

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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## FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

If we knew the lives of the saints better, surely we would do a better job imitating them in our lives. But there is more than challenge awaiting us in each day's saint. There is comfort to be found, as well, a comfort often is short supply in our day, which uncannily resembles the day of today's Saint, Basil the Great, who defended the true faith during the Arian heresy.

Even before his Episcopal consecration St. Basil was already a sick man and once compared the state of the Church, The Body of Christ, to his own:

*"My ill-health has now returned again, and again I lie on my bed, tossing about on the anchorage of my little remaining strength and ready at almost every hour to accept the inevitable end of life. The churches exhibit a condition almost like that of my body: for no ground of good hope comes into view, and their affairs are constantly drifting toward the worse..."*

Of course, there was the constant attack of Arianism from outside the church, but as well the heart-breaking lack of unity or even charity from within:

*"The bees fly in swarms, and do not begrudge each other the flowers. It is not so with us. We are not at unity. More eager about his own wrath than his own salvation, each aims his sting against his neighbor."*

St. Basil was a great towering figure of orthodoxy, and a big personality in his own right. Sometimes, perhaps, he may have been wrong in his practical decisions, but his was always a profound humility. St. Jerome and others accused him of pride and a certain imperiousness, but he simply did his duty as he saw it, with absolutely no human respect..

Even Pope St. Damasus was suspicious of him. No wonder St. Basil could see very little good come of his efforts. But he often, and humbly, ascribed this to his sins rather than the faults of others. "For my sins I seem to be unsuccessful in everything." Nevertheless, his strong will, placed at the service of God, persevered, when he must



*As an answer to many prayers, dark and rainy skies gave way to sunshine and the occasional cumulus cloud by mid-morning of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Following the reception of First Holy Communion by a dozen of our youngsters, the annual outdoor procession in honor of the Blessed Sacrament was held on the grounds of St. Gertrude the Great Church. (Above) Bishop Dolan blesses the two hundred faithful who participated in this traditional act of piety at the altar erected at the site of the Lourdes grotto.*

often have wished to retire to one of the monasteries he had founded. (He is the father of Eastern Monasticism.) He did not. He persevered. "His life demonstrates that perseverance is just another name for success," as one modern writer phrases it.

Before we express an opinion in the condition of the Church in our day, or prognosticate on her future, we would do well to study a little the life of today's saint. At the very least, we will be comforted, but probably also confounded. These two fruits seem fitting for St. Basil, for he is honored as the "Doctor of the Holy Ghost."

Cardinal Newman provides us an excellent summary of the man and the bishop:

*“From his multiplied trials he may be called the Jeremiah or Job of the fourth century ... He had a very sickly constitution, to which he added the rigor of an ascetic life. He was surrounded by jealousies and dissensions at home; he was accused of heterodoxy in the world; he was insulted and roughly treated by great men; and he labored, apparently without fruit, in the endeavor to restore unity and stability to the Catholic Church.”*

Let me conclude with a few words about our own church.

Our busy days in the sanctuary have now concluded in the Church, and we here at this church and school are left full of gratitude for Confirmations and First Communions, hours and hours of Solemn Eucharistic Adoration and many Communions of Reparation for the Sacred Heart.

Father Cekada is busy these days concluding his teaching year at the seminary, and traveling the “book circuit” to promote his excellent Summa of the New Mass, **Work of Human Hands**. Please make a point to support the apostolate of Catholic truth by getting your hands on one or more copies of this unique and supremely readable work. Give it to others. Talk it up and promote it.

Our young priests are busy traveling and serving the missions and the sick now that the school year is over. Father McGuire is preparing to accompany me to France for the ordination of the Abbé Guillaume Hecquard on June 27 (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) at St. Pius V Chapel in Rennes. Confirmations, a First Mass celebration, and pilgrimages are scheduled as well, with a view towards encouraging the remnant church in France.

Your financial assistance makes such trips possible, and helps to support our poor priests in the missions, who depend upon your charity to spread the wealth of the true Catholic faith.

May the Sacred Heart inspire both and reward your persevering generosity!

—The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan

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**Supplemental Commentary on Work of Human Hands:  
A Theological Critique of the Mass of Paul VI  
by Rev. Anthony Cekada**

The purpose of this blog is to continue the discussion centered on the comparison of the pre-Vatican II Mass with the Mass of Paul VI, and in so doing, to draw Catholics beyond questions of ritual and aesthetics to an understanding of how the new rite of Mass destroys Catholic faith and Catholic piety.



*In addition to observing the pre-1955 liturgy, the Vigil of Pentecost saw the administration of the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Gertrude the Great Church in West Chester, Ohio.*



*The cornerstone memory of all Catholics... receiving Our Lord for the first time in the Holy Eucharist. (Below) Despite an early morning downpour, our Corpus Christi procession went on as scheduled as skies cleared.*

