

Regina Coeli

REPORT

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NICHOLVILLE RENOVATIONS

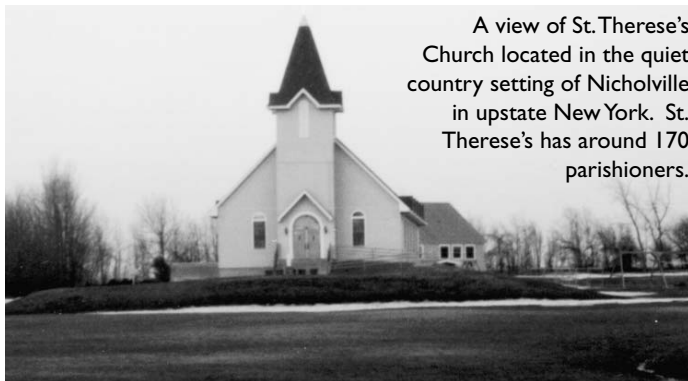


NEW YORK

St. Therese's Church in NICHOLVILLE (POTSDAM), NY has reason to be proud. This mission of the Society of Saint Pius X has been operating for close to 20 years and is the home parish for several Society priests, including District Superior Fr. John Fullerton. Along with the parish, the Society also runs St. Therese's Academy where the children of the parish receive an excellent education in the beautiful surroundings of upstate New York.

Recently, St. Therese's has been undergoing an extensive renovation process under the expert guidance of its pastor, Fr. Dennis McDonald. Relying on his knowledge of Church externals (gained from his studies and work in the sacristy at the seminary in Winona), Fr. McDonald has worked to increase the beauty of St. Therese's interior. A new porcelain floor was installed adding beauty and symbolism to the Church. A new main altar and two side altars were also imported from a church in Lawrence, MA with the only cost being the transportation.

A shot of the re-floored nave and sanctuary taken from the choir loft. The fleur-de-lie in the nave is a symbol for purity (considered one of the principal virtues of St. Therese along with charity) as well as a symbol of France (the country of origin of St. Therese).



A view of St. Therese's Church located in the quiet country setting of Nicholville in upstate New York. St. Therese's has around 170 parishioners.



A close-up shot of St. Therese's new main altar.



St. Therese's Academy as seen from the parking lot. The academy had close to 50 students enrolled this past school year. The children of the Academy receive a solid education and are expected to live up to the motto of the Academy – "Caritas et Veritas" ("Charity and Truth").

Along with the new main altar are two new side altars dedicated to Our Lady and St. Joseph. Pictured here is the St. Joseph altar.





Fr. Dennis McDonald is overseeing a similar renovation to the one in Nicholville in his other parish of the North American Martyrs in Hudson Falls (Glens Falls), NY. The sanctuary has been redone with new statues and repainting of walls in order to give a stone effect to the walls, with a new floor coming soon. Here the sanctuary is pictured with the new paint job and statues.



In addition to their work in the renovation of the church, the men of St. Therese's also found success in their recreational endeavors. Fr. McDonald formed a team from Nicholville and entered them in the First Annual Syracuse Basketball Tournament pitting teams from the Society's chapels on the east coast. The team from Nicholville, led by Fr. McDonald and Fr. Carl Sulzen (visiting from Canada) won the championship game against Philadelphia providing fun and excitement for all participating. In this picture Fr. McDonald shuts down the inside game in a game against host Syracuse.

REGIONAL REPORT



MONTANA

A blustery Saturday in the middle of May was witness to a slightly different fundraiser than what one normally sees for Immaculate Conception Chapel near KALISPELL, MONTANA. Building on the success of several other parishes in organizing a "Jog-A-Thon" to raise money, the chapel modified this method to correspond to the circumstances and logistics of Western Montana. Realizing that horses were almost omnipresent, the resulting "Trot-A-Thon" was a natural outcome.

