

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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

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## FROM BISHOP DOLAN

### ASCENSION OCTAVE

How well the world and the world agree. Memorial Day Weekend, the world's "official start of summer holiday" fell here in Cincinnati with fitting heat and humidity on Friday, May twenty-second. It just *felt* like summer, and "Dame World" (as Pius Parsch called her) was thinking shorts and barbeques and trips. Mother Church had something quite different in mind.

In church and in Catholic homes the beautiful May Altars furnished with fresh flowers, and the focal point of daily devotion to the Mother of God, still spoke of sweet spring. Our Lord had just gone up to heaven, accompanied here by the clear voices of children who sang our high Mass for the holy day, as well as by our internet congregation from around the world. (Consult the schedule at sgg.org also for Mass times and you can assist as well by clicking on the "Live Mass Simulcasts" link found there).

Our faithful and students, having that week made the three Rogation Days with their Lesser Litanies and procession, as well as the holy day, and May Devotions, might well have been tired, and looking for a little rest. Still, Holy Mother Church raised her voice, as mothers will and reminded us of work to be done. Who would sing the solemn "Veni Creator" for the Pentecost Novena? Was the miracle worker for despaired of cases, St. Rita of Cascia, to be forgotten? What of daily May Devotions, to say nothing of the august Sacrifice of the Altar? No, not yet, it is not yet summer at St. Gertrude the Great.

Indeed, we look at it the way St. Felix of Cantalice (May 18) did. He would pray all night in church until the Fathers came to choir for Matins. Only then would he take his rest, knowing that Jesus would not then be left alone. There is strength in numbers which cancels out the weakness of the flesh, and makes for true beauty in holiness.

These thoughts frequently come to mind as we wend our way through the liturgical year, so grateful for the



*As is our custom at St. Gertrude the Great Church, the sacrament of Confirmation was administered by His Excellency Bishop Dolan following the Pentecost Vigil service and Mass.*

help of many with ceremonies and observances, as we really are so few to meet before the throne of God.

### CORPUS CHRISTI

These days of Corpus Christi we are honoring the Holy Eucharist with daily Mass before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, as well as daily Sacred Heart devotions. We "reluctantly" let our school children go for the summer on Corpus Christi, so edified are we all with the beautiful daily school Mass. We look forward to seeing some of them still for weekday Masses, as well for St. John's Eve and Bonfire, Father Saavedra's excellent Boys' Camp, (July twenty-first through twenty-third,) and our Girls' Camp in early August.

We are looking forward to the next priestly ordination on July first, at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Fraser, Michigan. Several priests from foreign lands will be attending. These holy events are so very encouraging for both priests and faithful.

We had a particularly joyful Pentecost, both the Vigil and the Pontifical Mass and Confirmations, and the feast itself. After the font is blessed, making Baptismal Water

to serve until next Easter, the celebrant is directed to stir the Holy Oil and Chrism into the water, using his right hand. His hands are then purified and washed, and a few minutes later they are covered in red gloves for the Pontifical Mass. The gloves came off at the Offertory, and the hands were again washed, but I noticed that the sweet scent of the Chrism (which is made with balm on Maundy Thursday, and solemnly blessed) lingered throughout the Mass and Confirmation and several hand washings.

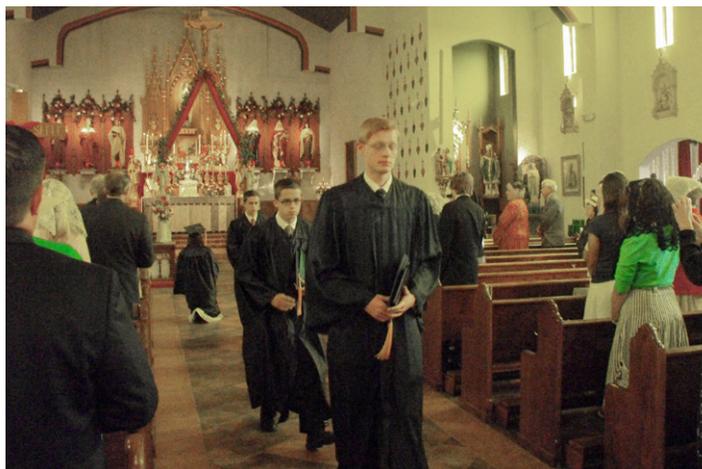
“And why should it not be so?” I thought later. The hands of a bishop, what sweetness – and strength – they spread throughout the Church. Consider the consecration of Holy Oils, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, and all of the sacraments which follow upon this one, and all of the Sacrifices of the Mass, rising up to heaven “for an odor of sweetness” still today from throughout the world, from Ukraine and Poland to Perth in Australia. This is all the work of the Holy Ghost, through the hands of a bishop. Pray for your bishops and priests.

Speaking of hands, this bishop lost the help of one of his “right hands” for several weeks, when our Father Ramolla broke his right arm one Tuesday in May. Thank God his recovery is progressing, and should soon be complete, permitting him to take his place again at God’s holy altar.

Be assured of a remembrance at the altar for you and your intentions, and infinite recompense in return for your interest, prayers, and alms in support of our work.

Yours in the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



*Trinity Sunday, June seventh, was observed with the graduation of one of our high school students and three eighth graders. This day marked a new beginning for both classes, and we wish them success and perseverance. Family, friends, and parishioners then gathered in our parish hall for refreshments and socializing.*



*You can't have May without the traditional procession honoring Our Blessed Mother. Pictured above are some of our young altar servers carrying an image of Our Lady of Consolation which was to be crowned in church upon the conclusion of the outdoor procession.*



*The Solemnity of Corpus Christi was observed with the usual solemnity. Our new Lourdes Grotto was the site of the outdoor Benediction this year. The faithful gathered on the spacious and verdant lawn as Bishop Dolan, assisted by Father Cekada, prepares to bless the crowd with the Holy Eucharist which is enclosed in the jeweled monstrance. (Below) Our First Communicants pose in front of the Lourdes grotto with Bishop Dolan, Father Cekada, and Father Ramolla following the Mass and Procession on Corpus Christi.*

