

Regina Coeli

REPORT

REGINA COELI HOUSE, 11485 Farley Road, Platte City, MO 64079
Tel: (816) 753-0073 FAX (816) 753-3560



ORDINATIONS AT ST. VINCENT'S

During the Octave of the Nativity on Tuesday, December 30th, St. Vincent de Paul Church in KANSAS CITY, MO hosted an ordination to the priesthood and to the subdiaconate during a Pontifical Solemn Mass at the Throne, celebrated by Bishop Richard Williamson.

It was the first such pontifical ceremonies held in St. Vincent's sanctuary since 1981. On May 9th of that year, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre performed ordinations to the subdiaconate and to the minor orders in conjunction with blessing the newly obtained church.

When Archbishop Lefebvre was first shown St. Vincent's, his words upon entering it were "*C'est magnifique, c'est une cathedrale!*"¹ Due to its spacious size² and central location in the States, the Archbishop designated St. Vincent's as the SSPX's "episcopal church" where all ordinations for the North American Seminary³ would be held. The church thus earned the nickname of "The Archbishop's Cathedral," and though ordinations were not held there again after 1981,⁴ nonetheless the moniker has persisted.

The Archbishop's original designation of St. Vincent's was fulfilled once again late last December by a set of curious circumstances. The now Fr. Benjamin Campbell from the SSPX's chapel of St. Thomas More in Sanford (Orlando), FL had studied at Holy Cross Seminary in Goulburn, Australia. There "down under" the seasons follow a much different routine than in the Western Hemisphere, so priestly



This wide angled view of St. Vincent's, taken from the choir loft during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints, reveals its cathedral-like proportions.



Prostrated before the altar during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints, the deacon, Rev. Mr. Campbell (on the right) and the acolyte, Mr. Fahnstock, prepare themselves for their ordination to the priesthood and subdiaconate respectively.

Society of Saint Pius X
District of the United States of America
REGINA COELI HOUSE

11485 Farley Road
Platte City, MO 64079
(816) 753-0073
FAX (816) 753-3560

Fr. Arnaud Rostand
District Superior

J.M.J.
MARCH 1, 2009

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

The past few weeks have been full of news concerning the Society of St. Pius X.

You have surely read the letter that His Excellency Bishop Bernard Fellay wrote to the faithful regarding the lifting of the excommunications by Rome.

You must also have heard of the huge anti-Catholic campaign that the press has orchestrated in Europe at first, then in America and now throughout the world.

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, indeed, has released the so-called excommunications from the Episcopal Consecrations of 1988. That is the important fact. We would expect the Society of Saint Pius X to be attacked on its specificity — the defense of the traditions of the Catholic Church, the Latin Tridentine Mass, of course, but also and mostly the resistance that we have always shown to the Second Vatican Council. We would expect that we would be criticized and confronted on our opposition to Religious Liberty, or ecumenism and the like.

But no, it is easier as the proverb says, “*Lie, lie, something always will remain*”; we are harassed with false accusations of anti-Semitism. We have never been, and will never be anti-Semite, simply because of the New Testament Law, which is a law of Charity.

It is obviously manifest that behind this media operation, the aim is to discredit the Society of St. Pius X, but also and even primarily the Catholic Church and the pope himself. It is a press campaign to disrepute anything Catholic and whatsoever is done, even if only slightly, in favor of Catholic Tradition.

Under this pressure, on February 2nd, the Vatican Secretary of State has stated that despite the release of the excommunications of our four bishops, the Society of St. Pius X has no canonical status (according to them). It was then made clear that for future recognition of the Society of St. Pius X, a full acceptance of the Second Vatican Council will be absolutely indispensable.

We are grateful to the pope for the *motu proprio*, *Summorum Pontificum* of July 7, 2007. We have always expressed our gratitude to His Holiness. We are now also thankful for the release of the excommunications; we see these decisions as courageous and good signs. We have no fear in acknowledging that, no fear to convey our appreciation. As we have already stated, we hope that the *motu proprio* as well as the new decree will help to clear, in the eyes of many, the invalid condemnation of Catholic Tradition.

