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Holiness, Dom Hubert
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Priestly Celibacy Today,
Fr. Thomas McGovern

The Hidden Manna, Fr.
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JANUARY 2010

SAINT PAUL MIKI: MARTYR OF JAPAN

Saints Paul Miki (Paulus Miki, 1564 – 1597), Soan John de Goto and James Kisai were the first of a long line of Japanese missionary martyrs who gave their lives in a literal imitation of their crucified Lord. Miki was also the first Japanese Religious to be martyred in Japan.

The initial growth of Christianity after Francis Xavier's 1549 arrival in Japan led Japanese leaders to fear that the introduction of Christianity was the first step in Spain's effort to conquer their country, just as the Spanish had already conquered the Philippines. Japan's ruler, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, banished all foreign ministers in 1587, but the decree was not rigidly implemented and Jesuits were able to continue their work under the threat of persecution. Remarks made



**St. Paul Miki, Preacher and
Martyr**

in 1596 by the captain of a shipwrecked Spanish ship led Hideyoshi to order the arrest of all Franciscans who had come to Japan from the Philippines three years earlier. Along with

Feast Day February 6

the Franciscans, police arrested the Jesuits Paul Miki, a scholastic, James Kisai, a brother, and John de Goto, a catechist who was in the process of entering the Society.

Miki came from an affluent family near Oaka and became a Christian when his whole family converted. He entered the Jesuit-run seminary in Azuchi when he was 20 and then joined the Society two years later. He was an eloquent speaker who was very successful in drawing Buddhists to Christian faith. He was only a few months from being ordained when he was arrested.

Miki, De Goto and Kisai were arrested on December 9 and taken to Miyako (today's Kyoto) where they were imprisoned along with six Franciscans and 15 tertiaries. The 24 prisoners were taken into the public square and condemned to be executed by crucifixion; as a mark of shame, the lobe of each man's left ear

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Role of the Priest: Teaching, Sanctifying and Governing – Part I

The threefold functions (*munera*) of the bishop of teaching, sanctifying and governing extends to the priesthood.

These three functions make up one office and as such are not to be separated nor ever completely delegated or relegated, but always under the direction, guidance and care of the bishop and his priests.

Priest as Teacher

The ministry of teaching, an essential mission of the priest,



is an essential mission of the Church. The gospel of Matthew ends with a clear directive from Christ to His disciples: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and

make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Mt 28:11b-12) Regarding teaching The Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church states the following for priests: **Canon 218 - § 1.** "The pastor is obliged to see to it that the word of God in its entirety is announced to those living in the parish; for this reason he is to see to it that the lay Christian faithful are instructed in the truths of the faith, especially through the homily which

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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

A Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament for the Increase of Priestly and Religious Vocations

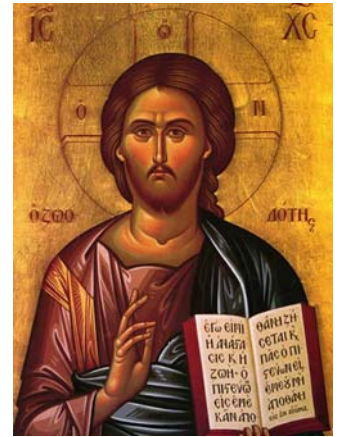
(by Archbishop Justin Rigali, St. Louis)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Eternal Father, Son of the Virgin Mary, we thank you for offering your life in sacrifice on the Cross, and for renewing this sacrifice in every Mass celebrated throughout the world.

In the power of the Holy Spirit we adore you and proclaim your living presence in the Eucharist. We desire to imitate the love you show us in your death and resurrection, by loving and serving one another.

We ask you to call many young people to religious life, and to provide the holy and generous priests that are so need in your Church to-

day. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. Amen.



