

Regina Coeli

REPORT

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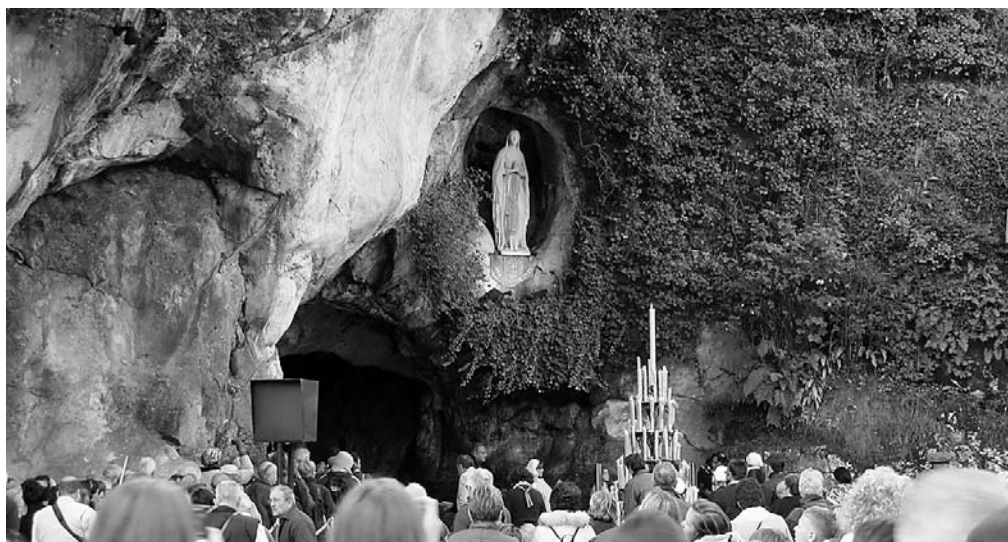
THE SSPX's INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF CHRIST THE KING AT LOURDES

The SSPX gathered pilgrims from around the world at the Marian Shrine of Lourdes in France from October 25-27 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions. The town of Lourdes is picturesquely situated in the southern foothills of the Pyrennes, a mountain range that forms part of France's southern border. The shrine itself is a short distance from the town's center, at a spot next to Gave de Pau river where a grotto is naturally-formed from a rock outcropping called the Massabielle. It was here on February 11, 1858, that the Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared in a cavity of the grotto to a 14-year old peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous. She would appear a total of eighteen times until July 16th of the same year.

During this series of apparitions, when Bernadette would ask the lady for her name, the lady (whom she attested resembled more a young girl than a woman) would simply smile. Finally, on the feast of the Annunciation (March 25th), the lady replied in Bernadette's *patois* (the local dialect, which was Bigourdan), the only language she could understand: *Que soy era Immaculada Councepciou* ("I am the Immaculate Conception").



A formal picture of Bernadette Soubirous about two years after the apparitions and before she entered the convent.



The famous Lourdes grotto, and the marble statue of Our Lady which rests in the very niche where she appeared to St. Bernadette.

