



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

123 EAST 13TH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202 • INFO@CINCINNATORATORY.COM • WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus Christ!

It is with the greatest joy that I announce that on March 19, the Holy Father issued a decree establishing The Cincinnati Oratory. All of our collective prayers and work have finally led to this joyous time. It was only with your generosity and support that we were able to come to this new chapter in our history.



*A proposed concept of the
Oratory's Chapel*

We are especially grateful to the Holy Father for his decree establishing the house. We are also grateful to Archbishop Pilarczyk who allowed us to initiate the project and to Archbishop Schnurr who was very generous and supportive in bringing this good work to completion. We are grateful to Bishop Edoardo Aldo Cerrato, C.O., the Procurator General when we began, and to Fr. Mario Aviles, C.O. the current Procurator General, for their assistance, guidance, and friendship of these years. Finally, we are eternally grateful to everyone who assisted us over these past nine years, as we worked to bring St. Philip Neri to Cincinnati.

We invite each of you, and we hope you can join us, for a special Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the establishment of The Cincinnati Oratory on April 25, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr, the Archbishop of Cincinnati, will be the celebrant. The Procurator General and the Apostolic Delegate of the Oratory to the Holy See will also be joining us from Rome. We hope many of our friends and supporters are able to join us for this joyous occasion. Music will be provided by the Old St. Mary's Choir. There will be a small reception following Mass in the courtyard of Old St. Mary's. Please pray for good weather!

Our next work will be the completion of our chapel. The windows have been ordered and the roof will be repaired soon. We hope to have this completed in time for Christmas this year. We are still working to raise \$25,000 to complete the renovation, to give the house its heart so that we can be formed to remain close to the Lord, and draw others to Him as well. Any assistance that you can provide to help us meet our goal would be deeply appreciated.

Please find our Holy Week schedule on the subsequent pages. We hope you can join us and we wish each of you a blessed Holy Week and a happy Easter!

In Christ,

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak, C.O.
Moderator



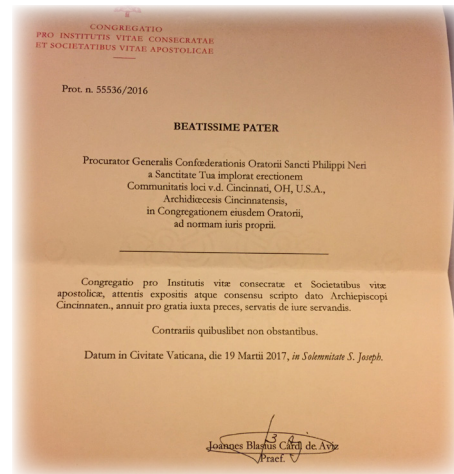
*A visit with Fr. Michael Palud, C.O.,
Provost of the Port Antonio Oratory*



The front door of the Pious House



*Socializing with parishioners after
Sunday Mass in the Rathskeller*



*The signed decree establishing
The Cincinnati Oratory on March 19, 2017*

A HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

FR. ADRIAN HILTON, C.O.



Studying the Constitutions in 2012

For nearly two years, I have been privileged to work with the sick and dying in hospitals. When many hear this, their first reaction is so often to acknowledge the difficulty of the heavy stories that are all too common in the hospital setting. Yet, despite this reality of suffering and death, it cannot be forgotten that some of the most heroic and saintly displays of suffering, surrender to the Will of God, Faith, and complete trust and confidence in Divine Providence are manifest to those who would see it. As such, I have been blessed to share some of the most intimate moments in the lives of complete strangers, who are, in just a moment, made closer than blood through faith and sacrifice united to Christ Himself.