The present-day chapel building is too small for the growing number of parishioners as well as being in an inconvenient location. Therefore, it was decided to buy ten acres of land closer to the expanding city of Kalispell and construct a larger and more proper church building. The inaugural Trot-A-Thon proved to be a success with about 15 sponsored children and adults making laps in a designated field for donations and pledges. Not only were Morgan horses utilized but even a large ox put in a solid appearance! Good fun was enjoyed by all and the two hour event was followed by a sumptuous potluck for all participants.



Fr. Summers, a fledgling mechanic, strives (in vain) to adjust the tire pressure on the horse buggy.



Pastor of Immaculate Conception, Fr. Patrick Summers, feeling the saddle sores, searches the horizon for the finish line.

A view of the enormous ox which plodded along for the full hour without even breaking a sweat.

Another shot of the horse-drawn buggy. One of the participants remarked: "One of the advantages of Montana's rural landscape is there is plenty of room for women drivers!"

Society of Saint Pius X
District of the United States of America
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Father John Fullerton
District Superior

J.M.J.
JULY 1, 2003

Dear friends and benefactors of the Society of Saint Pius X,

Over the summer months many of you will no doubt take part in one or more of the pilgrimages our various priories have organized here in the States or even abroad. Those who make the sacrifice to participate receive many graces. But whether or not you take part remember that all of us are pilgrims. As St. Peter says in his first epistle "Beloved, I exhort you as strangers and pilgrims to abstain from carnal desires which war against the soul." We have been made for heaven, our final home. Therefore here on earth we are "strangers and pilgrims" and we must act accordingly.

To do this we must first of all realize that, in fact, we are pilgrims. Those who travel away from home often grow enamoured of the strange land they are in and seem to forget, for a time, their own country to which they must return. The Christian pilgrim often acts the same. He engrosses himself in the goods and pleasures of time; meanwhile forgetting the object of his creation and position on earth. Thus he neglects the affairs of his soul and the interests of eternity. His first duty will be to correct this and recognize his position as a pilgrim.

Besides pleasure, journeys also entail difficulties. Whether it is the cold or heat, fatigue or actual danger, the traveler must set out prepared. Likewise the Christian pilgrim has trials to bear. There will be the temporal crosses such as sickness and misfortune. And there will be the spiritual difficulties such as temptations, passion or tepidity. The Christian pilgrim must be prepared to meet them all with fortitude and courage. Like gold purified by fire in the crucible, our souls must be purified by the fire of charity on the crucible of the cross—a cross which God in his goodness puts into each day. Nor do these trials compare with the glory to come as St Paul says: "Our present light affliction, which is for the moment, prepares for us an eternal weight of glory that is beyond all measure." (2 Cor. iv. 17.)

The traveler's habits and language are seen as strange to natives of other countries, but he passes on and takes no notice. The Christian pilgrim will also be despised by the world. His practices of piety are ridiculed, his virtues thought odd and old fashioned. "We are made as the refuse of this world." (1 Cor. iv. 13.) He must not heed the world but stand as proof against human respect as St. Paul says:

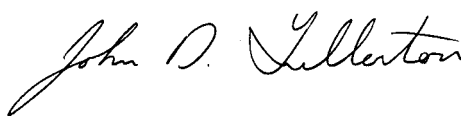
"It is a small thing to be judged by you." (1 Cor. iv. 3.). It is this willingness to stand up against the world which will convert it. G.K. Chesterton reiterates this thought when he writes: "It is the paradox of history that each generation is converted by the saint that contradicts it most."

The traveler also, even though he enjoys the lawful pleasures and distractions of his travels, often thinks of those at home and longs to return. Likewise the Christian pilgrim should often think of his true home in heaven. There God awaits him with all His Angels and Saints. Friends and relations, secure of their own salvation, are anxious for his return. Unless he longs for Heaven, he will not take the means to reach it; since a real desire for salvation is the first step towards obtaining it.

