

# THE COMMUNITY-IN-FORMATION OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI IN CINCINNATI

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus Christ!*

As the year draws to a close, I am happy to report that the state of the Community-in-Formation continues to improve and grow in stability. With the approaching Feast of Christmas, this offers us a good reflection on why we are doing what we do, and why so many of you support us. We are founding an Oratory in Cincinnati because the Word became Flesh, because God desired to draw us back to Himself, He desired that He be known in the Flesh. Our work and your support is a result of the Incarnation of the Lord and our desire to make Him known through our neighborhoods, our city, and the entire world. The work of the Community and the future Cincinnati Oratory will see to it that Jesus Christ is known in an age that increasingly does not know Him. Thank you for assisting us in this mission - with your help this mission will continue.

I am also happy to report that interest from priests and men interested in joining continues to increase. We will soon be in a better position to accept new members, as the renovation of the Pious House draws nearer. This achievement will give us the ability to expand out of our limited quarters in the rectory at Old St. Mary's. The Archbishop will come to Old St. Mary's for Mass on February 6, 2016 at 12:10 p.m. followed by a blessing of the house. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Mass and the blessing for this very important moment in the life of the Community. We will hold an open house sometime shortly before we move in. More information is forthcoming on the open house - please watch for updates.

Finally, I thank everyone who came to and supported our Annual Banquet on October 15. Monsignor Wadsworth gave an excellent reflection on the nature of the Congregation of the Oratory and, hopefully, provided insight into our work. Thank you to all for their generosity. With over \$120,000 pledged or donated that evening, your response was outstanding. This brought us much closer to our annual goal of \$250,000. Our next work turns to the spiritual aspect of our life, with the hopeful completion of our chapel in the next year. We hope that during this Year of Mercy, which Pope Francis had called for, we will be able to open a 24/7 confessional which will make the Sacrament of Penance available around the clock in our city. May God bless you this Advent season. Please be assured of our prayers for a very holy and Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

*Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak*

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak  
Moderator



*The Community assisting with a Holy Name Eucharistic Procession through the streets of downtown*



*Seminarian Jacob Willig addressing our Young Adult Oratory about his time with the Missionaries of Charity*



*The Community with Mons. Wadsworth following our Annual Banquet*



*Drywall being delivered on November 19*

## PREPARING FOR THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS WITH ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX



We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty.

In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.

Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all. - Sermo 5, In Adventu Domini, 1-3: Opera Omnia, Edit. Cisterc. 4 {1966}

### FROM BR. BRENT: MUSICAL ORATORY OF ADVENT



The season of Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas, and its observance dates from the sixth century in Gaul. Originally it stretched from Saint Martin's Day (11 November) to Christmas Eve and was known as 'The Lent of Saint Martin.' This title suggests the parallel between Advent and the Lenten fast. Meditations on the themes of judgement and our ultimate destiny were developed for each of the four Sundays of Advent. The ancient people of God - the Jews - looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom, when there would be a new order of justice and righteousness. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been anticipated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, but still prayed 'Thy

Kingdom come,' looking forward to a Second Coming and the final consummation of all things.

This December 17, the Community-in-Formation will again host its Musical Oratory of Advent as a musical evening of preparation for the Birth of the Christ Child. Musical Oratory of Advent is an evening of choral reflection on Sacred Scripture concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The pattern of this Musical Oratory reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered. Choral pieces will be in English, German, and Latin by composers Handl, Bach, Elgar, Duruflé and others. The evening will also include congregational hymn favorites sung by all.

Saint Augustine of Hippo said, "He who sings well prays twice;" and the founder of the Oratory, our holy Father, Saint Philip Neri, greatly encouraged church music and congregational singing as a means of raising hearts and minds to God.

Please join the Community-in-Formation on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will find this musical prayer an enjoyable and uplifting way to prepare for the Birth of the Savior.

## FR. ADRIAN REFLECTS ON THE CHAPEL PROJECT

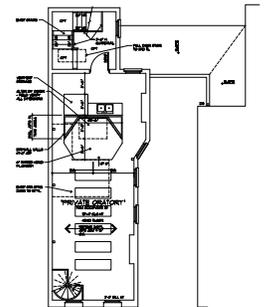


*The Altar for our Chapel*

As the Pious House nears its completion, our community will begin to have the space and accommodations needed to accept more members. When this renovation is complete, we will begin to set our eyes to what is the most important aspect of our life, the chapel. For the priest, a life centered on Christ is the most important factor, particularly through devotion to Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament brought about by the Sacrifice of the Mass. Similarly, the life and breath of our community must come from prayer and union with Christ.

