



Serrapost

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Father Michael Machacek our speaker on January 5th was born in Toronto and raised in Etobicoke. He grew up in Transfiguration Parish attending St Marcellus elementary school and Michael Power High School. In 1983 he graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in Metallurgical and Materials Science Engineering. For three years he worked for a Scarborough company making gold and silver jewellery.

One warm day while attending university he got off the subway at St. George St. and walked to classes. In the process he passed a beautiful house on the corner with a sign saying it was the Newman Centre and Catholic. Exploring further he learned they had a number of educational and social events which he started to attend. He believes this was the spark that drew him further into his faith and eventually the priesthood. Another factor was the appearance of a billboard "Dare to be a priest like me," This hit him like a prod in the side.



With some hesitation from his parents he entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 1986 and was ordained in 1991 as a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto. He served as an associate pastor at Nativity of Our Lord parish in Etobicoke, Epiphany of Our Lord parish in Scarborough and pastor of St. Martin de Porres parish in Scarborough and St. Patrick's in Markham.

Since 2009 he has been Pastor and Executive Director of the Newman Centre at the University of Toronto. Father went on to explain the various programs at Newman. While Newman had a chaplaincy program consisting of students, a Chaplaincy Director, Josh Canning, has been hired. The main focus of his work is to raise the awareness of the Chaplaincy among the students of the U of T. The student Chaplaincy team consists of six female and four male students who live at Newman from Sept. to April at a reduced fee in return for fifteen hours a week serving the Newman ministry. One aspect is to encourage vocations. There have been six priests and one sister leave Newman for religious life in the past twelve years.

Father Hansoo Park, Director of Vocations and rector of Serra House said Mass in St. Basil's chapel prior to the Serran luncheon on January 19th. Father Hansoo who was ordained in 2005 was associate pastor of Blessed Trinity 05-08 when he was transferred to St. Francis Xavier, Mississauga in 2009. St. Francis Xavier is a huge parish with attendance of 1400 at each of seven masses.

Father began his talk by recalling his First Communion when he was asked what he wanted to be. "A hero" was his reply. He then recounted an incident that happened while he was in charge of the parish for two days in the absence of the pastor. While attending to paperwork in the office prior to saying Mass an Italian priest came in and tossed a black object to him. It was the hospital pager. Being very tired, he prayed there would be no calls but just before Mass off it went. Hoping it wouldn't be an emergency, he had the secretary call the hospital to check it out. A ninety year old lady was dying but he still had to say Mass. The drive to the hospital took over an hour where he found the lady unconscious with her granddaughter sitting beside her. After anointing her he began to speak to her believing that though in a coma patients can still hear. "Penny we are going to say the Our Father, a prayer you know well." As they finished Penny's hand moved causing her granddaughter become very excited and shout. "Peggy you have lived a long life and when you are ready, please let go." The lady opened her eyes, startling Father as there was no iris, only white showing. Again the granddaughter was very excited but calmed down to tell Father the lady was blind from birth had had a misunderstanding and hadn't spoken to her family for several years. Again speaking to the lady Father said "Peggy if there is anything bothering you, ask forgiveness and let it go." She died peacefully and Father prayed all the way home because he had grumbled about being rushed when he was so busy.



Two years ago Father was at another parish for only two months when he received a call from the Archbishop asking him to move to Serra House as Diocesan Vocational Director. Serra House, which had been a House of Discernment, now is a Philosophy Seminary. Father Damian is the assistant.

Pope's Christmas Presents to the Roman Curia were 232 panettone cakes, homemade by prisoners of Padua. This is a means to reinsert prisoners in society by teaching them a trade. In the packages were boxes decorated with designs by the Italian Comet association, dedicated to receiving children and offering them socio-educational projects.

Chocolate came from Piazza dei Mestieri Foundation of Turin, that works with adolescents at risk of being marginalized. Wines came from the Pinocho therapeutic community of Brescia and preserves were made by the Trappists of Vitorchiano, located 100 kilometers north of Rome.

Change of Venue: Due to high prices and up-front payment guarantees, the location of the Serra International Convention planned for London, England has been changed to the Holy Land.

Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal wrote "on behalf of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, I welcome the 69th Serra International Convention and the honour to celebrate the Opening Mass on Thursday July 14th, 2011." Serra headquarters will be the historic Pontifical Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center, across the road from the New Gate which provides access to the fascinating old city of Jerusalem. Details of a 7 day pilgrimage convention program and post-convention tours will be available at www.serra.org.

We strongly suggest Serrans take advantage of this opportunity to visit the Holy Land. The Pope has been encouraging pilgrimages to the Holy Land as a means of providing employment for Christians. Unlike many tours organized by Catholics and even priests, you can be sure you will be with Christian guides, transportation companies and visit Christian souvenir shops and restaurants and of course, the convention center owned by the Vatican. Having stayed there I vouch for it.

