



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

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus Christ!

As we draw near to the end of Lent and the great celebration of Easter, I write with gratitude and encouragement. The Lord has been at work among us, and it is a joy to share that all is well here at the Cincinnati Oratory.

Our apostolates continue to flourish. Week by week we see souls drawn more deeply into the life of the Church—through the sacred liturgy, confessions, and the steady, often hidden work of grace. This is not our work alone. It is yours as well. Your prayers and your generosity make all of this possible. Without you, we simply could not do what we do.

Recently, Fr. Adrian and I had the opportunity to visit our brothers in Toronto at St. Philip Seminary (the Toronto Oratory). They are doing well, and their studies are progressing steadily. It was a great consolation to witness their growth and fidelity. God willing, they will be home with us for Holy Week and again for the summer in the coming weeks. The brothers are a sign of hope for the future of the Oratory, and they remain deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support.

As we prepare to enter into the sacred days of Holy Week, we are reminded that everything we do flows from the altar. It is there that the Sacrifice of Our Lord is made present, and from it that every grace is given. The Resurrection we celebrate at Easter is not distant, but living and active, renewing souls and strengthening the Church even now. This is the quiet but profound work to which the Oratory is dedicated.

As we approach these Paschal mysteries, I ask you to remain close to us in prayer. Pray for our community, for our apostolates, and for those whom the Lord is calling to Himself through this work. And if you are able, please continue to support the Oratory in its mission.

Be assured of our prayers for you, especially at the altar during these sacred days.

I remain humbly in Christ,

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

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak, C.O.

Provost



*The 2025 Paschal Candle*



*The veiled statues for Passiontide*



*The blessing of the fire at the Paschal Vigil*

## AN UPDATE FROM BR. STEPHEN



Dear Friends and Parishioners, I hope you all are having a blessed and fruitful Lent. While our life here at S. Philip's seminary is characterized primarily by prayer and study, our formators are solicitous too for the proper recreation of mind and body. With this in mind, this past February, we had the opportunity to experience the great natural beauty of the Canadian wilderness, snowshoeing through the Killarney region of Northern Ontario.

Our trip began with an adventurous start as we caravanned to the remote country parish of the Holy Family at Britt. One vehicle of our party ended up in a snowbank on the highway, but all occupants survived and, after their rescue, arrived safely at our rendezvous point.

The little mission church at Britt is a charming time capsule of the 1950s, simply furnished and decorated with Art de Saint-Sulpice statuary and the old Canadian Red Ensign in the sanctuary. The parish priest provided generous hospitality to our group; with the Oratory chef sending up a crab

pasta, fresh bread, and sufficient libations to encourage good cheer among the men.

The following morning, after Mass and a quick breakfast, we completed the last leg of our drive and arrived at Killarney. Having equipped ourselves with snowshoes we proceeded into the snowy forest and quickly gained higher elevation, providing lovely views of the adjacent Georgian Bay. Most everyone took to the technique of moving in the snowshoes quickly. Despite the subfreezing temperatures, the warmth resultant of exertion soon had us removing scarves, hats, and even overcoats. Despite the strenuous length of the hike, high spirits were maintained throughout and all returned in good order.

Before returning to Toronto, we briefly stopped to see the picturesque and historic French River. This River was a major artery of transportation during the French settlement of Canada, providing passage to the Great Lakes for explorers, trappers, and missionaries. It was inspiring to be in a place where the great Jesuit Fathers Raymbault and Jogues once traveled in their mission to bring Jesus Christ to the New World.

We thank you all for continued prayers and sacrifices for us, and look forward to being back home with you for Holy Week and the Great Pasch.

In Jesus and Mary,  
Br. Stephen

## OUR LIFE IN PHOTOS



*A seminary snowshoe outing and trip to the French River*

**AN UPDATE FROM BR. BENJAMIN**



Carissimi, I hope that all of you are having a fruitful Lent. Here at seminary, a great portion of our second semester will always take place during Lent. One might be inclined to think that fasting and penance would make studying more difficult. Yet, the opposite is true.

Fasting does not hinder one’s focus but grants greater focus—both spiritually and physically. Amidst this environment of penance and self-sacrifice, we are capable of acquiring great peace and diligence in all the works of the day. It is during Lent that studies become most gratifying. On a purely natural level, fasting provides intellectual clarity and puts one into a sort of flow state. Supernaturally, fasting purifies our studies and makes studying a greater act of love.

In our class, The Mystery of Christ, we recently wrote an essay on the act of faith. Faith is a virtue proper to the intellect. When one makes an act of faith, his intellect “believes without seeing.” The intellect does not do this of its own accord. The will must first move the intellect to believe what it cannot see. The will is only capable of doing so if it is first moved by grace. Thus, faith is dependent upon a personal and willed relationship with God.

When we fast, we purge our will of those desires that draw us away from God. Fasting lifts our hearts up to God and teaches us to desire those goods which transcend the goods of this world. Thus purified, we begin to seek God alone and His good pleasure in all things. Through our studies this Lent, we continue to pursue those heavenly goods which God desires for us. I pray that you all may do the same.

In the love of Christ,  
Br. Benjamin



**OUR LIFE IN PHOTOS**



*The parish Christmas Tree 2025/26*



*The Oratory Chapel Altar at Easter 2025*



*The Bock Keg Tapping 2026*

**WISDOM FROM ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN**

Christ is risen from the dead. Such is the great doctrine which the Church this day sets before us. He rose again, not as one returning to the life which He had before, but to a new and more glorious life. He rose, never more to die; He rose, the first-fruits of them that sleep.

This is our hope. As He died, so we die; as He rose, so shall we rise. The Resurrection of Christ is the earnest and pledge of our own. It is the victory over death, the triumph over the grave, the beginning of a new creation.

Let us then rise with Him now. Let us rise from sin, from sloth, from the death of the soul. Let us seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Let us walk in newness of life, as those who have been redeemed, not with corruptible things, but with the precious Blood of Christ.

For if we would share in His glory, we must first share in His Cross. If we would live with Him, we must die to ourselves. And thus, by dying daily to sin and living unto God, we shall at length attain that blessed Resurrection, where death shall have no more dominion over us.

**Upcoming Events**

April 2-5 - Join us for Triduum & Easter Masses! Visit the website for the schedule.

May 14 - Feast of the Ascension Sung Mass @ 6:30 p.m.

May 24 - Solemn Vespers of Pentecost @ 3:30 p.m.

June 1 - Feast of St. Philip Neri Solemn Mass & Social @ 6:30 p.m.

June 4 - Feast of Corpus Christi Solemn Mass & Processions @ 6:30 p.m.

June 12 - Feast of the Sacred Heart Solemn Mass & Social @ 6:30 p.m. (at Sacred Heart)

June 24 - Feast of St. John the Baptist Solemn Mass & Social @ 6:30 p.m.

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

**WISDOM FROM ST. PHILIP NERI**

*It is God's custom to inter-weave human life with a trouble and a consolation, at least, of an interior sort, alternately.*

**THE SECULAR ORATORY**

The Women's Secular Oratory is held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Sacred Heart School

The Men's Secular Oratory is held on the fourth Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in Fr. Felten Hall

Email the Oratory or contact the St. Philip Neri Family of Parishes' Office at (513) 721-2988 for more information!

**THE CINCINNATI ORATORY NEEDS YOUR HELP!****PayPal**

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**123 EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202**

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**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](http://WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION