



REDEMPTORIST • BISHOP SAINT

October 2010

Blessings in Our Redeemer!

The Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of St. John Neumann — a Redemptorist priest, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, and one of our great saints — in 2011-2012.

The resources in this package will help parishes, church groups, schools, and dioceses participate in the Neumann Year. Inside you'll find:

- Information on visiting the Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia
- How to schedule a Redemptorist mission or a Neumann Night in your parish
- Essay contest rules for Catholic middle- and high-school students
- Schedule of liturgical events throughout the Neumann Year
- More about the life of St. John Neumann and the Redemptorists

Today, we Redemptorists continue our mission in the footsteps of this great saint, who spent his life ministering to the needs of everyday people and building up the Church. In this Neumann Year, we celebrate a man who had compassion for the poor, who made Catholic education accessible to thousands of students, and who defended the Faith in the face of criticism and persecution.

May God bless you as we celebrate this humble missionary who is truly a saint for our time. St. John Neumann, pray for us!

In the love of Our Redeemer,

Neumann Year Committee

Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R., chair
Very Rev. Alfred Bradley, C.Ss.R.
Very Rev. Kevin Moley, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Matthew Allman, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.
Rev. John Hamrogue, C.Ss.R.
Rev. Robert Harrison, C.Ss.R.
Rev. John Murray, C.Ss.R.
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Redemptorists celebrate 200th birthday of St. John Neumann

In 2011-2012, we remember the remarkable life of this humble man who is truly a saint for our times.

October 2010 — In 1836, a young seminarian named John Neumann arrived in the U.S. from his native Bohemia. He left his family in the dead of night to become a missionary in America. His one goal was to bring the love of God to forgotten and neglected souls.

He joined the Redemptorists in 1842, and in 1852, at the age of 41, he was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. In the eight short years before his death, Neumann built almost 90 churches, founded the nation's parochial school system, established several religious orders, and defended the Catholic faith in a hostile climate.

On January 5, 2011, the feast of St. John Neumann, the Redemptorists will open the Neumann Year, which will end on June 23, 2012. Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali will celebrate the opening Mass on the feast day at the saint's shrine in St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia. A parish-wide celebration will be held January 9, 2011.

Several events are planned throughout the Neumann Year to share with the world his message of faith, education, and charity. Some activities include monthly Saturday retreats at the Shrine of St. John Neumann, special parish missions and evenings of recollection preached by Redemptorist missionaries in parishes throughout the East Coast, and an essay contest for Catholic middle- and high-school students. For a complete listing of events and updated information about the Neumann Year, visit redemptorists.net/neumann.

“The witness of his life speaks in a particular way to our own age,” said Baltimore Provincial Patrick Woods. “As political battles are waged about undocumented immigrants and our borders, we think of our saint who was a zealous pastor to waves of immigrants.

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“St. John Neumann lived in an age of fierce anti-Catholicism; today, we face a spirit-sapping secularism. Educating our young people is a great challenge for us today as it was for the founder of the parochial school system,” Woods said.

During the Neumann Year, the Redemptorists especially encourage pilgrimages to the Shrine of St. John Neumann. The Shrine includes the body of St. John Neumann, as well as several relics and artifacts.

“The Shrine is a place of serenity, a place of holiness, and a place where St. John Neumann, in his love and dedication for people of all nationalities, races, and even religions, still intercedes and blesses God's people,” said Very Rev. Kevin Moley, pastor of St. Peter’s Church and director of the Shrine of St. John Neumann. “God still uses one of his humble servants in so many miraculous ways. We are very blessed in having with us this great Redemptorist, Bishop, and Saint.”

“God has given the Church and the Baltimore Province a great gift in St. John Neumann,” said Father Woods. “Let the coming year be a Jubilee Year of Grace as we come to know more deeply St. John Neumann, his love of God and the Blessed Mother, and his untiring zeal for the poor.”

Who are the Redemptorists?

The Redemptorists were founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732 in Naples, Italy. The priests and brothers minister to the spiritual and material needs of the faithful, especially the poor and most spiritually abandoned. Their primary ministry is preaching. There are approximately 300 Redemptorists serving in the United States, and approximately 5,300 worldwide.

