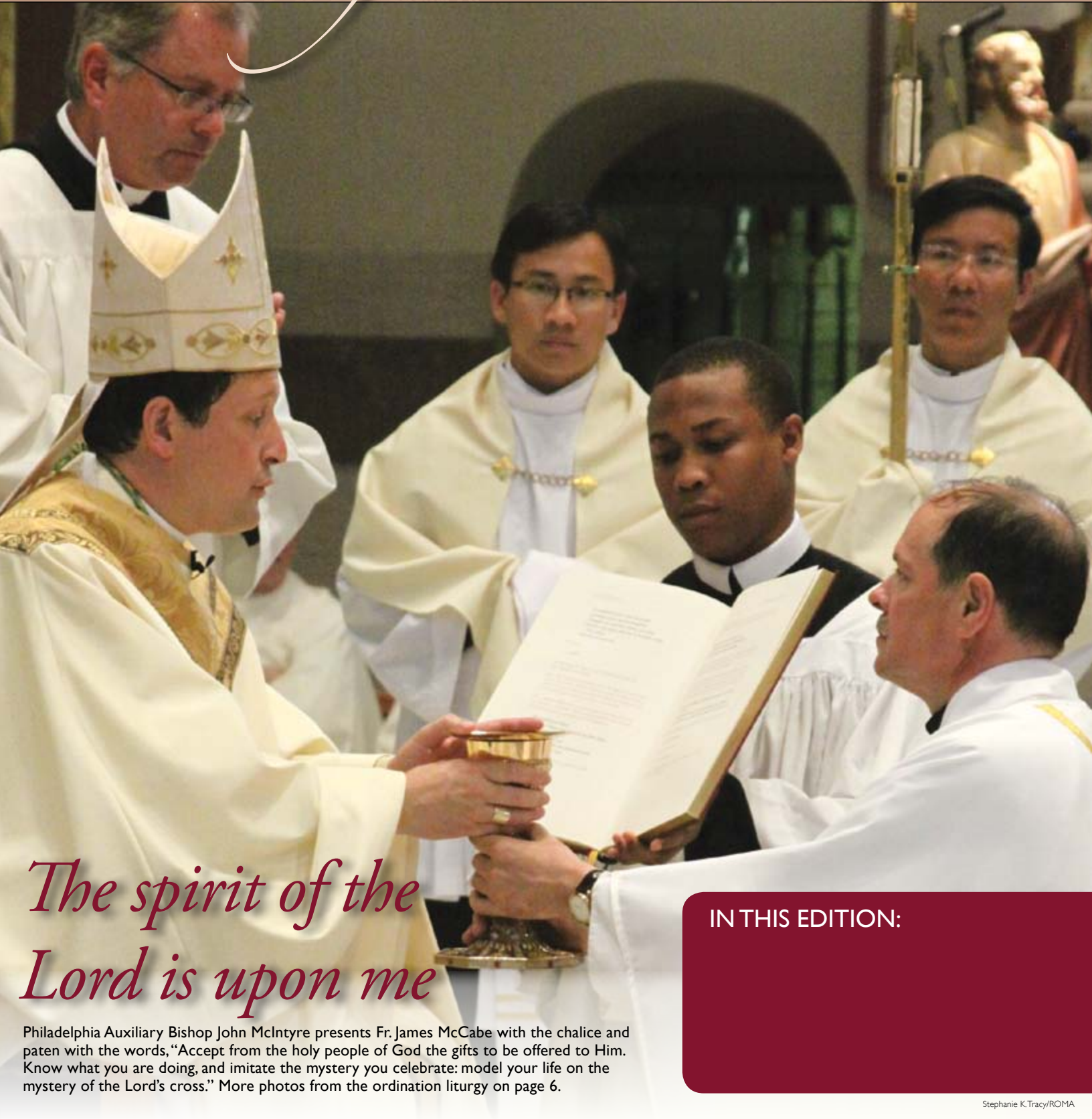


Plentiful REDEMPTION



*The spirit of the
Lord is upon me*

IN THIS EDITION:

Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop John McIntyre presents Fr. James McCabe with the chalice and paten with the words, "Accept from the holy people of God the gifts to be offered to Him. Know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord's cross." More photos from the ordination liturgy on page 6.

PROVINCIAL'S PREFACE



Dear Friends,

On June 11, 2011 Deacon James McCabe was ordained a Redemptorist priest at St. Peter's Church/Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia. How we need, in the Catholic Church and the Redemptorist community, newly ordained priests!

There is no greater gift that God can give to a man than the gift of priesthood. As a

Plentiful Redemption © 2011

Plentiful Redemption is distributed quarterly to friends and collaborators of the Redemptorists. We aim to tell the story of God's bountiful love and inspire our readers to partner with us to continue spreading the Good News to all people, especially the poor and most spiritually abandoned.

