

REDEMPTORIST SAINTS

Saint John Neumann: The First American Male Saint

By Fr. Bob Kraig, Retired Pastor of St. John Neumann Parish, Strongsville, OH

As pastor of St. John Neumann Roman Catholic Church, my belief and conviction is that a community will grow first of all by 1) Centering itself in the Body and Blood of Jesus 2) Communal and private prayer 3) The intercession of its patron saint. The Eucharistic Community that The John Neumann parish has become and grown into is certainly due in many ways to our patron saint, Saint John Neumann. Through his intercession within our various praying ministries, many miracles have happened, doctors have written letters about the disappearance of diseases and God has truly become present among our people. His nine-day novena has been a source of strength, hope and consolation to many. I write this article so that all would consider getting to know this saint more personally.

His Early Years

John Neumann was born on March 28, 1811, in Prachatiz, Bohemia. Because of the example of his parents, John always desired to serve God as a priest but due to illness his ordination was put off indefinitely. In addition, his diocese had enough priests at that time, contrary to our day and age. John, who had always wanted to be a missionary in America, wrote to several bishops in the United States and in 1836 he came to this country, uncertain as to where he would go. On June 25, 1836, John was ordained by Bishop Dubois of New York at old St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. He then became pastor of the whole Niagara frontier, some 100 miles of swampy, primeval forest. Although small in stature, five feet four inches, he was sturdy and would walk miles through dangerous forests in snow, rain or heat to bring the consolations of God to the sick and the dying. Father Neumann set up many schoolhouses. After four years of complete disregard for his own physical welfare, he collapsed from exhaustion. This period was a time of turmoil for Saint John and in 1842 he made a decision to join the order of the Redemptorists. His first assignment with them was to the Redemptorist Church of St. James in Baltimore. In 1851 he was appointed rector of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore.

40 Hours Devotion

In 1852, Pope Pius IX appointed John Neumann as the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He established many schools and during his episcopacy the number of parish school children increased from 500 to 9000 in thirty months while a total of seventy-three new churches and chapels were built. It is Bishop Neumann who established the first diocesan program of Forty Hours and always wanting to help his people, Bishop Neumann wrote two catechisms. Among numerous other contributions, Bishop Neumann founded a religious order for women, The Third Order of St. Francis of Glen Riddle.

His Death

On the morning of January 5, 1860, Bishop Neumann was not feeling well. Still mindful of his lifelong habit of never wasting a minute, he planned to take a walk and do a few errands. To a brother Redemptorist he had confided in the morning the following: “I have a strange feeling today. I feel as I never felt before. I have to go out on a little business and the fresh air will do me good. A man must always be ready, for death comes when and where God wills it.” As he walked along Vine Street near Thirteenth, his steps became uncertain and he was seen to stagger. A moment later he fell to the ground. In a matter of minutes he died of apoplexy in his forty ninth year of life. Bishop Neumann was laid to rest in the Redemptorist Church of St. Peter at Fifteenth Street and Girard Avenue, Philadelphia. His earthly remains were placed under the main altar clothed in the vestments of his Episcopal office and encased in a cover.

A Growing Devotion

Out of their deep love for “The Little Bishop” the people began to make it a habit to pray at his tomb. People began to petition him for favors, recovery from illness, for help with their challenges in life. Soon stories were heard and repeated of the marvelous things which had come to pass after prayers had been invoked to Bishop Neumann. In 1885, 25 years after his death, an application was made to Rome for beatification. Ten years later, Pope Leo XII accorded to Bishop Neumann the title of Venerable and in 1921 Pope Benedict XV declared that Bishop Neumann was ‘Heroic in virtue.’

Miracles Begin To Happen

As the long slow process toward Bishop Neumann’s beatification continued, two miracles resulting from prayer to “The Little Bishop” were approved. In May 1923, in the town of Sassuolo, near Milan in northern Italy, an 11-year old girl named Eva Benassi was suffering from headaches, abdominal pains and fever. Her doctor diagnosed the case as tubercular peritonitis. Eva’s condition grew steadily worse. One day the doctor told the girl’s family that death was imminent and could be expected that night. A nun of Eva’s school organized prayer to Bishop Neumann for healing and touched her swollen abdomen with a picture of the bishop. That night the disease disappeared. On July 8, 1949, Kent Lenahan Jr. of Villanova, Pa., was critically injured in an automobile accident. His skull was crushed, one eye was almost torn from its socket and he was bleeding from the ears, nose and mouth. At the hospital, he lingered four days between life and death. His condition was regarded as hopeless. His mother obtained a portion of Bishop Neumann’s cassock and laid it on her son. His temperature dropped to 100 degrees and his pulse was almost normal in a matter of hours. Within a few days his injuries were well on the way to complete healing and five weeks later he left the hospital in excellent health. Pope Paul VI, on October 13, 1963, listed Bishop Neumann among the heavenly Blessed. One further healing was needed for sainthood.

