

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 Faithful,

Sometimes even I wonder why we have so many devotions at our church throughout the year. Nobody attends particularly, just the same small group, although there is the odd and very gratifying surprise. Of course, too, we are happy for reinforcements come September, and happy to raise at least some of our children in the school of prayer, both liturgical and devotional, throughout the Church Year. These fortunate children are blessed by all of this prayer, as are you, because they are praying for you, and in your place.

I thought of this all summer, as we left out the box for St. Anthony petitions, and there were new ones each week. You may not be able to be with us, but it's important that your prayers should be presented to God and His saints. This is our job, this is what we do, all year long, as well as we can. We pray. Oh we're not monks or nuns, nor enclosed contemplatives, but in the midst of our activities, each day we pray. Solemnly and publicly, as well as privately and quietly, we pray.

This is important, isn't it? It is man's first duty, and sure salvation, prayer. The primary purpose of prayer is not asking, or petition, although that is what we often think of first. First we adore, then we thank, then we beg pardon, and finally, we petition. These ends of prayer are also the four things we do at every Mass, and in all of the Sacred Liturgy, such as the Divine Office. You are remembered in this prayer daily, and participate in it even if you are far away. This you can do by following on the webcast, and sending in offerings and stipends as well as prayer petitions. Lastly, you can make the intention to be spiritually united with us at the hour of Mass, and offer God to God at the altar of the Holy Sacrifice.

Just as the number of pure and true Masses, the Clean Oblation is very small, so too with devotional prayers, with novenas and tridiums said, and feast days kept. Hardly anyone observes them anymore. They seem marked for obsolescence, our beloved devotions of yesterday, crowded out of life by today's worldliness and for-



His Excellency, Bishop Dolan, blesses the faithful as he and the clergy depart the church following the pontifical high Mass that was sung at St. Gertrude the Great on August 15, the Feast of Our Lady's Assumption.

getfulness and the rest. But we do endeavor to keep them alive, because prayer keeps us alive, and is the mark of a living church, or individual soul. "Souls are lost," Our Lady of Fatima tell us, "because there is no one to pray for them."

Thus we are happy to pray for you, and in your name. But I urge you too to participate as best you may, for while it is good to pray for another, the good God demands that we ourselves should pray, and that every day. "He who prays is saved," says St. Alphonsus. The opposite also holds true.

Well, this is what we do at our church, every day and all year long, and you're welcome to ride along with us... all the way to heaven!

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



On the Sunday following the Assumption, Father Lehtoranta was able to offer a rare sung Mass at the St. Clare Mission in Chillicothe, Ohio, to the delight of the faithful. Father also used the occasion to administer First Holy Communion. Even though the Church's calendar honors St. Joachim on August 16, this particular Sunday was observed as the Solemnity of St. Clare whose feast was just a few days earlier on August 12.

Each year on the Feast of the Assumption at St. Gertrude the Great Church, the rosary is recited and herbs and flowers blessed at the outside Lourdes grotto. This year was no exception. Following these ceremonies, the procession of the clergy and faithful made its way into the church. (Above top) The children carrying nosegays of blessed flowers and herbs, placed them lovingly at the Assumption shrine erected inside the church. (Above middle) We were very fortunate to have a pontifical high Mass on this great feast. Bishop Dolan was assisted at the altar by Fathers McGuire and Lehtoranta and a full complement of altar servers. To cap off the busy Assumption Saturday morning, His Excellency administered the sacrament of confirmation to two young men. One a member of our parish here in West Chester, Ohio, and the other, one of our out-of-state Internet congregants. Our Internet apostolate allows those who are without the Mass to "stay connected" with the liturgy and sound Catholic doctrine.

September Triduum of Masses in honor of three beautiful Feasts of Our Lady

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SEPTEMBER 8TH

Holy Name of Mary

SEPTEMBER 12TH

Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SEPTEMBER 15TH

Please use the enclosed form to send us your intentions. They will be placed on our main altar at St. Gertrude the Great Church.