

Regina Coeli

REPORT

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TRUE RECONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTH

History was relived in WILMINGTON, NC on June 29th, the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, when the traditional Latin Mass returned to the former pro-cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle probably for the first time in decades. In fact, the little church of St. Thomas has been host and eye-witness to several distinguished persons and important historical events since it was completed on July 28, 1847.

When the parish of St. Thomas was founded in 1845, there were only 39 Catholics in Wilmington, of whom only one was native to the city, though before the Civil War, there were actually more Catholics in the South than in the North. It was only during the Civil War and post-bellum mass immigrations of the Irish and Italians, that the North gained a greater percentage. Due to some anti-Catholic sentiment, land could not be obtained by the first pastor, Fr. Thomas Murphy (1803-63) in Wilmington. The plot on which St. Thomas was built was finally obtained through a second party upon which ownership was transferred to Fr. Murphy.

When Fr. Murphy died of yellow fever during the Civil War in 1862, Fr. James A. Corcoran (1820-89) succeeded him as pastor. Fr. Corcoran was the first native South Carolinian to be ordained to the priesthood (having made

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St. Thomas the Apostle as it appears today. The brick church was built in a Gothic Revival style and was a testament to the hope of the future growth of the infant parish. In 1858 the exterior of the church was stuccoed and in the early 1900's, simple stained glass windows were installed (amongst the benefactors' dedications on the windows is the name of the now-canonized Mother Katherine Drexel).



Probably for the first time in almost four decades, Fr. Novak elevates the newly consecrated Host according to the traditional Roman Rite in St. Thomas. The altar, crucifix, and statues are not original, but were set up just for the occasion.



The interior of St. Thomas as it appeared sometime in the early 20th century. The statues of Our Lady and St. Joseph, though smoke-damaged in the 1966 fire, are still on display in the small museum located in the church's basement.

his studies in Rome), was a language specialist and an expert on Martin Luther. In 1869, he was the only American among 100 theologians (*periti*) called to Rome to staff the preparatory commission for Vatican I (1870), during which he was on the doctrinal commission dealing with Papal Infallibility and was responsible for authoring the famous “Spalding Formula” which defended this dogma.

In 1868, Bishop (and the future Cardinal) James Gibbons arrived in Wilmington to organize the newly-created Apostolic Vicariate of North Carolina, using St. Thomas as his pro-cathedral (a designation used for a temporary see awaiting a permanent status).

Among the fruits of the little church of St. Thomas the Apostle were Fr. Thomas Frederick Price (1860-1919) and Fr. William Howard Bishop. Fr. Price was fondly known in North Carolina as the “Tarheel Apostle” for his vigorous missionary efforts in that state. In 1889, he built what is now the SSPX’s Goldsboro chapel, Old Saint Mary’s, and later the complex of “Nazareth” (now a town), consisting of a seminary, convent, trade school and orphanage on 390 acres. In 1904, Fr. Price founded the Maryknoll Missionaries with Fr. Anthony Walsh.



Cardinal James Gibbons as a young priest. He began writing his famous and best-selling book (though unfortunately tainted with Americanism), *Faith of Our Fathers*, in one of the small, back rooms of St. Thomas.

Fr. Price died in Hong Kong, but his body was later re-interred on the grounds of Maryknoll in Ossining, NY. Fr. Bishop meanwhile founded the Glenmary Fathers (American Home Missions).

In 1911, St. Thomas became the parish church for the black Catholics of Wilmington and served many more years until November 1966, when a fire destroyed much of the church’s interior. This incident combined with other diocesan matters, forced the closure of St. Thomas as a Catholic church. Plans were made to have the historic building razed, but a concerned citizen managed to save it, and St. Thomas was added to the National Register of Historic

Places instead. In 1979, the church was formally deconsecrated and its upkeep was turned over to the Historic St. Thomas Preservation Society, which maintains it to this day as the second oldest Catholic church in North Carolina.

Due to its Catholic historical nature, Fr. Kenneth Novak sought to say the traditional Mass in St. Thomas, not only to give a debt of honor to the building which served God and local Southern Catholics for so long, but also to heighten awareness in the apostolate of Catholic Tradition in North Carolina.

The highly publicized Solemn High Mass was celebrated in the presence of 297 persons hailing from the city of Wilmington itself, other parts of North Carolina and South Carolina and even as far away as Alexandria, VA, Georgia and Florida. Fr. Novak celebrated the Mass, while Rev. Mr. Isaac Moats assisted as deacon and Mr. Mark Stafki as subdeacon. Fr. Novak, preaching in his usual engaging manner, spoke on how the bishop and priests (mentioned above) said the same

Mass as was being said by him and showed the identity with the Faith. “*The future is ours,*” he declared, “*because the past is ours.*” The Mass was followed with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the steps of the nearby church of St. Mary’s (which the parish of St. Thomas had merged with in 1966).



After the Mass, the King of Kings is taken from St. Thomas the Apostle for an outdoor Eucharistic procession to publicly declare the belief in the Real Presence and Our Lord’s Social Kingship.



Coincidentally, the procession arrived at nearby St. Mary’s Church just as the parishioners were exiting from the New Mass. Here the pastor is peeking out to see what is the cause of the “commotion”. A few moments later the police will be called with a complaint of a “public disturbance and trespassing upon church property”. So much for the tolerance and religious liberty of the Conciliar Church!



On the other hand, the local newspapers gave encouraging coverage of the event.

Society of Saint Pius X
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Father John Fullerton
District Superior

J.M.J.
OCTOBER 1, 2003

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

As we all know, God gives us all that we need for life, whether it be our bodily, spiritual or civil life. But very often we abuse these gifts and commit crimes against Him. Most of us quickly recognize the numerous and grievous sins, committed against bodily and spiritual life, *e.g.*, against the fifth and seventh commandments, such as abortion and religious indifference. Too often, however, we overlook the crimes committed against civil life which are much more numerous, can be just as grievous, and which we ourselves are often guilty of. I speak here of sins committed against the honor and good name of our neighbor, which are protected by the eighth commandment: "*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*" This commandment not only forbids false evidence given under oath but also those offenses against truth and our neighbor's character.

Generally speaking there are two sins against truth. The most common of these is **lying** by which we knowingly and deliberately say what is not true. The other, **hypocrisy**, offends truth by our pretending to be better or more pious than we are in order thereby to deceive others. A lie attacks the truth by means of words, be they spoken or written; but hypocrisy works by acts and deeds, by general demeanor, by what it does not do and sometimes even by tears and works of penance. Thus Truth is wounded even more deeply by hypocrisy than by lying since it uses the cloak of virtue, piety, faith, and justice to conceal its immorality and accomplish its wicked designs.

In considering the offenses against our neighbor's character, we see a large variety of sins which can also be classified under several general titles.

The first is the sin of **detraction**, by which we reveal, without necessity, the hidden faults our neighbor has truly committed. By this sin our neighbor's good reputation suffers, is lessened, wounded and may even be destroyed.

Another offense is the sin of **calumny**, by which faults are imputed to our neighbor that he does not have or real faults are exaggerated. Calumny may also represent something that has happened once as being frequent or habitual, make what was trifling appear to be of great importance, or supply an evil motive for quite unintentional acts.

Also there is the offense of **tale-bearing** whereby, with

evil motives, we repeat to another what someone else has said against them.

Injurious words differ from those spoken of so far in that they are done in our neighbor's presence, to his very face.

Lastly we can consider the offenses against the character of our neighbor under the titles of **false suspicion** and **rash judgement**. Unlike the previous they do not consist of words but of thoughts and we are guilty of them when we think ill of our neighbor, without sufficient grounds. False suspicion only supposes and thinks probable what is evil; while rash judgement holds it to be true and certain.

These and other sins are very detrimental to the proper peace and order of civil life and too often are found even among "those of the household of the Faith." How often do we set ourselves up as the censors of our neighbor, habitually criticizing their faults and imperfections? We don't hesitate to attribute unworthy motives even to their good actions. Or we sometimes affect a sublime pity, like the Pharisee, for the poverty and weakness of others, and thank God that we are not like them. At other times we praise our neighbors' virtues, merely to get an opportunity of showing their imperfections, or speak about them sarcastically in order to wound their reputations seriously. Contentions, jealousies and envies often distract the civil life of our parishes and change even the paradise of family life into perpetual misery.

