



SSPX



Regina Coeli Report

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Pompeii Rising: The Restoration of Jacksonville's Old Holy Rosary Church



The historic neighborhood of Springfield in downtown Jacksonville, Florida is abuzz with excitement and anticipation as the Society of Saint Pius X embarks on a monumental initiative—the Pompeii Rising

Restoration Project. Under the leadership of its chaplain, Fr. David Thomas, the Old Holy Rosary Church, now under the ownership of the SSPX, is being meticulously restored to its former glory. The church has belonged to the Blessed Virgin since its first consecration in 1924, and a century later, it will be rededicated to her under the new title, Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church.

A Glimpse into the Rich Historical Background of Florida

Before delving into the details of the Pompeii Rising Restoration Project, it's essential to appreciate the rich historical tapestry that forms the backdrop of Florida's spiritual journey.

The foundation of the Catholic faith in Florida was laid by the La Florida Martyrs (1549-1715), the thousands of Spanish and Indian Catholics martyred just miles away from the future site of Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church in Jacksonville. Their blood became the fertile soil from which the seeds of Catholicism blossomed. The Society's an-

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Letter from the District Superior



Dear Friends,

The primary work of the traditional Catholic movement is to pass on the integral Catholic Faith in the midst of a terrible crisis in the Church and, by means of that Faith, to save our souls. The crisis in the Church, however, has not just affected the Faith. It has also affected the external structures in which the primary manifestation of the Faith, the Mass, takes place. As such, traditional Catholicism also seeks to preserve the many beautiful churches built by our forefathers in the Faith.

Since the Second Vatican Council, thousands of parishes have closed or have been absorbed into surrounding parishes. As a result, churches built before the Council, in traditional Romanesque, Gothic, or Baroque style, have been abandoned. It is as if these buildings, which were built for the traditional Latin Mass, lost their charm to churchgoers when the Mass that was celebrated in them switched to the new liturgy.

Meanwhile, new churches have been built since the Council that match-up with the New Mass. These churches are often ugly, barren, banal, unimposing, and flat. Not infrequently, they exchange the traditional cruciform shape for a more democratic circle. Their very structure implies that they were built more to affirm man than to worship God.

If the Novus Ordo Mass had life and was able to sustain itself (it does not), and the persecution of traditional Catholicism were pursued to the end (something Our Lord will prevent), the churches of old would be wiped out and only their sickly, modern replacements would appear on the landscape.

For this reason, it is always a joy for the members of the Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) to be able to acquire a beautiful church and restore to it the Mass for which it was built, the “Mass of all time.” Some prominent examples of such acquisitions are the St. Joseph Church in Saint-Césaire, Quebec, Canada; Eglise Saint-Joseph in Brussels, Belgium; and the Church of Our Lady of the Snows in Vienna, Austria.

Here too in the United States, we have been able to acquire pre-Vatican II diocesan churches and make them thriving centers of traditional Catholicism. There are, for example, St. Vincent’s in Kansas City, St. James in Pittsburgh, St. Mary’s Assumption in St. Louis, and Queen of Angels in Houston.

The purpose of this Regina Coeli Report is to announce the restoration of the Old Holy Rosary in Jacksonville, Florida. You will find in these pages a history of the church, along with a description of the restoration work that is being done. Soon, the traditional Latin Mass will return to that church, and it will be the home for the SSPX faithful in that city.

Let us thank God for this great grace and also pray that more such opportunities might arise for the churches built for the “Old Mass” and for the SSPX.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John P. Fullerton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Fr. John Fullerton
US District Superior



nual pilgrimage to St. Augustine, Pascua Florida, commemorates the celebration of the first Mass in the United States, marking the budding fruits of their sacrifice. The ongoing beatification process of the La Florida Martyrs serves as a testament to the enduring spirit of sacrifice.

The Diocese of Florida was established in 1870 during the First Session of Vatican I. Bishop Augustin Verot initially shepherded the entire state from the Cathedral located in the new See of St. Augustine until his death in 1876.

