

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

JUNE NO. 125

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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

In the Epistle of the first Sunday of this month of the Sacred Heart, St. Peter urged everyone, very succinctly; “be prudent and watch in prayers.” As I prepared to preach on this text for what was also our proud Graduation Sunday, I researched the sense of these opening lines and of the whole Epistle. This wisdom has haunted me ever since.

As we approach nearer the End Times, someone will always be issuing his own personal predictions, perhaps of a date, perhaps of the downfall of a church or institution. At times this is done by some Protestant preacher with great publicity, as we saw last month. More often, even Catholics are drawn in by the “doom and gloom” murmuring, fervid whispers of the few, which disturb the peace of the many, and rob us of that stability our children, and our souls, so need.

St. Peter, for his part, urges us not to waste time and breath on such silliness, which has never yet proven correct, save as a self fulfilling prophecy of destruction upon the heads of those who panic first and pray later.

Instead of spreading stories of imminent disaster, stockpiling guns or gold or turnips, we Catholics are to anchor ourselves, with all stability, in the sense of the Epistle for the Sunday within the Octave of the Ascension: “Live wisely, and keep your senses awake to greet the hours of prayer.” “Wisely,” one priest explains, “so as not to be deceived by stupid predictions (2 Thess. 2.2)”

The prayers referred to by St. Peter are the Church’s public prayers, her liturgy, says Mgr. Knox. Do you see how fidelity to Sunday Mass, as well as sacred seasons and the many observances throughout the year are not only an obligation but also ballast for us in a crazy, ever changing world?

It was ever thus. It was by fidelity to the fixed hours and days of public prayer that the Church and individual Catholics survived and thrived through all of the upsets not only of the Dark Ages, but of every age. Consider the civilizing works of the monks, made possible by the sta-



Recently Bishop Dolan traveled to Spokane, Washington to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to some of Father Kevin Vaillancourt’s flock of faithful Catholics. As usual, exceptional hospitality was shown to His Excellency by the clergy, religious, and laity of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Assisting Bishop Dolan, in addition to Father Vaillancourt, was Father Kasik who is standing at Bishop Dolan’s left.

bility of their vowed life of prayer. The wandering missionaries in the upper Midwest (I think of Bishop Baraga and the early Jesuits and Dominicans) toting their heavy Totum about with them, (the Divine Office in one volume) were no different. See them, too, slowly civilizing savages by means of Masses and sermons, Vespers and chant and catechism, processions and blessings, all in their fixed and regular schedule, the Church’s year and Sacred Liturgy, and the world’s hope still today.

Marvel with me at this great work, not yet finished. Heed the first pope’s admonition to give your time and energy “prudently, to prayers” and thus escape, soul intact, the destruction worked daily by murmuring and whispers, and stupid predictions of silly sheep without a shepherd.

Pray this summer. Pray with your family. Join us in prayer!

Yours in the Sacred Heart,

–The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan

“BE PRUDENT AND WATCH IN PRAYERS...”



...by participating in processions and chanting hymns and canticles as was done on Palm Sunday (and is repeated frequently throughout the liturgical year.



... by praying for the souls of the faithful departed. Those who have died are not forgotten by our students and faithful of St. Gertrude the Great.



...by participating in (above) the somber liturgy of Holy Week's Sacred Triduum or (below) the joyous and triumphant Adoration and Mass before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during Forty Hours' Devotion.



... by holding Graduation Exercises that are attached to liturgical worship. This year at St. Gertrude the Great, following the Sunday high Mass within the Octave of the Ascension, our graduates received their diplomas and then gave thanks to Almighty God for all blessings received by singing the “Te Deum” with the clergy, choir, and congregation.



REMEMBER DAD ON **FATHER'S DAY** AT A SPECIAL HIGH MASS WHICH IS SUNG AT ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT IN HONOR OF ALL OUR FATHERS, LIVING AND DECEASED.

*Please use the enclosed envelope to have your father remembered on the altar on Father's Day, **June 19th.***

From time-to-time the mail is delayed. *We will, however, make the intention to remember all the names on the way on Father's Day.*
Do not hesitate to send us your request.