The First American Male Saint

In 1963, when he was six, doctors gave Michael P. Flanigan of West Philadelphia, Pa., six months to live. He had an incurable case of Ewing’s sarcoma, a bone cancer of legs, jaw and lungs. Several times his parents carried him to the Neumann Shrine at St. Peter’s. His mother pinned a relic of Bishop Neumann to his pajamas. Six months after the diagnosis was made there were no signs of the disease. On June 19, 1977 John Nepomucene Neumann became America’s third Roman Catholic saint and the first American male saint. In addition to these miracles, many, as I said above, have happened here at St. John Neumann. I obviously could never prove that statement but it is something I firmly believe from the bottom of my heart. I encourage parishioners to seek the intercession of our St John Neumann as well as Mary, the mother of Jesus. I encourage you also to bring your needs to our praying ministries, to a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament and above all to the Eucharistic celebration on weekends. The power of God is unbelievable and has truly been at work within our praying community.

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MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Children’s Mass: 9am 1st
Sunday of the month Oct-June
Children’s Liturgy: 11am
All Sundays except the 1st
Sunday from Sept- June
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor

Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.

Associate Pastor

Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.

In Residence

William Comerford, C.Ss.R.

Office Manager

Virginia Fong

Pastoral Coordinator

Bertilla Watanabe

Bookkeeper

Corinna Siy

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Theresa Barao

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

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OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

January 13, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord

A Seven-Year Plan to Build Our Parish Community

Dear Parishioners,

With the dawn of the new year, this is indeed a favorable time to share with you some exciting news about our Parish’s plans for the future. As you know, the Redemptorists arrived in Vancouver in 1923 and established Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in 1925. A major development is in the works which will mark this 100-year milestone, along with the parish Centennial Celebrations which will follow in 2025.

Since our arrival, the Redemptorists have worked at establishing strong roots in this community. In the coming years, we wish to continue to be a vital presence for the spiritual growth and evangelization of current and new families entering our parish boundaries.

Here’s the plan. Over the next seven years with the prayerful, financial support of this parish community we wish to do the following:

- 1) Create a sustainable presence for the Redemptorists in the property we own and occupy
- 2) Provide families with a means to continue to stay within and keep their ties with this parish
- 3) Provide a means to attract high quality teachers to stay and teach at OLPH school

We have discussed these plans with the Archdiocese of Vancouver and have received the blessing of Archbishop Michael Miller to go ahead. The development plan will span the next seven years and is proposed in two parts.

A) AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO REPLACE THE RECTORY to be launched soon which will:

- Provide new, safe accommodation for the Redemptorist Fathers
- Provide a financially viable living arrangement for the Redemptorists in the wake of the proposed School Tax.
- Provide 1/2/3 bed-room units for parish families including teachers, seniors and young families
- Provide a multi-purpose room which the parish can use

B) A NEW CHURCH BUILDING in 2027 which will:

- Accommodate 400 people for Mass/liturgical gathering
- Reposition the tabernacle within the sanctuary
- Have a Confessional which meets Archdiocesan recommendations
- Provide a larger sacristy which meets safe environment needs for altar servers
- Provide easier facilities access to seniors and disabled
- Give us an Adoration Chapel
- Provide additional meeting rooms
- Have a large foyer for gathering
- Have a soundproof crying room
- Provide adequate underground parking
- Meet the required seismic safety standards

The parish and heads of the committees are currently working with Columbus Charities and architects to finalize the details of this proposal. The new development will benefit the present parish community and generations to come.

We entrust these plans into the hands of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help who will surely be our patroness in bringing this vision to fruition. Your prayers and financial support will be essential in paving the way forward. An information session will be held in several weeks when more details have been worked out. Please keep this project in your daily prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R

O bless the Lord, my soul. – Psalm 104

NEWS & NOTICES

Weekly Collection: Sunday Mass Offering Jan 5 & 6: \$5,367.60. Jan 1 Mass Offering: \$2,089.95. Offering for the Needy: \$25.00. Initial Offering \$1,538. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity.

2019 Sunday Offering Envelope Boxes: The 2019 Sunday Offering boxes are ready for pickup. Please do not use 2018 or any past year's envelope boxes. If your box is not in the foyer, please email reception.olph@rcav.org and let us know. Please take a look at the PAG form in your box and consider giving your donation by Pre-Authorized Giving. It would be a tremendous help to the parish.

