

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010 NO. 114

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

FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

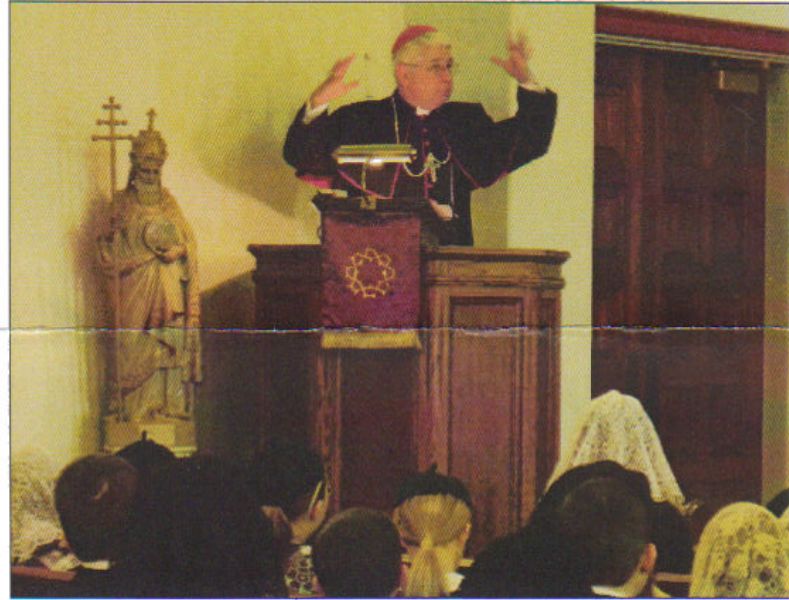
The Lenten Lesson (III Kings; XVII) from the Mass of Tuesday of the second week of Lent is so striking, and seems so well accommodated to our situation as Catholics today, that I thought I would write to you about this tale of far-off Elias and his exile in Sarephta.

Elias, prophet of Mt. Carmel and the latter day, foreshadows Christ and His Mystical Body, the Church. Israel rejects her Redeemer, and is punished by a drought. The Prophet departs from its midst, and brings God's grace to the gentiles. So today we see the Holy City deserted during this spiritual famine, and the Church in exile, and knowing hunger and want.

The widow of Sarephta is a figure of Holy Mother Church, poor and suffering, but still going, in her widows' weeds, to "gather two sticks." The saints say this wood represents the Holy Cross. With this heavenly wood, the widow mother bakes the Bread of the Angels to feed her children, by means of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which gives us Holy Communion and God great glory. "En colligo duo ligna," "I'm just gathering two pieces of wood," says the Church still today in the face of famine, and in the midst of all the loss and confusion.

As then neither bread nor the bit of oil failed, so too, in today's spiritual famine, neither Mass and Holy Communion, nor the other sacraments will fail us, even though we must dwell in a foreign land and often know want, begging for mercy to which we have no strict right. Only let us imitate the widow woman's great charity and humble obedience, then will we see how God is never outdone in generosity. Honor the person of the priest. Pray for your priests and provide for them, as once this widow did for Elias of old, and was so abundantly blessed.

Let us imitate this charity during the last days of our Lent. At St. Gertrude the Great, although our needs are many, we are giving everything to the poor souls during this season of self denial.



Our annual Lenten Children's Day of Recollection was popular among not only the children of St. Gertrude the Great but also with the parents. (Above) Flanked by St. Pius V, His Excellency makes a point with the youngsters at the morning's opening conference.

May I ask you for a Lenten Alms for the young scholars of our little school? They are earnestly praying and singing daily for the Church Suffering. Please help them as they help the helpless. God rewards a charitable heart!

At the same time, I invite you to send in offerings for Masses for your dead (too soon forgotten!), individual as well as Gregorian, and to enroll them in our Purgatorial Society. Don't forget to send us their names, and all of your intentions, for our Easter Novena of Masses.

During Paschaltide I hope to report to you on our Lent and Holy Week here, as well as on my Mexican missionary journey which your generosity made possible.

May the holy souls accompany us all during these holiest days of the year!

—The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan





Mardi Gras is always observed at St. Gertrude the Great School. Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed an afternoon of treats and games prior to the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday.



Not only is our Father Larrabee an asset to St. Gertrude the Great School, but also he ministers to all our faithful as demonstrated on Ash Wednesday as he imposes blessed ashes.



The children sing at Mass everyday at St. Gertrude the Great School. Part of the annual Children's Day of Recollection program is assistance at Holy Mass. (Above) One of our talented fifth graders accompanies the children on his "pipe organ."



It just wouldn't be St. Patrick's Day at St. Gertrude the Great without some special observance. After assisting at a high Mass honoring the patron saint of the Irish, ourschool children were treated to lunch, treats, and games!



Following Mass, Father Cekada, accompanied by clergy and servers, blesses hot cross buns on the Feast of St. Joseph. The St. Joseph's Table was arranged by our grammar school students.

Easter Novena of Masses

Remember your loved ones during Easter Week in a *Novena of Masses* beginning on Easter Sunday at St. Gertrude the Great Church.

Please use the enclosed envelope to list your intentions.