

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,

September, Mary's month in the Roman Missal, passed in a flurry of feasts and of funerals with one wedding and one baptism. On Our Lady's four great feasts—her Nativity, Holy Name, Seven Sorrows and her Mercy or Ransom, we sang the high Mass for your intentions. The fifth feast should not be forgotten today, as Our Lady of LaSalette has something to say to us. We always observe this feast with a triduum.

September opened with sunny cool weather under Marian blue skies. Our Blessed Mother's birthday was beautifully celebrated with Mass, and the Blessing of Seeds and Seedlings. We always process out to the Lourdes Grotto for this traditional sacramental. The fountain was dyed blue for our Mother's birthday, and an altar set up with the Infant Mary in her cradle, surrounded by the seeds and seedlings. A happy, holy affair which concluded with birthday cake and ice cream for all. I still must plant my blessed pansies. The weather has turned summer hot, and I'm waiting for a little coolness in the heat.

But funerals marked the month of Mary's Sorrows most of all. Paulina Strauss, one of St. Gertrude's "founding mothers," was called into eternity on September 3. For many years she was the one who did anything that needed to be done for St. Gertrude the Great and its clergy, from cleaning to chauffeuring to cooking (especially cooking!) to secretarial work to art, for she was a talented artist as well. Oh, and she did the laundry, too. God reward her many, many years of loving and faithful service. How I wish He would bless us with other Paulinas, souls so deeply devoted to the Holy Mass and the Faith it perfectly expresses. Her keen never failing love of these things both inspires and reproaches our Catholics of today.

A young Catholic man, longtime member of our church, Ryan Greenwell, died in an accident September 20, at the age of 22. He too had that special gift of a deep, unwavering faith whose quiet expression was a



His Excellency, Bishop Dolan, looks on as Father Lehtoranta blesses the seeds and seedlings at the outside grotto on the feast of Our Lady's Nativity. Each year at the start of our school year a high Mass, procession, and the blessing takes place. All are treated to birthday cake and ice cream in the social hall following the singing of "Happy Birthday" to Our Blessed Mother.

source of inspiration to his own family and his many friends. Like Paulina, Ryan lived his faith and died wearing his scapular.

Paulina, who died in her 92nd year, outlived many of her friends. But if all of those she had known and helped over the years had attended her funeral it would have been as crowded as was Ryan's, close to 500 souls. It was a beautiful tribute but we pray the many young people there that day will remember the true Mass and Faith that formed and inspired him.

What a treasure is ours! May we never forget, never grow slack or cold in the service of Almighty God. Bereavement is indeed a heavy cross, but our dear dead preach to us to our profit. Pray for them.

Yours in Our Sorrowful Mother,

– **Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan**



On August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, flowers and herbs were blessed at our outdoor Fatima shrine. The faithful were led in procession by the children (who represented the angels) with their nosegays that they lovingly pleased in Mary's tomb.

We at St. Gertrude the Great never tire of honoring Our Lady with processions and flowers. One could say it's in our DNA! (Top) A bird's-eye view of the Blessing of Seeds and Seedlings on September 8th. (Above) Father Cekada helps distribute the seedlings to the youngsters.



September 25th was a somber day at St. Gertrude the Great Church as a solemn requiem Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of one of our fine young people, Ryan Greenwell, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Lexington Kentucky where he lived while attending the University of Kentucky. His uncle, Father Denis McMahon, was the celebrant. Both Bishop Dolan and Father Cekada offered requiem Masses on the side altars simultaneously. Nearly 500 family members, friends, and parishioners packed the church, corridors, and vestibule. In your charity please remember Ryan and his bereaved family in your prayers.