During this month of October let us make the effort to overcome our shortcomings in these areas. Let us make proper use of our tongues to sing the praises of God, especially by the faithful daily recitation of the Holy Rosary. It will help to bring peace to our souls and eventually spread it to our families, parishes, and even throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary,



Fr. John D. Fullerton

REGIONAL REPORT



IDAHO

Thirteen boys from Immaculate Conception Church in POST FALLS, ID endured a month-long pilgrimage in August to some of the Catholic mission sites of the western United States, under the supervision of Fr. David Hewko. Highlights of the pilgrimage included visits to the California Franciscan Missions, the Benedictine Monastery in Silver City, NM, the Miraculous Spring of St. Francis Cabrini in Denver, CO (where the boys climbed over 100 steps on their knees praying the Rosary) and to the Jesuit missionary territory of the Northwest.

As the pilgrimage progressed, it became more and more evident to the boys that the Catholic missionaries of old came for no other purpose than to save souls and to make this country Catholic. It is hoped that these boys, with the knowledge and grace gained from their month-long pilgrimage, will someday play their own part in this ongoing mission and crusade for the Faith.



Father Hewko and the boys pose outside San Diego de Alcalá Mission. It was the first mission founded by Bl. Juniper Serra on July 16, 1769, thus making it the first church in California. Father was able to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the main altar of the mission church.



While in Denver, the boys were generously fed by Fr. Joseph Pfeiffer who also gave the boys a tour of St. Isidore Church, a veritable "catechism in stone."

An outdoor Mass was celebrated on the property of SSPX parishioners in Montana.



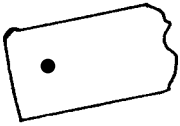
During their visit to the Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Silver City, NM, the boys were given daily conferences on the monastic life. Here, Br. John gives the boys a talk on the joys of monastic life.



The final stop on the pilgrimage was a visit to the Jesuit mission at Cataldo in Idaho to thank Our Lady for a successful journey.



The Miraculous Staircase of St. Joseph located in the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, NM captured the travelers' interest. The boys were fascinated by the Staircase's origin (it was built by St. Joseph himself, in the guise of an old carpenter) and its structure and design (which cannot be duplicated). Even today, scientists are unable to identify from what tree the wood, which was used for the Staircase, comes from!



PENNSYLVANIA

Forty-one girls profited from a 12-day camp at Raccoon Creek State Park near PITTSBURGH, PA to learn about their feminine vocation, make good Catholic friends and have a good time. Their enthusiasm and generous spirit made the camp a most enjoyable one, not only for the girls, but also for their chaplain, Fr. Gerard Beck, and the volunteer staff.



Daily Mass and a short sermon got every day off to a good start.



Daily music class was a joy to listen to. Said the girls' instructor: "The best group I've had in 11 years of camp!"



The girls listen attentively to a conference by Fr. Beck.



Skits are traditional camp fare, and allow the campers to showcase their "ingenious" creative talents.

The hot August weather left the campers longing for something to cool them off. Water balloons helped...



Folk dancing was a great hit with the girls, who never seemed to tire out.

The girls line up for a traditional water balloon toss.





OREGON

St. Thomas Becket Church in VENETA (EUGENE), OR saw a flurry of annual events during the spring and summer months.



June 8th, saw the graduation ceremony of a single high school student and 10 eighth graders from the academy. Here the valedictorian, Miss Danielle Hand, gives her speech in St. Thomas Becket's well-appointed parish hall.



While from June 13th to June 15th, the annual Father-Son Camping Trip was held. Pictured here is Fr. Novak celebrating Sunday Mass for the campers, while the ATVs wait expectantly in the foreground for some Sunday-recreational action!

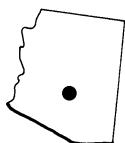
One of the highlights of the Girls' Camp was a visit to Oregon's famous Heceta Head Lighthouse.



The month of May saw the enrollment and advancement of a large contingent into the Eucharistic Crusade. Here, the pastor of St. Thomas Becket, Fr. Lawrence Novak, happily poses with his new "spiritual warriors".



A few days after the boys had their outing, the annual tri-parish Girls' Camp was held from June 22nd to July 5th, with about 60 campers and 15 counselors attending. Despite the fact that it was in the middle of the summer, the weather turned cool, as the campers in this picture can be seen wearing sweaters!