Redemptorist Office for Mission Advancement

107 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401-2526

Toll free: 877-876-7662
redemptorists.net

Editor:
Stephanie K. Tracy
editor@redemptorists.net

Director:
Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.
dfrancis@redemptorists.net

Editorial Board:
Rev. Matthew Allman, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Andrew Costello, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.
Elizabeth Góral-Makowski
Stephanie K. Tracy
Kathy Wagner

priest of 41 years, I give thanks to God daily for this most precious and undeserved gift.

I have the opportunity every day of my life to be an instrument of God in changing bread and wine into the precious Body and Blood of the Lord.

I have the opportunity to absolve in the name of the Lord the sins of those who come to the sacrament of Reconciliation.

I have the joy of blessing children, born of the flesh of their dear parents, who become sons and daughters of God by the power of the Holy Spirit and the waters of Baptism.

I have the opportunity to witness couples unite their love for each other in the sacrament of Marriage.

In the name of Jesus, I can touch all those who are ill with the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to pray for their healing, or to bless those preparing to meet their Lord and Savior in the Kingdom of God.

A priest can touch hundreds and thousands of lives.

I give thanks to God for his call. I know that I have been weak and sinful many times in my life, and I thank God for the wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation.

I also know that I have the opportunity every day of my life to say like Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." I can say at every Mass, "Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, O Heavenly Father."

I also know that I have the possibility of saying like Jesus: "He who sees me, sees the Father." I can say, "He who sees me sees Jesus."

Priesthood is such a wonderful gift. How can I ever repay the Lord?

I pray for Father James McCabe, that the gift he received on June 11, 2011 will be the greatest and most treasured gift of his life.

With love and prayers,

Rev. Kevin Moley, C.Ss.R.

Fr. John Kingsbury named North American Conference Coordinator

Redemptorist Superior General Michael Brehl recently appointed coordinators for the five regional conferences that were created by the last General Chapter in Rome.

Father John Kingsbury, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, MD, was named coordinator for the North American Conference.

Father Kingsbury first professed vows as a Redemptorist in 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1980. His assignments include St. Clement Church in Saratoga Springs, NY; Sts. Peter & Paul in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Mount St. Alphonsus Retreat Center in Esopus, NY; and Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, NY. He has also served as rector of the formation residence for Redemptorist students, and has served on the Extraordinary Provincial Council for 18 years.

Father Kingsbury took a few moments to explain his new responsibilities:

"As the coordinator of the North American Conference, I'll be working with Redemptorists from the United States,

Canada, and the English-speaking region of the Caribbean. The conference is a middle level between our General Government in Rome and the individual Provincial governments.

"My role will be to participate in broad discussions about

our ministry. The conference will look for ways we can work across province boundaries in various ministries as well as ways we can strengthen our formation programs, how to support weaker local units, in short how we can best fulfill our mission as Redemptorists with available resources.

"There are a lot of challenges to consider, but we can solve them and we can listen to what the Spirit is calling us to beyond what we're doing at this moment. Where we've successfully done this in the past, it's so powerful."



Advancing the Mission



Every now and then, after a mission, someone will send a letter or email that is so touching it's what I call a "keeper," meaning it's one that I will hold on to for a long time. Every now and then, I meet someone and the conversation is similar to a "keeper" — I will draw strength from it for a long time.

This is true about my meeting with Larry. He volunteered to help lead a teen confirmation retreat. His own kids are now in college, and he said he missed working with that age group. After a few pleasantries, he blurted out: "I moved to Annapolis because of the Redemptorists." I was more than curious. This is his story:

“ Years ago, my wife and I were living in Alexandria, VA and she had just given birth to twins. We were going to move and didn't know where. I worked near Annapolis for FedEx, and one day in Lent I decided to attend noon Mass at St. Mary's. I was there early to pray and I could see elementary kids walking out — perhaps they had just had confessions. I can't say I remember the priest but I will never forget that Mass. And that's when I said to myself, "I've got to live here. I want to live this life and I want my babies to grow up and live this life and be one of those students.”

And so, driving out to my next appointment, I saw a "For Sale" sign on a lawn. I called the realtor. The next weekend, my wife and twins joined me in looking at houses. I kept saying to the realtor: "I want a house in the St. Mary's parish boundaries." The house we finally settled on had a statue of the Blessed Mother in the yard, and the previous owners were parishioners moving away to retire down south.

We've been here for 18 years! ”

I began to express my amazement when he said, "I'm not finished:"

“ You see, when the company I was working for threatened to transfer me to another city, I quit and got a job with another company because I did not want to leave St. Mary's and the Redemptorists. ”

Thank you, Larry. And look for more stories like this in the fall edition of *Plentiful Redemption*.

Redemptorists reach out to people each day through the work we do. There are many times we don't know how our presence or preaching or things like this newsletter or our website touches someone's soul, but we believe that what we do — giving our lives for plentiful redemption — will draw people into relationship with God and into better, healthier relationships with each other.

