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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Priestly Society of Mercy
Quarter IV, 2019

SOCIETY SELECTS ITS MARIAN PATRON

Holy Mother of Mercy, Ora Pro Nobis!

The Society selected Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn (Mother of Mercy) as its patroness. Our Lady has been known by this title since an image of Her, estimated to be completed around 1624, was placed at the Gate of Dawn in the city of Vilnius, Lithuania. A dedicated chapel for the image was built in 1671 by the Discalced Carmelites.

Since that time the image has been a source of devotion for the city and the surrounding nations. Miracles attributed to Our Lady under this title include saving a two-year-old child who fell two stories onto the pavement in 1671, punishing Swedish soldiers (who mocked the image and shot it in 1702) by causing a gate to fall on the soldiers, subduing a city fire in 1706, punishing a Russian soldier who attempted to steal Her silver cover in 1708, and numerous miraculous healings.



The image was canonically crowned on July 5, 1927 by Alexander Cardinal Kakowski at the direction of Pope Pius XI. The image later became significant to those with devotion to the Divine Mercy, as Saint Faustina prayed before the image and saw Our Lady come alive and asking her to “accept all that God asked of me like a little child, without questioning; otherwise it would not be pleasing to God.” Invoking Our Lady under this title and venerating her image was considered especially pertinent given the connection to mercy.

FOUR CANDIDATES IN FORMATION

Society Grows Around the World

The Society of Mercy continues to grow with accepted candidates studying in the following areas: Guam, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Rhode Island.

In addition to these candidates, two inquirers from Arkansas and New York have entered discernment.

SOCIETY LEADERSHIP DISCUSSES GROWTH

Partnership with the Old Roman Catholic Church, English Rite



Archbishop Douglas Lewins and our Superior General met on September 12-15, 2019 to discuss the growth of the Society as well as formalize an agreement with the Old Roman Catholic Church

English Rite. This was the continuation of a meeting between our Superior General and Archbishop Floyd Kortenhof in August, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois.

On October 7, 2019, the Old Roman Catholic Church (English Rite) and the Old Roman Catholic Church in Great Britain the documents were formally signed to reaffirm each group's commitment to unity and establish a formal intercommunion under the title of The Old Roman Catholic Union. This is notable as both churches descend from Archbishop Arnold Harris Mathew and were previously unified during the time of Archbishops Wilfred Barrington-Evans and Robert Alfred Burns. The churches lost contact circa 1974 but with the establishment of the Old Roman Catholic Union they have agreed to again partner together to build up the Body of Christ. Signing the document were Archbishops

from each church which included Floyd Kortenhof, Douglas Lewins, and William Myers.



SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Bishop William Young in France

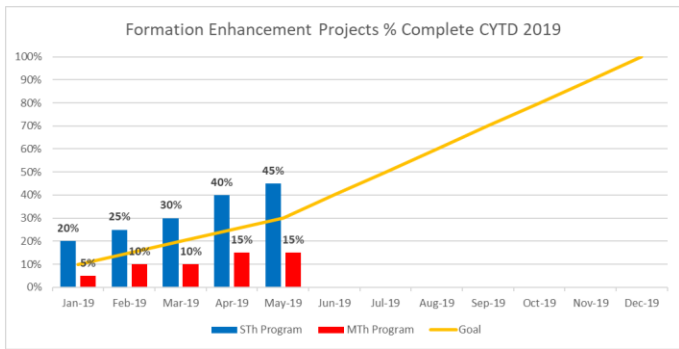
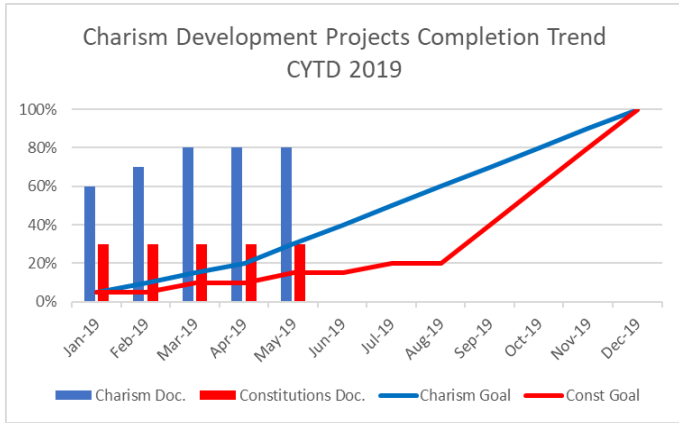


The Priestly Society of Mercy welcomes Bishop William Young as a full member! Bishop Young, a native of the United Kingdom, lives in Puntous, Hautes Pyrenees, France with his wife Heidi. Bishop Young was originally ordained in 2012 and ministered in the Franciscan tradition. He sought entry into the Society in 2018 and completed his canonical year of incardination on October 5, 2019. Bishop Young commented "I am honoured and blessed to be a part of our Society."

SOCIETY DEVELOPS PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

First Step in Enhancing Growth

With the assistance of seminarian Christopher Sedlmeyer the Society has begun to develop a performance management system to measure its goal achievement. The Superior General commented, "this is an important step to helping us stay on track and achieving our growth goals." Our system will measure applicants, competition of academic programs, social media and internet interactions, and other targeted growth areas.



SOCIETY REACHES OUT TO LAITY

Companions Become a Key Part of the Society's Growth

As a Society of Apostolic Life, the Priestly Society of Mercy is composed of clerics who administer the sacraments. However, the clergy of the Society could not do their work without the essential support of lay people. The Society encourages all those who want to participate in the life of the Society or support it through prayers and donations to visit <https://www.ssmercy.org/companions.html> and sign up to become a Companion.

Companions become more involved in the life of the Society, publically identify themselves as members, and refine their spirituality to reflect the charisms of the Society. Clergy can also become Companions of the Society to further support its mission and become part of the Society community.

THEOLOGY ADVANCED STUDIES BEING DEVELOPED

Priests and Seminarians Can Enhance Their Knowledge

The Saint Gabriel School of Theology has developed a Scholar of Theology program led by Father Hyacinth Waters. Father Hyacinth resides in Katoomba, NSW and is studying dentistry. His previous studies include a PhD in mathematics, a Graduate Certificate in Maths, and a Bachelors degree (Hons) in Horticulture, Mathematical Ecology, and Biostatistics. The new program will allow students who have completed some theological training or the Licentiate in Theology to advance their studies. The program will be primarily a research program and guided largely by the student's own interests.

