

## **Archdiocese approves 'quasi-parish'**

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**D**ivine Mercy Latin Parish, known as a quasi-parish, has been created by a Jan. 7 decree issued by Archbishop Adam Exner, OMI.

The parish will use the facilities of Holy Spirit Church in New Westminster to regularly offer the Mass in the Tridentine or traditional Latin format. (This has been going on, since its inauguration in the archdiocese in 1989 by former Archbishop James F. Carney, at the Queensborough parish.)

The quasi-parish's new pastor is Father Charles Ryan, FSSP, who will offer a sung Sunday Mass with Gregorian chant at 12:30 p.m. He will also offer a Low Mass at 8 a.m. at St. Michael's Parish in Burnaby from Monday to Saturday.

Father Ryan, who is from Timmins, Ont., belongs to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, a community born in 1988 when Pope John Paul II issued its founding document, *Ecclesia Dei Adflicta*. The order provides priests so that those attached to Mass in the traditional Latin (which underwent a decline following Vatican II) are guaranteed "respect for their rightful aspirations," as described in Pope John Paul II's 1988 Apostolic Letter *Ecclesia Dei*.

"We exist," said Father Ryan, "solely to train clergy for the Latin Mass, which is recognized in the Church today as adding to liturgical diversity."

Father Ryan was ordained in Scranton, Penn., in 1994 after completing studies at the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter seminary in Wigratzbad, Germany.

Currently, the order's 130 members serve throughout the world, most in the U.S. and Europe. Canada has priests in Calgary, Ottawa, St. Catharine's, and now in Vancouver.

Following meetings between Father Ryan's superior, Father Arnaud Devillers, FSSP, and Archbishop Exner last Easter, it was agreed that Father Ryan would come to Vancouver in September. He is also serving as chaplain to Royal Columbian Hospital.

The new quasi-parish is under the full jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Vancouver, operating under the Code of Canon Law, archdiocesan synodal statutes, and approved customs of the archdiocese.

As in all other parishes, membership is obtained by registration in the quasi-parish or by regular attendance at liturgical services.