

## **A Heroic Fighter Passes On**

By David Reid President Una Voce Canada (Vancouver Traditional Mass Society)



**Moira Garneau 18th April/04**

### **Moira Garneau VTMS President RIP**

It appears that Our Lord has decided to redeploy His forces. First Michael Davies then Moira Graneau departed this 'Vale of Tears'.

The world, of traditional Catholics, now has some powerful advocates in another army in the Mystical Body of Christ.

Moira Teresa Garneau was born in Glasgow, Scotland on 9th January, 1941 and she joined Our Lord's spiritual army on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2004.

I have known Moira as a friend for over 30 years and I am here to state that, as a Soldier of Christ, she never wavered for a moment in her conviction of the necessity of returning the Tridentine Mass to the Altars of the Church.

Moira took over the Presidency of the VTMS in 1990 and remained at the helm until her death in 2004. During the 14 years of her Presidency she at times single-handedly, by force of will, kept the VTMS going when many others would have given up.

Moira also realised from the very beginning that the struggle was not simply being fought in this realm but was primarily a spiritual battle. Moira writing:

- In our Aug. 1990 Newsletter says "It was during this period of difficulties that we were encouraged to maintain devotion to the Precious Blood. Fr. Mole has told us in the past: ".....remember that devotion to the Precious Blood is devotion to the Mass intensified to the point of willingness to be united to Our Lord's sacrifice on the Cross. And such devotion will save the Mass." A chapter of the Precious Blood has been established on the North Shore, and others are being encouraged. I cannot recommend too strongly that members give this serious consideration with a view to having a chapter in your own region. As Fr. Mole has also said. ".....devotion to the Precious Blood is in view of saving both Motherhood (without which society cannot exist) and the Mass (without which the Church cannot exist)."

On 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 1990 at our AGM she said "Also, to meet our spiritual needs, perhaps we can continue under Fr. Mole and the Society of the Precious Blood. This has shown itself to be a much needed anchor for ourselves, and we should keep this avenue of devotion open. At this point, we have nowhere else to go but to the foot of the Cross and to the Precious Blood. Our Blessed Mother stood by the foot of the Cross and so must we."

In the latter part of 1991 in her President's report she stated "I would be extremely remiss if I did not point out that, whatever advances were made,

prayer, sacrifice and most importantly, consecration of the Society to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Precious Blood, were the guiding forces.

“The Executive and members of the VTMS joined the ‘Pious Union of the Precious Blood’ and the Executive has continued to meet on a monthly basis to draw graces from this wonderful devotion.

“At this point I would also like to ask you for your continued support of the VTMS. The Traditional Mass movement must continue.”

### **Historical Reminiscing**

I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce on the history of the traditional Catholic community in Vancouver, which is represented by the VTMS, and which Moira was so intimately associated with.

#### **1970’s:**

Late 70’s possibly early 80’s travelling Priests such as Fr. Yves Normandin (of ‘Pastor out in the Cold’ fame) celebrated Mass in Hotel halls for the faithful;

#### **1980—1989:**

During these years holy Priests, like Fr. Neilson of St. Pius X and Msgr. Newman of St. Michael’s, encouraged, discussed and led many of the faithful back to the traditions of the Church;

#### **1989:**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, after petitions from members of the VTMS, Abp. James F. Carney sent us a letter informing us that he had completed arrangements with Rev. Joseph Favotto, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish, to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 Missal;

On 4<sup>th</sup> June the first Tridentine Mass, authorised by Abp. Carney, was held at Holy Spirit Parish (the Church Triumphant, Suffering and Militant rejoiced on this occasion);

On 13<sup>th</sup> July, the VTMS received its formal incorporation documents incorporating it as a Charity under the laws of B.C.;

**1991:**

Fr. Joseph Bisig the then Superior General of F.S.S.P. and Fr. Devillers visit our Community;

**1995:**

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the VTMS, at the request of Michael Davies, was accepted as a member of FIUV at the XII Statutory General Assembly held in Rome. As of this date Canada was officially back in the International Federation and the VTMS became the official representative of Una Voce International in Canada;

**1998:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> July Fr. Richard Creurer of F.S.S.P., one of the Seminarians we supported, celebrated his first Mass at Holy Spirit and Bp. Monroe then Msgr. Gave the sermon;

On 18<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October I visit Rome, attached to the St. Clement's Padre Pio pilgrimage, specifically to attend the Ecclesia Dei celebrations;

**1999:**

Traditional Learning Academy (started by her husband Allan where Moira taught school and with which she was involved with from day one) sends students to the Chartres pilgrimage;

Easter Sunday falls on April 4<sup>th</sup> and Fr. Devillers celebrated an Easter Triduum at the request of the VTMS;

26<sup>th</sup> July and again on 1<sup>st</sup> November the VTMS formally petitions Abp. Adam Exner for establishment of a quasi Parish, access to all Sacraments in the Traditional Rite and a Priest from the F.S.S.P. etc.;

9<sup>th</sup> October Fr. Richard Trezza, at the request of the VTMS, celebrated Mass for us and was the guest speaker at our 10<sup>th</sup> AGM;

7<sup>th</sup> December we met with Abp. Exner and all our requests were granted;

**2000:**

Three separate submissions made, by the VYMS, to Abp. Adam Exner before 'Divine Mercy' was finally accepted as our Parish name;

Easter Sunday falls on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and again Fr. Devillers, at our request, celebrates the Easter Triduum;

15<sup>th</sup> September Fr. Charles Ryan takes up permanent residence at St. Michael's as our Parish Priest;

**2001:**

7<sup>th</sup> January Divine Mercy Quasi Parish legally established by Abp. Adam Exner;

**2003:**

27<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April Bp. Riffan visits Vancouver and celebrates Pontifical High Mass in at Holy Rosary Cathedral;

**2004:**

25<sup>th</sup> January Divine Mercy Quasi Parish starts a second Sunday Mass in Aldergrove;

The above brief encapsulation of history are some of the things that you can look back on, from the nether world, and be proud of.

On this journey which you have undertaken Vaya con Dios, my friend, until we meet again.

Absolve, Domine, animas omnium fidelium defunctorum ab omni vinculo delictorum. Et gratia tua illis succurrente, merantur evadere iudicium ultionis. Et lucis aeternae beatitudine perfrui.

Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine; et luc perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.

August Queen of Heaven  
Sovereign Mistress of the Angels  
Who didst receive from the beginning  
The mission and power  
to crush the serpent's head  
We beseech thee to send thy Holy Angels  
That under thy command and by thy power  
They may pursue the evil spirits  
Encounter them on every side  
Resist their bold attacks and  
drive them hence into the abyss of woe  
Most Holy Mother send thy Angels  
to defend us and drive  
the cruel enemy from us.  
Amen.

Viva Christo Rey

David