

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

**TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING** by S. Casarotto 8/10/08

## **CLERICAL FASHION**

A few months ago, Pope Benedict raised a few eyebrows when he appeared wearing the camauro, a winter hat of crimson velvet bordered with ermine. Later, he was seen wearing the saturno, a large brimmed hat worn by some of his predecessors, like John XXIII. Then, it was announced that, at his masses, Pope Benedict would distribute Communion only on the tongue of the faithful who kneel. Secular media - and some liberal Catholics - ridiculed him for trying to bring the Church back to the Middle Ages. Today, the advertising and consumeristic mindset leads people to think that "new is better" and the only thing acceptable, and if something looks good it must be good. Liturgical vestments and clerical garb evolved during the centuries. However, in the liturgy, priests do not wear Prada or Versace. The alb which they wear first is a reminder of the Baptismal garment whereby we put on Christ. Originally, the other vestments were the everyday apparel but now they highlight the role of the priest who, in administering the Sacraments, acts in the person of Christ.

## **VOCATIONS TODAY**

"If in our Old World vocations are dying out, in the Far East they are blooming. Last April, there were 82 newly professed Salesian Sisters in the Chinese "Underground Church". The founder of this branch of our religious family, a Salesian priest who died a few months ago, spent a long time in prison and was also beaten repeatedly. In a daring and fortuitous way, our Superior General was able to go to China and meet with those Sisters. After receiving their religious vows, she gave them the Crucifix. Meetings were held in private homes, always hoping to escape the watchful eye of the Communist authorities. Life for Christians is very hard. Our sisters live a clandestine life in small communities. They often change residence and speak in code. They teach, do social work, suffer and pray. One of our sisters was teaching in the seminary of the Patriotic Catholic Church, but she was discovered and fired. In Vietnam and in Cambodia vocations are also blooming."

*(E-mail from a Salesian Sister to Fr. Secondo)*

## **WHICH FREEDOM ?**

It has been reported that the director of the Sakkarov Center in Moscow will stand trial for hosting a display of blasphemous art and will likely receive a prison term for insulting Christ and the Orthodox Church.

"The ordination of men to the priesthood is not merely a matter of practice or discipline within the Catholic Church, but rather, it is part of the unalterable Deposit of Faith handed down by Christ through his apostles."

*(Card. O'Malley of Boston on declaring the excommunication for a recent attempted ordination to the Priesthood of three women)*