



# SSPX



## Regina Coeli Report

Number 310 June - July 2023 ∴

# The New Immaculata Rises

As the old Immaculata perished in destructive fire, so the life of the new Immaculata was born of purifying fire. On Wednesday, May 3, His Excellency Bernard Fellay kindled a veritable mountain of incense on the main altar of the new Immaculata, consecrating it for the service of sacrifice to God under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. This joyful event came 45 years after St. Marys lost the first Immaculata to fire.

In 1978, when the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) purchased the formerly Jesuit college in St. Marys, KS, only a handful of people outside this small town knew of the modest gothic chapel that overlooked the campus. But it was a local gem. The Jesuits, who had founded a mission in St. Marys in 1848 and then raised a college on the site in 1869, also built the first Immaculata as a

college chapel in 1908. According to one local historian, it was during a fierce winter snowstorm that the first cornerstone was laid. Following its construction, the Immaculata drew admiring eyes from those passing by on Highway 24.

The chapel was, for Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, the selling point for the SSPX acquiring the college. After the college closed in 1931 and the campus converted into a seminary, the Immaculata became the source from which priesthood—a reality so dear to the Archbishop—flowed. From this place, the Archbishop envisioned a revitalization of the Faith in America. The Immaculata was significant for that vision, which he memorialized in 1989: “I can assure you that I agreed to the purchase in St. Marys because of its magnificent

*continued on page 3*

# Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

The consecration of the New Immaculata on May 3 was an immense source of joy for the faithful of Saint Mary's, for the Society of St. Pius X, and for many people throughout the world. This beautiful new church gives honor to Our Lady. She is our mother, she is God's greatest creature, and she is worthy of all praise. Many people, however, either do not know her or openly reject who she is and what she represents. It gives us great joy, then, to see her honored in such a spectacular way, through a cathedral-like church dedicated to her, in the midst of a town named after her.

The New Immaculata gives us hope for the future. Just as Our Lady was the dawn announcing the coming of salvation to a world shrouded in darkness, so too this "basilica on the plains" sends a sharp ray of light into our godless world. It is concrete evidence, literally, that the supernatural life is being lived by a vibrant Catholic community in the state of Kansas. We rejoice in seeing it and think: is not what is possible there also possible in the rest of the world?

For we who live in the United States, in a country that was not founded on Catholic principles or with a Catholic vision, the New Immaculata also gives us hope for the flourishing of the faith in our native land. We all ardently desire that the sweet reign of Christ the King be acknowledged and implemented here. Is not the New Immaculata a symbol of the power of the Catholic Faith to guide and inspire Americans in the following of Christ, through His Mother?

I encourage all of our readers to look for an opportunity to visit the New Immaculata, so as to take inspiration from it and to be strengthened in the faith. Let us rejoice that Our Lady and her beloved Son will be honored with due solemnity in this beautiful edifice for many decades to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Fullerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. John Fullerton  
US District Superior



church dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It seemed to me to be a symbol, raised up in the heart of America, and destined to favor the Catholic Renaissance of that great country. I would never have accepted the purchase of St. Mary's without this magnificent sanctuary."

Nevertheless, that magnificent sanctuary met a tragic end. Only 70 years after its construction, and less than six months since being acquired by the Society, fire consumed the chapel. At that time, Fr. Hector Buldoc and the fledgling traditional Catholic community in St. Marys had been renovating the old church. On November 8, 1978, shortly after noon, the cry, "The chapel is on fire!" echoed throughout the campus and town. As local historian Dorothy Hoobler wrote, "Wednesday, November 8, 1978, will go down in St. Marys history as one of its darkest, saddest days." Or, in the words of another reporter: "To me, the chapel died today, and I mourned its loss along with the many who loved it...It will never be the same. But, life goes on. We have our memories, and the chapel will be rebuilt and restored. It will be different and may even be more magnificent. I can accept all that...but, today our chapel died and I cried."

Were these words prophetic? Were Dorothy Hoobler's words also prophetic? "Although a historical landmark went up in smoke yesterday, these determined men and women are already planning to rekindle

a beacon light of faith in a new Immaculata." Indeed, Fr. Bolduc's first words upon hearing of this tragedy were, "Of course, we're going to rebuild the church."

