

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2008 NO. 105

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

FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Advent began this year, as is our custom, with an austere church and elaborate ceremonies to mark the blessed season of His coming. We processed and sang and blessed the Advent wreath. Many of the faithful will be observing the wonderful customs of this season at home, too, as well as with us at church.

November began with All Saints, and little saints charmed us on the Sunday within the Octave. All Souls was marked, as indeed all of November, with requiem Masses and prayers for the Holy Souls. Our annual cemetery rosary procession fell on a bitterly cold Sunday which tested the mettle of our charitable faithful.

On November fourteenth we began our annual Forty Hours Devotion, during which we celebrated our thirtieth anniversary, the Feast of St. Gertrude the Great, and the ordination anniversaries of two of our priests, Father McGuire and Father Ramolla, who both were ordained in our “new” church, now five years old.

The attendance continued strong through the weekend, and we prayed for all our friends and benefactors, as well as for the needs of the Church at large during these dark days of the victory of the “communist abortion fanatic” (as Bishop Sanborn rightly styles the new president) and the weekly heresies and scandals coming from Ratzinger’s Rome. Still, who would not be cheered and at peace in the presence of Jesus in the Sacred Host, or holding His Mother’s beads in hand?

Much cause for thanksgiving has come our way from the goodness of Providence through Our Lady, and it was a joy to honor her Miraculous Medal on Thanksgiving Day. If we honored her more, and would only use the gifts she has already given us, surely we would all be rejoicing in the miracles of grace.

This Advent we are printing and sending our annual calendar, as well as gathering sacramentals to send to our Nigerian Catholics. (They are rejoicing, too, as they are sending us two vocations for our seminary.) We also hope to be collecting and sending clothes to our poor Mexicans at Father Mardones’ chapels. We “loan” Father Saavedra each year to Father Siordia at Cocoyoc in Mexico for the



We observed the Forty Hours Devotion this November 14-16 at St. Gertrude the Great Church. (Above) Bishop Dolan gives the closing Benediction on the evening of the sixteenth, the feast of our patroness, St. Gertrude the Great.

great fiesta at New Years of Our Lord of the Expiration, which draws thousands of people.

We have been blessed with sweet mild days of St. Martin’s summer most of November. The sunny weather makes outdoor work easier as we continue to beautify our grounds. Our Lady of Lourdes is now in her grotto, and Mary Help of Christians presides over the Mary Garden in front of the school. Soon we will be putting up a beautiful Calvary scene next to the grotto. The young ladies of our school are enjoying the good weather as they pursue the classical art of archery each week.

I thank you for your interest in our charitable work and apostolate at St. Gertrude the Great, where, as Our Lord told St. Mechtilde, you will truly find Him in the “heart of Gertrude;” that is, the tabernacle, the monstrance and the Mass, as well as in all we preach and teach and do for His glory.

A blessed Advent, and a most holy Christmas to you all.

Yours in Mary Immaculate,

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan

A BUSY MONTH OF NOVEMBER AT ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT!



On the Sunday within the octave of All Saints the annual All Saints Procession and Party were held. As is the case every year, many fine costumes were on display and unique presentations were made. A festive autumn party and reception capped off the pleasant Sunday morning!



As is the custom with our school children, the All Soul's Cemetery Procession was observed on November fifth. This year our new assistant, Father Markus Ramolla, accompanied our students, faculty, and homeschoolers.



On a bright and balmy November afternoon, Bishop Dolan blessed our new pet fish which live in the pool directly in front of our recently installed Lourdes grotto. Also blessed that day were a beagle and three kittens. A perfect example of the food chain for the budding zoologists at our school!



(Above) The opening procession our Forty Hours Devotion. Father Ramolla, assisted by Fathers Cekada and McGuire carries the Blessed Sacrament. (Below) On day two of our Forty Hours we observed the Feast of St. Albert the Great, secondary patron of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati with a solemn Mass sung by Father Palma. Assisting Father Palma were Fathers Ramolla and McGuire.



Christmas Novena
of Masses



REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES AT THIS HOLY SEASON IN A **NOVENA OF MASSES** BEGINNING ON CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH.

Please use the enclosed envelope.

