



# St. Anthony of Padua Mission

SOCIETY OF ST. PIUS X

July 8, 2005

The Home of  
Traditional  
Catholicism  
in North Jersey™

Mass Location: VFW Hall, 45 Plymouth Street, Fairfield, New Jersey

## *First Anniversary*

## *The Passing of Reverend Father Paul A. Wickens (1930–2004)*



**Pastor: Rev. Fr. Greig Gonzales**

(in residence at: St. Ignatius Retreat House, 209 Tackora Trail, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Telephone: 203-431-0201)

**Mass Schedule**

Sunday – 10:00 AM  
Holy Days – To be announced

**Confession**

Confessions are heard prior to each Mass.

**Other Sacraments, Sick Calls, & Pastoral Visits**

Please contact Fr. Gonzales at the Ridgefield retreat house (203-431-0201) for information regarding Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Sick Calls.

**Contact Us:**

24-hour information: (973) 954-7350  
Web: <http://www.latin-mass.net>

*O God, Who didst will that Thy servant should flourish with the sacerdotal dignity in the apostolic priesthood, grant, we beseech Thee, that he may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Thine apostles.*

*For every high priest taken from among men, is ordained for men in the things that appertain to God, that he may offer up gifts and sacrifices for sins. Neither doth any man take the honor to himself, but he that is called by God.*

—Hebrews 5:1,4

## A Short Biography of Reverend Father Paul Wickens

Rev. Paul A. Wickens was born and raised in the Roseville section of Newark, New Jersey, one of nine children by saintly parents. Fr. Wickens attended St. Rose of Lima grammar school and Seton Hall Prep and University.

After 6 years at Immaculate Conception Seminary (Darlington, N.J.), he was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955 by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland. During his seminary training, he had the great blessing to be instructed by holy and militant men such as Bishop George Ahr, Bishop Justin McCarthy, and Monsignor Thomas Powers.

### First Assignment

Upon ordination, the young Fr. Wickens was assigned to St. Venantius Church in Orange, New Jersey. The next 28 years (under Monsignor Peter Kurz and Fr. Carl Merzena) were busily spent, not only as a parish priest but also as chaplain for Orange Memorial Hospital, New Jersey Orthopedic Hospital, and Whitehouse Nursing Home. He was also a parochial school teacher, youth director, athletic coach (basketball, baseball, and football), and Cana conference moderator. Besides the usual daily Masses, Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and convert instructions, Fr. Wickens found time to serve as the police and fire chaplain for the city of Orange.

### Aftermath of Vatican II

In the years following the problematic Second Vatican Council (1965 ff.), Fr. Wickens gradually became aware that the “changes” in the Church were causing a wholesale loss of souls. Everywhere, genuine Catholic life was lessening: marriage breakups became frequent; schools, convents, and seminaries were closing (to be sold off) at an accelerated pace. A whole generation of Catholic youth was deprived of its religious heritage. In fact, some new-breed priests and nuns *encouraged* young people to forego humility, chastity, and obedience. Catholic parents, who had always given good example, became puzzled and sorrowful: How could this moral decline have entered their homes?

What caused all this damage? Obviously, the enemy (i.e., heresy and moral relativism) had sowed his evil seed through diocesan pulpits and classrooms.

But the greatest victory for Satan was this: the Traditional Latin Mass — the faith of our fathers — was *thrown aside* for a new, “updated,” so-called “liturgy.” The “New Order of Mass” (aka *Novus Ordo*) invaded the sanctuary. What a disaster! The *Novus Ordo* is man-centered, *not* God-centered. The new liturgy is scarcely a reenactment of the Holy Sacrifice of Calvary. It is virtually devoid of grace. The tabernacle was placed off to the side; communion in the hand and other disrespectful practices diminished belief in the Real Presence. As a consequence, unbelief and immorality became unbridled.

### Classroom Sex Education

The final straw — or, as author Randy Engel noted, *The Final Plague* — was the devilish promotion of classroom sex education. It was bad enough that Catholic bishops en-

ergetically lobbied for this perversion into the public schools. But when these same New Jersey bishops mandated the sex ed in *Catholic* schools (from kindergarten through Grade 10), Fr. Wickens called a press conference to express the outrage of Catholic parents.

### The Liberals React

The local modernist bishops (Bps. Gerety and McCarrick) immediately moved to punish Fr. Wickens. His salary, pension savings, hospitalization, stipends, and all temporal resources were taken away. Fr. Wickens discovered that recourse to civil and ecclesiastical courts was futile, because both judicial systems were in league with the liberal prelates. Every attempt for a fair hearing was met with a summary dismissal. No testimony, no witnesses, no depositions, no opportunity to present both sides of the dispute. Although John Paul II personally invited Fr. Wickens to concelebrate Mass with him in the Pope’s own chapel — obviously, a sign of solidarity and support — the Vatican was afraid to oppose the affluent Newark bishops.

So be it! “God will provide” — and He *did* provide.

### Origin of an Apostolate

The heavy-handed persecution was a blessing in disguise. A door had been closed, but God opened a window. Fr. Wickens discovered a well-kept secret — namely, that there are hundreds and thousands of Catholics who are determined to resist the harmful changes and to maintain the true Catholic Faith.

The founding of St. Anthony of Padua parish was the result of the faith and zeal of these courageous Catholics. Unafraid of the opprobrium hurled at them by modernists, they remain faithful to tradition. Their love of Jesus

Christ and their love for their families has taken priority over any sacrifices of times, distance, or persecution.

The words of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, echo in our hearts:

Blessed art thou when men persecute you for *My* sake.  
Your reward shall be great in heaven.

The great St. Anthony of Padua has been our constant guide and intercessor.

We pray that more and more people will say “no” to liberal Catholicism and embrace once again the *true* Catholic Faith — the faith of our fathers and of the saints and martyrs.

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**Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of the elect of God and the acknowledging of the truth, which is according to godliness: Unto the hope of life everlasting, which God, who lieth not, hath promised before the times of the world: But hath in due times manifested his word in preaching, which is committed to me according to the commandment of God our Saviour.**

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—Titus 1:1-3



## ***The Truth About the Changes at St. Anthony's in West Orange***

### ***Why did hundreds of faithful parishioners leave St. Anthony's in West Orange?***

St. Anthony's was established as an independent Traditional Roman Catholic Church — i.e., not affiliated with the Archdiocese. The Board of Directors — contrary to its written correspondence of August 15, 2004, and its repeated verbal assurances to countless parishioners — appointed a diocesan priest as “pastor” of the church in West Orange. Despite what some may have been led to believe, this priest reports directly to the Archdiocese.

Deeply saddened by the insult to Father's memory, hundreds of faithful parishioners strongly disagreed with the actions taken by the Board — and so they left.

### ***So what's so terrible about bringing in diocesan priests?***

Anyone who follows the news knows about the appalling and staggering scandals infesting the modern Church. Father Paul Wickens was one of the few courageous priests to speak out against this horrific scandal. The parishioners who left wanted nothing to do with a corrupt Archdiocese.

### ***Didn't the Board of Directors say that it wasn't handing over the property to the Newark Archdiocese?***

Whether or not the property is in the possession of the Archdiocese, few would argue that the spiritual direction of the West Orange church is now in the hands of the Archdiocese and its Novus Ordo priests. These are priests whose vocations were formed under “the spirit of Vatican II” and its ambiguous, distorted view of the Catholic Faith.

In sermon after sermon, Father Paul Wickens decried the corruption (both spiritual and moral) of the Newark Archdiocese. He repeatedly warned his faithful to avoid the *Novus Ordo* and its influences. “Remember,” he said, “if you hang around with smokers, you'll end up smoking.”

The Board members think that they negotiated a great deal because they still (for now) control the property. They just don't get it: lay-controlled churches are not Catholic! Period!

An interesting question: Why would the Archdiocese supply priests for St. Anthony's when there is a shortage of priests? What do they hope to gain? Or do they just want their “foot in the door,” in the hope of eventually gaining full control? (By the way, if the property is eventually sold to the Archdiocese, who will receive the \$2–3 million for which the property undoubtedly will sell?)

### ***Isn't it true that the Board appointed a diocesan priest because no other priests were available?***

No! According to the Board, the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) offered a priest for two years with “no strings attached.” The Board chose to reject that offer — purportedly because the SSPX priest would not physically reside in the rectory. (Ironically, it is our understanding that the rectory at the West Orange church — after extensive and costly “renovations” — is still not occupied by the Archdiocesan pastor.)

