

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE • 4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Our summer at St. Gertrude the Great has so far been a combination of traditional, *very* traditional, and “cutting edge” modern. “Conventional” would never describe our church or apostolate!

When Easter falls early as it did this year, we finish up with the great feasts by mid-June, and everybody seems ready to render the traditional homage to St. John the Baptist for his Nativity of June 24th. This very traditional observance features a bonfire. The draw for the faithful is always the popular celebration connected with the church observance. Thus, we sang a solemn high Mass in the early evening, and then organized an excellent parish cookout in our now completed cloister. The brats and sauerkraut were a big success with adults and children alike. Our numbers were swelled with dear friends from St. Hugh in Milwaukee, who joined us for the occasion, and joined in the general merriment of our “Summer Christmas.”

The high point of the evening was the blessing of the bonfire, a great roaring affair that bears witness, as did St. John, to the coming of Christ, true Light of the world. We sang the Vespers Hymn together and I blessed the fire. What a change from the other fire we go outdoors to bless – the Paschal Fire early on Holy Saturday in the chill of a spring morning. Still, we were even refreshed with a pleasant cool breeze as we kept St. John's Night in what was otherwise a true hot spell.

After some campfire singing, we all settled into our lawn chairs (children sedately seated on logs) for a fine story Fr. Cekada adapted from Rudyard Kipling. Father entertained us all with an amusing series of accents as he told us the tale of how the armadillo got his shell. The evening drew to a close all too soon, with the Rosary, and roasted marshmallows in the dark. As I returned to the blessed fire before going to bed, I noticed for a moment how it glowed ember red, and the moon above it briefly matched its fiery splendor. They were both gone in a moment, however. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

July, month of the Precious Blood and the Scapular and Charity Row for the saints, saw two successive and very successful summer camps. Two Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas joined us for the girls' camp, which numbered about fifty. We are so grateful for their edifying presence each year. Two of our young Fathers conducted the boys' camp with the help of several fathers from the parish. The children enjoyed themselves as their precious faith was reinforced those days in



Following a picnic supper on the church grounds, Bishop Dolan, assisted by Fathers Cekada, McGuire and McKenna, blesses the St. John's Bonfire on the Nativity of the Forerunner, June 24th. This event has become an annual observance at St. Gertrude the Great Church.

many ways, both direct and indirect.

But all of this is quite to be expected in many large true Catholic congregations or groups today. (And thanks be to God for this!) The curiously contemporary and “up to date” part of our apostolate embraces the spoken word and the prudent use of media today. Our summer sermons have taken us from Paula Deen and the self-identity police to spying, self-inflicted as well as federally imposed. Subsidiarity and the other great principles of the Church's social doctrine are the antidote.

While other groups content themselves with the printed word, (but who reads anymore? If you're reading this, you're in the minority) we are now using the Internet to offer both live and recorded broadcasts for the great issues of the day, classic Catholic apologetics, and devotional expositions as well. Tune into us on Restoration Radio at www.blogtalkradio.com/restorationradio. Be sure to visit as well our St. Gertrude Resources page at SGGResources.org to see how much we have to offer busy modern man of the unchanging Catholic faith and practice. Send us a little something to help support this apostolate, won't you?

I send you a blessing in the Precious Blood of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



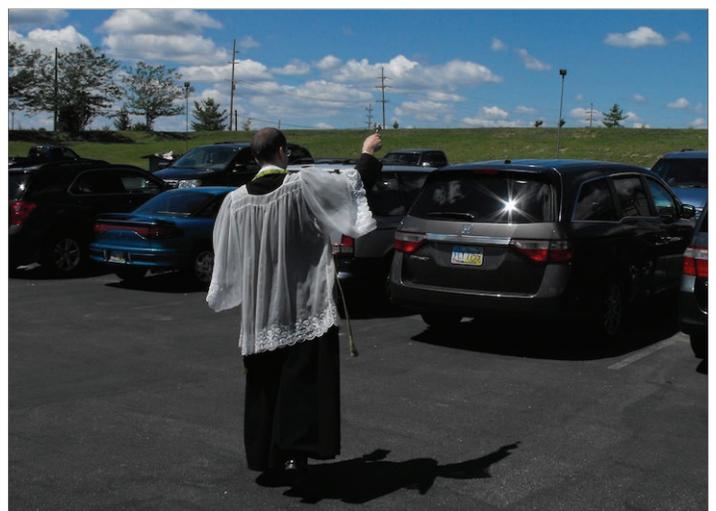
(Above) Some faithful from St. Hugh's in Milwaukee, Wisconsin joined us for a family oriented evening that included grilled sausages and all the picnic trimmings. (Below) In what has become an annual event, Father Cekada entertained our parish family with his adaptation of one of Rudyard Kipling's amusing stories.



On the Sunday within the Octave of the Sacred Heart, eighth grade graduates of St. Gertrude the Great School received their diplomas following the Sunday morning high Mass. (Above) A graduate kisses His Excellency's ring upon receiving his diploma. We look forward to working again with these graduates this fall as they embark on their four years of high school studies.



Girls' camp at St. Gertrude the Great is always an exciting and fun time. With the assistance of dedicated organizers, the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas, generous benefactors, and willing volunteers, the girls are exposed to many wonderful and varied activities and games. (Above) The older girls are given a demonstration on dressmaking by one of the talented young parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church located in Fraser, Michigan. (Below) Some of our "campers" are pictured at the hayride that was enjoyed by all.



(Above) Father McGuire blesses cars in the St. Gertrude the Great parking lot, not only for safe travels this vacation season, but for safe traveling the whole year.