ARIZONA

It is hard to believe that some of our chapels in the United States have reached their 25th anniversary. Yet Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Retreat Center in PHOENIX, AZ did just that on September 15th with a Solemn High Mass followed by a banquet, during which a presentation on the growth of the parish was given.

Attendance at Our Lady of Sorrows now averages over 500 souls, while the retreat center has seen over 1700 retreatants pass through its doors to make the invaluable Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In addition to the standard Ignatian Retreat, the retreat center has also offered a variety of Marian, Matrimony, Teachers and Vocations-centered retreats over the years. Just this year, nine young men who attended the spring Vocations Retreat will be trying their vocations either in the SSPX at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, or with the Benedictines at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Silver City, NM.



Newly ordained Fr. Scott Gardner graced Our Lady of Sorrows with a visit and a Solemn High Mass on the Feast of the Transfiguration. Here he bestows a First Blessing while Fr. Leith (stationed in Phoenix) distributes Fr. Gardner's ordination cards.

Part of the fresh look of the renovated complex will be this carved, wooden crucifix which will grace the exterior of the Retreat Chapel.



In addition to holding retreats, the physical plant of Our Lady of Sorrows underwent an exterior facelift in preparation for its 25th anniversary, the culmination of a year-long fundraising effort. Here we can see that the exterior walls of the Social Hall, Retreat Conference Room and Retreat Chapel have had the former adobe-style finish stripped in preparation for the new finish.



MISSOURI

Despite the oven-like Midwestern heat of this summer, St. Vincent de Paul Church has been a rather busy place, playing host to the Principals' Meeting (see the August issue), two First Masses of newly-ordained priests and other liturgical events.

The parishioners of St. Vincent's had great cause to rejoice during the two First Masses offered by Fr. Scott Gardner and Fr. Thomas Hufford, as both newly-ordained priests spent time in Kansas City before attending the seminary in Winona, and are therefore considered by Kansas Citeans as "their own".

His family residing in the state of Florida, Fr. Hufford spent a year working the shipping department of Angelus Press, and sung in the schola of St. Vincent's before later becoming the schola master at the seminary. Fr. Hufford's first assignment will be at the SSPX's priory in Roodeport, South Africa.

A convert to Catholicism from Arkansas, Fr. Gardner spent a year teaching music at St. Vincent's Academy, playing the organ for the parish and occasionally whipping up a Cajun-style dish for the District Office priests and employees. When Fr. Gardner was informed that his first assignment would be assisting with the pastoral cares of St. Vincent's, he replied, "*it's a dream come true for me!*"

Also in Kansas City, on the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi (August 12), the traditional Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King Convent had the pleasure of seeing the entrance of two more postulants, now bringing their community's total to nearly a dozen, while a postulant made her first set of temporary vows and took her novice's habit. Truly God is steadily occupying their immense convent!



The Feast of Corpus Christi (June 19) was duly celebrated at St. Vincent's, complete with colorful sidewalk sawdust motifs designed by the pastor, Fr. Kenneth Dean, and with the local Franciscan Sisters in attendance.



Here we see the participants of the Corpus Christi procession dwarfed by the imposing Tudor gothic stone exterior of St. Vincent's, as they make their way back into the church. Seen on the rear exterior is a stone crucifix weighing in at around 12 tons and standing almost 20 feet high. When finished by the renowned artist Joseph Conradi in 1923, it was one of the largest *in situ* (in place) carvings in the United States.



Fr. Libietis once again takes poetic license in presenting a humorous remake of the American folk song, *Oh, Susanna*, in honor of Southern-bred Fr. Gardner.

Seen in this view is the large number of clergy present for Fr. Gardner's reception. Clockwise from the bottom right: Fr. John Fullerton, Fr. Kenneth Novak, Fr. Gerard Beck, Fr. Patrick Girouard, Rev. Mr. Gary Holden, Rev. Mr. Joseph Lester (partially hidden), 2nd year seminarian Michael Sestok, Fr. Emmanuel Herkel, Fr. Steven McDonald and Fr. Gardner (partially hidden).



Having said his second "First Mass" on the Feast of the Precious Blood (July 1), Fr. Hufford processes back to the sacristy in preparation to give his First Blessing to the faithful of St. Vincent's.