One year after the fire, the Archbishop came to St. Marys, blessed and laid a new cornerstone, commemorating the "restoration of the Immaculata Chapel." In 1989, he recommended that the Society "participate universally" in the "restoration of this sanctuary, which must be like a beacon guiding souls to eternity." "May God help you," he wrote, "to rebuild this religious edifice, for the honor of St. Marys, for the good of the Society, and for the salvation of America. It is a national basilica." In 1992, a new roof was lifted to the top of the bell tower, but the road to rebuilding proved a long and arduous one. Many of those early pilgrims did not see the final restoration, but they trekked on nonetheless, hopeful not so much for themselves but for their children.

The college chapel that had served both Jesuit student and seminarian was too small for the ever-growing community of traditional Catholics in St. Marys. 2008 seemed to many in the community a year of promise: plans for a new church were laid out; the architectural designs projected a marvelous new structure; and donations were sought. Unfortunately, this project fell through.

As the school grew to nearly 900 students, new problems emerged, including sufficient parking and

securing a safe space for classrooms and children where visitors would be frequent. How would the SSPX coordinate a single space that must satisfy the needs of parish life while at the same time answer the demands of academic life? Growth, they say, is a good thing, but growth also brings its own set of quandaries, and the solution seemed to point towards a separate and distinct location for the new Immaculata.

This is what Fr. Patrick Rutledge, who had previously spearheaded the renovation of St. James Church in Pittsburg, PA, concluded. Bishop Bernard Fellay, then Superior General of the Society, reviewed the situation and agreed. And so, 40 years after the fire, 40 years of having Mass in classrooms or in a makeshift chapel, 40 years of being without a proper church for Mass—the time set by Divine Providence had arrived. Work on the new Immaculata would begin.

The new Immaculata would rise, as the Archbishop desired, like something similar to the majesty and the magnificence of a basilica. Fr. Rutledge noted that during his time at St. James, the laity, surrounded by the beauty of a true church, were drawn to a more fervent love of the liturgy. This is what he desired for St. Marys.

The site for the new Immaculata is a short walk north of the school buildings, on a height overlooking the town. The church is clearly visible for miles around with its limestone-colored bricks, twin bell



towers, and twelve-sided cupola on which notably stands a large gold-coated statue of the Virgin turned conspicuously towards the town named for her.

The Immaculata was designed in a Romanesque fashion with fragments of style from other influences blended in. As one priest observed, “It’s a little bit





## Side chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe



like the Society. It's Roman, but it's not pure Roman. It has a little bit of everything in it." Its broad nave brings as many of the faithful as possible near the altar or within sight of the altar. (Only a few pews on each extremity of the transept have any obstruction that prevents seeing the Sacrifice of the Mass.) The high narrow frosted windows generously admit light without any external image (e.g., planes, birds, and clouds) distracting from the interior of the church. The artwork (symbols of the Sacraments, symbols of Mary, and images of the Apocalypse) adorn the walls in place of stained glass (which would have added as much as \$3 million to the cost of the project) are a catechism of some of the essentials of the Faith. Latin phrases, also coming from the Apocalypse, line the upper levels of the nave and the areas above the confessionals, where the words of Christ recall His mercy and forgiveness for those who seek absolution.

The church itself is a symbol of Tradition and of the handing down of the Faith from one generation to the next. At the entrance, the statues of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Bishop Miege (a Jesuit who was the first bishop of the Indian territories), Pope St. Pius X, and Archbishop Lefebvre serve as a reminder of the SSPX's work in St. Marys that was begun by the Society of Jesus. The spirit of the old Immaculata resides in the new. Inside the church, one side altar contains the hundreds of relics collected over the decades. Another side chapel, designed and built by the Benedictines of Silver City, NM, honors Our Lady



## Hundreds of relics are encased in the Regina Martyrum side chapel

of Guadalupe. Above the altar hangs a picture of that great patroness, which the Archbishop had gifted to the people of St. Marys, wishing them to foster a devotion to the Lady of the Americas.

