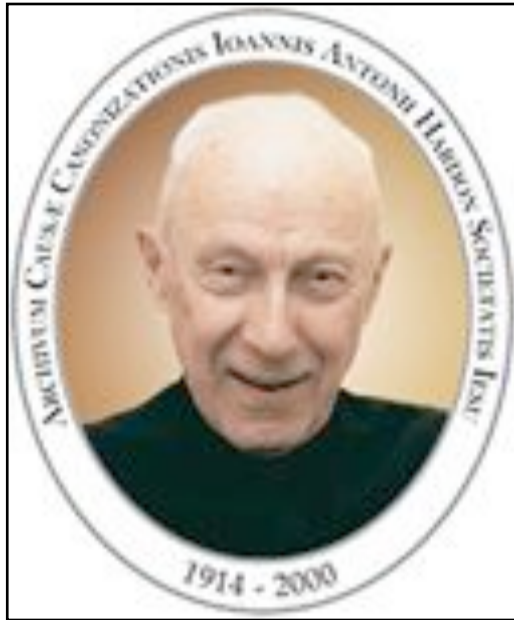


# Fr. Hardon Newsletter



## A Welcome Message

from **Rev. Robert McDermott**,

Postulator of the Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., Archive and Guild

This is the first in a series of newsletters from the *Fr. John A. Hardon S.J., Archive and Guild*. In these pages, it is our aim to provide readers with news, and, singular to this issue, explain the various rooms of the *Archive and Guild*.

You will also read about our recent trip to Michigan to meet

with various friends of Fr. Hardon, and also about the office blessing, performed by Archbishop Raymond Burke.

In the future, we look forward to expanding the content of the newsletter. Please contact us with any questions or comments. Blessings!

-Fr. Robert McDermott.

### A Note from the Director

I'm happy welcome you to the first edition of the the *Fr. Hardon Newsletter*. For the last year or so, as we awaited our new Archbishop, Fr. McDermott and I maintained a relatively low profile. In the process, we began setting up shop here at the *Fr. John A. Hardon S.J. Archive and Guild* in St. Louis.

With the blessing of Archbishop Carlson, we are going more public with our work. The

main objective of the newsletter is to provide updates

and news regarding the progress being made in the cause of Fr. Hardon's beatification and canonization. This issue will just give a brief overview of events of the past year.

-James Maldonado Berry



### THE FR. JOHN A. HARDON S.J. ROOM

The Fr. Hardon Room serves as a meeting room for the officers of the cause and is a suitable setting for displaying Fr. Hardon's books and personal effects, including his cincture, scapular, pocket watch and cassock. These precious items repose in three beautiful, mahogany display cases. Part of



the display also includes a brief look at the history of the Society of Jesus. Photographs of Fr. Hardon are also visible. Visitors to the *Archive* will see old photos of Fr. Hardon as a young boy, as a new priest, and later in life with Pope John Paul II, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta and many other friends.

### THE MANUSCRIPT ROOM

Another dimension of the work at the *Fr. Hardon Archive and Guild* consists in the organization of a large quantity of correspondence, manuscripts and papers. The manuscript room of the *Archive and Guild* contains hundreds of file cabinets and boxes containing important documents, all of which need to be copied and reviewed by qualified theologians. The copies made of select documents will eventually be sent to the Congregation of the Cause of Saints at the Vatican for further review. In addition, all of the written documents will be scanned, catalogued and stored on a hard drive. As you can imagine, with the vast quantity of materials, this project will take some time to accomplish!

Many are aware that Fr. Hardon maintained a prolific correspondence over the many years of his active priestly ministry. Father McDermott and I are regularly surprised by the scope and breadth of his correspondence and intellectual output.



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### THE LIBRARY

The *Archive and Guild* also houses Fr. Hardon's personal library, a collection that numbers well into the thousands. Those who knew Fr. Hardon will not be surprised by the report that he possessed a great quantity of books, which were used for his numerous writing projects. The collection of books is shelved in a large room that is equipped with a dehumidifier to ensure their protection.