RETREAT SCHEDULE

October-December

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT HOUSE

209 Tackora Trail,
Ridgefield, CT 06877
(203) 431 0201

Men's 5 day Ignatian: Nov 17 - 22
Women's 5 day Ignatian: Nov 10 - 15, Dec 15 - 20

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

19101 Bear Creek Road,
Los Gatos, CA 95033
(408) 354 7703

Women's 5 day Ignatian: Nov 10 - 15

OUR LADY OF SORROWS RETREAT CENTER

750 E. Baseline Road,
Phoenix, AZ 85042
(602) 268 7673

Men's Seminar (virtues): Nov 17 - 22
Women's 5 day Ignatian: Nov 10 - 15

Saint Pius X Pilgrimage Co.
is organizing the following pilgrimages
(accompanied by a SSPX priest)

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR LORD (March 10-20, 2004)

Visiting various places in the Holy Land related to Our Lord and mentioned in Scripture, including Mount Tabor. \$2150

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE THROUGH FRANCE (May 2004)

Visiting La Sallette, Lourdes, Mont Saint Michel, Lisieux, Paris, and more. \$2375

FATIMA, SPAIN AND LOURDES (August 2004)

Visiting Fatima, Santiago, Zaragoza, Lourdes, and more. \$2495

- Daily Mass ● 4-star or better accommodations
- experienced Catholic tour-guides

For itinerary brochure, reservations contact: **Saint Pius X Pilgrimage Co.**, Robert & Christine de Cecco, 38 Ten Coat Lane, Shelton, CT 06484; telephone 203-922-0096; fax 203-922-0097; or e-mail: christine.dicecco@sbcglobal.net (Please note the change of address and new phone numbers)

EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE

MONTHLY INTENTIONS: October-December

October Triumph of Mary, of the Rosary &
Peace in the world

November The souls in Purgatory

December For the sick and the dying

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE - July 2003

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Treasure sheets returned | 334 |
| Morning offerings | 8885 |
| Masses | 2758 |
| Sacramental communions | 2564 |
| Spiritual communions | 7247 |
| Sacrifices | 29,103 |
| Decades of the Rosary | 37,989 |
| Visits to the Blessed Sacrament | 2063 |
| 15 minutes of silent meditation | 3449 |
| Good examples | 11,721 |

The 24 active chapters for July were, in order of the greatest number of treasure sheets returned, down to the least:

| | |
|--|---|
| St. Mary's Academy, St. Marys, KS (45) | St. John Vianney, Long Prairie, MN (6) |
| Immaculate Conception, Post Falls, ID (40) | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Fort Worth, TX (5) |
| St. Therese Chapel, Nicholville, NY (25) | Our Lady of the Rosary, Buffalo, NY (5) |
| Our Lady Immaculate, Oak Park, IL (23) | St. Michael the Archangel, N. Houston, TX (5) |
| Our Lady of Fatima, Sanger, TX (16) | St. Michael's Church, Mandan, ND (4) |
| St. Thomas Becket, Veneta, OR (15) | Jesus and Mary, El Paso, TX (3) |
| St. Therese Chapel, Madison, WI (13) | St. Michael the Archangel, Farmingville, NY (3) |
| St. Pius X, Cincinnati, OH (12) | Our Lady of Sorrows, Baton Rouge, LA (3) |
| Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Syracuse, NY (10) | St. Michael's, Bakersfield, CA (2) |
| St. Jude's, Philadelphia, PA (10) | St. Mary's Assumption, St. Louis, MO (2) |
| St. Thomas Chapel, Carson City, NV (9) | |
| St. John Fisher, Ft. Wayne, IN (8) | |
| St. Vincent de Paul, Kansas City, MO (7) | |
| St. Peter Chanel, Hilo, HI (6) | |

**Orbis Vacations is organizing the following
Heritage Tour for 2004**
(accompanied by a SSPX priest)

Catholic Jewels of Moorish Spain

April 12-24, 2004

Visiting Toledo, Jaen, Ubeda, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Evora, Fatima.

In the Footsteps of St. Paul

Guided Tour to Greece and its islands

October 2004

details coming soon

Orbis Vacations

OPERATED BY TRADITIONAL CATHOLICS

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andrea@orbisvacations.com

www.orbisvacations.com/SSPX2004tours.htm