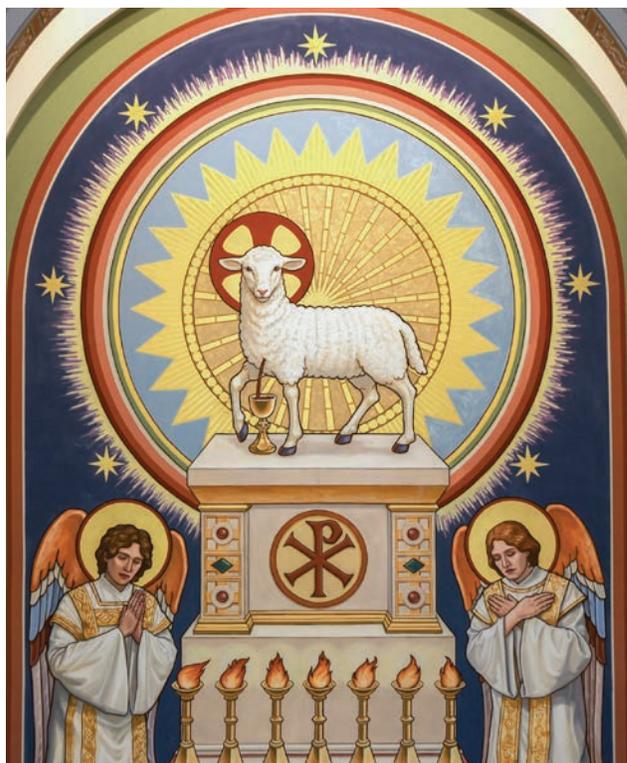
The planning for the new Immaculata began in 2017. The architectural designs were unveiled in June 2019 with new ground being broken in May 2020. Three years later, after the soil was dug away, the foundation laid, steel beams and trusses lifted, and bricks stacked, construction finally halted only a few short hours before the new church's consecration.

The old Immaculata burned on a Wednesday in autumn. And so, as Providence would have it, the new was consecrated on a Wednesday in spring. On May 3, Bishop Fellay, accompanied by 120 priests and seminarians, 20 religious sisters, and nearly 3,000 laity, walked around the exterior, sprinkling the walls with Gregorian water—a special water mixed with salt and ash and wine, designated specifically by Pope St. Gregory for the blessing of churches. After this, the bishop, to the singing of Psalm 86 ("The foundations [of his city are] in the holy mountains..."), entered the building and claimed it for God, blessing the interior walls and the altar, sprinkling them with Gregorian water, and then anointing them with oil. At the center of the nave, in a St. Andrew's cross made from ash, the bishop inscribed the entire Roman and Greek alphabet to signify Christ: the beginning and the end; the alpha and the omega. After this marking, the relics were transferred into the church, buried in the altar,

and the altar itself consecrated with oil and then with fire. At this memorable moment, the bishop piled five hills of incense over wicks shaped as crosses. At each hill, he lit the four ends, and the four small flames ignited the incense into a single conflagration while the bishop intoned: *Veni, Sancte Spiritu, reple tuorum corda fidelium, et tui amoris in eis ignem ascende* (“Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love.”)

Immediately after the consecration ceremony, Bishop Fellay offered the first Mass on that altar with other sacraments soon following. Two days later, Bishop Fellay confirmed just over 120 children and adults. On Sunday, May 7, 100 children received their First Communion. By the end of the that first month, besides daily Mass confessions, the Immaculata was home to seventeen baptisms, five weddings, and three funerals.

What a blessed and delicate touch of Divine Providence that that which ended by fire began again by fire and spreads a spiritual fire that enlivens and does not destroy—“a perpetual fire which shall never go out on the altar. This is the law of the sacrifice and libations...” (Lev. 6:13).





The ceremonies of the consecration of a church are divided into four major parts: (1) the purification and dedication of the building; (2) procession of the relics; (3) the actual consecration of the church and its altar; and (4) the first Mass upon the newly consecrated altar.



Gregorian water, a special mixture of water, wine, salt and ashes, blessed by the bishop, is used to sprinkle the church and altars during their dedication.

The bishop receives his mitre and circles the outside of the building in a clockwise fashion, sprinkling it. The faithful and clergy sing: “The house of the Lord has been well founded upon a firm rock.”





