

# 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,

Paschaltide always passes so quickly, wreathed as it is in joyful Alleluias, which send our prayers heavenwards. It is past time for me to share with you the triumphs of our Holy Week, as well as news of our St. Joseph Solemnity, with its solemn Mass and novena, as well as our Greater Litanies, a little bit of penance on a cold wet Saturday morning, salutary reminder that penance and prayer must travel together, if they – or we – are to get anywhere at all.

We are now in May, revving up the never idle engines of our prayer for Our Lady, and Rogations and Ascension and the great Pentecost Novena and vigil and feast. Be sure your intentions are joined to ours in all of these devout exercises.

On the last Sunday of April we all enjoyed a wonderful spring program presented by our school children, who have never been so numerous or enthusiastic before. We were all delighted and charmed by music and poetry, a good example of the arts which come out of our Faith, and reinforce it indirectly but very efficaciously in our Christian culture and life.

Our first African priest, Father Bede Nkamuke, has now returned to his native Nigeria, and is busily traveling among three or even four missions in this perilous land, which knows the reality of the persecutions perpetrated by the “religion of peace,” Mohamedanism. Still, his apostolic work continues apace, with slow but steady progress. Father has been joined by seminarian Mr. Abraham Chuku, who will complete his studies under Father Nkamuke’s tutelage, even as he offers him practical logistical assistance.

Although life in Nigeria is considerably cheaper than in our own land, the expenses are many, and it’s a scramble to meet them, even the most basic food and transportation bill. I therefore appeal to your



*The central event of the Easter Vigil is the baptism of catechumens. Following the lengthy ancient ceremonies that began the morning, the regenerating water, just blessed, was poured over the head of the catechumen by His Excellency. This simple (but most necessary) action washed away the stain of original sin. Shortly afterward, at the first Mass of Easter, the neophyte received his First Holy Communion.*

generosity for a burse for the education of a new priest. Your regular offerings for this intention, spread out over the next year and a half or so, will help establish the future of the Church in Nigeria, and see one more priest properly trained for ordination, and the Faith first brought by Irish Holy Ghost Missionaries flourishing again in St Patrick’s second land.

May great St. Patrick reward your charitable missionary zeal, and Our Lady of Knock, of the Holy Mass of our Fathers, keep your soul in the ways tried and true of our holy faith.

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan

*(Below) The Altar of Repose at St. Gertrude the Great Church, splendidly adorned, served as Our Lord's refuge from late Maundy Thursday morning until Good Friday's Mass of the Presanctified. The customary Mandatum was held on Maundy Thursday afternoon with thirteen men having a foot washed in fulfillment of Christ's command to His apostles. Following the procession from the Altar of Repose during Good Friday's somber pre-1955 Mass of the Presanctified, the Eucharist consecrated the day before is elevated by Bishop Dolan. (Top right) With the first Mass of Easter concluded, and the Lenten fast having ended at noon on Holy Saturday, Father McGuire blessed the brimming Easter baskets brought by the faithful to church.*



*(Below) The last Sunday of April was an ideal spring Sunday for our school's annual program of music and poetry. Our youngest students flawlessly performed Brahms' Lullaby on hand bells – quite a feat for the little ones! Music, (ever so important in the liturgy at St. Gertrude the Great) beautifully serenaded the audience assembled that afternoon. Familiar classical pieces were performed on the piano with popular songs being vocalized – to appreciative parents and parishioners. A delicious family style spaghetti dinner capped off the delightful afternoon!*