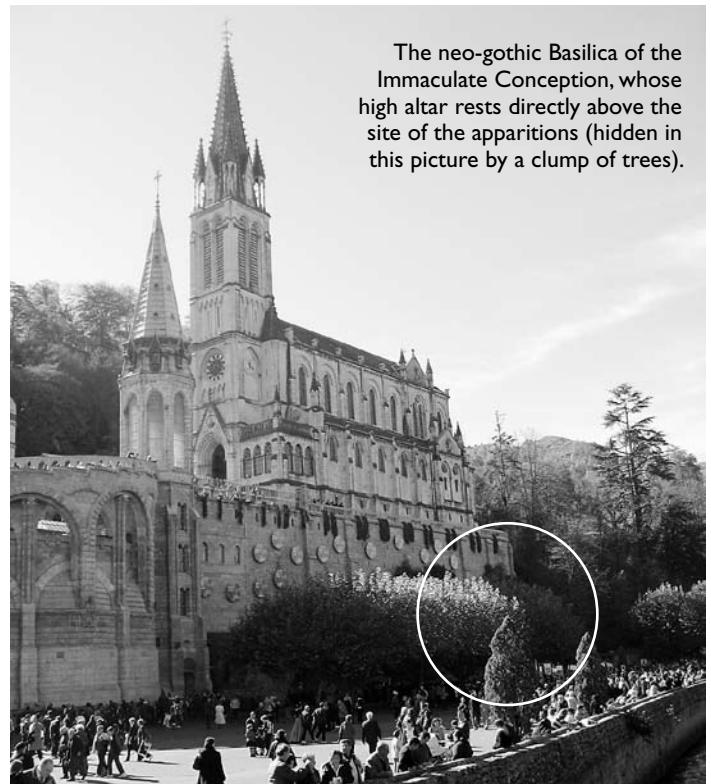
LOURDES..., continued from p.1

Though the dogma of the Immaculate Conception had been proclaimed by Pope Pius IX four years earlier, Bernadette was still learning her catechism to make her First Communion (the extreme poverty of her family and her continual frail health had prevented her from fulfilling this earlier), so she was completely oblivious to what this title meant. The local priest, Fr. Peyramale, had been telling Bernadette to determine the lady's name, so when Bernadette reported what she finally had said, he was stunned, and reported to his bishop: *"She could never have invented this."*

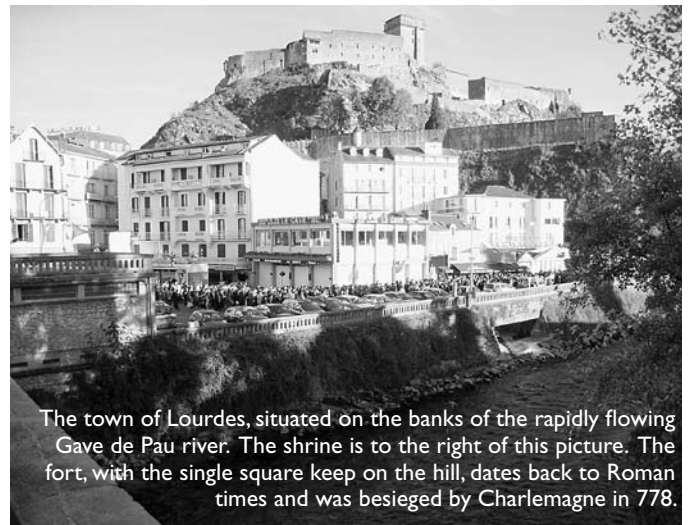
It was on February 25, 1858, that Bernadette discovered a spring of water at the rear of the grotto. The miraculous water from this spring has cured many people over the past 150 years. Coupled with the authenticated miracles that have occurred from the Lourdes water and the testimonies of Bernadette, converted skeptics and other eyewitnesses, Pope Pius IX officially approved the apparitions and the grotto as a shrine in 1862.

Bernadette would eventually join the Sisters of Charity in Nevers, France at the age of 22 (taking the religious name of Sister Marie Bernard), where she labored in the infirmary and sacristy (making some beautifully embroidered vestments). Always suffering from weakness and poor health, she succumbed to her lengthy illnesses on April 16, 1879; she was only 35 years old. When her body was first exhumed in 1909, despite the

A large contingent of pilgrims makes its way up the famous stone staircase to the Stations of the Cross located above the shrine.



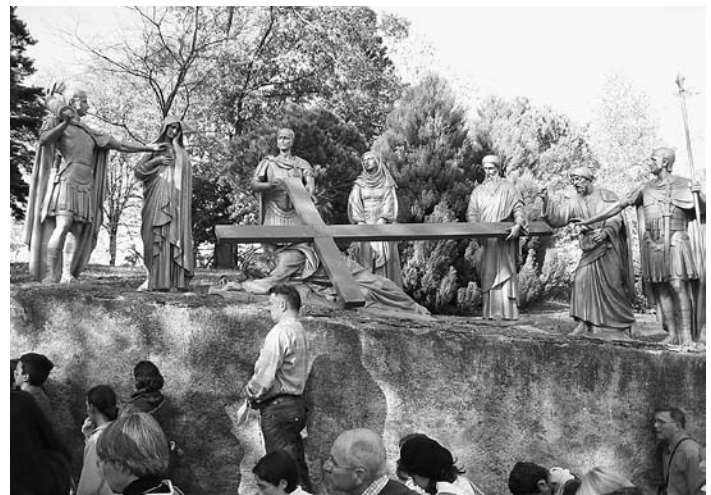
The neo-gothic Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, whose high altar rests directly above the site of the apparitions (hidden in this picture by a clump of trees).