Receiving again his mitre and pastoral staff, he approaches the door of the church and knocks on it with the bottom of the staff, singing, from Psalm 23: “Lift up your gates, O ye princes: and be opened, eternal gates, and let enter the King of Glory.”

After all have entered the church and the Litany of the Saints has been sung, the bishop makes the sign of the cross over the altar and invokes God to bless the altar and church dedicated to His honor and the name of the Immaculate Conception.



Starting on the Gospel side, the bishop proceeds around the building to each of the twelve crosses inscribed on the walls, anointing them with Holy Chrism. Each cross is then incensed three times, and the candle nearby is lit.



Ashes are then spread in the form of the cross of St. Andrew, and the bishop writes the alphabets of the Greek and Latin languages. All then sing: “What a fearsome place! This can be nothing other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

The relics of the martyrs, Sts. Caesarius and Emerentiana, are brought to the new church and sealed into the altar.





The altar is consecrated with Holy Chrism and incensed as at Mass. Five grains of incense are laid in the form of a cross upon the places the bishop has anointed.



Second-class relics of St. Pius X's papal cassock and shoes are displayed for veneration behind a brass grille under the altar of the side chapel dedicated to him.



# International Pilgrimages

## **Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Walking from Nazareth to Galilee      June 20–July 1, 2023**

This year's annual Youth Pilgrimage will make an unforgettable journey to the Holy Land, to walk in the footsteps of Our Lord. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Magdala, Ein Karem, Bethany, and much more. Walk for three days along the path that Our Lord would have walked from Nazareth to Galilee. For youth between 18 and 35 years of age. Accompanied by Fr. James Torzala and Fr. Scott Graves.

## **Holy Land Retreat and Pilgrimage      March 11 - 22, 2024**

Travel to the Holy Land for an unprecedented opportunity to make a spiritual retreat while following in the footsteps of Our Lord! On the retreat days, make morning visits to the sites where Our Lord lived, taught, and suffered, and in the afternoon listen to spiritual talks and have time for meditation. Enjoy the following days visiting the remaining religious sites in the Holy Land. Do not miss this unique opportunity!

## **Marian Shrines of Western Europe      April 15 - 26, 2024**

Join us on this breathtaking journey through Portugal, Spain, and France. Visit the main shrines of Our Lady: Fatima, Lourdes, Zaragoza, and Montserrat. Also visit sites related to St. Teresa of Avila and St. Ignatius of Loyola, the magnificent cathedrals of Salamanca and Burgos, and much more.

## **Youth Pilgrimage to France, including the 3-Day Walk from Chartres to Paris      May 9 - 20, 2024**

Tour the beautiful province of Normandy and render homage to St. Joan of Arc, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, and more. Discover sites related to WWII and visit Mont St. Michel, a favorite tourist attraction in France. Spend two days in Paris and visit the

main Catholic sites of the city. In Chartres, admire its magnificent cathedral and begin the 3-day walking pilgrimage to Paris, joining thousands of SSPX pilgrims from around the world. For youth between 18 and 35 years old.

## **Youth Pilgrimage to Portugal & Spain, including a 3-Day Walk to St. James Compostela      June 17 - 28, 2024**

Travel to Portugal and Spain, visiting Fatima (where Our Lady appeared in 1917), Coimbra (St. Elizabeth), Braga (Bon Jesu Shrine), Pontevedra (Apparitions to Sister Lucy), Padron (St. James the Apostle), St. James Compostela, and Finisterre (End of the World). From Pontevedra to Compostela there will be a 3-day walk following the Compostela Portuguese Way. For youth between 18 and 35 years old.

## **Shrines of Italy, Austria, and Germany      Sept. 9 - 20, 2024**

A wonderful opportunity to visit northern Italy, eastern Austria, and Bavaria. Visit Venice, Padua (St. Anthony), Verona the city of Romeo & Juliet (St. Peter of Verona), Trento (Council), Seefeld (Eucharistic Miracle), Innsbruck, Salzburg (Mozart), Lakes Wolfgang & Hallstatt (St. Wolfgang), Passau, Regensburg, Eichstatt (St. Walburga), Munich, and Altotting (Our Lady's Shrine). Enjoy spectacular scenery while visiting magnificent historic churches of Christendom.

## **Shrines of France      October 14 - 25, 2024**

A classical pilgrimage to France including Lourdes, Aix-en-Provence, Carcassonne, La Salette, Ars, Paray-le-Monial, and Nevers. Render homage to Our Lady of La Salette, St. Mary Magdalene, St. John Vianney, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Bernadette Soubirous, and many more. End the trip in Paris, where we will visit the main Catholic sites of this beautiful city.

For more information, please contact: Regina Pilgrimages  
info@reginapilgrimages.com | www.reginapilgrimages.com

## 2023 Confirmations

Chapel	Date	Bishop	Chapel	Date	Bishop
St. Louis, MO	Sunday, June 18	Bp. Fellay	Chicago, IL	Saturday, Oct 7	Bp. Tissier
Post Falls, ID	Saturday, June 24	Bp. Fellay	De Pere, WI	Sunday, Oct 8	Bp. Tissier
Edmonds, WA	Sunday, June 25	Bp. Fellay	Sanford, FL	Saturday, Oct 14	Bp. Tissier
Eddystone, PA	Saturday, Sep 30	Bp. Tissier	Davie, FL	Sunday, Oct 15	Bp. Tissier
N. Caldwell, NJ	Sunday, Oct 1	Bp. Tissier			

## U.S. Pilgrimages

### Cataldo Pilgrimage **July 21 – 23, 2023**

The Pilgrimage to the Sacred Heart Mission from Immaculate Conception Church in Post Falls is a 3-day spiritual and physical journey of 50 miles through the North Idaho wilderness, bringing together hundreds of Christians from across the United States in prayer, song, and camaraderie. Registration closes on July 17. For more information, visit [cataldopilgrimage.org](http://cataldopilgrimage.org) or call 208-773-7442.

### Santa Fe Pilgrimage **July 28 – 29, 2023**

Men and boys are invited to “take the nail” and tread in the footsteps of America’s Protomartyr. Join this unique 33-mile pilgrimage to the Padilla Cross near Lyons, KS, where the Catholic Faith was planted in the USA in 1541. For more information, contact Luis Jacas at 785-844-3285 or [santafepilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:santafepilgrimage@gmail.com)

### Auriesville Pilgrimage **September 15 – 17, 2023**

Follow the path of the North American Martyrs in prayer and sacrifice. For more information, visit [blessedvirginmary-priory.com](http://blessedvirginmary-priory.com) or contact 315-320-4085 / [auriesville@ssp.org](mailto:auriesville@ssp.org).

## SSPX Podcasts

As part of its apostolate to support the Society of Saint Pius X’s mission, Angelus Press produces a multitude of original podcast series covering such topics as apologetics, sacraments, vocations, and the crisis in the Catholic Church. Additional educational and edifying recordings, including interviews, retreats, and sermons by Society clergy, are also available. Recent episodes include “Why Do We Need a Pope?”; “How We Know Jesus Rose From the Dead”; and “Is The New Testament Credible, or Just Stories

Please visit <http://www.sspxpodcast.com/> for more information or subscribe wherever you receive your podcasts.

## Upcoming Retreats

### Men:

Aug 28-Sept. 2	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Sep 18-23	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 2-7	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Dec 11-16	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Dec 11-16	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Dec 13-16	3-day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Women:

July 10-15	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
July 17-22	Vocations	Phoenix, AZ
Aug 7-12	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Aug 28-Sept. 2	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
October 9-14	Ignatian	Phoenix, AZ
Oct 16-21	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Oct 23-28	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Nov 29-Dec. 2	3-day Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

### Mixed:

Oct 26-29	Matrimony	Phoenix, AZ
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Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:  
816-733-2500 | [www.ssp.org](http://www.ssp.org)

## Eucharistic Crusade

### Monthly Intentions

**June:** For many priestly and religious vocations

*O God, who willest not the death of the sinner, but rather that he be converted and live; grant, by the intercession of the blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all the saints, laborers for Thy Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls. Through the same Jesus Christ, etc. Amen.*



**July:** For the members of the Society, living and dead

*Remember, O Lord, thy servants, the work of Thy hands, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood.*

**August:** In thanksgiving for all the graces received

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

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