

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER OHIO 45069
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

I think I could call this month's report: "From here and there." I spent three Sundays "over there" in France, while the Fathers and faithful were quite busy here, at St. Gertrude. I returned from my charitable mission on the afternoon of St. Francis of Assisi, in time for our annual Forty Hours' Devotion.

September saw, as usual, Sorrowful Mother Sunday on the 18th and the blessing of the sick in her honor. (Give us the names of your sick anytime to pray for. Send an offering for a candle in Our Lady's honor even, if you'd like.) That afternoon "a good time was had by all" at the parish picnic with Fr. Cekada and Fr. Larrabee.

Meanwhile, I was trying to juggle the many keys of a good assistant pastor, for I had really come to help replace Fr. Romeo, gone on home visit to Argentina; although "bishop's work" came up regularly as well. I covered the two morning Masses myself, and preached in perfectly appalling French to the patient people of St. Pius V Church in Rennes, capital of Brittany. It takes me awhile to recover my French on these trips, and jet lag drags me down as well. All in God's time! The faithful were most understanding.

"Anymore," as they say, our young priests here are praised for their preaching in my absence. This always brings a hearty *Deo Gratias* to my lips, as this is the point, isn't it? One day they must themselves assume the responsibility for these things.

During my weekdays there were daily Masses with little sermons, invitations and dinners out, the inevitable appointments, a conference for young people, a visit to the school. On Saturday the 24th the Brother Louis-Marie kindly drove me all across France to Savoy to visit the Curé of Ars Chapel that Sunday for Mass in Chambéry, and then off very quickly to the Convent of Clos Nazareth at Crezan, near the center of France, Nevers. I spent a few happy days with the sisters, who were glad of the opportunity for daily Mass, Sermons, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as they have no resident chaplain. Such needs....!

Meanwhile, children were blessed at St. Gertrude for Angel Sunday, and the Angelic Host was duly honored the start of their month. Soon it was Michaelmas, with a solemn high Mass for the Prince of the Angelic choirs.

The following Sunday Fr. Larrabee blessed roses before Mass at the beautiful Lourdes Grotto, and the Rosary Confraternity processed, blessed roses in hand, into Church for the Mass of the Rosary. I sang the same Mass back in Brittany that day. It was beastly hot, "St. Michael's summer" they call it. Still, I think the sun was welcome after many weeks of gray skies.

I learned that the weather in Brittany is similar to that of the Ohio Valley – humid and overcast much of the year. This is sinus weather, and Fr. Roger and I both suffer from it from time to time. This tends to slow one down a bit, but it's almost an old friend after so many years. They say penances God chooses are best...



This year's Forty Hours' theme was "Mysteries Linked." The sermons preached over the course of the three days all pointed out how the mystery of the Holy Eucharist and the mysteries of the rosary are inseparable. (Above) Bishop Dolan is pictured giving the closing Benediction.

On Rosary Sunday afternoon we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for several blessed hours. After Benediction, we went out to Fr. Roger's house or "priory" in the country, where he and Fr. Hecquard, some helpers and guests share the grounds with a great number of beasts of the air, of every sort and description, rounded out by sheep and pigs.

In this pleasant country setting I gave a conference to young married couples, and visited with some of them. They are our future, and of great importance in God's eyes. The day finished as Sundays should, with Vespers. A very tired Fr. Roger put all of his heart into singing the Rosary antiphons, and the devout faithful alternated the psalms. How God is served in that church!

I was happy to return to my own church in time for a Solemn Forty Hours Adoration the weekend of First Friday in October.

"Our two" seminarians assisted Fr. McGuire for the daily solemn Mass, and for Adoration and other assistance as well. The servers and school children and choirs and Guard of Honor all contributed their hours, and all passed peacefully and well. To God be the glory!

More, much more remains to be reported, for we do not remain long idle in West Chester. I have run out of room, however, before I have run out of good done. Let me close by inviting you to the priestly ordination of Rev. Mr. Vili Lehtoranta at St. Gertrude the Great on her feast, November 16th at 10:00 A.M. I ask also your prayers and support for our newest priest, as well as our oldest, and for all of apostolates, in this needy world of ours.

Yours in Mary Our Queen,

– The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan



The St. Gertrude the Great Rosary Confraternity held its annual breakfast on October 9th. This year's guest speaker was Mr. John Lynch, editor of Philothea Press, the publisher of Father Cekada's excellent book that critiques the new Mass, "Work of Human Hands."



The last Sunday of September saw the customary observance of "Angel Sunday" at St. Gertrude the Great Church. Father McGuire imparts the special blessing on the children following the morning's high Mass.



Rosary Sunday was a bright and beautiful autumn day in West Chester Ohio. Prior to the high Mass, at our outdoor Lourdes Grotto, Father Larrabee prayed the rosary and then blessed roses "white and red and gold" for the faithful to take home as sacramentals.



(Above) Bishop Dolan speaks at the blessing of the new cross for the twelfth century chapel of Notre Dame de Vignemont, Loches, France. Father Guillaume Hecquard assisted at the ceremony, along with his father and his brother who have undertaken the restoration of this magnificent chapel. (Upper right) The newly blessed cross atop the roof.



Classes have resumed this fall for Most Holy Trinity Seminary in Brooksville, Florida. During his first visit of the academic year, Father Cekada was able to snap a few pictures of our young men who aspire to the Catholic priesthood. Pictured above are some of our seminarians gathered in the courtyard outside the seminary chapel.