By rejecting the SSPX offer, the Board also eliminated the possibility of the SSPX establishing a traditional elementary school at the West Orange church, something for which Father Wickens had often hoped.

### ***Why didn't Father Wickens just decide what to do with St. Anthony's?***

The West Orange church was established as a religious corporation under New Jersey law, Title 16. Because of this legal structure, Father Wickens could not legally determine

its future — only a legally-elected Board of Directors could make those decisions.

### ***What would Father Wickens have done?***

Some say that Father Wickens would have wanted to stay independent; some say that he would have wanted to turn the chapel over to the SSPX. In the last four months of his life, Father seemed to vacillate between these options.

There are, however, countless parishioners who would testify that Father Wickens, in his final days, told them in no uncertain terms that he wanted the West Orange church turned over to the SSPX, “lock, stock, and barrel” — because, as Father said, “they are the only ones who can guarantee the stability and continuity of the Chapel.” In an interview several years ago, Father again expressed his desire for St. Anthony's to affiliate with the SSPX upon his death (listen to the recording at [www.latin-mass.net](http://www.latin-mass.net)).

Father Wickens reportedly handwrote a “Last Wishes for the Chapel” in March 2004, in which he stated unambiguously that the West Orange church and all properties were to be turned over to the SSPX upon his death. This document was legally witnessed by Father John Cordaro and several other eyewitnesses. The present location of the “Last Wishes” document is unknown.

On June 16, 2004, Bishop Richard Williamson was in West Orange to administer Confirmation, per Father Wickens' longstanding relationship with the SSPX. At the Confirmation, Bishop Williamson related how he had seen Father in the hospital earlier that day — and how Father Wickens had begged him: “**Don't leave my flock orphans.**”

### ***Didn't the Board of Directors play a tape in which Father Wickens supposedly said he wanted John Perricone (of the Newark Archdiocese) to “take over”?***

Many who listened to that tape believe that it was extensively edited. Why were parishioners not permitted to hear the entire tape, rather than just edited excerpts?

In that tape, Father Wickens NEVER said that Fr. Perricone was his one, “hand-picked” successor.

If Fr. Perricone was Father Wickens' “good friend,” as has been suggested, why did Father Wickens never once mention his name to any of us? Where was Fr. Perricone when Father Wickens desperately needed a priest to say Mass in the months before he died? Where was Fr. Perricone at Father Wickens' funeral Mass? There were many priests who filled in over the years for Father Wickens, but never Fr. Perricone.

### ***The Board said that it did what Father Wickens would have wanted.***

Those who knew Father Wickens for 10, 15, 20 years or more knew that he had utter contempt for the ongoing corruption in the Newark Archdiocese: it had maligned and impugned his good name for years. The Archdiocese called Father (and his flock) schismatic, disobedient, and worse. Their false praise for him, now that he is dead, is reprehensible, diabolically opportunistic, and a disgrace to Father's memory.

Those who knew Father well, knew that he NEVER would have entrusted the souls of his flock to the corrupting influences of the “Newchurch.” The simple fact is this: Father Wickens could have “reconciled” with the Archdiocese at any time prior to his death, had he desired to do so — but he rejected their terms as too modernistic and unacceptable.

## Background and History of St. Anthony's Parish

St. Anthony of Padua Mission, currently located in Fairfield, New Jersey, was founded by the faithful followers of the late Father Paul A. Wickens, former pastor of the church that was known as St. Anthony of Padua in West Orange, New Jersey.

Father Wickens' wisdom, leadership, and perseverance were a source of great inspiration to his faithful followers for more than two decades. Over the years, the former St. Anthony's parish grew from a small group to a large, strong, and thriving Traditional Catholic congregation.

All of that changed on July 8, 2004, when Father Paul Wickens passed away after a 6-month fight with cancer.