For more information about the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, visit redemptorists.net.



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Neumann Year Special Liturgies

January 5, 2011

Opening Mass
12:15 p.m.
Shrine of St. John Neumann
(Lower Church of St. Peter's Church)
1019 N. Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Celebrant & homilist: Cardinal Justin Rigali

January 9, 2011

Parish-wide Opening Mass
featuring Philadelphia Boys Choir
3:30 p.m.
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia

May 16-18, 2011

Forty Hours Devotions
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia

June 18, 2011

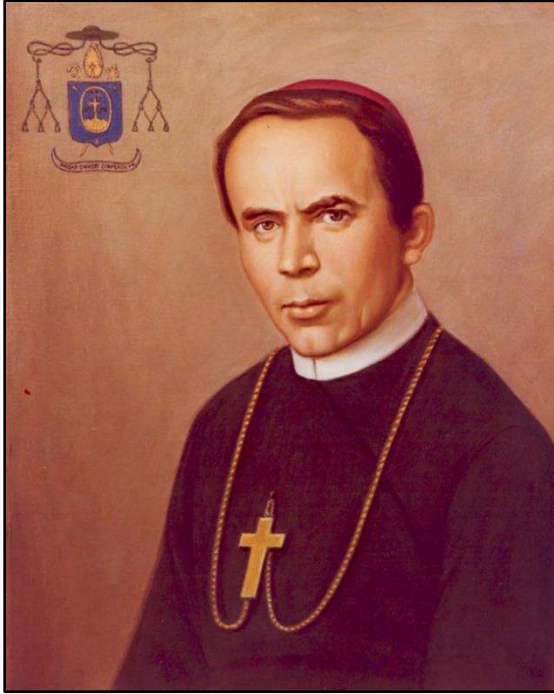
Neumann Year Mass
12:15 p.m.
St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia

June 23, 2012

Closing Mass
2 p.m.
Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Celebrant: Cardinal Justin Rigali

For the latest news and event information, please visit redemptorists.net/neumann.

St. John Neumann: A Biography



John Nepomucene Neumann was born in Prachatic, Bohemia (modern-day Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He was an exceptional student, and a quick study with languages — he was fluent in Spanish, French, Italian, English, German, and his native Bohemian. Due to a surplus of priests in his native country, Neumann could not be ordained to the priesthood after he completed his studies in 1835.

He had always dreamed of being a missionary in the United States, so he sailed for America hoping to find a warm welcome. Neumann was ordained for the Diocese of New York and began his ministry among the isolated communities of German Catholics around Buffalo, NY.

Redemptorist

He found the life of a diocesan priest lonely, especially as a missionary in the hinterlands of his diocese. To satisfy his need for community, Neumann joined the Redemptorists in 1842. He spent time in Pittsburgh learning more about their way of life, and took his vows in Baltimore, becoming the first Redemptorist to profess vows in the New World. In 1848, he was appointed the leader of all the Redemptorists in the United States. In 1852, after serving as pastor of several Redemptorist parishes in Pittsburgh and Baltimore, Neumann was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia.

Bishop

As bishop, Neumann established close to 90 parishes and founded the nation's parochial school system. He also welcomed several new orders of religious women into his diocese to serve in the schools, including the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Neumann was also a spiritual father to the Sisters of St. Francis of Glen Riddle and the Oblate Sisters of Providence. He is also known for spreading the Forty Hours Eucharistic devotion.

Saint

On January 5, 1860, Neumann collapsed and died on a street in Philadelphia at the age of 48. At his request, he was buried in the basement crypt in St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia. Pope Paul VI beatified Neumann in 1963 during the Second Vatican Council, and he was declared a saint in 1977. Neumann is considered a patron saint of immigrants and sick children. His relics are located under the altar of the Shrine of St. John Neumann at St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia.

Who Are the Redemptorists?

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born in Naples, Italy in 1696, the son of a royal navy captain and a devout mother. Against the wishes of his family he left a promising legal career and became a priest. Alphonsus dedicated himself completely to the service of the poor and most abandoned, and in 1732 founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists).

He and several followers adopted a style of ministry to “mission among the people.” Redemptorists traveled to rural and isolated communities sharing the word of God and living among the poor.