Meanwhile in Italy, in the desolate valley of Pompeii, a captivating turn in history occurred. Once a fallen away Catholic and former Satanist, Bartolo Longo came back to the Faith, and in 1875, discovered a miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin and the Child Jesus giving the Devotion of the Holy Rosary to St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena. This image became the focal point of a pontifical shrine in Italy known today as Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii. The ancient city of Pompeii, rising from the ashes of Mt. Vesuvius through the transformative power of love, mirrored events about to unfold in Florida, solidifying the intertwined destiny of these two spiritually connected locations.



Image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii. This miraculous image was once transported in a dung cart before it was restored and venerated.



The Great Fire of 1901 destroyed downtown Jacksonville's parish church, Immaculate Conception. Displaced Catholics formed a new community and later built Holy Rosary 1.5 miles north of this location.

From Desolation to Consecration: The Old Holy Rosary Church

The Great Fire of 1901 left Downtown Jacksonville in ruins, prompting the resilient community to relocate to the neighborhood of Springfield one mile north. Our Patron, Pope St. Pius X, in one of his last official acts before his death in 1914, selected Bishop Curley to lead the Diocese of Florida. In like manner, Bishop Curley would offer his flock one last official act before being transferred to serve as the Archbishop of Baltimore. In 1921, Bishop Curley created the parish of Holy Rosary for the Northside of Jacksonville,

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Pope Pius XII and Florida Archbishop Hurley, a stalwart critic of communism, would have worked with Archbishop Lefebvre in the Coetus Internationalis Patrum during Vatican II.

and installed Fr. Denis Lyons as its first pastor.

In 1922, local architect James Walsh designed the Neo-Romanesque revival-style church with Gothic influences, featuring a massive and impressive carved relief of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii adorning the main entrance. Florida's new Bishop, Patrick Barry, laid the cornerstone in 1923 and the next year, dedicated the newly opened Church, Holy Rosary, to the Blessed Virgin. Two years later, the champion of the Holy Rosary, Bartolo Longo, would die in his beloved Pompeii, but not before seeing his devotion to the image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii spread across the world.

Over the next three decades, Florida saw a major population boom which was of great interest to Rome. The substitute Secretary of State for the Holy See, Cardinal Ottaviani, was the mentor to an American, Monsignor Joseph Hurley, who served as a Vatican diplomat. The Cardinal saw talent and faithfulness in the young priest and advocated for his future. In 1940, Hurley was given the task of governing the growing Diocese of Florida by Pope Pius XII and consecrated bishop before returning to America.

Holy Rosary's vibrant community outgrew the church in the 1950's, requiring Mass to be offered off-campus in a provisional church on newly acquired land. Catholicism seemed to have been at its



Joined by an abbot, 14 priests, and 100 acolytes, Bishop Barry consecrated Holy Rosary on January 20, 1924, just 10 months after laying this cornerstone.

peak when the Second Vatican Council was convened. Called to Rome, Archbishop Hurley met his old mentor, Cardinal Ottaviani, and found that the winds had shifted against Tradition. This is where Archbishop Hurley would have met the founder of the Society of Saint Pius X, Archbishop Lefebvre, and joined voices with those trying to conserve the Faith. Between Sessions of Vatican II, in 1964, a larger New Holy Rosary was dedicated just 2 miles north from Old Holy Rosary, as parishioners would later call it. Only three years later, Archbishop Hurley



Bishop Verot represented the United States at Vatican I, asked the Holy See to create a new diocese of Florida, and became its first local ordinary.



Archbishop Michael Joseph Curley created the parish of Holy Rosary before going on to be archbishop of Baltimore and later Washington, DC.



In 1931, Bishop Barry established the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Le Leche in St. Augustine that the SSPX champions today.



West facade of Our Lady of Pompeii

would die before the promulgation of the Novus Ordo Missae.