Catholic Women's League Notice: There will be a CWL general meeting on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30pm in the Madonna Room. Social afterwards.

Knights of Columbus Notice: There will be a general meeting of K of C Council 3821 on Wednesday, January 16 at 7:30pm in the Church Hall. There will be a social after this meeting.

The Catholic Faith - in Plain English: Learn the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith in this robust course, suitable for all adult learners including Catholics and non-Catholics. It will be especially useful for anyone who teaches religious education (PREP, RCIA, Catholic schools), those in lay ministry (youth ministry, young adult ministry, prayer group leaders), and anyone seeking deeper answers to their questions. You can attend all sessions or drop in for specific topics as you please; there is no cost or pre-registration required. This course is taught by Fr. Vincent Hawkswell (retired pastor and B.C. Catholic editor) and Maureen Creelman (retired high school math and physics teacher). This course now runs every Sunday until June 2 (2pm – 4pm at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre), repeated Monday until June 3 (11am – 1pm at St. Anthony's Parish in West Vancouver and 7pm – 9pm at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre). For more info and the list of topics and dates, visit <https://rcav.org/adult-catechesis-course/>.

Festival of St. Thomas Aquinas: Join the Dominican Family as we celebrate our brother St. Thomas Aquinas on Saturday, Jan. 26, 9:30am - 4:30pm at St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver. Day includes Mass celebrated by Archbishop Miller, talks based on the life and work of St. Thomas Aquinas, dramatic presentations, a music competition, and concludes with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



OLPH-Strathcona Family-2-Family Outreach Program

OLPH families adopted 20 families from Strathcona Elementary School and provided Christmas gifts and grocery gift cards to help make their Christmas merry. Parents from OLPH school were encouraged to “adopt” a family for Christmas. They were given very basic wishes/needs for the family and the children shopped with their parents, wrapped the gifts, made cards and then placed all the items in plastic bags for delivery to Strathcona. We began with 20 families but have great hopes, based on the wonderful feedback and enthusiasm of OLPH parents, that we will be able to expand the outreach next year. If you're interested in taking part in this program, please contact Sandie Weitz. Email: sweitz20@gmail.com

Prayers For Paul Blair Cafferky

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Paul Blair Cafferky who died on Dec 26, 2018. Paul was a student of OLPH School, altar server and parishioner.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- Psalm 23*

Stewardship Reflection

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming... he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

JANUARY- MARCH

40 Hours Adoration



Jan 14-16

Our parish is hosting 40 Hours Adoration Mon-Wed Jan 14-16. Come and spend a few hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament this week. The 40 Hours Devotion was begun by Redemptorist Saint John Neumann who was a bishop. (See back page). Exposition will begin at the end of morning Mass and continue till 7pm. We will need at least two people to be present every hour on these three days. We would very much appreciate your commitment to make some time for the Lord. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

Lenten Mission

March 11-14

Father Larre is our Lenten Retreat guest speaker this year. Fr Larre has many roles in his life. Besides being a priest he also worked in psychology and education focusing on helping children. The underlying theme for his work is how to be missionaries of love. He spreads this message in missions, retreats and special talks to parishes all over the world.

Archbishop's Parish Visit



March 14-17

Archbishop Miller will continue his visits to all 77 parishes of our diocese. His visit to OLPH is in March. Key Ministry members and coordinators, please note these dates down in your calendar. The Archbishop will have meetings with all groups and the school between March 14-17.

Why Eucharist Adoration Is So Important For us

“The worship given to the Trinity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... must fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses... This worship must be prominent in all our encounters with the Blessed Sacrament... Adoration of Christ in this sacrament of love must also find expression in various forms of Eucharistic devotion: personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, hours of adoration, periods of exposition – short, prolonged, and annual (Forty Hours) - Eucharistic benediction, Eucharistic processions, Eucharistic Congresses... Let us be generous with our time in going to meet him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease.” - Pope John Paul II

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

It has been the consistent belief of the Catholic Church from the very beginning that the bread and wine consecrated at Mass truly become the Body and Blood of Christ; and that, furthermore, as the Catholic Catechism states, this “Eucharistic presence of Christ [which] begins at the moment of the consecration...endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist.” (CC #1377). In other words, the Eucharistic Christ then continues to be present in our midst beyond the Eucharistic liturgy when the consecrated host is either reposed in a tabernacle or exposed on the altar.

