

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER OHIO
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Faithful,

I write this on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, which you might call his own personal Epiphany: "Arise, shine, for thy light is come." The Light of the World envelops this darkly zealous Pharisee, consumed with hatred for Christ, and resolved bitterly to persecute his followers. In an instant he was changed into a follower himself, soon to preach Christ rather than persecute Him in his members. By God's providence, this same light shines today, still today, all the brighter for our darkness.

"So let your light shine before men." This is the purpose of our newsletter, and so many aspects of our media apostolate. "More light, more light" the German poet Goethe is supposed to have cried just before he died. Men would die, do die daily, for the lack of this Light. Thank you for helping us to spread it. Your sacrifices count!

We place our entire apostolate of communication under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales, whose feast fell at the end of this month which shines entirely with kind, compelling Christmas light from the crib of Christ, come into this world to illumine our darkness. Thank you for your participation in our work, your prayers and your support.

January's highlight was First Friday, the Feast of the Epiphany, solemnized by the first Solemn High Mass of a convert priest, Fr. Vili Lehtoranta of Finland. After Mass, many of the faithful joined us for our benefactors' dinner, whereby we thank especially our devoted workers and volunteers. Meanwhile the customary All Night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament drew watchers to the church in humble prayer. The weather cooperated, and the attendance was excellent.

Soon school students and seminarians returned to their studies. I was soon to join them, and some of our priests, for the annual retreat, at Most Holy Trinity Seminary preached this year on the Holy Ghost and His Gifts. Father Cekada followed me, the next week and gave his monthly classes, even though ill. Much trav-



Here in Cincinnati we observed Sunday, January 29th by honoring our diocesan patron, and indeed the patron of the entire state of Ohio, St. Francis de Sales, as well as by concluding our observance of the Twelve Sundays of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The observance was capped with a little procession with her image back from its special place of honor above the main altar to its usual "other" prominent place just to the right of the Sacred Heart near our communion rail. Our Blessed Mother under this beautiful title has helped us out in many ways over the past several years.

el, but all worthwhile.

I returned to Cincinnati with our deacon, Rev. Mr. Stephen McKenna, who is spending some time with us preparing for his ordination next month in Boston, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Feb. 11th. Please keep him in your prayers these days.

I want to thank you especially for your assistance with our transportation costs, all year round. How important it is that future priests be trained, that priests not be left isolated, that the faithful be visited with Mass and Sacraments. This, too, is a work of "light bearing" against the multiple forces of darkness. Thank you for helping us keep the lights burning bright!

We close our Christmas with an especially solemn Candlemas this year, the full Pontifical blessing of the Candles, Procession and Mass. You, too, are a candle, for Christ's Lights and I send you a blessing in Our Lady of the Light. Keep burning bright!

– The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan



Our Christmas creche, which is always lovingly erected and tastefully decorated, was especially beautiful this year with the addition of several figures and a superb backdrop constructed by and generously donated by a family in our congregation. (Above) Prior to the start of Midnight Mass at Christmas, Bishop Dolan, after placing the Infant Jesus on His bed of straw, blessed the Nativity scene.



To conclude the beautiful solemn high Mass of the Epiphany, Father Lehtoranta imparted the Last Blessing on the faithful who gathered to honor our Lord on this the greatest feast of the entire Christmas season.



(Above) Father Vili Lehtoranta blesses the subdeacon of following his first solemn high Mass. (Below) Following the singing of the Gospel, Father Cekada chanted the Announcement of Easter.



"And falling down they adored Him." Just as the Three Kings of old, clergy and laity alike adored their Infant Savior and King following Mass on the Epiphany, which, coincidentally, fell on the first Friday of January this year. The usual First Friday Adoration continued all night.



The image of Our Mother of Good Counsel is incensed and venerated by Bishop Dolan following its reposition at the conclusion of the Twelve Sundays of Our Lady of Consolation.