At the same time, we reaffirm what we have always said. We refuse to acknowledge the validity of the excommunications of 1988. We state repeatedly that the consecration of the four bishops by Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre was not illegitimate. On the contrary, we are more convinced than ever, that it was an absolute necessity to maintain the Tridentine Mass and to save Catholic Tradition. It was a meritorious and heroic act for the defense and safeguard of Catholic Doctrine and Liturgy.

Today, we express our gratitude and faithfulness to the positions and decisions of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. We declare our thankfulness also to the four bishops for accepting their episcopal consecrations, and for continuing to ordain true priests during the past two decades in order to, and only to, preserve Catholic Tradition.

We also reaffirm that the Second Vatican Council has broken away from the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church; in particular, but not exclusively, in the declaration *Dignitatis Humanae* on Religious Liberty, the constitution *Lumen Gentium* and the decree *Nostra Aetate* on ecumenism.

For years, we have asked for discussions about these doctrinal questions, for in conscience we cannot accept teachings contrary to what the Church has always taught. The only answer we receive has always been, “*accept the Council!*” When will the time come that we can start these essential and indispensable talks? This is certainly what we respectfully, but steadily plead for to Rome.

During these days of confusion, I exhort you to remain faithfully united. The devil always tries to divide, to inspire some fear that “*the Society of St. Pius X is giving up*” or on the contrary, “*the Society is getting too hard...*”

Unity in prayer and in doctrine is the only answer; the recent effect of offering to Our Lady so many rosaries is proof of that. Let not any attempted division undermine us;

But let us have confidence in Divine Providence, and in the graces which our Superior General, Bishop Bernard Fellay receives to lead us in this time of crisis.

May God bless you.

In the Immaculate Heart,



ORDINATIONS..., continued from p.1

ordinations are usually held in December, rather than in late June as at Winona.

However, Fr. Campbell's large and extended family scattered throughout the United States would be unable to attend an ordination in Australia. During a discussion on where to hold the ordination in a centralized location, Fr. Jean Violette, the pastor of St. Vincent's, offered the use of the church, which the District Superior, Fr. Arnaud Rostand, delightfully accepted. It was also determined that an acolyte from St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, MN, Mr. Jordan Fahnstock of South Lake Tahoe, CA, would simultaneously be ordained a subdeacon, an important step towards receiving the priesthood.

Over the next few months, lengthy and coordinated preparations for the ceremonies took place between the North American Seminary and St. Vincent's, culminating with the actual ordinations on the morning of December 30th of a new priest for the Priestly Society of St. Pius X and of a subdeacon.

Our congratulations to both ordinands and may their example cause more young men to step forward to join the laborers for the Lord's Vineyard. The District Office requests prayers for the priests that will be ordained at Winona in June of this year, so they will persevere in their vocation.

Footnotes

- ¹ *"It's magnificent, it's a cathedral"*
- ² St. Vincent's is the second largest Catholic church in Kansas City and remains the largest "chapel" in the United States District, having a seating capacity of 1100, though when the Archbishop came in 1981 it actually held 1500. When purchased in 1980, it was the largest church the SSPX owned anywhere (St. Nicholas du Chardonnet Church in Paris is owned by the French State).
- ³ St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary was then located at the present St. Ignatius Retreat Center at Ridgefield, CT, which was difficult to reach for many traditional Catholics. Nor did it have the facilities for such ceremonies, as the present Christ the King Church was not even a conception yet.
- ⁴ This was due to logistical reasons. In 1981, because St. Vincent's was just a mission serviced out of St. Mary's, KS, the church did not possess the items necessary for such pontifical ceremonies. So the Ridgefield seminary was required to transport everything, from vestments to liturgical wares, to Kansas City, MO.

Acknowledgements

Ordinations photographs courtesy of Fr. John Young (stationed at St. Mary's Assumption Church in St. Louis, MO) and Mr. Chris Walter (of St. Vincent's).



Situated up in the choir loft, Fr. Scott Gardner was the organist for the ceremonies.

