

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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## FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

September, month of the Sorrows and of schools, of the Holy Cross and exaltation, closes summer and ushers in a welcome autumn. We at St. Gertrude remember gratefully two summer camps, and many Masses and feast days and processions. The Boys' Camp, ably conducted by Father McKenna and Father McGuire with the assistance of a number of *fathers*, (the other kind) drew boys from as far away as Canada. The weather, perhaps, was not all that it could be, but the campers' spirit and piety and play certainly measured up.

On September 6, we concluded our Summer Novena, the Thirteen Weeks of St. Anthony with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, especially offered for the health of Father Cekada, who is suffering from a rare form of bladder cancer. Father is now resting and recovering his strength after an exhausting summer of chemotherapy treatments. He sends his greetings and thanks to so many Catholics who have written to wish him well, and joined their prayers to ours.

September is also in a special way, Our Lady's month, and again this year we are offering four sung Masses to mark her four feast days in September. Send in your intentions at any time this month, and we will remember them at each of these beautiful sung Masses, beginning with a solemn high Mass on Our Lady's Nativity, September 8, and continuing with her Holy Name, Seven Sorrows, and her title of Ransom.

May Our Lady richly bless you this month!

– **Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan**



*His Excellency, assisted by Father Martin Gomez, addresses the faithful during the course of the Mass offered on July 16.*

## Vera Cruz Travel Journal

My third Mexican trip this year began on Thursday, July 14. Soon after I stepped off the plane in Mexico City and finally cleared the hot crowded customs hall, I was at the feet of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas, to whom I consecrated my third and latest pastoral visit to Mexico this year.

The next day after Mass we headed south, stopping for the obligatory and delightful visit to El Niño Doctor at Tepeaca, Puebla, the Holy Child Jesus, Doctor of the Sick, whose miraculous image is now venerated by so many people. The devotion to the Child Jesus is most pleasing to Our Lord, and this title in particular affords great comfort to the sick, and those who care for them. I was gratified to be able to visit these two shrines of Tepeaca and Guadalupe with all of your petitions, and a special prayer for an ailing physician of souls, Father Cekada.

But my particular destination was the church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in the village of Dos Rios, Vera Cruz State, a visit for the patronal feast. The current pastor, Father Martin Gomez, has done a wonderful work with the people, as evidenced not only by all of the progress with the church since my last visit, but also by the great number of confessions and Holy Communions, a rare grace in the south of Mexico, where popular customs suggest otherwise.

Father Hector Romero of La Reja, Argentina; an old friend, kindly accompanied me for this trip and was invaluable for his assistance in the sacristy and sanctuary, as well as the confessional. Father has worked in France for a number of years before accepting an invitation to serve a small group in southern Mexico, near Guatemala.

But the high point of the visit occurred after a particularly long and solemn “Recibimiento” procession, complete with bands and folk dancers. The customary heavy floral leis were dispensed with, but extra doses of confetti, liberally thrown throughout the procession, certainly added a festive air to the proceedings, as they lodged in my biretta, and traveled down to my shirt as well.



At length we arrived in church, and proceeded to a pontifical coronation of a beautiful image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It was grand indeed, a most moving ceremony. The Holy Child was crowned first, and then Our Lady, to the accompaniment of the “Hallelujah” chorus, firecrackers, confetti, and roses cast down from the ceiling. I think there may have been bells as well. (View the video of this event on YouTube. [https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=2xA21\\_3lkOg](https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=2xA21_3lkOg))

How fitting a tribute to the Queen of Heaven, who has lovingly protected this pueblo since the early days of its pastor Fr. Carlito Hernandez, a devout and learned man, who left all to be faithful to the true reli-



gion. Divisions, the seizing of his building fund by the Society of St. Pius X, Father’s death, the reduction of the chapel to a seeming place of punishment for priests under Trento, poverty, witchcraft and worldliness: through it all Our Lady extended her *privilegium* of protection, her Scapular, over her beloved children of Dos Rios. Thanks be to God and Mary!

The Mass followed, and then some 65 confirmations, and a parish fiesta. That evening I addressed a small group in Orizaba, after Father Romero offered Mass. It was a tiring trip, but so inspiring to consider the good done, the blessings given, even in this our age.



*Translation of the plaque: Virgin of Mt. Carmel, Mother of the Holy Scapular, take us with you into heaven and cover us with your mantle. In remembrance of the pontifical coronation of Our Mother and Our Lady of Mount Carmel by the hands of His Excellency Bishop Daniel Lytle Dolan and our pastor Reverend Martin Gomez Bravo. Queen of Mt. Carmel, pray for us. Dos Rios Atzacan, Veracruz, July 16, 2016 A.D.*