

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Christmas hurries on towards its conclusion these dark wintry days which lead us to its fortieth day, Candlemas, with its feast of light, candles blessed and carried for a penitential procession and a festive Mass in honor of our Lord's Presentation and His Mother's Purification. At St. Gertrude these liturgical solemnities conclude with a warm joyful soup supper, which in turn sends our thoughts Lentwards.

But before we put the Magi away for another year, and Christmas becomes a memory, we earnestly pray that it become a reality for so many souls which sit in darkness and the shadow of death. This is the goal of the indulgenced Chair of Unity Octave each January. St. Vincent Pallotti pioneered a version of this in the Rome of his day for the Epiphany Octave, but it was an American convert, Fr. Paul of Graymoor, who gives it to us in its present form as recognized and indulgenced by the popes.

This devotion exemplifies true ecumenism which works and prays for the conversion of non-Catholics, nothing less. At the same time we ask for the gift of unity, unity founded upon Catholic doctrine, for the scattered Catholics who are left today. We are necessarily scattered, as sheep without a shepherd, our Savior says. "Sede vacante" is not a party position but an immense spiritual reality, an unprecedented chastisement, a so heavy cross, often borne in darkness.

It is true that more and more see today that Bergoglio could not possibly be pope, as this modernist buffoon is not even a Christian. But there still remains fifty years of damage done by the religion of Vatican II, the vineyard ravaged and left empty. Therefore, let us work and pray most generously that Magi, wise men, still see the star and leave the fire pots of Persia for Bethlehem's true Bread of Life.

Little sparks of light, and sometimes great, are still being struck from Christ the Cornerstone, and flying off into our cold darkness to do some good. Six years ago this month we mourned the murder of Fr. Eldred Leslie



We were fortunate to have a pontifical high Mass at midnight again this Christmas. As is our custom, Matins were chanted and carols were sung before the Infant Jesus was carried into the church in a solemn procession by Bishop Dolan before being placed on His bed of straw. Following the vesting of the bishop, the majesty of the pontifical Mass unfolded before a full church to the accompaniment of our choir and the harmonious organ played by Father Cekada. When the ceremonies concluded a pot luck was held while Lauds were recited back in church.

in South Africa, and wondered who would replace him. Now we have sent our first priest, Fr. Bede Nkamuke, as a missionary in the Dark Continent. But Africa is no darker today, really, than the other land masses, without good or valid Masses, or even one true priest for entire nations.

Here in America Fr. McKenna has opened another mission in oil-booming North Dakota, near Bismarck, and reports a slow but steady stream of converts in his missions, especially Grand Forks' zealous young chapel of St Theresa of Avila. Bishop Sanborn, unwilling to give up on Mary's Dowry, finally drew a decent crowd for a London conference. He has announced the opening of an English mission in the capitol city which once hung, drew and quartered Catholics. German Catholics have regained control of a fine church in central Munich, where the pure oblation is now offered in truth. The

same for Hungary's Budapest. Seminarians are being sent from all the world and trained the true way, no effort spared to make them true and worthy priests of God.

Fr. Cekada's indispensable book, *Work of Human Hands*, is being reprinted. A good sum for this project was raised on the Internet. Zealous lay apostles of Restoration Radio met at St. Gertrude in December to plan a new year of excellent Catholic programming, well worth the nominal subscription as you hear about Catholic teaching, controversy, history and devotions, as well as the ever popular *Francis Watch*.

Thank God and Our Lady of Light for those sparks. See if you can't catch one, cup it in your hands, and breathe it into life yourself. Blessed Candlemas!

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



(Above) While the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord garners the lion's share of the attention during the Christmas season, the Feast of the Epiphany – His manifestation to the Gentiles celebrated on January 6, is a greater feast in the liturgical calendar. A pontifical Mass marked this day at St. Gertrude the Great Church. Pictured is the incensation of the altar with Fathers McKenna and Lehtoranta assisting Bishop Dolan as deacon and subdeacon respectively, while Father McGuire functioned as the assistant priest. Also pictured is the shrine of the Magi which featured the traditional gold, frankincense, myrrh, and chalk that were blessed and then sent home with our families to be used as a sacramental. During the Octave of the Epiphany Father Lehtoranta, using chalk blessed on Epiphany, inscribed all the doorways in the school, church, and clergy residences with usual C + M + B + 2015. (Below) January 22, is kept as a day of prayer and reparation at St. Gertrude the Great Church for the horrid crime of abortion. Father McKenna offered a votive Mass of the Holy Innocents, and later that day a Holy Hour was led by Father Lehtoranta that was attended by our school children and the faithful.



(Above) December would not be the same without the usual visit of St. Nicholas. He managed to stop by on the Sunday immediately after his feast day with treats for the little ones. On the Feast of the Holy Innocents Bishop Dolan gave the special blessing of children following all the Masses and provided some interesting stories and a small gift for each child who attended the annual party held in Helfia Hall.

