

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012 No. 133

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

My dear Friends,

April is the month of the Resurrection, and with our newsletter I present some pictures of our glorious Holy Week and Easter ceremonies, the annual telling of the tale, both sad and splendidly glad, of the Lamb who goes to die for us, and in three days' time rises for us, to suffer and die no more.

It seems that these days the Church is destined to relive the last days of Our Lord's life, Christ's betrayal by one of His own, and the resultant Tenebrae darkness and confusion of the little Church of those first days. These days we are hearing about the coming apostasy of the Saint Pius X Society, which counts hundred of priests and thousands of laity among its followers. The leaders of this schism are preparing formally to join the One World Church, if all goes well with their negotiations.

How important it is for us, the true remnant Church, to maintain charity, and as much unity as possible with our fellow Catholics throughout the world. Divided though we may be on certain secondary issues, we should have that Christian charity which is sparked by our union in Christ, the cornerstone. This is symbolized by the striking of the stone whose sparks kindle the new fire on Holy Saturday for the Easter Vigil.

Each year at Holy Week, however, it seems that someone is striking a spark of inevitably divisive rhetoric when we come to the question of whether or not to follow the reformed Holy Week promulgated during the reign of the last Pope, Pius XII. Those who follow those changes do so in perfect good faith, meaning to obey a true pope. Those who hold that the law, once perhaps good, has now become harmful in light of what we know of the changes in the post-conciliar age, propose an equally Catholic position. There will always be discussions of this thorny topic, but reason and charity should animate them, so that God may be glorified.

The saints surely show us the way. St. Anicetus, (April 17th) and St. Polycarp couldn't agree on the ancient Easter question. (The East still observed it with the Jews on Passover.) The Holy Father prudently passed over the dispute, since neither side would budge (sound familiar?) and invited the venerable St. Polycarp, an elderly disciple of



His Excellency, Bishop Dolan blesses the faithful on a beautiful Easter Sunday morning in West Chester, Ohio to conclude the pontifical high Mass.

St. John, to celebrate solemn Mass in Rome as a sign of unity.

Later, during the Irish Easter controversy, St. Cuthbert became Prior of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne when St. Colman and his Irish monks retired, unable to bear the changes of the Roman system, in accordance with the Synod of Whitby. The remaining monks were none too pleased either, and St. Cuthbert would quietly cut off the discussion when tempers flared. He himself was sometimes attacked and insulted, but being a saint, he took it in stride.

Unity, calm, humility, charity, dear children of the Church! The saints show us the way. Even as the dangers of the present day alert us to the gravity of the situation, the grace of our risen Jesus, invites us, urges us, to constant charity, to the sweet fruit of the Pax, the paschal peace He bestows upon us.

Pax vobis!

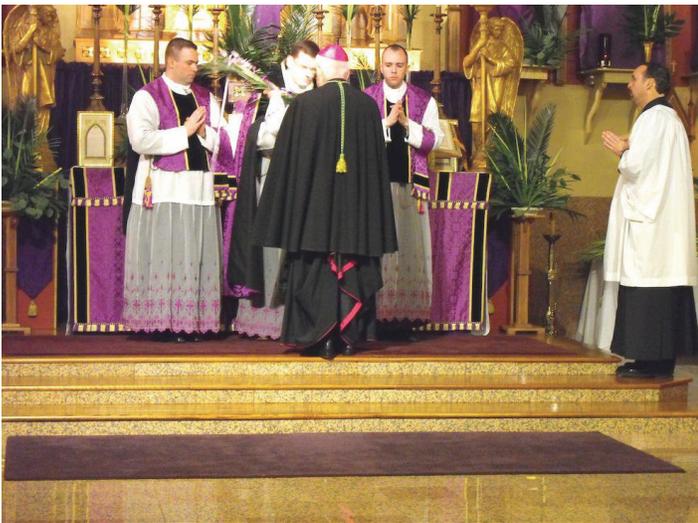
– The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan



Holy Week at St. Gertrude the Great Church was observed with its usual solemnity again this year. In addition to our resident clergy, newly-ordained Father Stephen McKenna as well as by Father Nicholas Desposito and three seminarians from Most Holy Trinity Seminary, Brooksville, Florida ably assisted. The presence of Fathers Desposito, Larrabee, and McKenna allowed us to have solemn pre-1955 ceremonies on Palm Sunday. (Above) Father Desposito blesses the palms. (Below) Bishop Dolan receives his palm from Father Desposito. The donkey again was accompanied by our children (as well as clergy and adults!) in the outdoor procession.



Among the many duties of a bishop is blessing the Holy Oils on Maundy Thursday. (Above) The Oil of the Sick, Holy Chrism, and Oil of Catechumens were consecrated at the Mass on Maundy Thursday by Bishop Dolan. (Below) At the conclusion of the blessing of the oils they are solemnly returned to the sacristy where they would later be sent around the world to the numerous priests who assist His Excellency in ministering to Christ's flock.





The moving Procession to the Altar of Repose following the Mass of Maundy Thursday is a wonderful way for our children to participate in the sacred ceremonies of the Triduum as they cast rose petals along the processional route. (Below) The Altar of Repose, lovingly erected each year by our faithful ladies as a place for our Lord to dwell until He is returned to the main altar on Good Friday at the Mass of the Presanctified.



The Maundy has become a favorite of the children at St. Gertrude the Great Church. Bishop Dolan washes the feet of thirteen "apostles" in the early hours of Maundy Thursday afternoon.



Bishop Dolan, assisted by Father McGuire (assistant priest), Father Desposito (deacon), and Father McKenna (subdeacon) carried out the mournful and ancient rites of Good Friday. (Above) Seminarian Bede Okechukwu chants the first reading. (Below) The Cross is unveiled for the veneration of all the clergy and faithful.



"They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture they cast lots." Just as our Lord was stripped of His garments, so too are the altars stripped of their "garments" following Vespers on Maundy Thursday.



Students of our school take their turn at kissing the feet of our Lord as Father McGuire presents the crucifix to them at the communion rail following the unveiling of the cross.



Father Desposito now vested in a gold dalmatic, carries the triple candle while announcing "Lumen Christi!" which means "Light of Christ!" Bishop Dolan, clergy, servers, and faithful follow in procession into the empty church. (Below) Taking the blessed fire from the reed, Father Desposito lights the Paschal Candle. The Prophecies are then read.



Since the Holy Sacrifice is not offered on Good Friday, the host that was consecrated the day before is elevated for the adoration of the faithful, and is then consumed by Bishop Dolan, thus concluding the Mass of the Presanctified.



As part of the Easter Vigil the baptismal font was blessed and baptismal was made just prior to the chanting of the Litany of the Saints and the celebration of Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday morning.



To begin the Easter Vigil, the fire and five grains of incense, which are to be inserted into the paschal candle, are blessed outside the doors of St. Gertrude the Great Church on a crisp and cool Holy Saturday morning.

Remember your mother and our Blessed Mother in a special high Mass, Procession, and May Crowning at St. Gertrude the Great Church this coming May 13th.

Please complete the enclosed envelope and return it to us.