Indeed God calls all of us to return to our true home. By answering this call the saints grew daily in their desire for heaven and thus detached themselves from this land of exile. They had no rest, but labored day and night, both avoiding anything that might prevent their obtaining the eternal treasures and positively working for merit, whereby increasing their hope and assurance of success. They were so full of this hope and assurance that, instead of grieving over the evils that befell them, they exulted, knowing that, if they suffered well, they had all the more reward to expect at the end.

Let us, in like manner, strive to be successful pilgrims. Like the saints, let us promptly answer the call to return home by accepting the trials along the way and avoiding anything that might lead us from the path. In doing so our desire for heaven will increase as will our assurance of success.

Sincerely yours in the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ,



Fr. John D. Fullerton



NORTH CAROLINA

St. Anthony of Padua in CHARLOTTE, NC continues to grow under the zealous direction of pastor, Fr. Kenneth Novak. Father has formed a men's schola to chant the Mass in proper fashion and has spent much effort in directing the Altar servers of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen. This work has paid off in an

increase in the beauty and the number of liturgical ceremonies at St. Anthony's. Recently, Fr. Novak led the traditional Rogation Day procession and blessing of fields, blessing the church's new garden. The faithful also took part in a procession in honor of St. Joseph and enjoyed the visit of Bishop Richard Williamson for Confirmations in May.



The Rogation Day is remembered with prayers, bestowal of the Blessing of Fields and the chanting of the Litany of Saints by the faithful. Now, let us see what grows better—the plants or the weeds!



The first plantings! A lot of watermelon, pickling cucumbers and peppers. (No tobacco this year!)



At the garden's edge, acolytes of the St. Anthony's Chapter of the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen take their places with the men's schola. Assisting with the aspersion at Fr. Novak's right is Fr. Christopher Danel, celebrant of the Sung Mass that Sunday at St. Anthony's who recently (April, 2003) left the Diocese of Charleston, SC to collaborate exclusively with the Society of Saint Pius X.



The men and boys of St. Anthony of Padua (Charlotte, NC) dig lime into the new St. Benedict's Garden on the church property. The cedar crucifix, fashioned by a parish carpenter for the St. Joseph Altar, is erected to look over the garden.



The picture of St. Joseph leads the procession made in his honor in thanksgiving for his provisions of the past year.

Twenty-four youngsters and young adults were confirmed this spring in Charlotte, the largest traveling contingent coming from Wilmington, South Carolina. Three were recent converts.





MINNESOTA

Under the fifth year of Fr. Diaz's pastoral care, St. Robert Bellarmine's Chapel in ST. CLOUD, MN has recently seen a lot of activity, from architectural improvements to the visit of Bishop Williamson for Confirmations.

Originally a Protestant church, St. Robert Bellarmine's has been steadily modified and embellished in order to impart a Catholic look to the interior, starting with the High Altar, which was magnificently redecorated by Brother Marcel. Another project of Brother Marcel was the designing of the fourteen stained glass windows for the nave, as well as four others for the narthax. Other projects completed were the construction of proper vesting cabinets for the sacristy, a new set of vestments and cope made by the Altar and Rosary Society, and the modification of the church entrances to accommodate confessionals, while work continues on a new Communion rail.



Illuminated in the classic gothic style of red and blue with silver and gold-leafing, the Agnus Dei inset piece of the High Altar shines once again in triumph. The *stipes*, or columns, that flank the inset piece, have been *fauxed*, or "marbleized" to make them appear as real marble.



With Fr. Diaz assisting, Bishop Williamson confirms one of 40 confirmands that stepped forward to become Soldiers of Christ. Behind them can be seen the completed gothic-style High Altar.



Here Fr. Diaz poses with three new enrolled pages, along with the four other members of the Eucharistic Crusade who were just advanced a rank.



The faculty and students of St. Robert Bellarmine's Academy (which started with 24 students and as of this coming fall is now up to almost 60) pose for a picture on the steps of the church.