The town of Lourdes, situated on the banks of the rapidly flowing Gave de Pau river. The shrine is to the right of this picture. The fort, with the single square keep on the hill, dates back to Roman times and was besieged by Charlemagne in 778.



Taken from behind one of the life-size stations, here we can see the line of faithful wind out of the camera's sight.



A frontal view of one of the stations.

Society of Saint Pius X
District of the United States of America
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Father Arnaud Rostand
District Superior

J.M.J.
DECEMBER 1, 2008

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

Having returned from Lourdes a few weeks ago, I would like to assure you that the intentions of the priests and faithful of the District of the United States were remembered in my prayers to Our Lady at the grotto.

It was a wonderful pilgrimage – the most important gathering of “Traditional” Catholics ever brought together, with about 20,000 faithful in attendance at the Mass on the Feast of Christ the King! All districts of the Society of St. Pius X from the whole world over were represented by our priests and faithful. The priests of the United States District and the many American pilgrims who were present, were witnesses of the beauty of the ceremonies, and surely returned home with many graces and consolations.

As you were already informed in his recent *Letter to Friends and Benefactors*, Bishop Bernard Fellay, in his sermon on Sunday, October 26th, relaunched the Rosary Crusade with the intention of obtaining the withdrawal of the decree of excommunication against the four bishops consecrated on June 30, 1988. Bishop Fellay invites us to pray one million rosaries before Christmas. Let us be generous to the Immaculate Heart.

Some may wonder – why such an invitation for the Crusade? Or more precisely – why such an intention? Why put such a demand as a pre-condition to our relations with Rome? Why such a request as a concrete demonstration of Rome’s good intention toward us?

Some may think that it is a sign of weakness for the Society of St. Pius X to request such a thing; isn’t it a recognition of the validity of these “excommunications,” and therefore a condemnation of our work of the last 20 years?!

I would like here, to insist on one of the reasons why we *should* request this withdrawal, mentioned by Bishop Fellay in his last *Letter to Friends and Benefactors*

[no. 73]. He wrote: “*the excommunication did not cut us off from the Church, but it has driven away a good number of her members from the Church’s past and from her Tradition.*”

It is clear to us that the excommunication of Archbishop Lefebvre and the four consecrated bishops did not sever them or us from the Church. It was out of necessity, given the crisis situation in the Church, that Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre decided to do the consecrations as a means to safeguard Tradition, certain that he was faithful to the Church and that he was doing his duty by so proceeding.

The request that Rome withdraw the so-called excommunication is not therefore, simply a request for personal benefits, nor even for the good of the Society of St. Pius X. It is a request made chiefly for the good of the Church Herself.

In other words, behind the decree of excommunication, is a condemnation – so to speak – of an attitude. It is the attachment to the Church’s past and to the Tradition of the Church which has been “excommunicated.” Let me quote His Excellency Bishop Fellay: “*Through the excommunication, what has been censured and penalized is the very attitude which specified the combat of Archbishop Lefebvre, i.e., this relationship to the Church’s past and to her Tradition.*” [Letter no. 73]

By the lifting of the excommunication, our hope is that bishops, priests, and faithful may feel free to at last express their rightful attachment to Tradition, and to quote the different Councils of the Church, such as Nice or Trent or any others – without being condemned as “Lefebvreist.” Our desire is that what has been taught in the past may be preached today, that what was true yesterday be recognized as true today, tomorrow, and forever. It is simply a request for the rehabilitation of Tradition in the Catholic Church.

To conclude this letter, I would like to wish you a good and fruitful season of Advent, and following that a happy and holy Feast of the Nativity. Let us not forget that Advent is a time of penance in which we should double our efforts, sacrifices and prayers. Let us be careful not to celebrate Christmas in advance, or to make this time of preparation a time of celebration and frivolity as do the pagans. If we are generous in preparing in this spirit of penance, we will taste the peacefulness and true joy of Christmas.