“Apart from the Cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.” These words of St. Rose of Lima ring true each day, and my work in the hospitals has shown to me the war that occurs in every hospital and the battle that is waged for every soul. The devil makes his last attempts to snatch the souls of Christ, while Christ, the angels, and the saints make every effort to safely see souls to final perseverance. The sick and the dying ought to be in our prayers each day. There will be no better advocates for us when our time comes than those who have suffered, yet, in some way, been relieved by our prayers. It is a corporal work of mercy to visit the sick, and it is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for the living and the dead. We ought to consider carefully each of these and ask ourselves how we might aid the sick in the carrying of their crosses. Please pray for me as I continue in this work, which has the potential to unlock many graces.



Our Lord, Our Lady, & St. Philip with the saints and blessed of the Oratory

SALVATION BY CHRIST

BR. HENRY HOFFMANN



Jesus Christ did not have to die; omnipotent and all-loving, He could have chosen to forgive our sins by a simple decree of His Will. The Incarnation and Crucifixion was not a necessary part of man’s salvation; God could have chosen to simply forgive man, since He was the one offended by man’s sin. If God had chosen to follow this course of action, however, though man would have been forgiven, perfect, intimate communion with God would be still impossible. This is because legal actions can undo the consequences of a personal estrangement, but cannot reconcile the persons again. Only an act of friendship greater than the original breach can restore alienated love. Thus God chose to unite us all to Himself by uniting our humanity to His divinity in the Incarnation of the Word.

Furthermore, God chose to submit Himself to all the exigencies of creation. He did not wish to come as a “superman,” indifferent to the sufferings of the world which He entered. Creation, which depends upon God every moment for its existence, always yearns to return to the Source whence it came. There is a kind of sadness at the heart of

every being, an incompleteness that longs for fulfillment, a radical dependence that secretly knows its deficiency. This is the state of the world; a deep metaphysical truth grasped even by the pagan poet Virgil, who wrote of the *lacrimae rerum*—the tears of things. Our Lord took upon Himself the dependency of creation, made Himself radically insufficient and limited, in order that the emptiness of contingent being might be filled by its union with His plenitude.

Because of the sinful state of the world He entered, the contingency of creation could only be united with the fullness of divinity by means of suffering. One nature cannot change into another nature without suffering; plants die to give animals life, animals die to give humans life. Because of sin, nothing can change without suffering. Our Lord submit-

ted to this law of nature and changed our human nature into His Divine nature by means of suffering.

Because He assumed all the limitations of our human nature, Our Lord chose to save us by human means—human priests, material sacraments, our ordinary circumstances. Let us suffer this Lent as He suffered, in order that our human nature might be opened to the transformation He wishes to accomplish within us. He did not wish to merely forgive our sins, but to bring us to perfect union with Him, in the face-to-face vision of the beauty of His Glory. May St. Philip Neri teach us to seek His face.



*Br. Henry showing off the 2017 Calendar
near our Christmas Tree*

THE OFFICE OF TENEBRÆ BR. BRENT STULL, C.O.



*Preparing for Passiontide by covering
the statues and paintings*

Each Holy Week, The Cincinnati Oratory comes together, with the faithful, on Good Friday to chant the ancient Office of Tenebræ. Tenebræ, which is literally translated “darkness,” is a special singing of the Divine Office on the three days prior to Easter—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday—entirely by candlelight. The structure of Tenebræ is the same for all three days of the Sacred Triduum. The first part of the service is Matins, which is composed of three nocturns, each consisting of three psalms, a short versicle and response, a silent Our Father, and three readings (lessons), each of these is then followed by a responsory. Matins is then followed directly by Lauds, which consists of five psalms, a short versicle and response, and the Benedictus, followed by Christus factus est, a silent Our Father, and the appointed prayer for the day.

The principal Tenebræ ceremony is the gradual extinguishing of candles upon a stand in the sanctuary called a hearse. At some point in the history of this 1000-year-old service, the Roman Rite settled on fifteen candles, of which one is extinguished after each of the nine psalms of Matins and the five of Lauds, gradually reducing the lighting throughout the service to complete darkness, save the “Christ Candle”. The six altar candles are put out during the Benedictus, and then any remaining lights in the church. The last candle is hidden beneath the altar, ending the service in total darkness. The strepitus—literally translated “great noise”—made by slamming a book shut, banging a hymnal or breviary against the pew, or stomping on the floor, symbolizes the earthquake that followed Christ’s death.