A shot of two of the recently completed stained glass side panels, showing from left to right, Saints Peter and Paul, which were made to match the center panel. Though the original windows of the church were removed by the Protestants from the wooden window frames and replaced with frosted windows, the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine's were able to obtain and replace the center panels (shown also in the picture) from a local Catholic Church that was being demolished.

The third, fourth and fifth grades held a food drive for the needy thereby learning the theological virtue of charity and the practice of almsgiving.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS



FIJI

Recently ordained Fr. Brendan Arthur (Australian, but trained in Winona) spent three weeks in the beautiful South Pacific islands of Fiji during Holy Week and Easter,

though it was not for the purpose of vacation! Rather it was for the Society's apostolate in Suva, the capital of Fiji and in a nearby village named Nakavu. This village was unanimous in following its Elder to Catholic Tradition and thereby had a spacious church built just for the Tridentine Rite. Unfortunately, the Archbishop of Suva recently threatened the villagers with excommunication, which caused a small number to return to the *Novus Ordo*. However, the persecution of Catholic Tradition in Nakavu has not just ended with empty threats, as Fr. Arthur reports that some of the traditional faithful have even been *"beaten by their 'Catholic' neighbours and relatives for their adherence to the old Faith."*

During his first week in Suva, Fr. Arthur worked tirelessly with the choir and Altar boys to teach them the essential chants and the complex ceremonies of Holy Week, of which none had seen before. Remarkably, the ceremonies were carried out beautifully, with the boys serving well and the choir singing as Father put it, *"à la South Pacific"* (that is, *"men, women and children naturally sing with enormous gusto in perfect four part harmony!"*). Another advantage of working in the South Pacific, is that there was no shortage of palms for Palm Sunday, and exotic flowers abounded on the altar for Easter.

Fr. Arthur was also able to make a visit to the Regional Pacific Seminary, which is the ecclesiastical college for the eleven South Pacific countries, especially Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands. There Father was received *"cordially"* by the rector who introduced him to the entire faculty and allowed him to speak on *"the Society's stance regarding the New Mass and the Council"*. Father also took advantage of his visit to the seminary to pass out pamphlets on the *Novus Ordo*, the Society's apostolate and business cards with contact information to the 50 seminarians present. The end result was rather positive, and Father feels that *"please God, a few seeds have been planted"*.

Father was supposed to have made a visit to Rotuma, an island north of the Fiji mainland, where 80 faithful reside and who had not seen a priest from the Society since May 2002, but the flight was first postponed and then finally cancelled to the disappointment of the faithful who *"heroically persevered nonetheless"*.

As can be seen from above, many of the traditional faithful in the Fiji islands are often without a priest, and so in addition to giving catechism lessons, and making visitations to the sick and lapsed members of the parishes, one of the spiritual duties that Fr. Arthur had to perform was to ensure that all met their Easter Duty, which in some cases needed encouragement as well as some ingenuity. One of the main difficulties of the apostolate in such far-away places is the language barrier, which impedes even basic things as the hearing of confessions, but the situation is solved with the simple solution of using a number system (as

is done in Korea and Japan).

As a final note, in the words of Fr. Arthur, *"Too many of us take the Mass and Sacraments for granted, but these tenacious souls truly appreciate them, as they receive them only irregularly and often at great intervals. Please pray for these eminently faithful souls, removed from all major centers of the Society of St. Pius X."*



In Saint Michael the Archangel Chapel in Suva, Fr. Arthur performs the ceremony of making the Easter Water during the Easter Vigil service in full liturgical splendor. The ceremonies of Holy Week were even more momentous than usual, as it was the first time that they had been celebrated in Suva according to the traditional rites since the liturgical revolution.



Fijians are very community-orientated and hence have many communal rituals, the most famous being the drinking of Kava, or grog. Kava as Fr. Arthur describes is *"a non-alcoholic beverage made from a pepper plant. It looks and tastes like mud, but everyone drinks it all the same."* Fr. Arthur gained the distinction of being the first Society priest to have drunk from the king-size communal bowl (from which the Fijian men share), though in this picture, Father is drinking kava from a more appropriate British tea-sized bowl.