St. Vincent's schola master, Mr. Ian Palko directs the schola comprised of men and boys from the parish (and Dr. Andrew Childs of St. Mary's, KS).



A view of the many clergy and religious who came from throughout the United States to attend the ordinations.



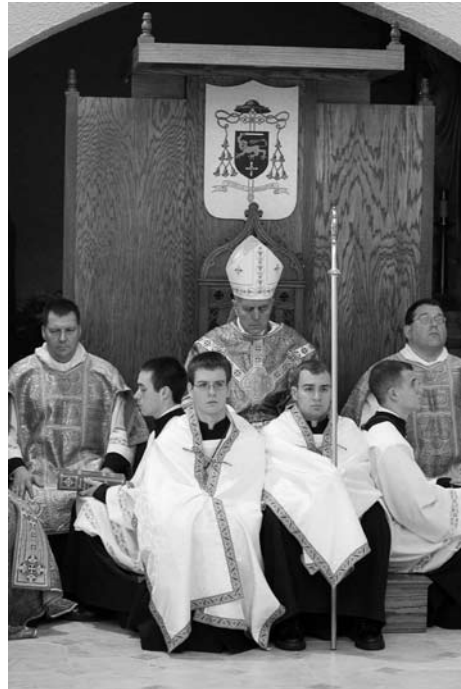
Bishop Williamson preaches about the importance of the Catholic Faith in society and how the present Church crisis has increased the degradation in secular life.



Having said the Preparatory Prayers and kissed the Book of the Gospels (a special practice at pontifical Masses), the bishop incenses the altar. Note the Pontifical Canon (an abridged altar missal) on the mensa which takes the place of the missing altar cards.



Instead of at the altar, the bishop says the prayers for the Mass of the Catechumens at the pontifical throne situated on the Gospel side. The vested ministers seated around the bishop are from left to right, the first assistant deacon, Fr. John Fullerton (cousin to Fr. Campbell) and the second assistant deacon, Fr. Joseph Dreher. Just out of view on the far left is the assistant priest. The *capellani*, are respectively from left to right, the bearer of the book, mitre, crosier and bugia (hand candle), and were served by four young men of St. Vincent's.



Photographer Fr. John Young is captured by the parish's own professional photographer, Mr. Chris Walter. Fr. Young has photographed ceremonies at St. Vincent's a number of times over the years.



One of the credence tables used to hold the items needed for the ceremonies. Note the two chalices; the one in front will be presented to the subdeacon during his ordination.

The one in the rear (complete with purificator, pall and paten) is prepared as for Mass with a host, wine and drop of water, and will be presented to the newly ordained priest while he is being given the power to offer Mass.

PONTIFICAL ACTIONS

During a pontifical Mass, there are several interesting actions repeated during the ceremonies which are unique to a bishop. We showcase here the use of the mitre and crosier (pastoral staff) used at various times.



The deacon removes the mitre from the bishop after the *Lavabo* while holding the *lappets* out of the way. When performing this action, the minister has to be careful not to move the skullcap the bishop wears under the mitre.

The crosier bearer ministers the pastoral staff by dropping to his right knee then kissing the crosier and bishop's ring in a specific order. Like the mitre bearer, he wears a *vimpa* to hold the staff. The *vimpa* not only protects the crosier from oil and residue, but more importantly signifies the dignity of the pontifical item which the servant should not touch with his bare hands.

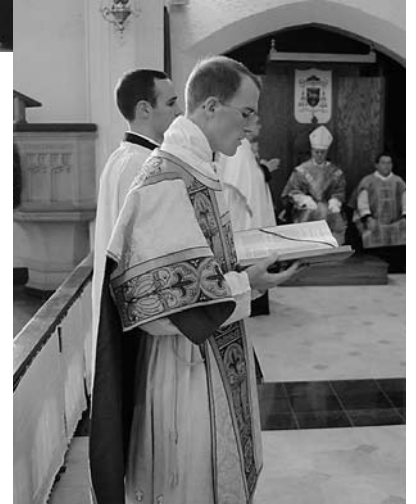
THE SUBDIACONATE



Having responded to the call for all to be ordained to the subdiaconate to come forward, Mr. Fahnestock stands and listens as the bishop admonishes him to consider well the step he is about to take and the responsibilities of those in the subdiaconate, which include perpetual celibacy and a blameless and exemplary life.