Those who knew Father Paul Wickens for 10, 15, 20 years or more — and who listened to his sermons every

Sunday — remember quite vividly his warnings about the *Novus Ordo* church. Father Wickens repeatedly warned about the loss of faith and extreme danger to our souls — and to our children's souls — that would result from ongoing association with the *Novus Ordo* church. He was gravely concerned about the ongoing and widespread homosexual influence that has infested the priesthood and rocked the modern church with its scandals. Constantly warning the faithful members of his flock, Father Wickens particularly singled out the Newark Archdiocese.

In November 2004, the management (the "Board of Directors") of the West Orange property appointed a new pastor, an employee of the Newark Archdiocese — the same corrupt diocese that Father Wickens had warned against for many years. This appointment was in utter contradiction to Father Wickens' last 20 years of public ministry, and against his explicit, public, and oft-expressed wishes for his Chapel to become a part of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX).

The appointed pastor subsequently brought in other diocesan priests to the West Orange church, thus further cementing the diocesan control over the church building.

Under this atmosphere of scandal and secrecy — and with the corrupt Newark Archdiocese given spiritual control of the former St. Anthony's parish — it was the last straw for the faithful of that congregation. We knew it was time for us to be in a truly Roman Catholic parish with complete fidelity to the traditional Mass, dogma, and unchanging Magisterium of the eternal Roman Catholic Church.

And so, *to honor Father Wickens' memory and carry out his final wishes*, St. Anthony of Padua Mission of the SSPX was established in Fairfield, New Jersey. We invite all faithful Traditional Roman Catholics — and all Catholics who are curious about the eternal and unchanging traditions of the Church — to join us in celebrating the Roman Catholic Traditional Latin Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Mission.

### What Did Fr. Paul Wickens Teach?

#### "When I am weak, then I am strong."

For which cause I please myself in my infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ. **For when I am weak, then am I powerful.**

—2 Corinthians 12:10

How many of us remember Father counseling: "Persevere in a quiet way"? Father knew that St. Paul had the right answer — to decrease pride, vanity, and self-aggrandizement, and to increase in the love of and reliance upon Jesus Christ.

#### "Cast your bread upon the waters."

**Cast thy bread upon the running waters:** for after a long time thou shalt find it again.

—Ecclesiastes 11:1

Father knew that the example we set is seen by others not only as an indicator of our character, but as a gauge against which to measure the value of Traditional Catholic Faith. The more *caritas* we employ toward others in the name of Christ, the more we help to bring souls back to Him.

#### "Come and see."

And Jesus turning and seeing them following him, saith to them: What seek you? Who said to him: **Master, where dwellest thou? He saith to them: Come and see.**

—St. John 1:38-39

One of Father's most beloved and self-explanatory quotes from Scripture. He wanted all people to come to the Traditional Mass, to see Our Lord in the true and Blessed Sacrament, and to return to the rightful worship of Him.

Father frequently talked about the roadblocks facing the Traditional movement — many of them internal. As he said many times, "The Mass is the only thing that matters!" To honor Father Wickens and to continue his work diligently and with charity, we must:

Be weak (in self) so that we may then be strong in and for Christ. Cast our bread upon the waters, and be the good example that Father exhorted all of us to be. And to all we meet who are in desperate need of the True Faith: invite them to *come and see*, as Father always did.

*When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion.*

—St. John Vianney, Curé of Ars

### Directions to St. Anthony of Padua Mission (VFW Hall, 45 Plymouth Street, Fairfield)

**From I-80 eastbound (Morris County & points west):** Exit 47B (The Caldwell/Montclair) to US-46 East. Take jughandle for Clinton Rd/Plymouth St.

**From I-280:** Exit 1 (New Rd.) to US-46; right onto US-46 East. Take jughandle for Clinton Rd./Plymouth St.

**From I-287:** North/South to I-80 East. Follow directions for I-80 eastbound.

**From I-80 westbound (Bergen/Passaic Counties):** Exit 52 (The Caldwell/Fairfield) to US-46 West. Approx. 4 miles past Willowbrook Mall, right turn onto Plymouth St.

**From Garden State Parkway:** Exit 153B, then NJ-3 to US-46 West. Approx. 4 miles past Willowbrook Mall, right turn onto Plymouth St.

**From N.J. Turnpike:** Exit 16W, then NJ-3 to US-46 West. Approx. 4 miles past Willowbrook Mall, right turn onto Plymouth St.