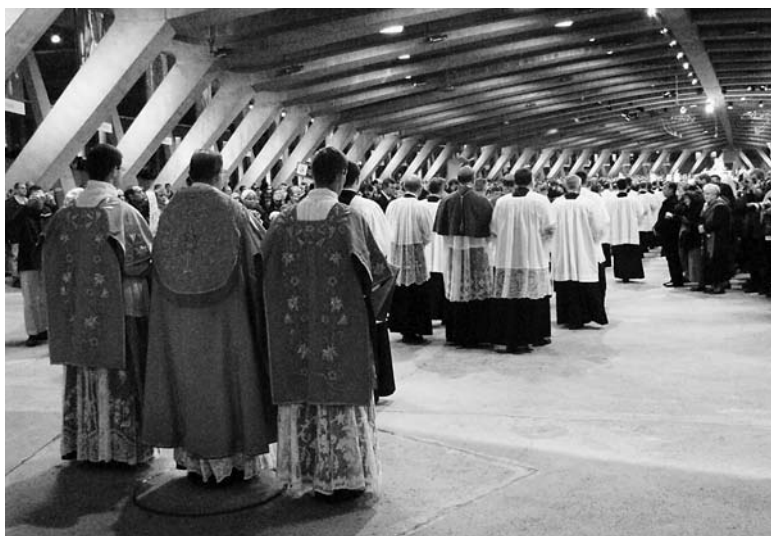
May the Child Jesus bless you.

You have my prayers for a merry and holy Christmas.



Fr. Arnaud Rostand

The special lens used to take this picture captures the immense size of the underground St. Pius X Basilica nearly filled to capacity by traditional pilgrims as they await the start of the first Solemn Mass.

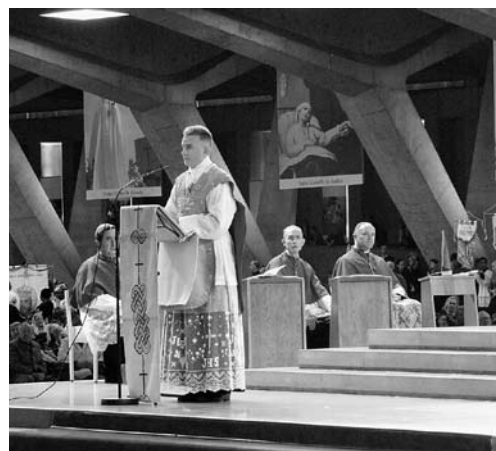


Taken the next day on the Feast of Christ the King, here we see the celebrant (who is wearing a cope for the Sunday *Asperges*) flanked by the deacon and subdeacon, while the four bishops are ahead each flanked by two priests who serve as their chaplains.



A view of the sanctuary (which is centrally located in the basilica) and sacred ministers during the Solemn Mass. Here, the celebrant, Fr. Yves Le Roux, is chanting "*Dominus vobiscum*" before the Collect.

Fr. Le Roux preaches about the "eternal youth of Our Lady of Lourdes" which comes from her Immaculate Conception, and how this purity must be recovered in our world, where "sensuality is reigning."



dampness of the grave that had rusted her rosary, nonetheless her body was miraculously preserved from decomposition. Her body now rests in a glassed-in reliquary at her motherhouse in Nevers. In 1933, Pope Pius XI canonized St. Bernadette Soubirous for her humility, simplicity and holiness of life.

The message of Lourdes was essentially identical to what Our Lady had requested earlier at La Salette in 1846 and again at Fatima in 1917: do penance and pray for the conversion of sinners. Another message that the Blessed Virgin Mary gave to Bernadette on February 18th: "*I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next,*" a thought that permeated the sermon that Fr. Yves Le Roux (rector at the Winona seminary) gave during the SSPX's pilgrimage.

In attendance were 300 priests, brothers and seminaries, over 150 sisters and nearly 20,000 faithful, making it not only the largest pilgrimage ever organized by the SSPX, but perhaps even surpassing the number that gathered for Pope Benedict XVI's September visit!

The pilgrimage began on Saturday, October 25th with a very large procession up the hill that overshadows the grotto, where the Stations of the Cross were made in various languages throughout the day from early morning until mid-afternoon. At 4:30 pm, a Solemn High Mass was offered in the enormous St. Pius X Basilica, which is nicknamed the "Underground Basilica" due to its location below ground level. The structure built in



The Blessed Sacrament Procession makes its way through Lourdes...



...preceded by
a long line of
secular clergy...



...religious
such as
Capuchins,...



...and following behind the Blessed Sacrament were
numerous woman religious such as these SSPX (front and in
black) and Dominican (back and in white) sisters.



Even the numerous sick joined the procession.

1958 resembles an airport hanger, though it can accommodate 25,000 people, which the SSPX's pilgrims nearly filled to capacity. As is customary every night at Lourdes, a candlelight procession to the grotto was held by the Society. There were so many participants that the entire area was filled making it impossible for individuals to pass through the group. After the candlelight procession, a silent vigil was held during the night at the grotto.

The pilgrimage continued on Sunday, October 26th, the Feast of Christ the King, with another Solemn High Mass at 8:30 am, followed by the rosary at the grotto at 11 o'clock. Returning to the St. Pius X Basilica in the early afternoon, Vespers was sung followed by a mile-long Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Lourdes in honor of Our Lord's Kingship. Benediction was held after the procession, followed by the special Blessing of the Sick, with each of the infirm being blessed individually with the Blessed Sacrament. All Night Adoration was held later that evening, which continued until 8:00 am the next morning.

The pilgrimage concluded on Monday with a Solemn High Mass, followed by the recitation of the rosary from the opposite side of the Gave river (where St. Bernadette had her last apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the grotto's cavity). Then the pilgrims attended a final Benediction at noon before departing for home.

This year's Lourdes pilgrimage made by the SSPX was marked by a more positive attitude on the part of the local bishop and shrine authorities who allowed the traditional Catholics complete access to the shrine. Sadly, the Society's bishops were restricted from celebrating public Masses in the basilica, though they were allowed to use a private chapel on the shrine's grounds. Along with the general welcome given in Rome during the 2000 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage of Tradition, this example stands in opposition to the policies that have been enacted in this country by the shrine authorities at Auriesville, NY (North American Martyrs) and Starkenburg, MO (Our Lady of Sorrows), where the pilgrimage groups have been locked out from the shrines, even as individuals.

In light of this welcome at Lourdes, a paradoxical event took place during the pilgrimage: this was the complete blackout that the *secular* media imposed upon the newsworthy event. Despite the fact that nearly 20,000 people had descended upon the shrine

(more than for the pope's recent visit) and that the media had been sufficiently informed of the event, barely a word was said about this pilgrimage of titanic proportions on television, radio or in print, causing DICI (www.dici.org) to tongue-in-cheek nickname this the "*phantom pilgrimage*"! Instead, the media decided to focus on an annual, but in comparison, miniscule horse breeders pilgrimage from southern France.

Forming part of the ignored SSPX's pilgrimage, a contingent of Americans traveled from all over the United States to join the other pilgrims who had traveled from across the world to be at Lourdes for the momentous Marian event. The Americans came either as individuals or as part of two main groups, one guided by the nearly 20-year old St. Pius X Pilgrimage Company and the other by the St. Mary's, KS based Regina Pilgrimages, both of whom have organized numerous pilgrimages for traditionalists to various Catholic shrines throughout the world. In addition to attending the Lourdes pilgrimage, these organized groups were able to see other important shrines in France, such as in Paris, the Miraculous Medal, the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure, the Sainte Chapelle that houses the Crown of Thorns, or at Paray-le-Monial (where the Sacred Heart appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque) and of course, well-known places like Lisieux, Nevers, Chartes, Ars, La Salette, and even the little known Our Lady of Laus (which previous to the Lourdes and La Salette apparitions, was the most visited apparition site in France).