Having received the maniple, Rev. Fahnestock is vested with the tunic, the liturgical vesture of a subdeacon. He will then touch a chalice and a set of cruets which give him the office to minister with these at the altar during Mass, and then he is presented with a lectionary...



...which bestows the power to chant the Epistle as he does here for the first time during the Pontifical Mass which continues as usual after the ordination of the subdeacon.

THE PRIESTHOOD



The priestly ordination takes place after the Epistle and first part of the Gradual has been chanted. The assistant priest in cope, Fr. Arnaud Rostand (USA District Superior) stands and presents the deacon for priestly ordination while the bishop asks, "Has he been found worthy?" Meanwhile Rev. Campbell kneels holding a candle, a symbol of the first grace he received at baptism, which has followed him throughout all of the other sacraments bestowed upon him.



The solemn moment during the ceremony of ordaining a priest when the bishop imposes his hands upon the ordinand, thereby bestowing the matter of the priesthood. The form of this sacrament of holy orders will be said shortly thereafter during a long, preface-type prayer.



After the bishop has imposed his hands in silence upon the ordinand, the attending priests each do the same in turn as a blessing to confirm him in priestly strength. At this moment can be seen Fr. Jean Morel, who came from New Orleans, LA for the ceremonies. The priests who have already given their blessing have their right hand raised to show their consent to the ordination.

While the *Veni Creator Spiritus* is chanted, the bishop anoints the hands of the new priest to consecrate them for offering the Holy Sacrifice. To the right can be seen a server holding a chalice (already prepared with wine and water) and paten (with a host) which will be presented by the bishop for the new priest to touch while being given the power to offer Mass.



A close up picture of the decorated linen *manutergium* used to momentarily wrap the newly ordained priest's hands after having them anointed with the holy Oil of Catechumens. A few moments later he will take off the *manutergium* to wash his hands. Then following a touching tradition, the linen winding band will be given to his mother and used to bind her hands upon her burial.



Here Fr. Campbell (assisted by Fr. Griego) concelebrates his first Mass in unison with the celebrating bishop. This unique practice in the Roman Rite occurs only during a priestly ordination and episcopal consecration. So the ordinand can hear and recite the prayers with the celebrant, the bishop says the Offertory, Canon and the remainder of the Mass aloud, another peculiarity of this ceremony as usually the former two parts are always said in secret in the Latin Rite.



Having removed the *manutergium*, Fr. Campbell washes the holy oil residue from his hands with bread, lemon, water and soap with aid of his assisting priest, Fr. Vicente Griego (rector of Holy Cross Seminary). Fr. Campbell's brother, Benedictine Br. Elias, also assists by holding a towel and the candle.



The Consecration action: the climax of the priesthood and of the Pontifical Mass.



Before receiving the Pax (the kiss of peace) from the bishop, the ordinand kisses the altar, a symbol of the bond of charity between Christ and the Communion of Saints (from the relics encapsulated in the mensa) which the bishop and new priest will communicate to each other.



A view of the 8 torchbearers from St. Vincent's who were privileged to serve the Pontifical Mass. Peeking out in the left foreground can be seen the camera lens of parish photographer, Mr. Chris Walter.



Escorted by the second master of ceremonies (at right), the assistant priest, Fr. Rostand (in cope), gives the Pax he received from the bishop to one of the clergy in choir, who in turn will pass it along to another cleric and so on. This highly symbolic and touching ceremony signifies the charity for one's neighbor and the unity and concordance that should exist in the Church of Christ.



Immediately after the celebrating bishop has made his Communion under both Species, the newly-ordained priest receives Communion from the bishop. Then the usual Communion rite follows with the newly ordained subdeacon receiving his Communion first.



