

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,

The month of All Saints is concluding as I write to you with our November report. Of course it is as well the month of the poor souls, of St. Gertrude the Great and our church dedication anniversaries, and the happy tenth anniversary of Father Charles McGuire, our first “native vocation,” from Chillicothe, Ohio. Quite a bit to celebrate, and celebrate we did, in many Masses, both joyful and somber, in many prayers and sacred observances.

But let us return to All Saints. The Holy Day fell on a Sunday this year, and thus it was a particularly full church which kept the feast, adding to its solemnity. The altars were covered with the relics of the saints, exposed for the veneration of the faithful. The “little saints” led us into the high Mass as we sang the Litany of the Saints. After Mass, these same costumed little saints told us their stories, as is our custom, and we guessed at their names. It’s always a delightful time, full of touching innocence and creative work as costumes and stories – even poems – were prepared.

One saint in particular has been duly honored, and fittingly so this year, St. Maria Goretti. We always pray to her during our annual Girls’ Camp, but this year her relics came to Ohio. This occasioned a proper pilgrimage to her sarcophagus in the Columbus cathedral. We began the day with the votive high Mass of the saint, with a sermon and devotions in her honor. Afterwards our school students and teachers were joined by many homeschoolers and faithful in making the trip to Columbus.

During the hour and a half drive one of our fifth grade students, Nathan McClorey, decided to make the long drive pass quickly by writing a report on it. I present to you with minimal editing, its innocent



This year on the feast of our patroness St. Gertrude the Great, our church in West Chester, Ohio celebrated two happy events. (Above) Two Sisters made temporary vows and Father Charles McGuire observed the tenth anniversary of his priestly ordination by offering a solemn high Mass in honor of that great saint of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

charm intact. It is a consolation to consider children who *want* to write, as well as to sing and serve and play musical instruments and save their souls. The work of Catholic education goes on. Thank you for your support.

A new work, one of prayer and reparation on the part of our Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation, was initiated this autumn as well, as two postulants were received, and the two founding novices professed. The Sisters strive to combine the active with the contemplative life in the best Benedictine tradition, and are a blessing to us.

May Advent bring you many blessings as you prepare the way of the Lord at Christmas.

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan

ST. MARIA GORETTI PILGRIMAGE

Nathan McClorey

I'm going on a field trip with my school to see St. Maria Goretti at a church in Columbus. On the way we pass Kings Island, farms, woods, (most of it was farms) a mall and I was getting bored so I decided to write a story, this story, and it spent most of the time. There in the distance, is Columbus. The trip was finally over an hour and a half. It took quite awhile. There were big buildings and little buildings. There were so many buildings, biggest city I've ever seen.

The church was really big. It was a tannish color and looked really old. The line was going around the church (not all the way but a pretty good distance both ways of the entrance). There was a side door for people to get out because the front was filled with people. There were probably a little bit more people because it was her votive day. There was a lot of decoration in the city. At the front of the church there were big steps leading into the church. The doors were about two people tall.

There were lots of windows, and when you got inside there were three doors. Through them was a big room with columns and on top of the doors was an organ and there were windows with saints and at a column was a pulpit and in the center of the room was a statue laying in a beautiful glass tomb. Inside the statue were her bones. I blessed my rosary and two of my holy cards and took the side door out and walked kind of far to get to the car.

In the car we said the rosary and my school mate fell asleep near the end and I woke him up. We got off of an exit and went into a neighborhood and came out (passed a few restaurants) and there was a big green reaper in front of us for a while. We passed a few more farms and stores, and got back on the freeway and sang a few songs. When we got back we got out of the car and we went into the church and waited for our parents. When my mom came she picked us up and took us home.



All Saint's Day at St. Gertrude the Great Church in West Chester, Ohio, as well as at (below) St. Hugh of Lincoln Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, saw numerous "saints in training." It is gratifying to see the care and effort made by so many busy mothers in the sewing of the wonderful costumes. At both parishes presentations were given and partys held. A good time was had by all!



Our recently acquired "new" used organ was dedicated and blessed by Bishop Dolan on Sunday, November 22, the Feast of St. Cecilia.

