

# THE COMMUNITY-IN-FORMATION

## OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI IN CINCINNATI

123 EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202 • INFO@SPNCINCINNATI.COM • WWW.SPNCINCINNATI.COM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus Christ! This newsletter comes at an exciting time in the life of the Community. First, in May we celebrated the ordination of Fr. Adrian, giving to the Community and the Church our third priest. Second, our renovation on the first phase of the Pious House is well underway and will hopefully be complete in late October or November. Finally, because we are in the midst of the Fifth Centenary of the birth of our founder, St. Philip Neri.

With each of these steps, we hope and pray that we are closer to becoming the Cincinnati Oratory. St. Philip, though a prophet in his own right, probably could not have imagined how successful and widespread the Congregation he founded would be. What is happening in Cincinnati is only a small part of what is going on worldwide. Though each are similar and different, the primary purpose of each Oratory is to give each and every person we encounter an experience of God.

When St. Philip was a young man, and before he was a priest, he had the custom of praying at the Catacomb of St. Sebastian. One night, while he was in prayer, the Holy Spirit appeared to him as a ball of fire. This ball of fire took up its abode within the heart of St. Philip, a fact later confirmed by autopsy, which reported an enlarged heart and several broken ribs around his heart. God enlarged St. Philip's heart with the Holy Spirit to give to him a great capacity to love - to love God and His people.

This experience guided St. Philip for the rest of his life. It was this love, and this experience of God, which led St. Philip to go against his own will and wants; living only for the service of God and those entrusted to his care. St. Philip sought to enable each of the people he encountered, priest or lay, the possibility of experiencing God in the same way he did. He did this whether in his ministry as a priest in the confessional and at the altar, in his famous catechetical sessions, or in the jovial manner in which he interacted with the people of Rome.

This is what the Cincinnati Community, and all Oratories, seek to do; to enable each of us to experience God in such an intimate way that we are able to fully and faithfully love beyond ourselves. It is only in this that we can find our sanctity and our place in Heaven. As we continue in this task, please keep the Community in your prayers, and please be assured of our prayers for you!

In Christ,

*Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak*

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak  
Moderator



*Fr. Adrian with Cardinal Dolan*



*Fr. Adrian with the Community after his Ordination*



*Pious House Renovation*



*Birthday cake for St. Philip's 500th birthday*

## FR. ADRIAN REFLECTS ON RELICS



*A piece of St. Pius X's cassock* sick.

As a community, we value the ancient practice of venerating the relics of the saints. Among our most prized relics are those of St. Philip Neri. It is a great blessing for us to have fragments of his bones, flesh, and heart. The ancient custom of adorning the altars with the relics of the saints (in particular the martyrs) is practiced faithfully in our parish church as well as regularly using the relics of various saints to bless the congregation on the saints' feast days. Our community is also privileged to have a number of other special relics such as a complete stone paver from the bedroom of St. John Vianney, a poster signed by then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla supporting Catholic culture in Poland, a document issued and signed by St. Camillus de Lellis who knew St. Philip personally, a papal bull issued by Bl. Pius IX, and large fragments from the cassock of St. Pius X. Our community is also in possession of documents and signatures from St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Bl. John Henry Newman, Fr. Frederick Faber, Bl. Charles de Foucauld, Bl. Leopoldo de Gaiche, Bl. Teresa of Calcutta, and others. Such items make the lives of our beloved saints tangible and real. Let us follow their example in our real daily lives!



*A letter from St. Camillus de Lellis and relics of early Christian Martyrs, Sts. Modestus and Fortunata*

## PIOUS HOUSE UPDATE



*The future foyer of the Pious House*

Work on the Pious House finally began in May. We are thrilled that work is underway, and are hopeful for completion of phase one in late October or November. This will enable us to accept more vocations in the near future, providing us with the future priests who will help us get to Heaven. Thank you to everyone who helped us arrive at this point. The next newsletter will focus on the completion of the Pious House. Please watch the webpage and Facebook for open houses in the fall.

St. Philip taught that "Heaven was not made for sluggards." With this in mind, we have begun fundraising for phase two of the Pious House, which will include the chapel, our 24/7 confessional, and chapter room. Our goal for this phase is \$250,000. Please keep this project in your prayers. Phase one is the body of our project, while phase two is the heart. It is from the chapel that our Community and ministry will be nourished. The 24/7 confessional will truly be our main work where sinners will be reconciled to God. St. Philip was always available for the Sacrament of Penance, and the Cincinnati Community hopes to make confession available around-the-clock. Finally, the chapter room will be place where our

future members are accepted and major decisions are made. With your prayers and generosity, phase two will become reality.

Along with the body and heart of the Community, eventual plans include the apostolate, which is the soul. As stated, we desire that everyone be given the opportunity to have the same experience of God as St. Philip did. Our common work in our section of God's Church will include reaching out to those who no longer feel the place of God in their life and show them the beauty of the faith. Once we finish both phases of the Pious House, we will unveil our plans for our apostolate. Like St. Philip, we are taking our inspiration from various religious orders; not excluding a work the monastic orders became known for. Keep watch for more information soon.



