

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER'S END 2008 NO. 103

SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
sgg.org traditionalmass.org

FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

For us in the Church, it is an almost natural instinct to turn to St. Joseph, “patron saint of all those dedicated to labor” (Pope St. Pius X) when our country marks the end of summer with Labor Day. Once again this year the Holy Helper St. Giles yields to great St. Joseph whose votive Mass we sing that Monday. May he bless both our labor and our rest.

For many, Labor Day marks the end of summer rest and the resumption of work, with winter soon on its way, and school doors opening. At St. Gertrude the Great, rarely is there so clear a demarcation. In addition to the regular round of feasts (especially our beautiful Assumption celebration with its Children’s Day, Procession, pontifical Mass and First and Second Vespers) and devotions (such as the Thirteen Tuesdays of St. Anthony, with prayers, meditations, and weekly veneration of his relic) we have managed to get quite a bit of work done!

Sacristy storage rooms (one accumulates a lot) have been cleaned out and reorganized and much work has been given to the planning of the new school year, and the preparation of next year’s calendar. Father Cekada has, as usual, been keeping an eye on the finances, as well as writing. In addition to the Sunday Bulletin, each week we prepare a program of hymns and devotions for each Sunday Mass, which enable the faithful to follow with us. Oh, we do keep busy!

Thus, we are especially grateful to the young German priest who has just graduated from Bishop Sanborn’s seminary. Father Markus Ramolla was ordained at St. Gertrude last November, and will be assisting us here as well as at St. Clare in Columbus, and teaching in our school, supervising the sacristy and servers, and...

After three years, Father Oscar Saavedra leaves us to be pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Detroit. We hope he will continue to visit us, and work with our boys. His Summer Camp in July drew over



On July 5th, Bishop Dolan assisted at Father Paul Schoonbroodt’s Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination in Belgium. Our new assistant, Father Ramolla, (far right) functioned as the deacon during the course of the Mass that was offered at Father Schoonbroodt’s beautifully appointed Sacred Heart Church.

thirty from several states, and went beautifully – such a benefit to those boys!

A good number of young people made a retreat this July in Florida, the girls with the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the boys at the Seminary. Work with youth has been necessarily neglected over the years, but now we are able with greater numbers, to dedicate more to this important apostolate.

In early July I went to Europe for a particularly pleasant pastoral visit, occasioned by Father Paul Schoonbroodt’s Golden Jubilee of Ordination. This pastor of a little town in western Belgium refused the new religion, and was “excommunicated” for his trouble. Father has built a beautiful little jewel of a church dedicated to the Sacred Heart, and as well pursues like a young priest an extensive apostolate which takes him to Holland, France, the Czech Republic, and even up to Sweden! It is an honor and an edification to know so noble, and youthful, a priestly soul.

I myself visited not only Belgium, with a little pil-

grimage to Our Lady's apparition shrine of Banneux, but also France. I always like to visit and encourage the good Sisters of Our Lady of LaSalette at Crezan. I made a private visit to Father Barbara's chapel at Tours, (It's hard to get people to turn out in the summer, due to travel); a visit to Provence to receive and confirm a convert, and an excellent little visit to the chapel of the indefatigable Father Roger at Rennes. There I met with clergy and prospective seminarians, and did manage a Mass with a good attendance of faithful.

Although there is much work here at home (work often, alas! neglected) a bishop must never forget the Master's admonition: "encourage your brethren." Thus these occasional visits are "worth it" in every sense, and I thank those of you who kindly and regularly contribute to make them possible.

One last summer project: a bit of France in our corner of West Chester, Ohio. Our talented workers have finished a very handsome Lourdes Grotto from the rock found in abundance on our property. The grotto, with a little waterfall and pond, is already quite striking and will provide a pleasant oasis of prayer once Our Lady and St. Bernadette arrive.

Well, there you have a bit of our summer's work. I wonder if autumn will be more restful?

May St. Joseph bless your work, and lead you to love Our Lady of Sorrows this September, and the Cross.

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan

Father Saavedra's dedication to his apostolate of directing youth was demonstrated again by the zeal and enthusiasm he exhibited in conducting the annual summer camp for young boys at St. Gertrude the Great. Over thirty boys were present for the three day event. In addition to the benefit of daily Mass, the boys participated in numerous outdoor activities as well as being afforded the opportunity to develop new friendships. (Below) Father Saavedra gives a spiritual talk at the campsite.



Bishop Dolan greets and encourages the faithful outside St. Pius V Chapel in Rennes, France, following Mass on July 9th. To Bishop Dolan's left are Father Romero, Father Ramolla, and Father Giles Roger (vested in surplis).



Again this summer we were pleased to have the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas visit St. Gertrude the Great to conduct a day camp for our girls from August 21-23. (Above) The girls get a music lesson from Sr. Mary John. (Below) Father Selway poses with the Sisters and the girls.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE SISTERS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS?

Please write to them at:

**SISTERS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
20120 BARNETT ROAD
BROOKSVILLE FL 34601**