This year, the faithful can hear music, by Old Saint Mary’s professional choristers, from such composers as Fra. Ludovico da Viadana, Fr. Tomás Luis de Victoria, Orlando de Lassus, and Michael Haydn. Of particular interest amongst these composers, due to his connection to the Oratory, is Fr. Tomás Luis de Victoria. From 1578 to 1585 he served as chaplain of San Girolamo della Carità (the first meeting place of the Oratory), where, free from the demands of a musical position and supported by lucrative Spanish benefices provided by Pope Gregory XII, he published several important collections of music while living in daily contact with Rome’s great pastor, and our beloved Holy Father, St. Philip Neri.

Please join us for this marvelous evening of sung prayer on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. Programs with chants and translations are provided for all in attendance.



The Office of Tenebræ at Old St. Mary’s

SELECTION OF PHOTOS



St. Philip's coat of arms in a window on our front door



Preparing Old St. Mary's for Christmas



The altar that will be in our chapel once it is completed



A celebration for St. Philip Neri

Evenings with the Oratory

Every Tuesday with children's and adult Catechism at 7:00 p.m. Adoration from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance between 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:30 p.m.

- Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak will be talking about the Congregation of the Oratory on May 2
- Ends for the summer on May 9 with a talk by Dr. Erwin Erhardt, Ph.D. about St. Philip Neri

Upcoming Events

April 13 - Holy Thursday

- Old St. Mary's @ 7:00 p.m./Adoration until Midnight (Latin Ordinary Form)
- Sacred Heart @ 7:00 p.m./Adoration until 10:00 p.m. (Latin Extraordinary Form)

April 14 - Good Friday

- Old St. Mary's - Confession 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m./Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with Procession @ 1:30 p.m. (Latin Ordinary Form)/Tenebræ @ 7:00 p.m.
- Sacred Heart - Confession @ 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m./Liturgy of the Lord's Passion @ 12:00 Noon (Ordinary Form) & 3:00 p.m. (Extraordinary Form)

April 15 - Holy Saturday

- Old St. Mary's - Blessing of Easter Baskets @ 12:00 Noon/sung Mass of the Easter Vigil @ 9:00 p.m. (Ordinary Form)
- Sacred Heart - Sung Mass of the Easter Vigil @ 9:00 p.m. (Extraordinary Form)

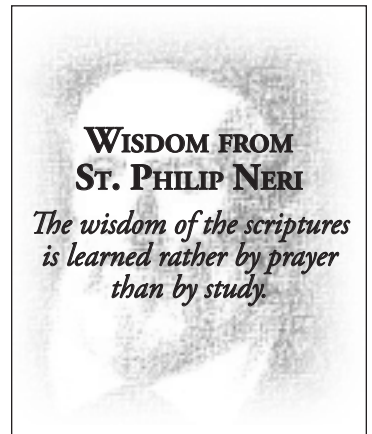
April 16 - Easter Sunday

- Normal Sunday parish Mass schedules, except no Adoration, sung Vespers, or 7:00 p.m. Mass at Old St. Mary's.

April 25 - Celebratory Mass for the Establishment of the Oratory @ 5:00 p.m.

- With Archbishop Schnurr. Reception to follow in Old St. Mary's courtyard.

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



THE CINCINNATI ORATORY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

MAIL CHECKS TO:

**THE CINCINNATI ORATORY
123 EAST 13TH STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI

OR DONATE BY CREDIT CARD ON THE ORATORY'S WEB-PAGE

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 THE CINCINNATI ORATORY. WITH THEIR ANNUAL SUPPORT, AND HOPEFULLY YOURS, OUR MISSION TO SANCTIFY AND TEACH MOVES FORWARD.

WITHOUT YOU, THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!

THE CINCINNATI ORATORY IS A 501(c)3 TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

VISIT WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION