

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

CHRISTMAS 2010



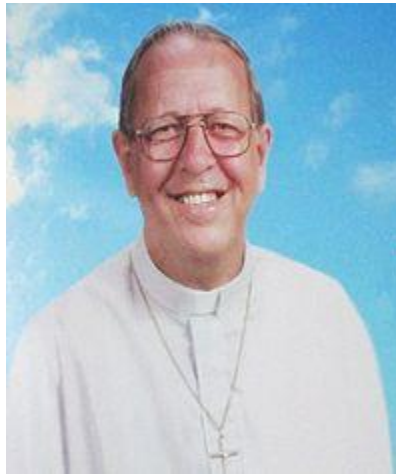
Back by popular demand! Pope Benedict and his papal Christmas blessings.

And YES, it really is a real photo and not photoshopped!

Opening of the Canonization Process for Fr Emiliano Tardiff

On October 31, the Church began the formal canonization process for Fr Emiliano Tardif, a world renown priest in the Catholic Charismatic renewal.

Fr. Emiliano Tardif was born in June 1928 in Quebec, Canada. He joined the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Quebec at the age of 21 and was ordained a priest in June 1955. In September of 1956 he left to be a missionary in the Dominican Republic.



He was first a teacher at a seminary; then the editor of a magazine for families. In 1965 he became Superior of his Congregation in the Dominican Republic, then the Provincial until June 1973, when he fell ill with pulmonary tuberculosis. He returned to Canada to the tuberculosis hospital in Quebec. Following several medical tests doctors told him that there was only a slim chance that after one year of treatment he might be able to leave the hospital.

He recalled "after all those tests were taken on me, even before the physicians started to give me treatment, I received a visit of five lay people from a charismatic prayer group in Quebec. They came and prayed for me in my hospital room and the Lord healed me thoroughly within three or four days. I left the hospital in perfect health!"

After that he got involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and took part in retreats and conferences. He received the charism of healing, which he said was "a wonderful instrument from the Lord to accompany my evangelization work." The next year, 1974, he returned to the Dominican Republic, where he worked in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which led him to preaching in 66 different countries on five continents.

He said "The Lord has given me one message only -- I have to proclaim that Jesus is risen; that he is present in the Eucharist; that he has forgiven us. This message will never change, because the Gospel does not change. But, I do try to present that message differently. To a world which speaks of Jesus dead I shout 'Jesus is Alive.' And Jesus confirms this by clear signs. With priests I try to speak more of the spiritual life, but to ordinary people I tend to give the one message 'Jesus is Alive.' All over the world, the Lord manifests his glory by signs and marvels, reminding today's world that Jesus is alive in his Church and still has the same power and the same mercy for those who are suffering."

Fr Tardif died on 8th June 1999 in Cordoba in Argentina, while conducting a retreat for priests.

Conversions, Healings and Miracles with Fr Tardif

This is a highly edited account of some of what happened when Fr Tardif returned to the Dominican Republic after he was healed and baptized in the Spirit. It comes from his book "*Jesus is Alive*".

Initially he was sent to the town of Nagua in 1973. It was a well known haven for brothels and prostitutes. Tardif told parishioners of his healing and began praying with people. Two were healed immediately. He started a prayer meeting where others also began to be healed and come back to the Church.

During a parish retreat, he led a healing service. The first word of knowledge about a woman being healed of stomach cancer had no one come forward and say it was them. The next night of the retreat a woman came to the microphone and said it was her. She was a prostitute and was standing behind the fence outside, afraid to enter. When she heard the word of knowledge she knew it was for her. She had stomach cancer, had been through two operations, and had been told that the doctors could do nothing further for her. She was healed!

She went back and told her friends. Soon she started a women's prayer group among her former colleagues. More and more joined her. Soon only four of the twenty one brothels on the main street of the town remained. As conversion swept through the women, some of the former brothel houses became places where prayer groups flourished. Many of the women became catechists and evangelizers in the church and the surrounding areas. Their witness was very powerful.

But the Lord had just begun. In 1974, Tardif was asked to substitute for an absent priest for six weeks in a small village, Pimentel. When he got there he immediately announced that he would have a prayer meeting the next Wednesday and that he would tell everyone about his healing.

About 200 people showed up at that first meeting. After he told his story, the people brought a man who had been paralyzed for over five years to him for prayer. In a situation similar to the gospel story, the man was healed and got up and began walking and then running. Ten other healings occurred that evening. News quickly spread.

The following Wednesday 3,000 people showed up! The meeting had to be held in the street as the church was much too small. Tardif preached for half an hour and then celebrated Mass for the sick, concluding with praying with people. A well known woman from the area who had been blind for ten years was healed. She quickly told others of how Jesus had healed her. Her healing and the other that occurred that night reverberated throughout the area.

The third Wednesday, the crowd had grown to over 7,000. The meeting held in the local park to accommodate everyone. There were many conversions and healings. The local police were annoyed at all the extra work and petitioned the police chief to ban the meetings. He refused. His wife had been sick for twelve years and was healed during one of the meetings. Shortly

thereafter the police chief and his wife had their marriage blessed in the church. The Holy Spirit was taking care of things in many different ways. Instead of banning the next meeting the police chief assigned an extra 18 officers to help the event.

The fourth meeting 20,000 people showed up. The altar had to be moved on to a flat roof so everyone could see and hear. And God took care of the police officers too. A policeman who had been partially paralyzed from a brain hemorrhage was healed. From that moment on, all the policemen were supporters of Tardif and the prayer meetings. There were over a hundred other healings and numerous conversions. As Tardif noted “It was like seeing the Gospel come alive!”

The fifth meeting drew 42,000 people. They came from all over the Dominican Republic and from neighboring Haiti. The place was jammed with people in the streets and on the rooftops. The healings and conversions continued just as before.

After this, Tardif announced that there would be no further meetings but that people should start prayer groups in their homes and villages, preaching the Gospel and praying for the sick, just as had been done at the large public meetings. The local Catholic bishop strongly supported this.

However, the old expression that no good deed goes unpunished now came into play. Numerous critics and cynics rose up to condemn or cast doubt on what had happened. Eventually, Tardif’s superiors removed him from the country. However, this was the Holy Spirit at work as they now sent him to preach and heal wherever he was welcomed. Tardif preached in 66 countries on five continents!

As Tardif loved to say, Jesus is Alive Today!



Although many of us may not understand Spanish, here is a video clip of Fr Tardif preaching at a charismatic conference www.youtube.com/watch?v=529pakzlaro&feature=related

Wisdom from a Holy Woman

This poem was written by Mother Teresa and is engraved on the wall of her home for children in Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, People may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway