



SERRAPOST

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*Mary, Mother of Vocations,
pray for us*

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Father Seamus Hogan, son of Downtown Serran Pat Hogan was our guest speaker April 3rd. the youngest of seven children he grew up in a house attached to St. Michaels Cathedral. He told of saying his first mass in the back yard at the age of four. A large stone served as an altar and his dog as congregation.

After finishing high school he went to York University where he discerned a call to the priesthood. In 1997 he entered St Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. After five years of prayers and study he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Father Seamus served at Blessed Trinity parish in Toronto and Merciful Redeemer parish in Mississauga before beginning further studies in Rome in 2007, completing a doctorate in Church History at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He is presently an Assistant Professor of Church History at St. Augustine's Seminary.

April 24th a framed portrait of Father Seamus was presented, by the Downtown Club, to St. Michaels Elementary School where Father received his early education, Father was surprised to meet one of his teachers who still teaches there.

Romanial Eparchy in US Extended to Canada

The Holy See has extended the jurisdiction of the Romanian Catholic Eparchy of St. George, in Canton Ohio, to include the territory of Canada. "Eparchy" is the term used in the Eastern Rite for the equivalent of a Diocese in the Roman Rite.

31 New Priests

Thirty-one Opus Dei priests from 13 countries were ordained at the Basilica of San Eugenio in Rome

Sad News

The parish priest of the Diocese of Barranquilla, Columbia was found in a ditch with 17 stab wounds to his face and neck. He is the nineteenth priest killed in Columbia, in five years including 4 this year.

Surprising

On the magazine rack in a dentist's office I found three bibles – English Good News, Chinese and Hindi.

Coming Events:

- May 15 Sr. Marie Paul Curley, fsp Vocations and the Daughters of St. Paul
- June 5 Fr. Stan Chu Ilo, Professor, Faculty of Theology, USMC- Divine Investments
- TBA Summer BBQ

The Vocation Fair held at St. Agnes Kuoyong Tsao Parish, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, included masses in both Mandarin and English. The 2.00 p.m mass was celebrated by Bishop Kirkpatrick with seven priests concelebrating. Twenty Knights of Columbus members participated. A large number of religious attended the 20 vocation displays.

Large Statue

A five ton fibreglass statue of John Paul II was unveiled on April 13. The 45 ft. statue is the tallest statue of the Polish Pontiff in the world. It overlooks the Jasna Gora monastery in Poland where the Black Madonna is kept.

Businessman Leszek Lyson funded the monument. He believes his son was saved from drowning in 2010 through the intercession of John Paul II.

Pope Francis's first trip will be to Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day where he will get a special look at the famous Christ the Redeemer statue as he flies by in a helicopter and possibly landing near the statue.

An Overview of the Papacy as Taught by the Roman Catholic Church

By: Marcellino D'Ambrosio

One thing that non-Catholics and Catholics often have in common is a great misunderstanding of this ancient institution. What is the true job description of the Pope and what is the origin of his authority?

The Catholic Church is not a Multi-national corporation with the Pope as CEO. Neither is it a federal republic with the Pope as king or president.

Primarily, the Church is a community of disciples. In the New Testament, Christians are frequently referred to as brothers and sisters, a spiritual family. No wonder, then, why its worldwide leader is called "Holy Father."

Jesus had numerous disciples, including Mary Magdalene, Lazarus and many others. But from these he chose twelve to whom he entrusted special responsibility. He gave them power to sanctify through the sacraments which they were to administer (John 20:21, Luke 22:19 etc.) the authority to teach what they'd received from him (Matthew 28:20), and power to govern the life of the church (Matt 18:18). Then from their number he chose one whose name he changed from Simon to Cephas or Peter, meaning "Rock". When God changes someone's name in the Old Testament it is always indicative of a special role in God's unfolding plan. Peter was allowed to enter the empty tomb first making him the first official, apostolic witness of the resurrection. Paul, the apostle, feels no obligation to spend time with any of the apostles except Peter who was the spokesman to proclaim the resurrection to the people of Jerusalem. Peter's role is so pre-eminent that Acts even speaks of Peter and "the eleven".

This does not mean that Peter was naturally stronger than the others. The story of his denial was a perpetual reminder of his ability to live up to his name by his own power. It is only after the Spirit is poured out at Pentecost that we see him able to fulfill his role.

Peter and the apostles held fast to their profession of faith, in many cases witnessing to it by their blood. Though their eyewitnesses to the Lord's resurrection was unrepeatable, their ministry, teaching, and leading the community of disciples had to be carried on by others of their choosing, usually called "bishops" in the New Testament. These bishops needed a visible center, head and spokesman who would continue the role of Peter in the Church. Since Peter gave his life for Christ in Rome, the bishop of the Roman Church was seen as the successor of Peter, the "Father" not only of the Christians in the Imperial City but everywhere.

But what about this Catholic doctrine that the Pope is infallible? Does this mean that a man, once elected to the Chair of Peter, can never again be wrong about anything?

Hardly. The day Simon got his name change the Lord questioned: Who do you say I am? Peter answered "you are the Christ, son of the living God" Jesus made it clear that this answer did not proceed from Simon's own cleverness or theological acumen. No, it was revealed by Jesus' Father in heaven. Special divine assistance had enabled this apostle to profess the truth about Jesus. Then comes the name change and Jesus giving him the famous "keys of the kingdom of heaven. Plus Jesus mentions that the jaws of death shall not prevail against the Church founded on this weak man called "Rock".

The charisma of infallibility has been most often expressed in solemn fashion by bishops and the Pope together through an ecumenical council which happens, on average only about every 100 years. So when the Pope as the successor of Peter, solemnly declares something relevant to faith (what we are to believe) or morals (how we are to live) as having been revealed by God, he teaches infallibly. Catholics are obliged to believe such teaching with divine faith. The Pope can make judgements about matters related to faith and morals, such as what is necessary for valid celebration of the sacraments, or whether the witness of Scripture and Tradition allow for women to be ordained to the priesthood. Once the Successor of Peter makes such a judgement, Catholics are no longer free to debate the matter. Case Closed.

So what about the rest of his teaching? Are we free to take it or leave it?" Not at all. Peter was commanded three times by Jesus to express his love for Christ by feeding Christ's sheep. So on a daily basis, the Holy Father feeds the family through teaching expressed in a variety of ways: homilies, talks to pilgrims, prelates, and heads of states, apoplectic letters and sorts of documents. We must always approach his teaching with gratitude and respect, doing our best to open our minds and allow our views and lives to be shaped by it.