

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,

Last month we *solemnly* (is there any other way at St. Gertrude the Great?) observed the four great Marian feasts of September. In October we can only continue the theme with the Holy Rosary, and the Divine Maternity, as well as the local, but universally beloved feasts of the Purity of Mary and then Mary, Mater Admirabilis, (Admirable Mother). But go back with me to the last of the September feasts, for there is an instruction here which is not to be overlooked.

September 24 is the feast of Our Lady of Ransom or of Mercy (“Merced” in Spanish) honoring Our Lady as the foundress of the Mercedarians, who would ransom, or buy back, poor hapless Christians who had fallen into Mohammedan hands. When they exhausted their funds, those religious vowed to give themselves in exchange for one more prisoner. How timely would be this work today. Think of the 200 some Nigerian schoolgirls kidnapped, enslaved and forcibly converted by Boko Haram.

The Collect of the feast refers to Our Lady as the “foundress of so great a work for the deliverance of Christ’s faithful from the power of the *pagans*.” The Church comes right out and styles the followers of Mohammed as pagans, heathen. No common ground here, no talk about exalted ecumenism and a “religion of peace.” The old missal tells of permanent, unchanging truths. The Moslems are pagans.

The Latin word “merces” is the source of the word Mercedarians. It gives us also such words as price, reward and mercy. What a reward they will receive who are willing to give, to pay the price of



Bishop Dolan, along with Fathers Lehtoranta and McKenna recite the closing prayer following the Rosary Procession at Our Lady's October shrine.

mercy to those held captive by false and diabolical religions. You do this by your active charity, by giving.

May Mary reward you for your generous support of St. Gertrude the Great, and of the true but poor priests we support throughout the world who dare to preach the truth, and teach the unchanging faith. While our country suffers many degradations, we are still able to help liberate those held captive by sin and error. In this, our country still leads the world.

Send us your support, your Masses, and offerings especially for the most forgotten of prisoners, the poor souls in purgatory.

Yours in Our Lady of Ransom,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



With the start of the school year comes the Nativity of Our Lady. A solemn high Mass was sung on September 8 followed by the blessing of seedlings and seeds in front of our Lourdes grotto located on the campus of St. Gertrude the Great Church. Father McKenna was the celebrant and was assisted by Fathers McGuire and Lehtoranta. The customary cake and ice cream was served afterward in the parish hall!



(Above) Bishop Dolan delicately dedicated the children to their guardian angels on the last Sunday of September. Each year on this last Sunday of September it is the custom at St. Gertrude the Great Church to observe this little ceremony after all the Masses. (Below) Rosary Sunday is an "event" at St. Gertrude the Great Church. The high Mass is followed by the blessing of roses, a Rosary Procession, and a delicious breakfast that features an interesting talk. Quite the family event!



Dusk on Thursday, October 13, in downtown West Chester, Ohio, saw the last of this year's monthly Fatima Rosary Processions until next May. Both the young and the young at heart from St. Gertrude the Great Church joined Bishop Dolan in praying for peace and for our country.



All Souls Remembrance

The Catholic Church sets aside November 2nd as All Souls Day, to remember in a special way, all the faithful departed. Remember your loved ones by filling out and returning the enclosed special All Souls Remembrance envelope. In addition to remembrance on that day, the names of all those sent to us will remain on the altar for the entire month of November.