We can't do this alone. We need your help. Publishing and mailing this quarterly newsletter is expensive. Please consider using the enclosed envelope and sending us a gift of any amount — even a small donation will help to defray costs and to continue to tell stories like Larry's, stories like yours. You — our friends, our family, our benefactors — are our real "keepers."

Fr. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.

Where Saints Walked

In May, I led a group of 20 pilgrims to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic to visit the birthplaces of St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos. To read the pilgrimage blog, visit redemptorists.net/neumann.



Martha Fitzgerald/Courtesy



Neumann: Preserving the gift of faith

By Rev. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

St. John Neumann's name can be found on grade schools, high schools, even universities. It's a name that fits well as the patron of these institutions of learning. He is known as the founder of the parochial school system, and he had firm convictions about the importance of Catholic education.

During his years in the United States (1836-60), 4.37 million immigrants crossed the sea with fond hopes. Because so many of these new Americans were Catholic, the Church grew from being a rather insignificant entity into the largest denomination in the land by the time of the Civil War. Along with this sociological phenomenon came a prejudice that "popery" was conspiring to overtake the republican government of the United States.

From his very first days as a missionary in the frontier of western New York, he was aware that his ministry was bigger than preaching Sunday sermons. "I began yesterday to instruct the children," he wrote. "They are in a sad state. The poor little creatures have had few advantages. They speak both German and English badly, and have little idea of religion."

A school house attached to the church followed him wherever he went. When the trustees of the parish balked at the expense such an edifice would entail, Neumann took it upon himself: "This school house will have to be my own work under you, O my God; but for your love, I will spare nothing. My (personal) vow of poverty will now be of service to me. I shall have a chance to test the sincerity of my resolutions."

After four years as a diocesan priest, Neumann entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists). He noted: "The mutual bodily and spiritual help, edification and good example which one has

around him till death in such a spiritual society, make my life and office a great deal easier for me."

The idea of a school as a vital part of parish life was already in place in the parishes to which he was assigned as a Redemptorist, and John became a part of the effort wherever he went. The cooperation of women and men religious instructing the children in the schools was a great consolation to him, and he actively gave of himself to these communities in whatever way he could minister to them.

Likewise he cooperated with them in catechizing. One of the women religious commented about his skill with the children: "He was an accomplished catechist and a great lover of children. His gentleness, meekness, and perseverance in communicating religious instruction to the children often awoke my astonishment, and the salutary impression he made upon even the most faulty and troublesome of our little people was quite remarkable. They often said to me, 'Sister, Father Neumann looked right into my heart.'"

Jesus told his disciples to live in the world but not of the world. While in the modern age Christians confront secular-



Students from several Philadelphia-area Catholic schools place candles in front of the relics of St. John Neumann during a prayer service on his 200th birthday.

ROMA

ism, materialism, and atheism, prejudice was the greatest threat in Neumann's 19th century.

"The school system of the United States," he wrote, "is very liberal in theory; but in reality it is most intolerant toward Catholics. Everyone has to contribute to the erection and maintenance of the public schools, in which instruction is restricted to reading, writing, and ciphering. As respects religious instruction which is excluded from those schools, parents are free to have their children reared in whatever religion they please. Notwithstanding these liberal concessions, it cannot be doubted that the young mind is influenced by the irreligious dispositions of teachers."

If one can't work within the system, notwithstanding liberal concessions, one has to create a new system that is better able to call forth all the potential of the student.

In Philadelphia, as bishop, he was so concerned with this issue that he founded the first Catholic parish school system in the nation. He himself held the post of school board president and worked with pastors and laity in the work of education. When he first arrived, there were two Catholic schools in the city; by the time he died, eight years later, there were more than 100 established schools.

"Due to the prejudice against the Faith that was infused in the public school system as we knew it," he wrote, "the determination that religious instruction needed to be part of the daily curriculum and the conviction that Catholic values need to permeate even secular subjects, we will spare no effort in the establishment of a solid, Catholic school in every parish to guarantee, as best we can, that the gift of the Faith continues into future generations."

Fr. Boever began his acquaintance with St. John Neumann 30 years ago while writing his doctoral dissertation. He recently published a new biography, "St. John Neumann: His Writings and Spirituality," written in the first person and based on major personal documents of the saint. A member of the Denver Province, he is currently stationed at the Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia.

Redemptorist Jubilarians

These priests and brothers are celebrating significant anniversaries of their profession as Redemptorists and/or their ordination to the priesthood. Please join us in thanking God for the gift of their ministry and pray for their continued faithfulness in service to God's people.

Anniversary of Profession

70 Years

Rev. Philip Cabasino, C.Ss.R.

65 Years

Rev. Jerome Murphy, C.Ss.R.

Rev. John Kelly, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Lawrence Lover, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Joseph Gorney, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Clement Cahill, C.Ss.R.

60 Years

Rev. James Burke, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Charles Brinkmann, C.Ss.R.

50 Years

Rev. Joseph Freund, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Vincent Douglass, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Daniel Carboy, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Timothy Keating, C.Ss.R.

Rev. John Lavin, C.Ss.R.

40 Years

Br. Leonard Samuel, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Philip Dabney, C.Ss.R.

Very Rev. Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R.

25 Years

Rev. Lenin Delgado, C.Ss.R.



ROMA

Anniversary of Ordination

60 Years

Rev. Jerome Murphy, C.Ss.R.

Rev. John Kelly, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Lawrence Lover, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Joseph Gorney, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Clement Cahill, C.Ss.R.

50 Years

Rev. Dennis Foley, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Gerard Brinkmann, C.Ss.R.

Very Rev. Patrick McGarrity, C.Ss.R.

40 Years

Rev. Ronald Bonneau, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Norman Bennett, C.Ss.R.

Very Rev. Charles McDonald, C.Ss.R.

Very Rev. Francis Gargani, C.Ss.R.

25 Years

Rev. Kevin Murray, C.Ss.R.

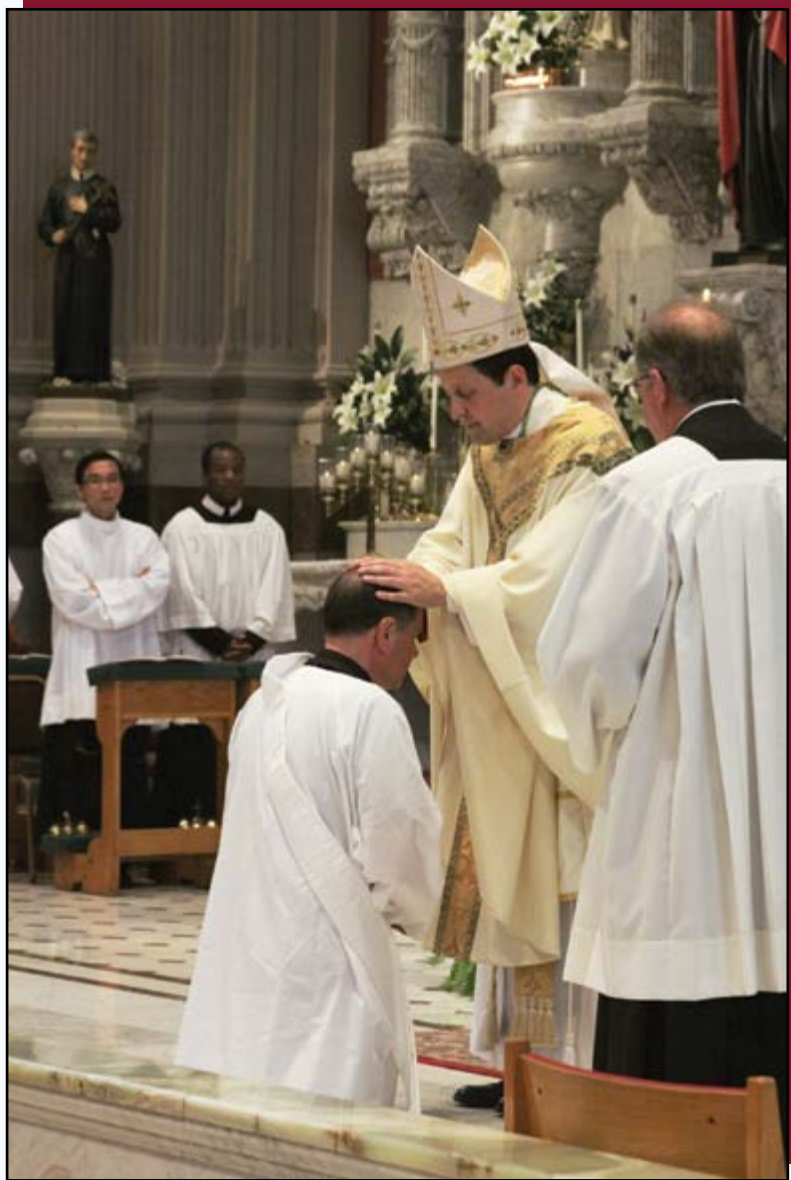
Very Rev. Rodney Olive, C.Ss.R.

Rev. Sean McGillicuddy, C.Ss.R.

On the Web

If you would like to send a note of congratulations and prayers to one of our jubilarians, we invite you to write to us at jubilees@redemptorists.net. We will be happy to forward your message.

He has sent me ...



The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:20-21)



Stephanie K.Tracy/ROMA

Rev. James McCabe, C.Ss.R.

Ordained to the Priesthood

June 11, 2011

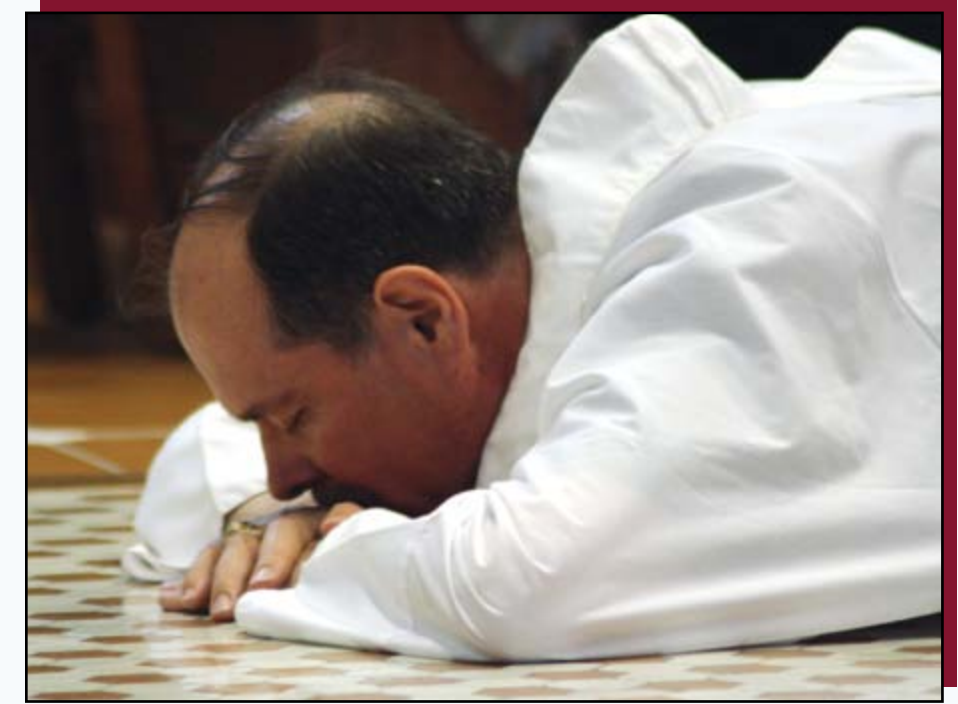
St. Peter the Apostle Church

Philadelphia, PA

Most Rev. John J. McIntyre

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

"The gift of God's Spirit will affect Jim at the very core of his being, at the very depth of his soul, configuring him for all eternity to Jesus the great High Priest, the Shepherd and Head of His Body. ... His primary duty will be the proclamation of the Gospel of God, calling others to conversion and holiness of life, keeping watch over himself and then the flock. The whole work of preaching this holy Word will be to bring others to faith, to Christ in the sacraments, most especially the Eucharist. ... His life, his work, his being will make present in many and varied ways the redeeming and merciful love of Christ for us and all the world." (Bishop McIntyre)



On the Web

More photos at redemptorists.net



"The cross of Christ was St. John Neumann's hope and comfort, this conviction born, no doubt, from St. Alphonsus' faith in the mystery of our redemption. In Neumann's life it met perfectly. He became a living icon of the power of Christ's death and resurrection through the living out of his baptismal call — as a priest, a Redemptorist and eventually a bishop, as one who shared in Christ's priesthood and ministry of serving the Church as a shepherd.

Many a thing has changed since John Neumann celebrated Mass in this church ... Yet, some things have remained consistent: the gift and mystery of the priesthood, its indispensable and essential role in the life of the Church and the need for genuine holiness in the life of every priest. Jim, I pray that in your life as a priest these realities may meet and be in perfect harmony." (Bishop McIntyre)



... to bring glad tidings to the lowly

(Is 61:1)

Our partners in ‘making her known’



ROMA

By Elizabeth Góral-Makowski

If she held on to the dresser and stood on the very tips of her toes, Sara was just tall enough to peer at the treasures her grandmother placed there. There were perfumes, the jewelry box with its pretty necklaces, a ceramic bluebird her daddy made Grandma a long time ago, nail polish, and lots of pictures. And there it was! She found it!

“Grandma, look!” Sara shouted as she pointed with one hand and precariously clutched the dresser with the other. “There they are! It’s little Jesus and his Mommy!”

Of all the pictures her grandmother

had, this was Sara’s favorite. She liked that Jesus was little like her and how safe he was in his Mommy’s arms. She remembered how Grandma held her exactly like that when she was stung by a bee. Like Jesus, she lost her flip flops, too. Grandma said everything would be OK and it was.

“Grandma, tell me the story about Jesus and his Mommy again.”

Every day around the world, people meet Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help. They meet her at every stage of their lives — in good times and in bad. They come to know her through their families, like Sara did, or through seeing

her image in a church or on a prayer card, by attending a novena service, browsing for a new app or searching online, or through the preaching of Redemptorists, who have a special mission to “make her known.” However they meet her, getting to know Our Mother of Perpetual Help changes them.

Here at the ROMA office, we receive daily mail, emails, and phone calls from people seeking Mary’s intercession or conveying thanksgiving for prayers answered. We are privileged to encounter the great grace received by so many due to the potent prayers of our tender, loving Mother of Perpetual Help. Together as a staff, we remember that gratitude and those needs each day when we stand before her image and offer prayers for all who ask.

