

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

ADVENT NO. 112

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

FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Our Advent this year begins with St. Andrew the Apostle and continues with one of the greatest apostles of all time, St. Francis Xavier. I have much news for you, but I want first of all to tell you of one of our singularly apostolic priests, and his true missionary journey to exotic and far off Nigeria.

I ordained Fr. Carlos Ercoli, a native of Argentina, to the holy priesthood in October, 1998, at Verrua Savoia, in northern Italy. Of late, Father has been living at Most Holy Trinity Seminary (Support it! It is our only hope for the future!) and serving as a missionary priest, well, throughout the world. Last summer he visited Australia, and this fall, Nigeria, at the same time that I visited Europe, France in particular. My trip “had its moments” as they say, but his was full of genuine danger.

Several years ago some enthusiastic young Catholics contacted me from Nigeria. They had read the excellent articles of Bishop Sanborn and Father Cekada, and wanted to be affiliated with us. Already, they were organized into several groups throughout the country, and met for study and prayer.

But how to serve them? I asked dear, devoted, Father Eldred Leslie to go to them, and he did so twice, despite every difficulty of distance and age. It was only his bloody murder last January at the hands of some poor soul, whom he had helped, which ended his selfless missionary career. Now Father Ercoli has resumed his work, with your financial and spiritual aid. Let Father Ercoli tell you of his trip in his own words:

“Thank God my trip to Nigeria went very well. About fifty to sixty people attended Mass and all of them went to Confession and Communion at least once. They were very happy to have the Sacraments. I was surprised by their interest to address all kinds of subjects concerning faith and morals, and some of them made a long journey only for that purpose (24 hours on a bus on those terrible roads!).

Needless to say, there are many of them who think about the religious life. I tried to encourage them to persevere and pray



The Feast of All Saints was observed at St. Gertrude the Great with due solemnity and with help from some little “saints” of her own. Bishop Dolan and Father Cekada pose with the children in the parish social hall during the course of the annual All Saints Party.

for vocations, that when they have their own priest everything will be easier. I think there is a lot of work to do.

On the other side you can imagine the food and accommodations were very poor, though they managed to provide for me the best they could; I honestly cannot complain about that.”

Augustine Mary, our intrepid local coordinator, completes this little report with these glowing words about our devoted missionary:

“Father had only spent seconds in Nigeria and he was already spurring us to improve our situation by making necessary sacrifices and to start building churches and spreading the faith. May Our Lady increase our financial blessings, and we’d be there in no time. Father has a most remarkable missionary spirit. And of course, he is most willing to return.”

Of all possible patrons, Ireland’s own dear St. Patrick is in charge as well of Nigeria, a tribute to the many Irish priests and sisters who evangelized this land. Please pray for our good Argentinean who continues this work today. Already it is bearing fruit: We have two Nigerian seminarians at Most Holy Trinity Seminary. What a blessing in the

midst of our battles in this land to do just a bit of good for the missions abroad. And may St. Patrick himself reward your generosity!

Meanwhile, stateside, autumn in West Chester flowered in the regal golds of Christ our King with Forty Hours Devotion for His feast, followed soon by All Saints and All Souls. Then came St. Gertrude the Great, and a novena of rosaries, as we already celebrated our sixth anniversary in our new church.

Last month I urged you “Be humble. Excuse your neighbor, and pray for him. Speak little and pray much.” Those who would not heed these words have risen up in revolt of late, and caused us here no little grief. Please keep on praying and being humble, and keep us in your prayers. May Mary our good Mother keep us all; friend and foe alike, in her loving care, and prepare the way for her Son into countless hearts this Christmas.

Yours in Our Lady of the Missions, Mary Immaculate,

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



(Above) Father Ercoli reads the Gospel in the vernacular to the faithful Nigerian Catholics. Though the make-shift chapel is quite humble, the same august Sacrifice we witness in our beautiful churches was renewed on the altar and the Bread of Life called down from heaven to be given as nourishment for their souls. (Below) What a beautiful sight... the missionary surrounded by his flock that hungers for the Church's sacraments and sacramentals. Though deprived for months on end of a priest of their own, these impoverished children of God keep the faith by their dedication to prayer, study, and sacrifice.



HELP **Most Holy Trinity Seminary** TRAIN FUTURE MISSIONARIES WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Send your contribution to:

Most Holy Trinity Seminary
Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn, Rector
1000 Spring Lake Highway
Brooksville FL 34602



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.