After Communion, the ordinand's folded chasuble is unfastened and lowered by the bishop as he grants the priest the power to forgive sins. The priest then promises the bishop to obey ecclesiastical authority and is given a special kiss of peace (shown here); he also receives a penance in the form of offering several Masses for various intentions, then a special blessing. Mass is then continued with the Postcommunion prayer.

ORDINATION..., continued from p.7

The lengthy procession makes its way down the main aisle with the thurifer leading, followed by the subdeacon-crossbearer (vested in a tunic) flanked by the acolytes, then the torchbearers, schola, clergy, masters of ceremonies, the ordinands, and finally...



...the sacred ministers, from front to the back and right to left, the subdeacon, assistant priest (in cope), the second assistant deacon, the bishop blessing the faithful, and the first assistant deacon, while the *capellani* trail behind the bishop.



A group shot of the various ministers, visiting clergy and schola in front of St. Vincent's after the ceremonies.



Fr. Campbell shows the chalice that his family and Fr. Ramon Angles gave to him for his ordination. The beautiful gothic chalice features colorful miniature enamels and faux jewels around the node and cup.



Assisted by his brother, Br. Elias, Fr. Campbell gives his special first blessing to his proud parents who came for the ordination of their son from Florida, where they attend the SSPX's chapel in Sanford.

FIRST MASS OF NEWLY ORDAINED FR. CAMPBELL

Fr. Campbell celebrated his First Mass in the church of his priestly ordination the very next morning with his former rector, Fr. Peter Scott (now stationed in Canada) as his assistant priest (a pontifical privilege granted to priests for their first Masses), Fr. Michael Johnson (who also attended Holy Cross Seminary) as deacon and Fr. Christopher Leith as subdeacon. Coincidentally, all the ministers were familiar with St. Vincent's, as they had spent time at the priory, Fr. Campbell for his seminary vacation apostolate, Fr. Scott as both District Superior and pastor, Fr. Leith as a pastor, and Fr. Johnson as a pre-seminarian.



Having invoked the assistance of the Holy Ghost by singing the *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Fr. Campbell begins his first Mass with "Introibo ad altare Dei."



Fr. Scott preaches from a familiar pulpit about the importance of the holiness of the priesthood and the good example of piety that Fr. Campbell gave during his formative seminary years.



The Elevation of the Sacred Body of Our Lord, Whom Fr. Campbell just consecrated in his hands for the first time.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT HOUSE

209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877

(203) 431-0201

MEN: March 9-14, May 11-16, July 20-25, Sept. 21-26, Nov. 9-14

WOMEN: April 13-18, June 8-12, Aug. 10-15, Oct. 12-17, Dec. 14-19

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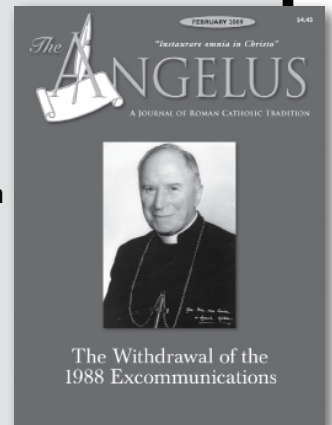
WOMEN: May 11-16, June 8-13 (Women Teachers), Nov. 16-21

MIXED: Dec. 17-19 Matrimony Retreat (begins 12/16 PM), Dec. 28-Jan 1 Mixed Marian (tentative dates)

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

Look at what you're missing this month!

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- The **Carmelite Martyrs** of Compiègne
- Who are the **Co-operators of Christ the King?**
- A New Book: **Motherhood and Family** (Review and Excerpt)
- **Humani Generis:** Still Relevant?
- Catechism of the Crisis on the **New Mass**
- Q/A: **Are tattoos permissible?**



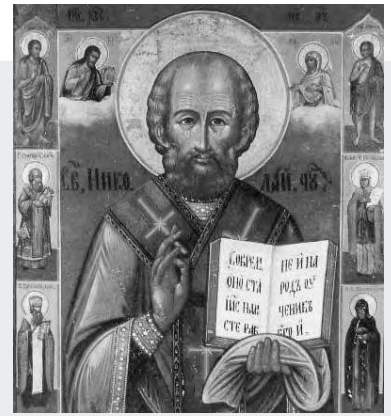
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ST. NICHOLAS DAY