WHY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

If we can adore the Eucharistic presence of Christ when reposed in a tabernacle, why do we then need to expose the Blessed Sacrament on an altar? It is not essential for exposition to take place to have Eucharistic adoration, yet people report experiencing a greater sense of intimacy with Jesus and attentiveness of mind and heart to prayer when they are able to actually “see” our Eucharistic Lord. Moreover, according to Church regulations exposing the Blessed Sacrament for a period of time requires the presence of a sufficient number of people to be there and therefore fosters the commitment needed to establish and sustain a meaningful parish Eucharistic adoration program. But the best reason for having exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is simply that God wills it. During His Eucharistic discourse, Jesus made this unmistakably clear: *“Indeed, this is the will of My Heavenly Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son, and believes in Him, shall have eternal life. Him I will raise up on the last day” (John 6:40).*

WHAT DOES VATICAN II SAY ABOUT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

Vatican II sought to highlight the centrality of the liturgical celebration of the Mass and foster the faithful’s full participation in it. Parishes which have established a long-term Eucharistic adoration program have over time seen an increase not only in the attendance at Mass but also in the sacrament of Reconciliation as well. And even though non-Catholics cannot receive the Eucharist at Mass, they can spend time before the Lord in Eucharistic adoration and through His Eucharistic presence felt spiritually do oftentimes seek full communion with the Church so that they may also participate fully in the liturgical celebration of the Mass.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PERPETUAL AND NON-PERPETUAL ADORATION?

Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members of a given parish (or some other entity) unite in making continuous hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament both during the day and throughout the night, seven days a week. Non-Perpetual Adoration is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament less than 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Perpetual Adoration, whenever possible, is to be preferred because it offers individuals the convenience of adoring Our Lord at any and all hours of the day and night and mobilizes the maximum number of individuals committed to prayer. Consequently, it is to be considered the goal of all.

WILL FOCUS ON CHRIST’S PRESENCE IN THE CONSECRATED HOST ECLIPSE HIS PRESENCE IN EACH OTHER AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE?

Christ is present in the Eucharist precisely because the Eucharist becomes the means by which he is able to establish his presence in every other experience of the Church’s life and ministry and in its members. Rather than eclipsing his presence in all other ways, the Eucharist first celebrated, consumed and then adored becomes the means by which that presence is established and enhanced. This has been the conviction and personal experience of all who have possessed a true understanding and love for the Eucharist in the past and it continues to be the conviction and experience of all who do so today.

WILL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOSTER PRIVATIZED SPIRITUALITY OVER SOCIAL CONCERN?

A true concern for society (i.e. welfare of the poor, issues of peace and justice, evangelization) is a byproduct of the strength of one’s own prayer life and personal dedication to Christ. Eucharistic Adoration fosters such a genuine sense of conversion from over preoccupation with one’s own will to the embrace of Christ’s will for oneself and others. Consequently, rather than being a deterrent to the social mandate of the Church, it provides the foundation upon which a genuine commitment to Gospel service and evangelization can be built.

HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY WILL IT REQUIRE TO ESTABLISH EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

Eucharistic Adoration is a lay-run ministry. As such it supports the call of Vatican II to promote the involvement of the laity in the mission of the Church. Consequently, once established, outside of his occasional pulpit support and offering of spiritual guidance when needed, very little time will be demanded of the pastor. Experience has also shown that the laity tend to be very generous in financially supporting ministries they see as directly benefiting them and their families. As a result, whatever expenses are needed also tend to be provided for by the lay people themselves.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Redemptorist Pilgrimage: May 2-14

As part of our 150th Jubilee Icon of Love celebrations, the Redemptorists all over the world have organized several pilgrimages to visit the actual icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, places where St Alphonus and St Gerard Majella lived and prayed as well as other places of interest in Italy.

The cost of the trip is \$4800. Full payment is due by Jan 30, 2019. Arrangements can be made for pre-authorized payments as well. For more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Brian or Deon royaleorchid@shaw.ca or call Brian 778-999-4599 / 778-866-8118.



12-DAY ITINERARY

- Day 01: May 02 2019 - Canada to Rome / Naples**
- Day 02 May 03 - Arrive in Rome – Marianella – Naples**
- Day 03: May 04 - Pompeii – Amalfi Coast**
- Day 04: May 05 - Excursion to Scala**
- Day 05: May 06 - Sites of St. Alphonus and St. Gerard Majella**
- Day 06: May 07 - Amalfi – Montecassiano – Rome**
- Day 7: May 08 - Papal Audience – Holy Doors of Rome – Relics of Jerusalem**
- Day 8: May 09 - Rome (Vatican)**
- Day 9: May 10 - Assisi – Sites of St. Francis and St. Clare**
- DAY 10: May 11 - Pisa – Padua**
- DAY 11: May 12 – Venice – St. Mark’s Square - Murano Glass Factory**
- DAY 12: May 13 – Goodbye Italy**