

April 26, 2014

Dear Friends of the TLMS of SF:

We have been informed that effective Aug 1, 2014, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone has assigned Star of the Sea Catholic Church to establish the San Francisco Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

The Oratorians will be The Rev. Joseph Illo who will be Pastor and The Rev. Patrick Driscoll as Parochial Vicar. No changes are expected in the new leadership at Star of the Sea. The Extraordinary Form will continue on a regular basis. The Traditional Latin Mass of San Francisco is committed in working together with Fr. Illo and the Oratorians.

Father Illo was born in an Italian part of the Bronx and coincidentally he was baptized at Our Lady, Star of the Sea. He worked for Ignatius Press prior to becoming a priest. Father Illo was ordained for the Diocese of Stockton in 1991. He was the Vocation Director for 4 years, and a parish priest at St. Joseph's Church in Modesto, California for 12 years. In 2012, he was assigned to serve as Head Chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. Father Illo is no stranger to the Traditional Latin Mass, having celebrated it on a regular basis at his former parish at St. Joseph's.

Father Driscoll is a native of California. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in public relations from the School of Journalism at San Jose State University. He attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. Ordained for the Archdiocese of St. Louis at the age of 48 in 2008.

*From Fr. Illo's Blog: The Oratory is an Institute in the Church that allows "secular" (parish) priests to live in community under a rule of life. St. Philip Neri founded "the Oratory" in Rome in 1575 as a religious congregation of priests and brothers who lived in the parish of Santa Maria in Vallicella, now known as Chiesa Nuova, in downtown Rome. It provides a supportive rule of life for priests who desire a greater commitment to prayer in common. The most famous Oratorian Father for English-speakers is Blessed John Henry Newman, who brought the Oratory to England in 1848. Today there are 85 Oratories with 500 Oratorians in 19 countries. We would establish the first congregation of Oratorian Fathers in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.*

*We would begin with two priests and two brothers in a downtown parish with a large rectory, which Archbishop Cordileone has offered us. We would build up the parish through beautiful liturgy and the lay apostolate, but focus also on evangelizing young adult professionals. The Archbishop has mentioned possibly establishing a Catholic center in one of the larger office buildings with daily Mass and confessions."*

We will miss Fr. Mark Mazza and are grateful for all the sacrifices and efforts he made to make the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite a reality at Star of the Sea. We wish him well in his need endeavors. The Traditional Latin Mass Society of San Francisco will continue to assist Fr. Mazza with the Extraordinary Form at his new assignment upon his return to San Francisco.

Anna Guerra

The Traditional Latin Mass Society of San Francisco

Fr. Joseph Illo's Blog <http://www.frilloblog.com/sf-oratory-pledge-drive.html>

