

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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## PASCHALTIDE 2009 NO. 108

SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069  
[sgg.org](http://sgg.org) [traditionalmass.org](http://traditionalmass.org)

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### FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

On Saturday, April twenty-fifth, we kept the Greater Litanies, as is our wont, in procession and song. It is my firm belief that if we keep the feasts and fasts and holy observances of our fathers, that Heaven will keep us. This has always been our experience at St. Gertrude the Great.

As we were processing along, praying all the Court of Heaven for every possible need, it occurred to me how much has happened in just over a month. A month before it was the Annunciation, observed with high Mass and Vespers and afternoon Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, particularly for the pro-life cause. I had only just returned from an especially smooth and fruitful pastoral trip to Mexico a day or two before. (Father Saavedra, marooned in Mexico for months with INS red tape – he has since been cleared to return to the United States – was a great assistance to me throughout the visit.) On Our Lady's Day, God called my mother into eternity. Then followed the funeral in Detroit and Passiontide, time for last minute preparations for Holy Week.

The donkey came back this year and so did some of our seminarians. They were all most welcome. Father Ercoli's sublime singing voice, joined to our already expert choir, made for a magnificent Matins and Lauds, or Tenebrae as they are called. All the other customary features of Holy Week: the consecration and sending of Holy Oils throughout the world, the Maundy or Foot Washing, the Sepulcher or Altar of Repose, Mass of the Presanctified, the Seven Last Words, the five hour Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday with Baptism and Confirmation, all were celebrated utmost care and devotion.

Finally Easter dawned as we chanted our last Lauds after the very short Matins of that morning. Many people joined our own parishioners at the beautiful Masses that day. A handful hung on for the Octave, the Church's true way to celebrate her great feasts.

A few days of rest have now led us into St. Joseph's Solemnity and Our Lady's glorious month of May. Again the children will gather at her altar every afternoon to sing her litany and to hear a few words about one of her wonderful titles. Soon it will be time for May Crowning and the



*Flanked by palms, Bishop Dolan addresses the faithful on Palm Sunday during the course of the elaborate and Bugnini-free pre-1955 rites.*

first of our Fatima Rosary Processions, May thirteenth.

You are invited to our annual Our Lady of Consolation pilgrimage on Friday evening, May eighth. Services begin at 5:00 P.M., and the weekend concludes with the crowning of Our Lady of Consolation after a procession in her honor on Mother's Day.

Quite a bit has indeed happened here, and we are so grateful to you for your interest and support. Father Cekada is working intensely on two books, as well as "minding the store" here, and teaching our future priests each month in Florida. Father Ramolla's first year as a teacher is drawing to a close, although his many labors will continue. I am consoled each day to consider that we are all of us united at the altar and its majestic Sacrifice most of all. Be sure of a remembrance there each day in the *Oblatio Munda*.

May Our Blessed Mother inspire you with a true devotion to her and make you an apostle of souls. It's easy: Hand out Green Scapulars, or hide them, and say once each day for yourself, and for those who cannot or will not pray: "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Amen!

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



*Leading the Palm Sunday Procession again this year were the popular donkeys. While not strictly required by the rubrics, these humble beasts of burden did remind us of this year's Lenten theme at St. Gertrude the Great Church—humility.*



*The Deacons of the Passion chant St. John's account on Good Friday while Bishop Dolan, assisted by Rev. Mr. Julian Larabee of Most Holy Trinity Seminary, reads it silently.*



*(Above) Bishop Dolan blesses Holy Oils on Holy Thursday morning. (Below) The Maundy or Washing of the Feet, takes place every Holy Thursday afternoon at St. Gertrude the Great Church. This service is very popular among our families with young children.*



*On Holy Saturday morning a catechumen had the regenerating waters of Baptism poured over his head making him a Christian. Following the reception of this most necessary of all sacraments, the neophyte was inducted into Christ's Army when he was confirmed by Bishop Dolan. At the Mass of the Vigil that followed he received his First Holy Communion.*



EACH YEAR ON **MOTHER'S DAY** A SPECIAL HIGH MASS IS SUNG AT ST. GERTRUDE'S IN HONOR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND FOR OUR OWN MOTHERS, LIVING AND DECEASED.

*Please use the enclosed envelope to have your mother remembered on the altar on Mother's Day.*

Even if your envelope is received late we will, however, make the intention to remember all the names on the way on Mother's Day. Do not hesitate to send your request in.