You play a special role in helping the Redemptorists accomplish the mission given to us in 1866 by Pope Pius IX to “make her known.” You help us spread devotion to Our Lady under this glorious title.

Whether it is through sending Mass cards, purchasing devotional items, or encouraging people to visit our website at redemptorists.net to view a weekly Perpetual Help novena video, you are a partner in this noble work of ours. Your generosity also makes it possible for Redemptorist mission preachers to present an icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help to parishes that may request one as part of a Redemptorist mission.

Like Sara’s grandmother, you may be the one to introduce a new person, perhaps a member of the next generation, to our ever faithful, ever loving Mother of Perpetual Help. Thank you for the ways you tell the story of Our Mother’s love again and again.

Elizabeth Góral-Makowski is director of development.

On the Web

To learn more about Our Mother of Perpetual Help, visit redemptorists.net.

Please consider remembering the Redemptorist Office for Mission Advancement, Inc. in your will.

8 | *If you have any questions, please call ROMA toll free at 1-877-876-7662.*

Wherever the people are

By Rev. Richard Bennett, C.Ss.R.

I have always appreciated the person who goes out of his or her way to be kind or helpful to me, someone who naturally seems to go the extra mile. This past Holy Week, a few of my Redemptorist brothers witnessed to the heart of our lives as Redemptorists, and showed themselves to be zealous sons of St. Alphonsus. It's a story of being "on fire with zeal," a zeal so strong that it nearly led to a minor case of frostbite!

The city is a prominent one in the Northeast, and the story begins a few years ago with a chance encounter with a person who had drifted away from the practice of the Catholic faith. A customer was standing in line with others at a local butcher shop, and the topic of faith came up while waiting. She made a modest though semi-public confession that it had been some time since she'd celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation.

What the unsuspecting woman didn't realize was that an "undercover Redemptorist," dressed simply in blue jeans and a faded shirt, was standing in line right next to her. The shop owner overheard the conversation and, laughing, gave up the priest standing in line. That seemingly random encounter developed into a yearly tradition of celebrating the sacrament together every Holy Week since. Call it ... Divine Providence!

This year, the priest had another zealous Redemptorist at his side. This one, however, spoke Spanish. Following the usual Holy Week routine, the shop owner welcomed the Spanish-speaking priest to hear the confessions of any of his Hispanic workers who wanted to go to confession during this special time as well.

Before you knew it, the Spanish-speaking Redemptorist had a regular flow of men lined up inside a large

room kept at a very cool temperature to keep the butchered meats from spoiling. The bilingual confessor was stunned to see just how many sought out this chance sacramental opportunity, and that they did so with a fervor rivaling that of the former solemn high Mass.



ROMA

What an odd place to do ministry! I laughed when the priest told me he thought he was going to catch frostbite. Who hears confessions in a meat locker, anyway? Either a complete nut ... or a Redemptorist.

You may wonder where the seeds come from for this incredible passion, compassion, and generosity of spirit. They come from being immersed in and experiencing the Redemptorist charism throughout the formation process. As in my own case, the charism eventually becomes part of you.

We try to view the world through the eyes of Christ and through the values of his gospel. Over time, the language we speak is marked less by specific cultural influences, and more by echoes of the letters and writings of our founder, St. Alphonsus.

Among the men who are pursuing the religious life and ministry as Redemptorists, we try to instill in their young hearts this zeal for the poor and for those who feel "most abandoned." The Redemptorists of tomorrow must have this complete freedom to go wherever there is the most urgent pastoral need.

As faithful sons of St. Alphonsus, we are always ready to respond with a compassionate kindness and a passionate zeal that moves us to go wherever the people are. For Alphonsus, it was the goat herders in the hills of Scala in southern Italy. For my brother Redemptorists, it just happened to be a local storefront butcher shop and a walk-in meat locker.

Fr. Bennett is vocations director for the Baltimore Province.

On the Web

Check redemptorists.net in August for profession photos! Please keep these men in your prayers as they take the next step in their lives as Redemptorists:

First Professions (August 6)
Anthony Michalik
David Verghese

First Professions (August 16)
Calvin Auguiste
Ashford St. Romain

Final Profession (August 16)
Alistair Elias, C.Ss.R.



Rev. George Bridge, C.Ss.R.

Born: April 16, 1922
 Professed: August 2, 1943
 Ordained: June 20, 1948
 Died: February 28, 2011

Father George Henry Bridge, remembered as the hard-working priest with his own pilot's license, died on the afternoon of February 28, at the St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD. He was 88.

He began his ministry as a parish priest at Mission Church in Boston and in St. James Parish, Baltimore. Then for five years, while still a very young priest, he was assigned as assistant novice master (socius), at St. Mary's in Ilchester, MD.