Many turned to Alphonsus for guidance because of his simple style. He insisted that Redemptorist preaching be down-to-earth so that the Faith could be accessible to all regardless of social, cultural, or educational background. Redemptorist missions began in the countryside outside of Naples, and gradually expanded into central Italy, Poland, Germany, Belgium, and Holland.

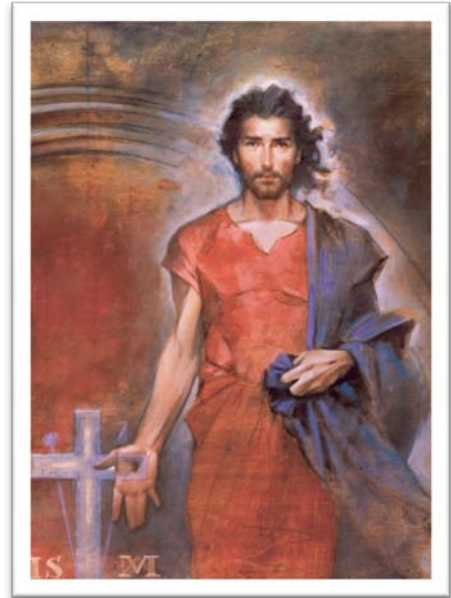
In 1832, six Redemptorists traveled to America and began their first missionary work outside of Europe. They initially worked with Native Americans, and then began ministering to Irish, German, and Slavic immigrants.

In 1850, the Redemptorists’ American Province was established in Baltimore. In 1875, the province was divided into the Provinces of Baltimore and St. Louis. By the early 20th century, nearly every parish in the U.S. had experienced a Redemptorist mission, and by 1918, missionaries had traveled to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada.

The Redemptorists also carry on the mission given in 1866 by Pope Pius IX when he entrusted to us the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and told us to “make her known.” Since then, the icon has become the one of the most recognizable images of Mary in the world.

Today, the Redemptorists continue our ministry to the poor and most spiritually abandoned, serving immigrant communities in inner cities, working as chaplains in hospitals, prisons and military bases, preaching parish missions, staffing parishes and participating in a wide variety of evangelization activities through the media and the Internet. There are approximately 5,300 Redemptorists serving worldwide.

For more information about the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province, visit redemptorists.net.





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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE St. John Neumann Essay Contest

Topic: “St. John Neumann’s lasting impact in making Catholic Schools the good news in education.”

St. John Neumann is the first naturalized American male saint, the first Redemptorist to make his religious profession in the United States, the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, and the founder of the Catholic parochial school system in our country. 2011 marks the bicentennial year of Neumann’s birth. The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province are proud to announce an essay contest focusing on St. John Neumann’s lasting impact in making Catholic Schools the good news in education.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to students enrolled in a Catholic elementary or high school during the 2010-2011 academic year who are in grades 6-12. The school must be located in the United States or its territories. There will be two categories of judging: 6-8 grades and 9-12 grades. The first place winner in each category will receive a \$300 scholarship and a certificate; additionally, two honorable mentions of \$100 and a certificate will be awarded in each category.

Essay Guidelines:

1. Essay must be in English, in Microsoft Word document format, 250-500 words, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and have one-inch margins.
2. Essay should focus on St. John Neumann’s lasting impact in making Catholic schools “the good news in education.” Essays should be well-organized, focused, and use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation. References, if used, must be cited using MLA style and a bibliography included.

3. Include a cover sheet with your submission, listing:

Student’s Name
Sex
Date of Birth
Parish (if applicable)
Current School and Grade
Home Address
Home Telephone #
E-mail address

(over)

4. Do not include your name, school, or other identifying information on the essay itself.
5. Essay must be received no later than 5 p.m. Monday, February 14, 2011. Essay may be sent by e-mail to: events@redemptorists.net or mailed in time to be received by Monday, February 14, 2011, to:

Redemptorist Essay Contest
c/o ROMA
107 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2526

No essay received after the deadline will be considered.

6. Essays will be judged by Neumann Bicentennial Committee members. Awards will be announced March 28, 2011, St. John Neumann's 200th birthday. Upon contacting the winners, postcards will be sent to all contestants not receiving awards thanking them for their participation.