

Ave Maria founder finds help in Toronto for Catholic university

BY SARA LOFTSON
The Catholic Register

TORONTO
A Canadian manufacturer is hammering its nails into an oratory which will be the centre piece of Ave Maria, a brand new Catholic town in Naples, Florida that will host Ave Maria University. The town and university is the brainchild of Domino's Pizza chain founder Tom Monaghan.

Ave Maria University partnered with Soheil Mosun Limited, a Toronto-based manufacturer specializing in high-end custom fabrication and design about four years ago.

Ave Maria commissioned the Canadian company to create some of the ecclesiastical elements of the Ave Maria University oratory, including the main solid bronze entrance doors to the oratory, confessionals, the interior staircase and handrails and etched glass panes.

"We have an incredible habit of becoming an extension of our clients needs and desires," said Darius Mosun, CEO of Soheil Mosun Limited. "We actually immerse ourselves in what the customer is trying to do from an organizational, management, planning and public relations perspective."

After working together on the oratory, Mosun was asked to join the board of regents of Ave Maria University for a two-year term.

"A lot of my colleagues are the who's who in the Catholic world. It's just incredible. I think I'm probably one of the youngest and what's even more of an incredible honour is I'm not Catholic."

The 39-year-old practises the Bahá'í faith, a world religion founded 150 years ago by Bahá'u'lláh, who taught there is one God, one human family and that all religions are spiritually united.

Today five million people follow the Bahá'í faith.

Ave Maria could not comment about why it chose Mosun for its board.

"It's a policy of Ave Maria University not to make any comments regarding contractors in any capacity with the university," said Rob Falls, CEO of Robert Falls and Co. public relations firm, who deals with all media requests for the university.

Board members meet once a year to oversee the goals of the



Toronto businessman Darius Mosun is helping to build the Catholic Ave Maria University in Naples, Florida. (Photo courtesy of Soheil Mosun)

university and keep updated with the progress of the university and city construction.

"I have to be very humble about how I fit in. I'll provide my opinion and be there as a pillar through the resources of my company. I'm basically there to really learn," said Mosun.

Mosun said he brings diversity and a different perspective to the board, not only because of his different religious beliefs, but also his age.

"I'm under 40. Some of the older faculty have great ideas, but with the way technology is changing they are losing an entire segment of the population. I'm not an academic or religious scholar, but I provide an entrepreneurial approach.

"I'm very interested in working with people of different faiths.

I see it as working toward world peace; that's through being tolerant and respecting people's."

He said this philosophy has helped him win contracts to build a Bahá'í temple in Chile and the Jewish War Veterans International Memorial in Toronto.

"What I learned as a young businessman was respect and doing the very best you can with your skill set transcends cultural and religious beliefs."

Monaghan, who was also a former owner of the Detroit Tigers and is current chairman of the Ave Maria Foundation, sold his pizza chain in 1998 and donated some of the proceeds to the Ave Maria Institute, a two-year Catholic college in Michigan that grew into the four-year Ave Maria College, and now Ave Maria University.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board has published the 2006-2007 audited Financial Statements. Copies of the financial statement package, auditor's report, notes to the financial statements and the Board's Annual Report are available upon request at the:

Peter L. Roach Catholic Education Centre
1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, ON K9J 7M3 • 1-800-461-8009
or can be viewed on the Board's website
@ www.pvncdsb.on.ca under Board Information/Administration

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Employment Opportunity: COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Michael's Parish is a welcoming community, sharing faith and reaching out to all. One of our community priorities is to provide guidance and support to the young people of our parish. We are committed to the ongoing development of our parish youth and are offering the opportunity for a dedicated and motivated Youth Coordinator whose leadership will guide and enhance their faith journeys.

Full-time Position: an average of 40 hours per week, salary and benefits according to diocesan regulations

Responsibilities: co-ordinate and develop ministry to parish youth, develop and implement youth programs for high school and senior elementary school aged youth, coordinate all events and youth attended meetings, possess a willingness to respond to duties in other areas of pastoral work, conduct pastoral visits to four elementary Separate Schools and one Secondary Separate School, lead sacramental preparation (Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Eucharist)

Qualifications: person who loves the Church and celebrates one's faith and Sacraments within the Catholic community, good interpersonal and communication skills, ability to work well in a team, excellent organization, facilitation and leadership skills, willingness to work flexible hours; evening & week-ends, knowledge of sacramental preparation.

Three written references (one from the Pastor). Please indicate on a separate covering letter how your skills, knowledge and experience relate to the qualifications listed above. Forward application and resume to: Youth Coordinator Search Committee, St. Michael's Parish, London, Ontario, Phone: 519-433-6689 Fax: 519-433-2301. **Application deadline is February 9, 2008**

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For Love of Others

The more I know of love,
the lonelier I am. The more I love,
the better I am, the more I taste it, the more
it fills my tributaries, the more I am become love.

The colder I am without it,
the more the sunlight is not there, the more
I remember it, the more I wish to be "it",
and fill you, surround you.

The more I sing, the lonelier I am
to hear.
The more we become full angels,
the more deafening God's music is,

The more I speak to heaven,
the more I want my voice to be part of the
body that sings.

The more I lose an arm, a leg,
And move towards you
the more I wish me useless to myself
for you,
my loved one,

my compatriot, my world.

(Fr. Pier Giorgio Di Cicco is Poet Laureate for the City of Toronto. His work is published by the Mansfield Press, www.mansfield.net.)



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Clarification

In a Sept. 18, 2007, article, "St. Francis Table offers dignity for 20 years," we listed the names of the two founders, Frs. Terry Boland and Neil Thompson. We could also have mentioned Anthony Muhitch as a member of the Capuchin Franciscans at the time who helped the founders in their work.