## BR. BRENT'S STUDIES

Over the past year, I have been taking distance-learning courses through the Maryvale Institute, at Birmingham, England, as part of the philosophical and theological training seminarians undergo in preparation for the priesthood. This year, my courses included such topics as metaphysics (the study of "being"), epistemology (the study of "knowing"), history of philosophy, and studies in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In metaphysics, emphasis was placed on the study of the great ancient philosopher, Aristotle. In cooperation with Aristotle, the works of the revered Dominican saint, Thomas Aquinas were utilized. Throughout the course, I learned that metaphysics is very important for Catholics due to its implications for our understanding of the Sacraments and the Catholic teaching regarding the human soul.

Epistemology was a "spelling out" of what the human mind does on a regular basis – gathering and processing information, and subsequently forming judgments. In essence, my epistemology course covered the process of "coming to know," i.e. a sense experience (taste, touch, smell, hear, see), forming ideas and insights, forming a hypothesis (proposing an idea to be true or false), and finally, making a judgment on that hypothesis.

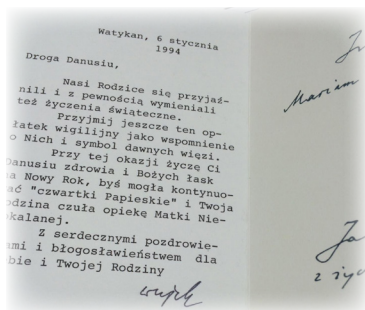
In history of philosophy, I studied the various great thinkers from the pre-Christian era including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Moving on into the Christian era, thinkers such as Justin Martyr, Origen, Tertullian, and St. Augustine were covered.

Beginning later this month, I will continue my philosophy studies at Mount St. Mary's of the West seminary here in Cincinnati. Please pray for me as I continue my studies for the priesthood!

## A FEW MORE RELICS FROM FR. ADRIAN



*Pavers from the home of St. John Vianney*



*A letter written by St. John-Paul II; signed "uncle" - a pseudonym he used during the communist occupation of Poland*



*A piece of St. Bernadette's casket*



*A relic of St. Philip Neri*

## ANNUAL BANQUET 2015

### When?

Thursday, October 15, 2015

5:30 p.m. – Cocktail Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner and Program

### Who?

The Community-in-Formation &  
The Rev'd Mons. Andrew R. Wadsworth - speaker

### Where?

The Phoenix  
812 Race Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

*Parking available in the garage next to The Phoenix*

### How?

Please RSVP by October 1, 2015

\$60 per person - \$600 for Bronze Table Sponsorship

\$1200 for Silver Table Sponsorship - \$2,500 for Gold Table Sponsorship

[www.spncincinnati.com](http://www.spncincinnati.com)

Who is the Rev'd Mons. Andrew R. Wadsworth?



Mons. Wadsworth is founder and superior of the Oratorian Community of St Philip Neri in Washington D.C. Monsignor holds graduate degrees in theology, music and Italian. He has taught Latin, Greek and Italian at university and high school level and served as chaplain at Harrow School. He speaks Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and some German. Mons. Wadsworth currently serves as the executive director of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, which since the Second Vatican Council has been responsible for the production of liturgical texts in English. Initially a novice with the Birmingham Oratory, Mons. Wadsworth is very familiar with St. Philip Neri and the Congregation of the Oratory. We are happy to welcome him to Cincinnati to speak at our annual banquet.

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

**General News:** Fr. Adrian was ordained a priest on May 16 by Archbishop Schnurr. He offered his first solemn Mass the next day at Old St. Mary's. We thank everyone who prayed for him during his time in the seminary. Please continue to keep him, and all of the Community's priests, in your prayers.

**Vocations News:** Br. Brent will continue his philosophical studies this fall, this year studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West. Please continue to keep him in your prayers, as well as all those considering a vocation to the Community.

**Musical News:** The Community will hold our Musical Oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. Our Musical Oratory of Advent will be December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for these evenings of prayer, reflection, and sacred music.

**Annual Banquet News:** This year's annual banquet will be held on October 15 at The Phoenix. Visit the Community's webpage for more information and for information on reserving your seat or table!

**Secular Oratory News:** We are lining up all of our speakers for our Young Adult Oratory. Leading us off this year is Mr. Daniel Mitsui on Wednesday, September 16, speaking on sacred art. We will gather in the church for prayer at 7:00 p.m. before heading to Fr. Felten Hall for catechesis. Our Youth Oratory Catechesis will begin Sunday, September 13.

### Secular Oratory Update

The Community's Evening Oratory Prayers at 5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
 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

September 13 - Sunday Vespers resumes, 3:00 p.m.  
 September 14 - Solemn Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.  
 September 16 - Young Adult Oratory series begins, 7:00 p.m.  
 October 7 - Musical Oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 7:00 p.m.  
 October 15 - Annual Banquet at The Phoenix, 5:30 p.m.  
 October 23-25 - Forty Hours' at Old St. Mary's  
 November 1&2 - All Saints and All Souls Day solemn Masses, 7:00 p.m.

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

*To obtain the protection of our Blessed Lady in our most urgent wants, it is very useful to say sixty-three times, after the fashion of a Rosary, "Virgin Mary, Mother of God, pray to Jesus for me."*

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

## **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 WEBPAGE*

#### 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