

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

September has been an enthusiastic month here at St. Gertrude the Great and in the missions. We began September, the “back to work” month with a two-day observance in honor of St. Joseph, patron of those dedicated to labor. That same week we also honored the Patron Saint of the Universal Church on his First Wednesday. Surely he watches over our students and teachers in the great work of Catholic education as another school year begins. The Sacred Heart with its First Friday All Night Adoration prepared us well for Our Blessed Lady's birthday, with its own traditional sacramental of seeds and seedlings.

The choir season commenced for the Seven Sorrows. It is a grace always to celebrate Our Lady's feasts on a Sunday, as well as to welcome new young singers to our excellent parish choir. That afternoon we enjoyed our annual picnic.

Holy Cross, the North American Martyrs, and great St. Michael were fittingly observed. St. Hugh of Lincoln in Milwaukee celebrated a solemn Forty Hours, with the assistance of all the faithful taking turns adoring. Father Caleb Sons, of Phoenix joined Fathers McGuire and McKenna at the altar. As September ended, we received the happy news that “our St. Gertrude seminarians,” just tonsured in July, had received the first two minor orders of Porter and Lector at Most Holy Trinity Seminary. More congratulations.

October's days are mostly given to the Rosary and the Blessed Sacrament. Father Sons is with us for Rosary Sunday. I depart for a confirmation trip in far away Philippines. Father Cekada begins another year teaching at the Seminary. Full report to follow! Meanwhile, our Father McKenna is mostly traveling now to serve little but growing groups of the faithful. He has written a little description of our school here, which I thought you would appreciate:

“Another week rolls on by and all the staff of our school here at St. Gertrude's have been in full swing getting prepared for the start of the school year after Monday's Labor Day holiday. They have been busying themselves getting their classrooms set up, their class materials in working order, the schedule ironed out, and their classes prepared.



Upon the conclusion of the outdoor Rosary Procession on Sunday, October 6th, clergy, choir, and faithful returned to the church to offer final prayers to Our Lady of the Rosary. Pictured above is Father Caleb Sons to the right of His Excellency Bishop Dolan.

Our school is a small one, but it does so much more good than just provide a good Catholic education for the children who attend here. It is part of our much larger pastoral outreach.

“How does it do this, you may ask? Well, oftentimes our school is the quiet front page of what the world sees and recognizes as ‘St. Gertrude the Great.’ Many of the big ceremonies, processions, and devotions are assisted at by our school children. The boys have learned how to serve various liturgical functions and the girls (along with some boys) have learned to sing so well, providing us with beautiful music and Gregorian chant for our daily high Mass during the school year, which many people tune in to watch. They are also the crowd present to hear the sermons we preach each day, listened to by young and old around the world. And so, starting Wednesday, this all begins again and we hope that you will take advantage of praying with us at these Masses and sermons via our webcast and website whenever you are able.”

Be sure to send us the names of your own dear dead for All Souls' Day, and November. Join us daily in the powerful Rosary prayer, and most of all, Holy Mass.

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin was observed with the blessing of seeds and seedlings following the high Mass on Sunday, September 8th. The pansies seedlings and forget-me-not seeds (now sacramentals) are taken home by the faithful and planted. Immediately following the ceremony the children were treated to a birthday cupcake in honor of Our Blessed Mother.



A long-standing popular tradition at St. Gertrude the Great Church is the observance of the last Sunday of September as Angel Sunday. Our children are dedicated to their Guardian Angels and receive a special blessing. This year was even more special as the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel coincided with the observance .



Rosary Sunday was observed this year with a visit from recently ordained Father Caleb Sons. Father Sons offered the high Mass, which was followed by the customary Rosary Procession. Following the procession a delicious breakfast sponsored by the Rosary Confraternity was enjoyed by a overflow crowd in Helfia Hall. Father Sons then gave a very interesting presentation detailing his path to the priesthood.

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 form. 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.



October Devotions, which include recitation of the Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, and the Prayer to St. Joseph, are held at the end of each school day during the month of October.