Next he was assigned to missionary work in Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For 34 years he preached in impeccable Spanish to the faithful in San Lorenzo,

Guayama, Mayaguez, Caguas, Las Matas, Aguadilla, Ponce, and Aguas Buenas. He built chapels, shrines and even a landing strip for aircraft because he believed that aviation would become the preferred mode of transportation in the future.

He was appointed rector in Christiansted, St. Croix, and eventually served the poor and abandoned migrant workers in Wauchula, Florida for the last seven years of his active ministry.

Brother Manuel Martinez, remembered as an unassuming, hard-working confrere, died on the morning of March 15 at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Towson, MD. He was a member of the Redemptorist community at the St. John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD.

Brother Manuel was stationed for 12 years in the official capacity as sacristan at St. Clement's Church, Saratoga Springs, NY. "He also found time to train altar servers, work in the youth ministry program, and organize the biggest and best basketball leagues in the region," says his confrere Father Sean McGillicuddy.

His next assignment brought him to St. Boniface Parish in Philadelphia. For the next 33 years he served, once again, in the official capacity of taking charge of the parish office. However, this full-time duty was not sufficient.

"Brother Manuel's communion call list was extensive," says Redemptorist Provincial Kevin Moley. "But he went above and beyond taking care of peoples' spiritual needs. He made sure they had bread on the table and food in the pantry. He would take them to the store to ensure that they had the basic necessities, and, if they were sick or disabled, he would do their shopping for them."



Br. Manuel Martinez Gonzalez, C.Ss.R.

Born: July 22, 1928
 Professed: August 2, 1959
 Died: March 15, 2011



Rev. Virgil Caskey, C.Ss.R.

Born: August 2, 1917
 Professed: August 2, 1939
 Ordained: June 18, 1944
 Died: May 22, 2011

Father John Virgil Caskey, remembered as the very dedicated priest who stuck to his principles, died early on the morning of May 22 at the St John Neumann Residence at Stella Maris in Timonium, MD.

He began his ministry as a professor at the Redemptorist seminary in North East, PA where he taught Spanish and Ancient History. However, early in his priesthood, serious health problems led doctors to recommend a more temperate climate. The result was a career of more than 50 years as a missionary in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"He was my high school teacher," recalls Father Carlyle Blake. "When I returned to St. Thomas many years later, our roles were

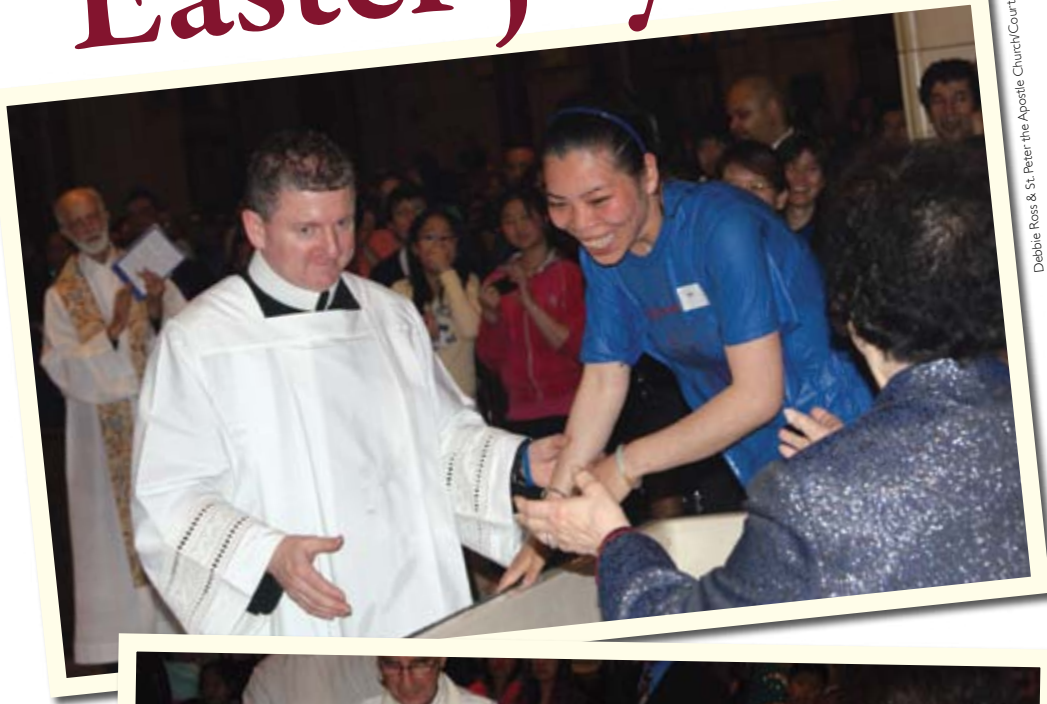
reversed and I became his pastor for six years. He was always serious-minded. He worked hard and he also enjoyed a good round of golf.

"But what I remember most about him was how dedicated he was to the sick," Father Blake continues. "He visited the hospital daily and — this was so typical of his personality — he covered it thoroughly. If you were in the hospital, you received a visit from Verg."

"The people out in the campos of Aguas Buenas really loved him," remembers Father Thomas Travers. "He was patient with them and extremely understanding. And even more so, he learned their customs and wasn't afraid to immerse himself into the heart of their celebrations."

“IN THE FOOTSTEPS” OF ALPHONSUS

Easter joy



Debbie Ross & St. Peter the Apostle Church/Courtesy



Our charism calls us to preach the Good News of plentiful redemption to the entire world. In our communities throughout the province, we celebrated with hundreds of people who heard that message and chose to join us all in following the Redeemer. At Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn, NY, dozens of Chinese were baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church. At St. Peter the Apostle Church in Philadelphia (at right), more than 20 adults entered into full communion.



**Redemptorist
preaching near you!**
For updated mission
and retreat information,
visit redemptorists.net

**Mount St. Alphonsus
Esopus, NY**
mountsaintalphonsus.org
845-384-8000

Weekend Retreat w/Fr. Daniel Francis
“What Can We Do When There’s
Nothing We Can Do: A Spirituality
of Trust in Action”
July 22-24

Religious Sisters Retreat
“Finding God in Our Human
Experience”
Aug. 21-26

Gus Lloyd Retreat
Aug. 26-28

**Notre Dame Retreat House
Canandaigua, NY**
ndretreat.org
585-394-5700

Days of Prayer
July 12, Sept. 13, Oct. 18,
Nov. 15, Dec. 13

Retrouvaille
Oct. 7-9

**San Alfonso Retreat House
Long Branch, NJ**
sanalfonsoretreats.org
732-222-2731

Priests’ Retreats
Sept. 6-9, Oct. 3-6

Religious Sisters’ Retreats
July 31-Aug. 5, Aug. 7-12,
Aug. 14-19

Men’s Retreats
Aug. 12-14, Sept. 9-11, 16-18, 23-25,
Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Women’s Retreats
Aug. 30-Sept. 1
Oct. 7-9, 14-16
Nov. 11-13

Married Couples Retreat
Aug. 19-21

Men’s Matt Talbot Retreats
Nov. 4-6

Women’s Matt Talbot Retreats
July 29-31
Oct. 28-30

Charismatic Retreat
Nov. 18-20
Dec. 2-4



The Redemptorists OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE

Redemptorist Office for Mission Advancement
107 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401-2526
redemptorists.net

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
LUTHERVILLE, MD
PERMIT # 171



MINI MEDITATION

Locked safe

By Rev. Andrew Costello, C.Ss.R.

It was a safe — the size of a microwave oven. He kept it in the basement, in a corner, resting on a rough-looking wooden table that he made years ago.

She noticed it from time to time — while filling or emptying the washer and dryer — also in the basement. The safe probably sat there for the last 25 years of their marriage.

Neither curiosity nor intrigue ever got her to ask what was in the safe. “Probably warranties,” she thought. “He’s neat and organized like that. Most CPAs are.”

The funeral was a blur, filled with tears and pain. It was a sudden heart attack at work. And he was always so thin. Their 36 years of marriage had gone too fast. They had so many plans for retirement.

The funeral was put off an extra day so their 4 married daughters and their families on the west coast could make it back to the east coast.

The weeks after the funeral — especially after the kids went back home — were filled with aloneness. Friends

advised her to get back to work and to walk. She did. Coping for the next four months was very difficult. She needed time to sort out life. She needed time before sorting out his stuff: clothes in the bureau or hung there in the closet, as well as tools — lots of tools — sitting silently on that wooden table in the basement.

Then one day there came the questions: “What’s in the safe? What’s the combination?” She searched everywhere — in his computer, in his wallet. She couldn’t find the answer.

One Sunday morning after coming home from church she pounded on the combination lock with a hammer. It broke the black plastic dial with its numbers, but she still couldn’t get the safe opened.

So the next day she called a locksmith — told him the problem — and asked if he made house calls.

He did. He had it opened with a drill in 3 minutes. He didn’t look at the contents, but simply said, “That’s it!” She gave him

\$100 cash for the job. “Not bad,” he said, “for a few minutes of work. Thanks.”

After he left she headed downstairs to look at the contents of the safe.

Inside? Inside were 8 small memo pads. In ballpoint pen on the cover of each were the words, “How Do I Love You?” She recognized the meaning immediately. He had read Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s famous sonnet at the microphone at their 25th anniversary. Everyone cried — especially their 4 daughters — especially at the last line, “I shall love thee better after death.”

Inside? 8 small memo pads with 2,707 specific moments in their marriage when she did something he loved — and here they were numbered and dated.

Every evening she would simply sit and read a few of them. They became her scriptures — chapter and verse — his memories becoming her memories. Who said CPAs weren’t romantic?

To read more of Fr. Andy’s work and some homilies, visit his blog at <http://reflectbay.blogspot.com>.