New Holy Rosary would host the New Mass for the parish on Sundays, and Old Holy Rosary would host weddings and was also Jacksonville's home to the Divine Liturgy, offered by Monsignor Shashy, a Syriac Catholic Priest. By 1980, many traditional Catholics found themselves seeking the reverence of the Divine Liturgy in the Eastern Rite, choosing to fulfill their Sunday obligations at Old Holy Rosary.

Sadly, in 1986, Monsignor Shashy passed away, leading to the closure of Old Holy Rosary as a Catholic church. The building was sold and items like stained glass and pews were auctioned to the highest bidder. Fortunately, some Catholics have reached out to Fr. Thomas, offering to return original items as part of the ongoing Pompeii Rising.

The fervent desire for the traditional Latin Mass caused many Roman Rite Catholics who attended Divine Liturgy to reach out to the SSPX in the early 1980's. As this was early in the Society's mission, there were not enough priests available for a consis-



A detail of the High Altar.



The altar being shipped to Jacksonville, where it is currently in storage awaiting installation.



The marble high altar, side altars, and altar rails before being shipped to Jacksonville from a closed church in the Bronx, New York.

tent Sunday arrangement. Undeterred, in 1988 the group built a chapel dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel six miles south of Old Holy Rosary and remained in contact with the SSPX until a permanent solution could be reached.

In 2017, the U.S. District was able to supply a priest for the faithful of Jacksonville, formalizing the relationship in 2019. The challenges of COVID brought nationwide church closures. Florida, under Governor DeSantis, allowed churches to remain open during lockdowns, and St. Michael the Archangel was among the few churches in the nation to hold public Mass for Holy Week and Easter. The congregation tripled as a result of the shutdowns and the growth has not stopped. In the year and a half since Fr. David Thomas assumed the role of chaplain, St. Michael's has seen 22 children baptized, 20 confirmations, 2 marriages, and 6 funerals.

In 2021, St. Michael's explored expanding its 1,800 square foot building which seats 75 people comfortably, but code restrictions led to the realization that a new church was needed. The SSPX acquired Old Holy Rosary and renamed it Our Lady of Pompeii. In the same year Pompeii Rising rescued three marble altars from a church in the Bronx, completing Phase I.

Pompeii Rising's Expansive Vision for the Future

Only a 10-minute drive from Jacksonville's current chapel, Our Lady of Pompeii is 4,600 square feet (two thirds of which will be dedicated to seating.) With a large choir loft and excellent acoustics, it will comfortably seat over 400 people. The purchase also came with a historic cottage, which will cater to the various needs of the church.

In 2023, Pompeii Rising was formed, signaling the beginning of building projects. The completion of Phase II, which will fortify and seal the 100-year-old building, is

scheduled for completion at the end of March 2024. Preparations for Phase III are underway which will allow the congregation to occupy the church for Holy Mass.

As we anticipate the consecration of Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church in 2025, we invite you to be a part of this historic moment. Your presence at the consecration ceremony will make it even more special. Stay updated on the progress of the Pompeii Rising Restoration Project by visiting pompeiirising.org where you can join our newsletter and find detailed information, images, and insights into the ongoing efforts.

Consider contributing to this sacred endeavor



The before view from the choir loft.



The after view from the choir loft. This concept art was commissioned from Conrad Schmitt Studios.



through your prayers and, if possible, by a charitable donation. Your support plays a vital role in ensuring the success of the Society’s mission. As a community not separated by miles but bound by faith, hope, and love, we can all participate in the merits of this transformative journey.

Pompeii Rising’s mission to revitalize Old Holy Rosary is not just for the physical edification of a building but an opportunity to harvest the fruits sown by the Martyrs of La Florida and Blessed Bartolo Longo. The intertwined destiny of North Florida and Pompeii, Italy finds new expression as Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church rises from the ashes, a testament to the enduring power and intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii.



A view of the rose window from the sanctuary. The original fixtures and crown molding will be preserved.