The enormous public outpouring of the Faith by those pilgrims was furthered by the singularity of the message preached in the various sermons given. These sermons explained the necessity of prayer and penance, of living Christian lives of self-denial, unencumbered by worldly things, the importance of remaining faithful to Christ the King, Our Lady, and the Church through Catholic Tradition, and finally the importance of the retraction of illegitimate excommunication of Tradition in 1988. Bishop Fellay also took the opportunity to relauch the Million Rosaries Crusade to obtain this goal. In addition to announcing this spiritual bouquet of "Christmas Roses" (thus nicknamed because this Crusade ends on Christmas Day), Bishop Fellay thanked Our Lady for the continual protection and care she has granted to the Society of St. Pius X, and then renewed the Consecration to her Immaculate Heart.



Bishop Fellay preaching in underground basilica on the Feast of Christ the King about the need for "prayer and penance" and how the withdrawal of the 1988 excommunications affects the whole Church, and not just the SSPX.

For more information about the
Relauched Million Rosaries Crusade,
visit www.sspx.org
or contact the Regina Coeli House.



Here we see the special Blessing of the Sick being given to a pilgrim.



A view of the pilgrims gathered at the grotto. Fr. Franz Schmidberger (German District Superior) stands at a stone podium, while the four bishops can be seen just in front of the famous Lourdes circular candle stand which is continually kept lit.



Bishop Fellay renews the Consecration of the SSPX to Immaculate Heart of Mary, which Fr. Schmidberger as Superior General had first made in 1984.



A view of some pilgrims from the Regina Pilgrimages group standing in front of the famous statue and shrine of the La Salette apparitions, which they also visited as part of a 12-day tour made in connection with the Lourdes pilgrimage.



Fr. Trevor Burfitt (prior in Phoenix, AZ) celebrates Mass in a hotel room for St. Pius X Pilgrimage Company pilgrims.

Here some pilgrims from the St. Pius X Pilgrimage Company relax during their tour. Circled are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Di Cecco, who at the insistence of a Society priest, organized their first pilgrimage tour in 1991, which they continued as an apostolate.



A sight seen by the Regina Pilgrimages group, the gothic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the first church to use flying buttresses thereby making possible the erection of tall, thin stone walls pierced with large stained glass windows.



EUCCHARISTIC CRUSADE

MONTHLY INTENTIONS

- December:** That Crusaders will be on fire for the Crusade.
- January:** For the missions and a missionary spirit.
- February:** For the sick and suffering; that they may unite themselves to Cross of Jesus.

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE

September 2008

Daily Offering	12,287
Masses	5,797
Sacramental Communions	4,929
Spiritual Communions	9,630
Sacrifices	23,905
Decades of the Rosary	51,973
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament	5,809
15 minutes of silent meditation	4,456
Good Example	15,858
Number returned	518

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MEN: Dec. 15-20, Jan. 19-24, March 9-14, May 11-16,
 July 20-25, Sept. 21-26, Nov. 9-14

WOMEN: Feb. 9-14, April 13-18, June 22-27, Aug. 10-15,
 Oct. 12-17, Dec. 14-19

**ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA
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 19101 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033
 (408) 354-7703

MEN: Dec. 11-14 (Weekend), Jan. 5-10, Feb. 23-28,
 April 20-25

WOMEN: Dec. 4-7 (Weekend), Feb. 2-7, March 16-21,
 May 11-16

OUR LADY OF SORROWS RETREAT CENTER
 750 E. Baseline Road, Phoenix, AZ 85042
 (602) 268-7673

WOMEN: Dec. 15-20, May 28-31 (3-day Virtue)

MIXED: Dec. 27-Jan. 2, 2009 (Marian—tentative dates)

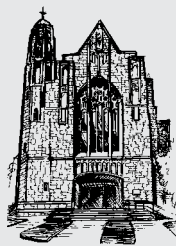
**Please contact the retreat house in question to
 ensure availability before making any travel plans**

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD OF REV. MR. BENJAMIN CAMPBELL

AND TO THE SUBDIACONATE OF
 MR. JORDAN FAHNSTOCK

BY BISHOP RICHARD N. WILLIAMSON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 9:00AM



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FR. BENJAMIN CAMPBELL'S FIRST MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 31: Kansas City, MO: 10:00am

Thursday, Jan. 1: St. Mary's, KS: 10:00am

Sunday, Jan. 4: Orlando, FL: 9:00am

Sunday, Jan. 11: Winona: 10:00am

Sunday, Jan. 18: Nicholville, NY: 9:00am