When I arrived in Saint Louis in November of '07, the books were packed in hundreds of boxes that *filled two large rooms*. Over the

course of the next several months, I unpacked the books and organized them according to theme.



As many know, Fr. Hardon created the *Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan*, which consists in a wide array of selections from classics in literature, ranging from

theology, philosophy, history and fiction. These books (hundreds of them) are arranged on shelves in the library as well. There is also a section for foreign language books, old prayer books and breviaries. We have about thirty books that are one-hundred years old or older.

Eventually, all of the books will be entered into a computer program, similar to what you would find at a library.

In November, Fr. Robert McDermott, Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell and I had the pleasure of visiting Michigan on behalf of the *Fr. John A. Hardon S.J., Archive and Guild*. Fr. McDermott and I stayed at the vibrant parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius; a church that Fr. Hardon frequented on a regular basis while in the area. We are very grateful to Fr. Ben Kosnac, the pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius, for his kind hospitality during the five days we were in Sterling Heights.

Over the course of the week, we visited with several people who worked closely with the Servant of God, Fr. John A. Hardon S.J., especially during his final years. It was a great opportunity to make first contact with so many devout Catholics, all of whom expressed a keen interest in learning more about the progress of the cause, and enthusiastically offered to help in any way possible. Many of those we met in Michigan have already provided invaluable assistance, and so the visit provided us with an opportunity to thank them personally for their hard work and support.

Fr. McDermott and I also had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Robert Delaney, who writes for the Michigan Catholic. After our interview, Mr. Delaney penned an excellent article on the background of the cause of Fr. Hardon.

On Thursday morning, Fr. McDermott, Dr. Mitchell and I were blessed to be able to visit and pray at the grave of Fr. Hardon. It was the first time any of us had visited his grave and it was a memorable experience, to say the least. Thursday evening, we held an open meeting in the parish hall of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Numerous people turned out to hear our presentation on the work of the *Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., Archive and Guild* in Saint Louis. Dr. Mitchell spoke about the early beginnings of the cause, when she was first tapped by Archbishop Burke to take up the work. As the Executive Director of the *Archive and Guild*, I spoke about the events of the past two years, and Fr. McDermott spoke about the life of Fr. Hardon, and his relevance for today. He also offered a look ahead, in terms of what our plans and goals are for the future.

Personally, one of the highlights of the trip was simply meeting so many people and listening to their personal stories about Fr. Hardon. Taken together, they painted a beautiful picture of a saintly, tireless priest who dedicated all of his energies to serving Christ and His Church. We all look forward to visiting Michigan again in the future and reuniting with new friends!

Below are a couple pictures from the visit. You may view the rest of the pictures at our website: [www.hardonsj.org](http://www.hardonsj.org).

James Maldonado Berry  
Executive Director  
*Fr. John A. Hardon S.J.*  
*Archive and Guild*



OFFICE BLESSING



**Above:** Archbishop Burke offers a reflection on Fr. Hardon.

**Below:** Fr. McDermott reads from the Gospel



September 21st was an important day in the history of the *Fr. John A. Hardon S.J. Archive and Guild*. We had the honor of welcoming back to Saint Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke. The Archbishop was on hand to bless the offices of the *Archive and Guild*. About one-hundred people showed up to participate in the joyful event.

The blessing began with a solemn procession from the Cathedral-Basilica to the front steps of the office. Bishop Robert Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis, was present, in addition to Msgr. Joseph Pins, the rector of the Cathedral-Basilica, as well as several seminarians from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

After the procession and a hymn, a passage from Scripture was offered, followed by a Gospel reading. Archbishop Burke proceeded to bless the rooms of the *Archive and Guild*. He then gave a reflection on the life of Fr. Hardon, asserting that he defended the Church and her teachings “in and out of season.” The rite of blessing concluded with Archbishop Burke offering a blessing to the people.

Afterward, guests met with their beloved former Archbishop, toured the offices of the *Archive and Guild* and attended a reception that was held in the garden of the Cathedral-Basilica. It was a great day! More photos (courtesy of Lisa Johnston) may be viewed on our website.

