approve Mutual Recognition of Baptism. The result of six years of study and reflection the “Catholic Bishops affirmed baptisms the basis of real, if incomplete, unity we share in Christ” The Agreement will allow Catholic ministers to presume that baptisms preformed in the Presbyterian-U.S.A., the Reformed Church of America, The Christian Reformed Church and the United Church of Christ are ‘true Baptisms’ as understood in Catholic doctrine and law.

Turkey Survey: Compass Direct News published a report on a survey that showed more than half the population of Turkey opposes members of other religions holding meetings or publishing materials to explain their faith. The survey also found almost 40% of the population of Turkey said they had “very negative” or “negative” views of Christians. Two young Christians, accused of having insulted Islam while talking about their faith, with three young men outside Istanbul. Their defence lawyer said the trial was a scandal as two of the witnesses admitted they did not know the accused. They could be jailed for two years if found guilty.

Big Land Problem

Problems began for one of the oldest Christian monasteries when the Turkish government re-drew the boundaries of the Monastery of Gabriel, to up-date a land registry. According to the Monks the new boundaries take away from them large plots of land the Monastery has owned foe centuries and has declared part of the land as public forest.

According to Reuters there were 250,000 Syrian Christians when Attar founded Turkey after World War I. Today they number only 20,000, with many having left the country to escape persecution.

Pilgrimages are a mode through which we deepen our connection with God and shrines provide an environment which is conducive to the cultivation of this great moment of prayer.