SSPX SUMMER CAMPS (2003)

The proper priory must be contacted to obtain the necessary forms and other essential information.

POST FALLS, ID

Fr. Crane will be hosting a boys camp in July.
(For further inquiries, please contact the priory.)

Immaculate Conception Church
PO Box 206
Post Falls, ID 83877-0206
208-773-2231 tel
208-777-8891 fax

VENETA, OR

Camp Wilani (girls camp):
Sunday, June 22-Saturday, July 5, 2003

Saint Thomas Becket Church
PO Box 847
Veneta, OR 97487-0847
541-935-8608 tel
541-935-4120 fax

BROWERVILLE, MN

Flandrau State Park, New Ulm, MN
Boys camp: June 30-July 8, 2003

St. Peter's Priory
820 St. John's Avenue N.
Browerville, MN 56438-0000
320-594-2221 tel
320-594-7168 fax

LOS GATOS, CA

Boys summer camp: July 6-July 19, 2003
Girls summer camp: No camp this year

Saint Aloysius Gonzaga Camp & Retreat Center
19101 Bear Creek Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9546
408-354-7703 tel
408-354-7369 fax

RIDGEFIELD, CT

Girls Camp: Aug. 10-22,
Raccoon State Park, Pittsburgh, PA
(For more information, please contact
the Ridgefield priory.)

Saint Ignatius Retreat House
209 Tackora Trail
Ridgefield, CT 06877-2499
203-431-0201 tel
203-431-0202 fax

RETREAT SCHEDULE

June-December

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT HOUSE

209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431 0201

Men's 5 day Ignatian: July 21 - 26, Aug 25 - 30,
Oct 13 - 18, Nov 17 - 22
Men's Seminar: July 7 - 11
Women's 5 day Ignatian: July 14 - 19, Aug 4 - 9,
Nov 10 - 15, Dec 15 - 20
Women's Third Order: Sept. 15 - 20

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

19101 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033

(408) 354 7703

Men's 5 day Ignatian: Aug 18 - 23,
Sept 22 - 27, Oct 20 - 25
Women's 5 day Ignatian: Sept 8 - 13, Nov 10 - 15
Women's Marian Retreat: Oct 6 - 11

OUR LADY OF SORROWS RETREAT CENTER

750 E. Baseline Road, Phoenix, AZ 85042

(602) 268 7673

Men's 5-day Ignatian: Oct 20 - 25
Men's Seminar (virtues): Nov 17 - 22
Women's 5 day Ignatian: Oct 6 - 11, Nov 10 - 15

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SEMINARY

R.R. 1, Box 97 A-1, Winona, MN 55987

(507) 454 8000

Men's 5 day Ignatian: July 7 - 12; July 14 - 19
Doctrinal Session: July 30 - Aug. 3

YAG 2003

The 2003 Society of St. Pius X YOUNG ADULT GATHERING, sponsored by St. Isidore Catholic Church (Denver, CO), will be Thursday, August 21 through Monday, August 25 inclusive. The event is for men and women 18 years of age and up. Attendance for the 2003 Gathering will be limited to 125. Please make a reservation by phone, fax, or letter with Mrs. Alicia Gomez, 22282 E. Ridge Tr. Dr., Aurora, CO 80016; cell: (720) 934-1998; fax: (303) 680-7729 (please ensure to direct fax to the attention of Mrs. Alicia Gomez). Please give your full name, current address and phone number when reserving.

TEACHERS WANTED

There are schools of the Society of Saint Pius X that are looking for generous traditional Catholics to fill teaching positions. Any persons interested can contact the District Superior at: Regina Coeli House, 2918 Tracy Ave., Kansas City, MO 64109. Tel: 816-753-0073. Fax: 816-753-3560.

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