Fr. Marc Vernoy, prior of St. Thomas More, thanks Governor Ron DeSantis for keeping churches open during the pandemic.



Fr. David Thomas (L) shows Fr. Christopher Liguori the relief of Our Lady of Pompeii, carved in 1923 by George Howard.



Pompeii Rising

Restoring Old Holy Rosary

For more information, visit: pompeiirising.org



Our Lady of Victory and the Shrine of St. Philomena recently held their fourth annual fundraiser gala to raise funds to build a new church.



The imposition of the medals of the Archconfraternity Guild of St. Stephen at Our Lady of Victory in Davie, FL.



St. Robert Bellarmine Academy, St. Cloud MN, is finalizing purchasing a new school building. This building is located in Waite Park and was part of the St. Joseph Diocesan parish school. The building more than meets the present needs of St. Robert Bellarmine Academy's students, but also gives many opportunities for growth and flexible space. It is 28,354 square feet and has 18 classrooms, a library, kitchen, gym/auditorium, and is adjacent to a fenced playground with an attached parking lot.

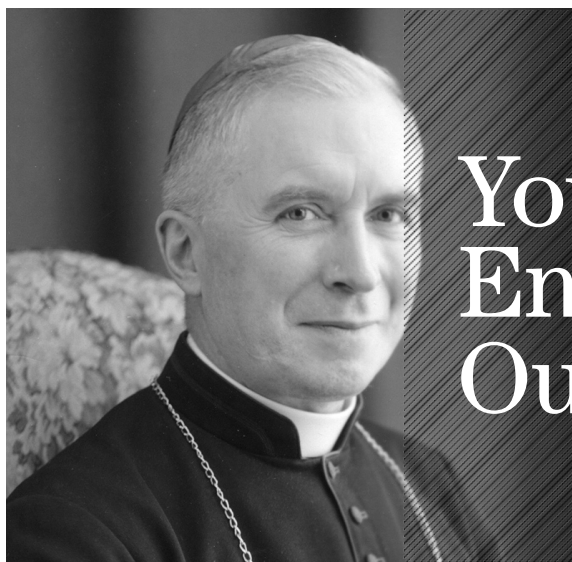


St. Robert Bellarmine Academy is bursting with student growth. To accommodate their immediate and future needs, the Academy Planning Committee is finalizing the purchase of the new school building pictured above.





St. Joseph's Church in Ray Township, MI held its 4th Annual St. Joseph's Table event in honor of its patron, complete with traditional breads, pasta, a live auction, and the annual cake decorating contest.



Your Generosity Ensures Our Future

Strategic gift planning allows you to derive financial advantages for yourself while ensuring enduring support for the Society of Saint Pius X.

Planned Giving includes any gift you have to prepare for. On our new website, we explain:

- How to provide for our priests in your will
- When a trust is advantageous
- How to gift stock, bonds, precious metals, or art
- How to save taxes and help our priests via an IRA or 401k
- And much more!

Please visit our new website and sign up for a free estate planning guide and monthly newsletter: legacy.sspcx.org. Thank you for your consideration!



International Pilgrimages

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 (Bom Jesus 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.

Ecône to Prague Pilgrimage with Bishop Fellay June 24 - July 6, 2024

A unique opportunity to travel with His Excellency, Bishop Bernard Fellay through Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic. Pray before the relics of Archbishop Lefebvre, attend the SSPX priestly ordinations at Ecône, visit the SSPX General House in Menzingen and the SSPX seminary in Zaitzkofen. Lay your petitions before the Holy Infant of Prague, and render homage to many saints along the way. Also visit Lucerne, Einsiedeln, Geneva, Flue, Regensburg, Prague, and much more!

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 (Eu-

charistic 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.

Holy Land Retreat and Pilgrimage Sept. 16-28, 2024

The trip dates have been changed. Travel to the Holy Land with Fr. Thomas Asher 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!

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

2024 Confirmations

Chapel	Date	Bishop
Pittsburgh, PA	April 7, 2024	Bp. Fellay
Roswell, GA	April 8, 2024	Bp. Fellay
Nicholville, NY	April 12, 2024	Bp. Fellay
Ridgefield, CT	April 14, 2024	Bp. Tissier
Winona, MN	April 20, 2024	Bp. Tissier
Madison, WI	April 21, 2024	Bp. Fellay
Walton, KY	May 5, 2024	Bp. Fellay

Chapel	Date	Bishop
Post Falls, ID	May 12, 2024	Bp. Tissier
St. Marys, KS	May 25, 2024	Bp. Tissier
Kansas City, MO	May 26, 2024	Bp. Tissier
Dickinson, TX	May 30, 2024	Bp. Tissier
San Antonio, TX	June 1, 2024	Bp. Tissier
Baton Rouge, LA	June 2, 2024	Bp. Tissier

Summer Camps

Girls

- **Our Lady of the Rosary Camp** (SSPX Sisters)
June 16 – 21, 2024
Location: Camp Sanders in Idaho; Contact:
ssp XORosarycamp@gmail.com
- **St. Maria Goretti Camp** (SSPX Sisters)
June 17 – 22, 2024
Location: Red Willow Camp in North Dakota;
Contact the camp secretary:
mjbluebird15@gmail.com
- **Venerable Teresita Quevedo Camp**
July 1 – 11, 2024
Location: Sibley State Park, New London, MN;
Registration: CatholicGirlsForever.com/camp
- **Camp Cabrini**
July 15 – 20, 2024
Location: Black Hawk, CO; Registration:
cabrinigirlscamp@gmail.com
- **Stella Matutina** (Consoling Sisters)
July 29 – August 2, 2024
Location: Camp St. Francis, Aptos, CA;
Registration: TBA, see sspX.org
- **Stella Matutina** (Consoling Sisters)
August 5 – 14, 2024
Location: St. Joseph's Youth Camp, Mormon
Lake AZ; Registration: ourladyofsorrows@sspX.
org or consolingsisters@gmail.com

Boys

- **Camp Honor**
July 1 – 13, 2024
Location: White Haven, PA; Registration: TBA,
see sspX.org
- **Los Gatos Boys' Camp**
August 12 – 17, 2024
Location: Camp St. Francis, Aptos, CA;
Registration: TBA, see sspX.org

Upcoming Retreats

Men:

Apr 15 – 20	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
May 13 – 18	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Jun 17 – 22	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Oct 7 – 12	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Dec 16 – 21	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT

Women:

Apr 8 – 13	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
May 6 – 11	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Jun 3 – 8	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Sep 16 – 21	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA
Oct 14 – 19	Ignatian	Ridgefield, CT
Nov 11 – 16	Ignatian	Los Gatos, CA

Dates subject to change. For more information please contact:
816-733-2500 | www.sspX.org

Eucharistic Crusade

Monthly Intentions

April: So that the Church may triumph
over her enemies

*O Holy Spirit, Creator, be propitious to the Catholic
Church; and by thy heavenly power make it strong and secure
against the attacks of its enemies. Amen.*

May: For the conversion of sinners and unbelievers through the
Blessed Virgin Mary

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it
known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this
confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee
I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the
Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions; but in thy clemency
hear and answer me. Amen.*

June: In reparation for sacrilegious communions

*I adore Thee, my Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. I love Thee,
and I desire to receive Thee with all the purity, love, and affection
of thy blessed Mother, and with the love and affection of thy own
most pure Heart. Amen.*



E-mail: eucharistic-crusade@sspX.org

SSPX Podcasts

As part of its apostolate to support the Society of
Saint Pius X's mission, Angelus Press produces a mul-
titude of original podcast series covering such topics
as apologetics, sacraments, vocations, and the crisis
in the Catholic Church.

Recent episodes include:

“Society Needs Catholic Men”

“Pornography is Worse than You Think”

“Screens and Shallow Learning”

Please visit <http://www.sspXpodcast.com/> for more
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