Several chapels in the District (usually through the parish school) enacted the custom of commemorating the feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (located in the province of Lycia in modern-day Turkey). He passed to his eternal reward on December 6, 346 AD and in 1087 his body was transferred to Bari in southern Italy. St. Nicholas is revered both in the East and the West for the many miracles he worked during his lifetime. The custom of giving presents to children on his feast day (as celebrated in the West) of course developed from when the saintly Bishop of Myra secretly gave three bags of gold to some young women who did not have a proper dowry which prevented their contraction of marriage to suitable husbands.



St. Michael's Church, Mandan (Bismarck), ND



St. Nicholas, assisted by an acolyte bearing a processional cross and bag of goodies, receives the children of the parish to see if they were virtuous this year.

St. John Fisher Church, Ft. Wayne, IN



Presenting a more historically-correct image of St. Nicholas, the chapel coordinator, Mr. Joseph Kretschmer, dressed up as an Eastern Rite bishop. Note especially the crown-shaped mitre and two candelabra used to give a blessing; on the right is the trikerion (whose 3 candles symbolize the Holy Trinity) and the dikerion (symbolizing Our Lord's 2 natures).



The Bishop of Myrna, seated, poses with the pastor, Fr. Sulzen and some children of the parish.



To the surprise of the children, St. Nicholas used the traditional Greek greeting of "Ireni humeen" ("Peace be with you") and sang the Our Father to them in Old Slavonic (the liturgical language used in the Slavic Byzantine Rites); he promises to sing this prayer also in Greek next year!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Kansas City, MO



Continuing a tradition of several years, to honor Christ, the Light of the World, the entire church was lit with over 1200 candles during the Christmas Midnight Mass. The twin streaks of light along the main aisle are from the acolytes' processional candles, as this was a time delayed picture.



Here is an up close shot of the specially constructed metal chandeliers, which can each hold 48 candles. Barely visible in the sanctuary are 2 large standing chandeliers that hold 60 candles each, adding to the numerous other candles situated on the altar and reredos.

Assumption Chapel, St. Mary's, KS



The parish witnessed its 100th baptism for 2008 on Christmas Day, December 25th. Fr. Herve de la Tour holds a newly baptized Mercedes Noelle Eubanks for a picture with the proud parents (left) and godparents (right).

St. Michael's Church, Mandan (Bismarck), ND



Here the pastor, Fr. Carl Sulzen places the statue of the Divine Babe in the crib of the chapel's nativity scene.

St. John Fisher Church, Ft. Wayne, IN



Here the children sing for a parish audience as part of Christmas festivities.



During the program, a reenactment of the Nativity of Our Lord was given.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

These are the dates for the chapels in the
United States of America District

BISHOP TISSIER DE MALLERAIS:

Post Falls, ID	May 24
Edmonds, WA	May 25
Charlotte, NC	May 27
Denver, CO,	May 28
Ridgefield, CT	June 14
Long Island, NY	June 16
Dickinson, TX	June 21
San Antonio, TX	June 22

BISHOP ALFONSO DE GALERETTA

St. Mary's, KS, Mar 21

BISHOP BERNARD FELLAY

Pittsburgh, PA	June 21
Louisville, KY	June 22

Browerville Sisters' Girls Camp, Veneta, OR

8-day camp to take place in July or August

Contact: Sister Athanasius, 320-594-2944

Details to follow

Regina Pilgrimages

(accompanied by an SSPX priest)

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MONTHLY INTENTIONS

- March: For the Sovereign Pontiff and the
bishops.
- April: For persecuted Christians throughout
the world.
- May: For the consecration of Russia and the
triumph of the Immaculate Heart of
Mary.

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE

December 2008

Daily Offering	10,643
Masses	4,563
Sacramental Communion	3,711
Spiritual Communion	8,059
Sacrifices	22,028
Decades of the Rosary	51,022
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament	3,561
15 minutes of silent meditation	4,443
Good Example	15,114
Number returned	419

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