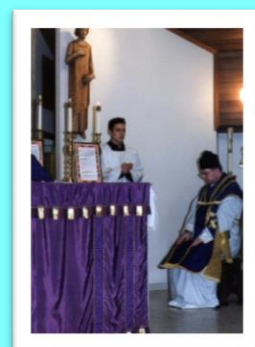
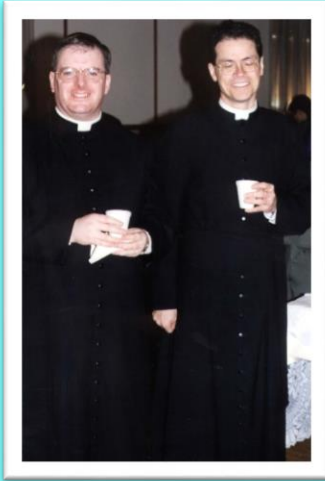


New Traditional Parish Established In Vancouver

by Mr. John Lambert (article below thumbnails)

Pictures of Fr. Ryan and Fr. Carr's Mass (23—27 Feb., 2001)

Photography by Mr. Kurt Raeder (Click on thumbnail to see larger size picture)





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“For the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls, by virtue of my pastoral office, I do hereby establish canonically a personal quasi-parish (canon 516, §1) to be known as “Divine Mercy Parish,” to serve the faithful of the Archdiocese of Vancouver who remain attached to the Tridentine rite...” With these words, the Archbishop of Vancouver Adam Exner, O.M.I., established the quasi-parish known as Divine Mercy Parish, thereby writing a triumphant conclusion to nearly 12 years of struggle by members of the Traditional Rite community to have our own parish. However, Monsignor David Monroe, the Vicar-General, compares the new quasi-parish to any other parish in the archdiocese, pointing out that the erection of Divine Mercy speaks for itself, although he does remark, “I’m a traditionalist myself.”

The new parish priest of Divine Mercy, Father Charles Ryan, FSSP, has been warmly received by the Archbishop and his advisors. “After all”, he observes, “the Traditional rite is a legitimate mode of worship and represents nothing divisive. We believe in peaceful co-existence. Diversity of rite does not detract from unity of faith.” Father Ryan is the former Rector of Our Lady of Guadeloupe seminary in Lincoln, Nebraska. As part of his duties, Father is also serving as Catholic chaplain at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster. “Divine Mercy,” Father Ryan asserts, “is one of only half a dozen parishes in North America devoted solely to the Traditional celebration of the sacraments. We’re members of an exclusive club! It’s a sign of the Archbishop’s pastoral solicitude for the people in the archdiocese, and he certainly deserves the prayers of the new quasi-parish.” Father Ryan also suggests that Father Devillers’ meetings with the Archbishop may have helped him make his decision. The deciding factor, though, he points out, was the intervention of divine providence. A striking sign that Divine Mercy Parish is receiving wide acceptance occurred on All Saint’s Day. The pastor of St. Peter’s Church in New Westminster, Father James Jordan, O.M.I. offered his church for the celebration of the Traditional Mass. At Christmas, Father Ryan and his parishioners joined Father Donald Neumann and his flock for Midnight Mass at Corpus Christi Church in Vancouver. For the first time in many years, the sacred chants of the Church echoed through these houses of God as the voices of the two choirs of Divine Mercy Parish were raised in His praise. By singing Gregorian chant, the new parish can truly claim to follow the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. “Since the Church recognizes Gregorian chant as being specially suited to the Roman liturgy, therefore, other things being equal, it

should be given pride of place in liturgical services.” (Sancrosanctum Concilium #32).

“There is a two-fold purpose for music in the liturgy”, says Mark Donnelly, music director of the Divine Mercy choirs, “it is for the greater glory of God and for the edification of the faithful. He is glorified by the edification of the faithful during Mass. In other words, the best music for the liturgy does not simply add tuneful melodies and harmonies to the eternal Sacrifice; it raises the soul to God.” “And the music that the Church has commended to us for this purpose,” Mark continues, “is Gregorian chant and the polyphony of the 16th century as exemplified by Guiseppe Palestrina. These two types of music raise the soul to God by being well-ordered musically, without being mundane, sentimental, or trite.” The parish also adheres to the conciliar instruction on the use of Latin. Sancrosanctum Concilium declares: “The use of the Latin language, with respect to particular law, is to be preserved in the Latin rites.” SC # 36 (1). There is no indication that anyone, including the numbers of small children attending Mass with their parents at Divine Mercy, have any difficulty with the official language of the Church.

Despite having the status of a quasi-parish with a parish priest, we still lack a church of our own, and share Holy Spirit Parish with other parishioners who hear Mass in English, Italian and Portuguese. The pastor, Father George Edattukaran, celebrated the Traditional Mass for a number of years for the greater glory of God and the spiritual health of the Traditional community until Father Ryan arrived. This nomad status is a good thing in a way, since it allows Father Ryan to celebrate anywhere he is welcomed - and more doors are opening all the time. He also celebrates Holy Mass every weekday morning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Michael’s Parish, in Burnaby.

“We’re going to be very ecumenical,” he smiles. “We don’t proselytize, we just let them know about our Mass. It’s providential that I am the chaplain at the hospital because I can spread the word that way. Sometimes patients ask me, ‘Where do you celebrate Mass?’ So I tell them. Some of them have even told me that the first thing they’re going to do when they get out of hospital is to attend Mass at Divine Mercy.”

The new parishioners, still getting accustomed to being members of a genuine parish with full access to all the sacraments in the Traditional rite, also have their part to play. Father Ryan urges us to spread news of the parish by telling our friends, by writing letters and articles which can be published in local or national papers and of course, on the Internet. Undoubtedly, the parishioners need their own church and

rectory, but this will take time. Father Ryan intends to appoint a finance committee to handle the financial affairs of the parish. Daunting as the prospect of saving to build or buy a church may be, in his view, a greater hurdle was cleared when Divine Mercy Parish was established by the Archbishop. He smiles thoughtfully. “Now we are eating at the same table - and not in the scullery anymore.” Article submitted by Mr. John Lambert Photography by Mr. Kurt Raeder Fr. Paul J. Carr North American District Superior F.S.S.P Visits Vancouver Fr. Carr visited the Vancouver Traditional Latin Community from 23 –27 Feb./01. He said morning Mass and Sunday Mass and met with the VTMS executive on Monday night over dinner at Ellie Raeder’s home.

Father's Carr and Ryan both from the FSSP



Fr. Ryan & Fr. Carr North Shore Vancouver BC Canada



Fr. Carr & Fr. Ryan Lions peaks in the background



Fr. Carr Hollow Tree Stanley Park Vancouver BC Canada



Fr. Carr's Mass Prayers at the Foot of the Altar



Fr. Carr Preparing the Incense



Incensing the Priest



Choir Singing



Incensing the Priest at the Gospel



Incensing the Gospel



Reading of the Epistle and Gospel



Fr. Carr Preaching the Sermon



Elevation of the Chalice



Domine non sum Dignus



Altar Server's Communion



Fr. Ryan & Fr. Carr distributing Communion



Fr. Carr distributing Communion



1. After Mass



2. After Mass



3. After Mass