"The bread that you store up belongs to the hungry; the coat that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold that you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor." St. Basil

"Let sleep itself be an exercise in piety, for such as our life and conduct have been, so also of necessity will be our dreams." St. Basil



Priests as Teachers—Cont'd.

is to be given on Sundays and holy days of obligation and through the catechetical formation which he is to give; he is to foster works by which the spirit of the gospel, including issues involving social justice, is promoted; he is to take special care for the Catholic education of children and of young adults; he is to make every effort with the aid of the Christian faithful, to bring the gospel message also to those who have ceased practicing their religion or who do not profess the true faith."

The Teaching office of the Priesthood begins with the successor of St. Peter, the Pope, and extends on to the Magisterium (teaching office), which by definition is the Pope and bishops in communion

with him. Bishops are assisted in their work by priests, all of whom call upon the laity to join them in the universal commitment



of the Church to spread the Gospel to all nations.

It is interesting and important to note that the Church obliges those who teach to "see to it that the Word of God in its entirety is announced..." As Pope John Paul II reminded the Church in his encyclical, "*Catechesi Tradendae*," "no true catechist can lawfully, on his own initiative, make a selection of what he considers important in the deposit of faith as opposed

to what he considers unimportant, so as to teach the one and reject the other." Whether convenient or inconvenient (2 Tim 4:1), popular or ridiculed, the priest must proclaim the truth of the Church at all times, under all circumstances, be it by way of preaching, in a classroom or by the example of his life.

Indeed, the gravity and import of the teaching ministry of the priest becomes crystallized when we reflect on the words Saint John Chrysostom wrote in the fourth century, "Priests who dwell upon earth and make their abode therein have been commissioned nonetheless to dispense things which are in heaven, and have received an authority such as God has not given either to angels or archangels. For it has not been said to them: All that you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven (Matthew 18:18). Those who rule upon earth, indeed, have authority to bind, but bodies only, whereas the binding done by priests takes hold of the soul itself and reaches to heaven. What priests execute below, God ratifies above, and the Master confirms the judgment of His servants."



St. Paul Miki and Companions—Cont'd.

was cut off before they were led away. The prisoners left the following day for a month-long walk to Nagasaki they were eventually killed. Along the way people mocked and in-

sulted them, but Miki and a Franciscan priest preached to the crowds anyway. Before they made it to Nagasaki, two Jesuit priests were able to minister to the prisoners. One of them, Father Pasio, took the three young Jesuits into a chapel where Paul Miki renewed his vows and John de Goto and James Kisai pronounced their first vows.

That same morning the prisoners were taken to a hill outside the city where they saw crosses lying on the ground waiting for them. They sang a Te Deum, the traditional

song of thanksgiving, when they saw how they were to die. Then they allowed the executioners to tie them onto the crosses and fasten metal bands around their necks so they would keep their heads erect. The crosses were lifted up and dropped into holes in the ground. De Goto's father was in the crowd and heard Paul Miki preaching to the people inviting them to conversion. Finally, the soldiers pierced each prisoner's chest with a lance. The hill on which they and 25 other companions died came to be known as "Martyr's Hill." Feast Day February 6.

*"Troubles are usually brooms and shovels that smooth the road to the good man's fortune; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger."
- St. Basil*

His Own Words: An Anecdote from Fr. Price's Life

As missionary, Fr. Price would go from town to town in North Carolina to preach the Catholic Faith. Sometimes the Protestants would heckle him and even throw vegetables at him. "During one such demonstration, he [Fr. Price] seemed to stop for a moment to take inventory of the produce that lay about his feet.

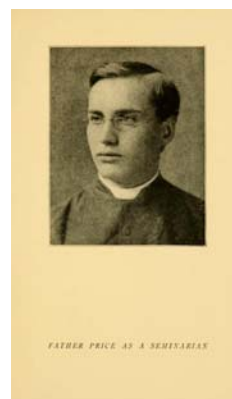
With a naive twinkle in his eyes, he said very calmly, 'Now, if I had a piece of meat to go with these, I could whip together a fine stew for myself.' The audience roared, and the priest was allowed to continue his sermon." – From *Tar Heel Apostle* by John C. Murrett, M.M., 1944, p. 35.



North Carolina's First Native Born Priest: Fr. Price

Thomas F. Price was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on August 19th, 1860. When he was eight years old, young Thomas had the privilege to serve at the altar with Bishop Gibbons who asked Tom if he was afraid to serve at a Bishop's Mass. Tom replied, "Oh, no, Bishop. You are the priest offering the Sacrifice, and God will come down to the altar at your word. My mother has taught me that. If you're not afraid, neither am I."

Eight years later, at the age of sixteen, Thomas Price was certain in his discernment of his vocation to the priesthood. In September of that year, 1876, on his way up north to go to school, the ship he was on wrecked during which the young Price called upon the Blessed Mother; his prayers were heard. The ship's captain lost his life along with many of his crew, but Thomas Price's life was spared.



Thomas Price attended seminary at Saint Charles Minor Seminary and Saint Mary Major Seminary in Elliot City and Baltimore, Maryland and was ordained in 1886. He was the first native North Carolinian ordained a priest at Saint Thomas Church in Wilmington. Fr. Price's first assignment was as an itinerant serving Asheville and the mountain missions which at that time were Morganton, Hendersonville, and Hot Springs. From the mountains, Fr. Price was sent back east to serve in New Bern and the surrounding missions there.



**Education Vicariate In-Services on:
The National Directory for Catechesis**

At the Catholic Conference Center,
Hickory, NC from 10:00 AM—2:30PM

† March 18, 2010

† May 13, 2010

Call 704.370.3244 for more information and
to register

The Offices of Campus Ministry, Catholic
Schools, Evangelization, Faith Formation, Lay
Ministry, Young Adult and Youth Ministries
make up the Education Vicariate

**Serving Our Lord and His Church of Western
North Carolina**

Important Dates for The Year For Priests

February 2, 2010—Presentation of Our Lord

**February 3, 2010—Sts. Blaise and Ansgar,
Bishops**

February 6, 2010—St. Paul Miki, SJ

February 8, 2010—St. Jerome Emiliani, priest

February 11, 2010—Our Lady of Lourdes

February 17, 2010—ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 2010—Chair of Saint Peter

**February 23, 2010—St. Polycarp, bishop &
martyr**

Saints of God, Pray for us!

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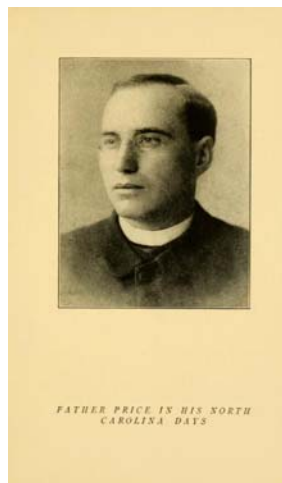
Father Thomas Price—Cont.d

(From Page 3)

From New Bern he was on to Hillsboro, Newton Grove, and Mount Olive. In 1892, Fr. Price went on retreat and atop Mount Mitchell he offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for the conversion of North Carolina. Four years later he was released from parish responsibilities and assigned to Abbot-Bishop Haid of Belmont Abbey to serve as a missionary in North Carolina.

In 1897, Fr. Price began a Catholic publication which he fittingly named, *Truth*, which grew to 120,000 subscriptions at the time of his death, 1919. But before God called Fr. Price home, he was to accomplish much more. He went on to obtain 600 acres of land near Raleigh where he began Nazareth Orphanage, which also became a house of mission studies that he named *Regina Apostolorum*. In 1908, Fr. Price began writing daily letters to the Blessed Mother and in 1911 the U.S. Bishops and Pope Pius X gave permission for Fr. Price and Fr. James Walsh (later to become Bishop Walsh) to found Maryknoll Missionaries. As a Maryknoll Missionary priest, Fr. Price was the

first superior of their mission in China. Fr. Price died in Hong Kong on September 12th, 1919. His cause is currently open for canonization to sainthood.



FATHER PRICE IN HIS NORTH CAROLINA DAYS

**Jesus, the Eternal High Priest,
Our Food, Medicine & Comfort!**