Coming Events:

Feb 9 Fr. Peter Coughlin - Charismatic Movement
Feb. 16 Bill Target - the Office of Discipleship
March 1 Ordinandi Dinner- Pearson Convention Centre
May 4 Celebration of Priesthood & religious Life
Dinner – Liuna Station, Hamilton
July 14–18 International Convention – Jerusalem

Hospital No Longer Catholic

Bishop Thomas Olmsted issued a decree revoking the Catholic status of St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

"It was my duty to declare to the person responsible for this tragic decision that allowed an abortion at St. Joseph's, Sister Margaret McBride, R.S.M., that she had incurred an excommunication by her formal consent to direct taking of the life of this baby.

In a related story, despite acknowledging that the Manhattan College is recognized as Catholic by the New York Archdiocese, the National Labour Relations Board reviewed College statements and course content, finding "the purpose of the College is secular and not the 'propagation of religious faith'." This will negate certain tax exceptions.

The Cross in Our Bodies

Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue. Laminins are what hold us together. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall apart.

Here is what the structure of laminin looks like. Amazing. The glue that holds us together is in the shape of a cross.

Catholic Youth Studio – KSM Inc

Under the direction of Father Pawel Ratajczak OMI the Catholic Youth Studio broadcast just under 600 programming hours in Polish, on AM 530 in Southern Ontario. They brought to Roy Thompson Hall the "Santo Subito" oratorio composed by maestro Piotr Rubbik. The two concerts were received with great enthusiasm.

On the Solemnity of Christ the King (November 20th and 21st) they produced the 21st International Festival of Religious Song. Sixteen participants competed. The 22nd festival will be held on November 19th and 20th, 2011. The theme will be "Rooted and Built Up in Christ, Firm in the Faith," the same as the motif for World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Daily Polish program broadcast from AM 530 at 8pm.

24/7 online Polish www.ksmradio.com
in. English www.catholicradio.ca

Amazing Historical Information

When the cornerstone for the Washington Monument was laid on July 1st 1848 it contained many items including the Holy Bible.

Within the monument itself there are 898 steps and 50 landings. On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a

presentation made by Sunday School Children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and 22:6.

It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial. On the cap of this magnificent granite and marble structure are the words **Laus Deo** – "Praise Be to God."

In Washington D.C. there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. **Laus Deo.**

When one considers the uproar of removing religious objects from public buildings this is remarkable.

Revised Bible Coming

A revised translation of the New American Bible, which aims to be more accurate, will be released in the USA March 9.

This revision, the most extensive in the past 20 years, reflects advances in linguistics of the biblical languages, new discoveries of ancient manuscripts and changes in English language.

The Bible is for private use and study and will not be used for Mass.

Italian Society "Seriously Mutilated"

Angelo Bagnasco, Cardinal Archbishop of Genoa and head of the Italian bishops conference said that Italian society is being "seriously mutilated" by its negative growth birth rate, and Italian democracy is facing a "serious cultural catastrophe."

Italy was the second most infertile country in the industrialized world. It is estimated that 25 percent of Italian women do not have children and another 25 percent have only one child. The Italian region of Liguria in northwestern Italy now has the highest ratio of elderly to youth in the world and has closed 10 percent of its schools since 2000.

Midnight Mass Cancelled

Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk, due to security concerns and ongoing violence against Iraqi Christians, cancelled Midnight Mass in Baghdad, Mosul and Kirkuk.

Christian communities in Indonesia are reporting multiple attacks on churches in 2010. The Catholic chapel of Christ the King in Desa Blimbing was hit by a homemade bomb on Dec. 7. A homemade bomb was also found at a Marian shrine in Prambanan at the end of November. The Catholic chapel of St. Joseph in Pare was set on fire Oct. 12 and a Sept 11 a group attacked the Catholic church in Tannah Grogot breaking all the windows.

Windows were broken at Bellarminus Catholic school in Jatibening by a mob of radical Muslims on May 7 and returned the next day but police averted another assault.

The Catholic hospital in Banjarsari was hit by stones and a chapel in Capar was threatened by members of the Muslim reform Movement.

The Islamic Research Council of the University of al-Azhar, the highest authority of Sunni Islam, is freezing dialog with the Vatican in protest of Benedict XVI's defence of Christians in Egypt.

This is the latest development between Egypt and the Vatican that has become strained in the wake of a Jan. 1 attack on a Coptic Catholic church in Alexandria, which caused the death of more than 20 people leaving Mass.

Egypt has recalled its ambassador to the Holy See after the Pope on Jan 9 and 10 referred to the Alexander attack and persecution of Christians in Iraq, saying they are a sign of the urgent need for the governments of the regions to adopt effective measures for the protection of religious minorities.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated that attacks on religious minorities in places like Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Indonesia should serve as a wake-up call to authorities everywhere to combat rising fanaticism.

Thanks to a grant from the Wally BeDolphe estate, the Downtown club will be able to continue to sponsor the Vocation Fair, Spiritual Adoration for Vocations, Can You Hear It program and other Vocation promotion projects.