



# SERRAPOST

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**Rev. Damian MacPherson**, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement, was our speaker at the December 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. For the past twelve years Friar Damian has been the Director for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs for the Archdiocese of Toronto. A native of Cape Breton Island, N.S. he is a graduate of the Catholic University of America in Washington DC, Fordham University in New York and the Angelicum University in Rome, Italy.



Friar Damian discussed the Catholic–Anglican potential union. He explained that a number of years ago when the Anglican Church started ordaining women, many Anglicans became disenchanted and wished to join the Catholic Church. After many consultations, Pope Benedict gave these traditional groups the opportunity to join the Catholic Church, bringing their patrimony, that is their devotions, prayers and practices.

They would have to understand and accept the teaching of the Catholic Church. All would have to apply individually but could join as a group. Priests would have to be re-ordained. These individuals would apply to their local bishop. The Pope has appointed Archbishop Collins to bring these groups together and if there are enough participants an ordinariate will be formed and it is then up to Rome to make the decision. The Archbishop does not think there are enough Anglicans in Canada (approximately 450,000) to form an ordinariate although there are possibilities in the U.S.A., especially in Texas. There is one ordinariate in England and a strong possibility of one in Australia.

**Christmas Party:** Conflicting dates and Florida contributed to a slightly smaller turnout for the event, nevertheless, twenty-two sat down to a delightful full course dinner.

Before dinner the wine flowed, the music played and singing erupted while Rosario cut a rug with several of the ladies. More music followed the dinner.

**Can You Hear Him:** Among the group of young men and women 18-35 attending a special set of reflections on discerning one's true vocation were university students, several teachers and an OPP officer. This is the second Series with sessions on Feb. 11, Mar. 25 and June 2, 2012. For information contact [zinniamilburn@gmail.com](mailto:zinniamilburn@gmail.com).

**The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** in Washington D.C. is the largest Catholic Church in North America and among the 10 largest churches in the world. It seats 4000 comfortably and this past Easter welcomed over 1500 visitors.

**Secret Veil :** A veil in Manoppello, Italy, kept secret for centuries and only recently re-emerging is, in fact, “the napkin “or handkerchief” which covered the face of Jesus, and referred to by St. John the Evangelist in his report of the discovery of the empty tomb.

This Veil had to be kept completely secret right away—together with the Shroud of Turin—due to the ritual impurity in Judaism of everything stemming from a grave. This veil has had many names in the course of history such as: The Edessa Veil, The Image or Letter of King Adgar, The Camuliana Veil, The Mandylion and the Veil of Veronica.

The fabric (Byssos--fabric made from mussel silk) is the most precious fabric and it is absolutely a fabric that cannot be painted on. It shows a beautiful portrait of Jesus but no traces of colors or blood. It seems to be painted with light and therefore changing from every angle in every different light, in different seasons, daytime, etc.

The Pope visited the shrine at Manoppello as one of the first trips of his pontificate.

## Changing Laws

### Coming Events:

- Jan 4 Trustee meeting
- Jan 18 Nancy Crawford – Catholic School Board
- Jan 25 Trustee meeting – to be confirmed
- Jan 28/29 Vocation Fair, Transfiguration Parish, 45 Lunsden Dr. Etobicoke
- Mar 6 Ordinandi Dinner, Pearson Inter. Conv. Centre (\$ 65.00 per person)
- April 21 Altar Servers' Awards, St. Paul's Basilica, Host – Serra Downtown

### Are We Losing the Battle?

A posh Montreal suburb has decided to remove a Nativity scene and a Menorah rather than acquiesce to demands from a Muslim group to erect Islamic religious symbols.

The Rhode Island governor decided, as many others did, to have a "Holiday Tree" rather than a "Christmas Tree."

U.N. House Representatives have been banned from wishing constituents Merry Christmas but may use Happy Holidays.

While attending a reception at the Ontario Parliament buildings I found no evidence of a nativity scene but did see a lit Menorah in the Pages' quarters.. Speakers, including the Speaker of the House and representatives of three political parties went to great pains to emphasize the "Holiday" season and bring "Holiday Greetings" although the leader of the Liberal Party did mention Christmas once.

Catholics, as a whole, do not seem to be putting themselves out to promote Christmas. The postal service, that is keeping track, has made available a Religious Christmas stamp, which you have to request when purchasing.

A survey of the cards we received showed only one in five used the religious stamp although over twice as many cards from known Catholics said Merry Christmas.. Let's encourage the other half it's "Christmas" not "Holiday."

Other examples: St. Michael's Hospital Foundation sent "Holiday" cards. One place one would expect to find a nativity scene would be a convent – not so at the Loretta College. In the reception area they have a ceramic Santa reclining on a sofa with a number of boys and girls kneeling in front of him. At the Children's Mass Christmas eve, at St. Bonaventure Church a Deacon dressed as Santa Clause helped bring the gifts to the Altar.

The good news is that the latest Ipsos poll showed about 73% of respondents defend using the more traditional greeting, saying it is the "original meaning and purpose of the holiday" in Canada. The not so good news is just 19% think it is a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ. Next year let's show we outnumber them. Make the effort to defend Christmas.

*I believe that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are but we are responsible for whom we become.*

A new law regulating Vatican citizenship and access replaces a 1929 measure. The new law allows the possibility of giving legal status as a Vatican resident, instead of a Vatican citizen. The new law is simpler, exchanging the former 33 articles for 16.

Vatican citizenship is given to the Pope, Cardinals residing there, active members of the Diplomatic corps and other directors of Vatican offices and services.

Those living on the grounds without being citizens will now be official Vatican "residents."

At present the Vatican has more than 800 inhabitants. But only 572 citizens, of whom only 220 dwell there.

The new law will restrict vehicle access to the Vatican allowing only citizens, residents or those with special permits to enter the state by car.

### Tommy

*Father John Powell, a professor at Loyola University in Chicago, wrote about a student in his Theology of Faith class named Tommy.*

Some fifteen years ago, I stood watching my university student's file into the classroom for our first session in Theology of Faith. That was the first day I saw Tommy. My eyes and mind both blinked. He was combing his long flaxen hair, which hung six inches below his shoulders. It was the first time I had ever seen a boy with hair that long. I know in my mind that it isn't what's on your head but what's in it that counts; but on that day I immediately filed Tommy under "S" for strange....very strange.

Tommy turned out to be the "atheist in residence" in my Theology of Faith course. He constantly objected to, smirked at, or whined about the possibility of an unconditionally loving Father/God. We lived with each other in relative peace for one semester, although I admit he was for me, at times, a serious pain in the back pew.

When he came to the end of the course to turn in his final exam, he asked in a cynical tone, "Do you think I'll ever find God?"

I decided instantly on a little shock therapy. "No!" I said very emphatically.

There was a long pause "Why not," he responded, "I thought that was the product you were pushing."

I let him get five steps from the classroom door and then called "He will find you."

### Reliquary of Blessed John Paul II

During the last days of the Holy Father's illness, his entrusted medical personnel extracted blood to be held at the transfusion center of the Mambino Gesu Hospital, in case of an eventual transfusion.

There was no transfusion and the extracted blood remained conserved in four small containers, two of which were left to Pope John Paul's personal secretary, Cardinal Dzwisz, the other two remaining vials were placed in two reliquaries for the veneration of the faithful during the beatification ceremony and are now kept in "Sacario".

# Vocations Fair 2012

Any highschool students visiting all the booth displays is entitled to enter a special raffle for a brand new **iPod**



## Proclaim the good news to the world

Saturday Jan 28, 2012 @ 5:30 pm - 8:00pm  
Sunday Jan 29, 2012 @ 7:45 am - 2:30 pm

### Transfiguration of Our Lord Church

45 Ludstone Dr.  
Etobicoke, ON, Canada, M9R 2J2  
(416) 247-0292  
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## The Society of St. Pius X

The Society of St. Pius X is an international Traditionalist Catholic organization founded in 1970 by French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre who was strident in his opposition to various reforms of the Second Vatican Council and even to the very teachings of the Council itself. Society members object that the new rite of the Mass is usually celebrated in the language of the community rather than Latin, that the priest does not face the wall, that gold plating is no longer required for the vessels, that anyone is permitted to touch the chalice, and other such ritualistic details. Women are permitted to sing in church only if no men are available.

The society teaches that those not living within Her, not only pagans, but also Jews heretics and schismatics, cannot become participants in eternal life but will depart “into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels” unless before the end of life the same have been added to the flock. Women are required to be subject to men, considered prone to vanity and need in need of a strict and detailed code of attire (women are forbidden from wearing pants) which includes veiling of their heads for prayer.

The society enjoins strict requirements on its adherents, including demands that they not have television in their home, forbidding the reading of certain types of books (such as Harry Potter), including Catholic books written after the Council and strict regulations regarding marriage. The society teaches that marriage is for procreation only and that affection or love are not necessary components of marriage. The priest will often choose a spouse for an adherent from among their ranks. The Society Web site contains many prescriptions for everyday life, covering such issues as playing folk guitar( yes, as long as it’s folk music not jazz or rock), permissible athletic attire for men and what type of school to which one may send one’s children.

Tensions between the society and the Holy See reached their height in 1988 , when Archbishop Lefebvre consecrated four bishops against the orders of Pope John Paul II resulting in the excommunication of Lefebvre and the bishops However, dialogue between the society and the Holy See has been ongoing for some years and in January 2009 the Holy See remitted the excommunications of the Society’s bishops and expressed the hope that all members of the society would be speedily returning to full communion with the Church. Until the doctrinal questions are clarified, the society has no canonical status in the Church and its ministers cannot legitimately exercise any ministry.

According to its own figures (2009) the Society has 510 priests in 31 countries and is active in 32 more and has 725 Mass centres (32 in Canada).

Assisting at a society Mass is not a sin but a conscientious Catholic should not knowingly attend Mass celebrated by a priest not in good standing with the Church. It deprives participation at Mass of that fullness of communion with Christ and His Church which the Mass, by its very nature and in all its forms, is called to express.

It should be the ardent prayer and desire for all Catholics, that the doctrinal issues with the Society of St, Pius X will be resolved as soon as possible so that these priests may return to full communion and canonical good standing within the Church.

### Pilgrimages

The concept of making a pilgrimage and that of a shrine as a pilgrimage destination pre-dates Christianity. Christians, Catholics in particular, do not have a corner on the market when it comes to the tradition of pilgrimage. A cursory look at some world religions shows that the pilgrimage is an essential part of their faith tradition; in some religions, making a pilgrimage is an actual requirement. This is seen most clearly with Islam. The Koran requires its adherents to make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during their lifetime. Hindus living in India make an annual pilgrimage to the Ganges River during the month of August in celebration of the Monsoon Festival. In Judaism the annual religious feasts of the Israelites were typically celebrated in the context of an elaborate pilgrimage to Jerusalem. If we look through the Old Testament, we discover additional pilgrimages to places such as Bethel, Shiloh and Mount Sinai, just to name a few. In the Gospel of Luke, we read of the Holy Family participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.

Pope John Paul II called for “conversion and interior renewal.” Stating that “pilgrimages reflect the final destiny of man” and emphasized “how our life is a journey to God.”

To make a pilgrimage means to set out in a particular direction towards a specific destination.

The ultimate destination is heaven and shrines help us to get there. Pope John Paul II thought of a shrine as being like an “oasis of the spirit” The actual pilgrimage itself, the journey from one place to another is the bridge over which believers walk to find their way to God, to see the face of God more clearly, to understand more fully who God is, to come to know His Son Jesus more intimately and to know who they are in relationship to God.

Marian shrines like Czestochowa, Fatima, Lourdes, Guadalupe and Doylestown have an advantage, because as Pope Benedict XVI has expressed “Shrines are a source of life and faith” for the Church and as “pilgrims go on foot to our Lady,” Mary guides us and teaches us to speak personally with her son and come into “profound contact with God”.