The chapel will be where our community meets for communal prayers throughout the day as well as providing the formal space where our community will hold chapter meetings in order to vote upon the various issues surrounding our daily life. It is also where we will vote on the acceptance of new members and the advancement of others as they move closer to their goal of ordination to the priesthood. The most important and most crucial decisions are made within the shadow of prayer and in the same building where Our Lord is reserved in the Blessed Sacrament - reminding us that all things must begin and end with Him. Daily Masses as well as the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance at any time of the day or night, will be foundational to its purposes for our community, as well as the faithful. The Sacrament of Penance is something that our culture needs more and more. Through prayer, catechesis, and availability, we hope this sacrament will be utilized frequently and with great spiritual advantage.

As a crucial place in our communal lives, as well as the dwelling place for Our Lord, the chapel is meant to be something of lasting presence for the Oratory as well as the Over-the-Rhine area. It will stand as a focal point reminding all that their lives must always flow from prayer in order to be united with Him whom we serve and adore. With your help and generosity, we hope to make the chapel a suitable and dignified place for our Eucharistic Lord to dwell, as well as a place that will serve many priests now and many years into the future to grow in prayer and devotion. Without the chapel, our lives remain incomplete and in need of a place that is conducive to prayer and contemplation. Please join us in prayer that this might happen quickly and according to God's holy will.



*First Architectural Plans for the Chapel*

## PIOUS HOUSE RENOVATION PICTURES



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2015

### **MUSICAL ORATORY OF ADVENT - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Join us for an evening of choral reflection on Sacred Scripture concluding with Benediction. Choral pieces will be in English, German, and Latin. A social will follow.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES - DECEMBER 25, 2015**

Solemn Masses at Midnight and 9:15 a.m.  
 Low Extraordinary Form Mass at 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.  
 German Mass at 11:00 a.m.  
 English Mass at 12:30 p.m.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY - DECEMBER 31, 2015 & JANUARY 1, 2016**

Latin Vigil Mass at 10:00 p.m. (December 31)  
 English Mass at 11:00 a.m. (January 1)

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

**Vocations News:** We have had several visitors over the past few months, two priests and four men interested in joining the Oratory. Please keep them, and all those considering a vocation, in your prayers. When the Pious House is complete and blessed, we will be able to begin accepting new members.

**Music News:** The Community will hold its Musical Oratory of Advent on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this evening of prayer, reflection, and sacred music. It is the perfect way to prepare for the Birth of Our Lord!

**Annual Banquet News:** This year's annual banquet was a huge success. Our next banquet is September 29, 2016. Mark the date now! Our speaker will be announced soon.

**Secular Oratory News:** Over the past few months, we have had Mr. Daniel Mitsui, seminarian Jacob Willig, and Fr. Adrian Hilton speak to our Young Adult Oratory. The purpose of the Young Adult Oratory is for young adults to grow in the faith through the guidance of St. Philip Neri. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month. Coming in January will be Mrs. Paula Westwood of Cincinnati Right to Life, as well as Mr. Andrew Sodergeren of Ruah Woods in March. Please join us!

### Secular Oratory Update

The Community's Evening Oratory Prayers at 5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
Sung Sunday Vespers at 3:30 p.m.

Young Adult Oratory (21-35): 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm (Sept.-May)

Youth Oratory Catechesis: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 10:45 am (Sept.-May)

### Upcoming Events

December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m.

January 5 - Adult Catechesis: The Development of Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

January 6 - Feast of the Epiphany Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m.

January 29 - Feast of St. Francis de Sales Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m.

February 2 - Candlemas Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m.

February 6 - Blessing of the Pious House; begins with Mass at 12:10 p.m.

February 10 - Ash Wednesday Solemn Mass at 7:00 p.m.

February 16 - Lenten Series begins; held on Tuesdays during Lent at 6:00 p.m.

#### **WISDOM FROM ST. PHILIP NERI**

*Frequent confession is  
the cause of great good  
to the soul, because it  
purifies it, heals it, and  
confirms it in the service  
of God.*

**Events are at Old St. Mary's Church unless otherwise noted.**

## END OF YEAR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

### THE COMMUNITY-IN-FORMATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

*MAIL CHECKS TO:*

**THE COMMUNITY-IN-FORMATION  
123 E. 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202**

*MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:*

**THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI**

*OR PAY BY CREDIT CARD ON THE COMMUNITY'S WEBSITE*

#### CONSIDER JOINING THE SAINT PHILIP SOCIETY

THROUGH THEIR COMMITMENT TO MAKING AN ANNUAL DONATION OF \$250 OR MORE, OUR SOCIETY OF FRIENDS HELPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL COST OF OPERATION FOR THE MISSION OF SAINT PHILIP NERI IN CINCINNATI. WITH THEIR ANNUAL SUPPORT, AND HOPEFULLY YOURS, OUR MISSION TO SANCTIFY AND TEACH MOVES FORWARD. WITHOUT YOU, THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!

THE SOCIETY IS A 501(C)3 TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

VISIT [WWW.SPNCINCINNATI.COM](http://WWW.SPNCINCINNATI.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION