

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER OHIO 45069  
sgg.org traditionalmass.org

## FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

February, the shortest month, this year sees Christmas end and Easter begin with the ashes and penances of Lent. I take advantage of the brief pause between Candlemas and Ash Wednesday to write to you about our news and thank you for your interest and support.

But first let us fall back to October, for I have not yet reported on my European trip last autumn. In many ways it was a difficult journey, full of sacrifices. But with the company of St. Therese of Lisieux, patroness of missionaries, thorns turned to roses. I was able to visit and encourage the good Sisters of Mary Compassionate at Donzy in France, as well as the faithful of Chambéry in Savoy. Masses were offered, and both conferences and Confirmations given. May this double gift of the Holy Ghost encourage the little groups of true Catholic religious and laity in the land of the Church's Eldest Daughter, now sadly, slowly turning Mohammedan.

Traveling from place to place I was able to stop briefly at Ars, and Paray le Monial (to which I had made a pilgrimage as a newly ordained priest) as well as to visit the tombs of Saint Bernadette and Saint Louis de Montfort. Be sure I remembered you all and your intentions at these holy places.

Finally I went to visit Fr. Roger's chapel at Rennes, not only to confirm, but also to ordain a subdeacon, the Rev. Mr. Guillaume Hecquard. It is the duty of a bishop to encourage the flock during these difficult days, and what could be more encouraging than an ordination? The Rev. Mr. Hecquard is with us now in Cincinnati, receiving his training for the offering of Mass, and administering the sacraments. I plan to return to France to ordain him to the holy priesthood in June.

Upon my return to St. Gertrude last October it was time for our annual Forty Hours Devotion at the Feast of Christ the King. These days of powerful prayer before the Blessed Sacrament prepared us for the particularly challenging and grace filled few months which were to



*Bishop Dolan poses outside with newly ordained subdeacon Rev. Mr. Guillaume Hecquard (far right), Father Rigoberto (left) and Father Gilles Roger (right) on a sun-filled afternoon in Brittany (Rennes), France.*

follow. Our Mother of Good Counsel, whose twelve Sundays we faithfully observed, never deserted us, and saw that all turned out well.

The joyful solemnities of the Christmas season left us with touching memories of so many helping to decorate and sing and serve for Christ's birth. Father Ercoli was with us to ensure a flawless chanting of the Divine Office, especially Matins for Christmas Eve, and assisted us in the missions. Two seminarians from Most Holy Trinity Seminary served as subdeacon for Forty Hours and Christmas, the first fruits of a promising priesthood. Support our seminary!

January is always a joyful month for us as we continue Christ's birth for the full forty days. Father Cekada, as usual, traveled to Florida for his monthly classes at the seminary, and I went as well at the end of the month to give the annual retreat whose theme was Devotion and Devotions.

Candlemas concluded the Church's Christmas with a particularly splendid Pontifical Mass. A bishop, four priests and a subdeacon assisted, as did an excellent turn out of the faithful. We were rewarded afterwards with a wonderfully warm Winter Soup Supper. "Behold how good it is, and how pleasant where brethren dwell as one."

Now it is time to plan our Lent, as well as my spring missionary visit to Mexico. We are dedicating this Lent to the Poor Souls, and offering our prayers and penances, and especially our Masses, for them. They, in turn, will continue to pray for and protect us all. People quickly forget the good deeds done for them, and often repay kindness with insults. The Poor Souls never so, but remember and bless their benefactors. Join us in prayer for them this Lent, and know their gratitude always.

Thank you for helping us continue the work of our church, which seeks to help the whole Church. Hear the daily Mass and Sermon on our webcast at 11:20 AM. Read the edifying Sunday bulletin at sgg.org, and find spiritual nourishment all week long.

God bless you for a truly charitable Lent!

—The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan



*Our beautifully decorated church at the Pontifical Midnight Mass, was filled with Catholic faithful who wished to adore their newborn King.*



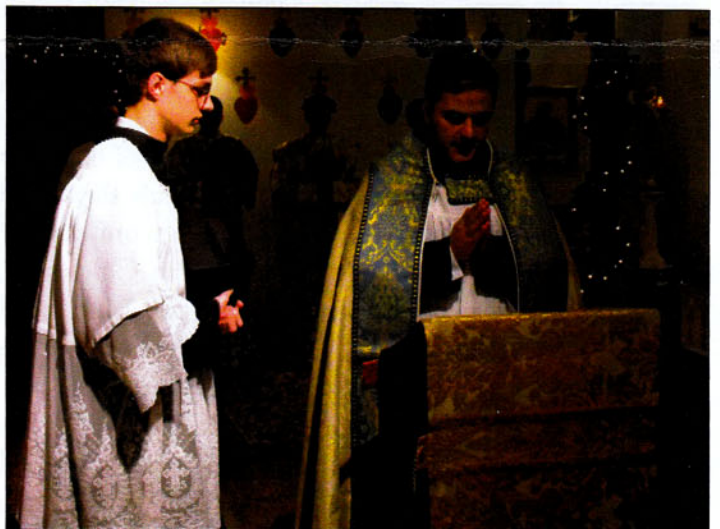
*On October 18, 2009, Bishop Dolan ordained Rev. Mr. Guillaume Hecquard to the subdiaconate at Rennes, France.*



*Our youngsters at St. Gertrude the Great surround "their" Bishop as he reads an assortment of prose and poetry during the course of the annual Holy Innocents party given in their honor each December twenty-eighth.*



*The Feast of the Holy Innocents is customarily kept at St. Gertrude the Great Church with a special blessing of the children. Bishop Dolan presents each child present that day with a special medal.*



*The announcement of Easter is beautifully sung by Father Carlos Ercoli following the chanting of the Gospel at the solemn high Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany.*