

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017 No. 180

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## FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

August, month of the Eternal Wisdom, the Assumption, and of Mary's Immaculate Heart, marks summer's height as we lift up our eyes Heavenward following Our Blessed Mother to glory. How many saints are in her train. But by some odd and worldly fashion, summer must now be cut short. If schools had bells anymore they would peal in competition with the holy day. "Summer's over," society says. "Pack it in, so you can be done come spring."

We still keep the old ways at St. Gertrude, but I thought I had better give you a summer report just in case you are hurrying into fall. We've had a busy season with priests and missions and young people.

## SACRED HEART PRIESTS' RETREAT

Early Monday morning, June 26, I flew out to Seattle to preach a Sacred Heart retreat during the very Octave of the feast. Six priests gathered together with me for some spiritual refreshment. Father Ercoli, our organizer, met us at the airport and quickly explained the program. On the way, we discussed some of the news and the pressing issues of the day in our world. Our destination was the charming old town of Mt. Vernon, Washington. Father Ercoli has purchased the original parish church and rectory, which made a comfortable and very pleasant setting for our retreat under St. Joseph's patronage. Soon we were into our routine of silence, prayer, and conferences, based on those of the great Sacred Heart priest, Father Mateo. Every detail was thoughtfully seen to by our host, so that we could see to "the one thing that matters," our immortal soul. Many and fervent were the resolutions we offered before the Blessed Sacrament during our closing Holy Hour. We lingered over the table Thursday evening (excellent meals throughout!), catching up with our clerical confreres, before we brother priests all parted.

On Saturday I consecrated altar stones and con-



*His Excellency Bishop Dolan poses with the attendees of the Sacred Heart Priests' Retreat held in late June outside St. Joseph Church. (Front row l to r) Father Daniel Ahern, Bishop Dolan, Father Francis Miller. (Back row l to r) Father Fredrico Palma, Father Carlos Ercoli, Father Hector Romero, and Father Julian Larrabee.*

ferred confirmation at Fr. Ercoli's main chapel, outside of Seattle, a little jewel dedicated to the Holy Redeemer. That afternoon I tucked in a quick but very profitable visit to Fr. Vaillancourt's remaining congregation at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Spokane. A small group of dedicated workers, along with Fr. Gerald Kasik, are keeping the chapel going. Holy Mass and more confirmations followed on Sunday morning, with Father Stephen McKenna's kind assistance. Father serves as long distance pastor. Fr. Kasik himself has been sick, and it was so good to see him again, however briefly, over a most pleasant dinner. Sunday afternoon I visited Fr. Vaillancourt, and was happy to see him very much improved.

## QUEBEC

The very next weekend, pursuant to the insistent wishes of Fathers Ercoli and Romero, I went to Canada.

It was not the country's anniversary which drew me, but a nice sized congregation, mostly young families, who had broken with the Pius X Society in the interest of being Catholics. Such confusion is found even among their former or "resistance" clergy. I was glad to help the faithful a little, as we spent the Sunday together, with eight confirmations, two sermons, high Mass and an afternoon's casual discussions. The zeal of their long distance but attentive Argentinean priests had already assisted them considerably. We, in turn, are so edified by the love of the Faith and the spirit of sacrifice seen in these young, French speaking families. A glorious heritage is theirs.

### LOUISIANA

Nobody I know really speaks French anymore among the Cajuns I visit in the Lafayette/Opelousas area, but the old Catholic French culture may still be seen – and tasted – there. I remember though, that when I first visited them some thirty years ago, old timers would make their confession in French. Many have died over the years, and again it is a small, sacrificing group which maintains the chapel. We need some of those numerous French Canadian families! There were no confirmations, but I did accept an invitation to visit and confirm at Franciscan Father Francis Miller's much larger congregation in Lafayette this fall.

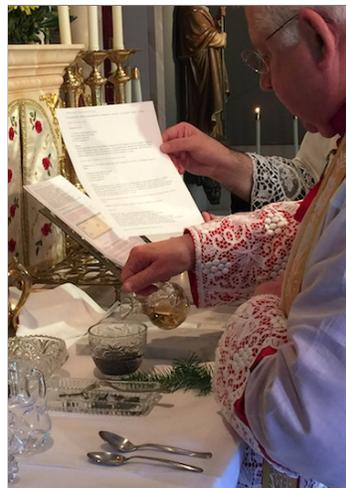
### OUR YOUNG PEOPLE...

...must not be neglected. They are our future. Father Cekada's humorous and insistent tweets drew over fifty young Catholics to the revival, after thirty years, of our Young Adult Get-Together. They've gotten together for friendship, and perhaps something more. The following week, the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas helped our local ladies with a fine Girls' Camp. Father Lehtoranta served as chaplain. The McFathers did the honors for the Boys' Camp, also enjoyable, uplifting and well attended.

Well, that's enough for a whole summer, isn't it? But I'll write again with the August report. Thank you for your interest and support, and prayers.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



*(Top to bottom) The closing Benediction at the June Priests' Retreat, consecration of altar stones by Bishop Dolan, and a group picture of the young adults who gathered in Cincinnati this past July. Can you spot the surprise guest?*