

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

PASCHALTIDE 2010 NO. 115

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

FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Some years Paschaltide seems all a bright blur of blessed joy and sunny weather and continued restful rejoicing after the long weeks of weary work which compose a good Lent, and lead up to Holy Week. Such is our April Easter time this year, even as we celebrate with Solemn Mass St. Joseph's Solemnity, and process on St. Mark's Day for the Greater Litanies.

Soon it will be Our Lady's lovely month of May, but let me first take you back to March and Mexico, and then to West Chester and a fine family Holy Week, so Catholic and so charitable.

Thank you for being part of our St. Gertrude family, for your truly Catholic concerns and charity. May St. Joseph protect you, and lead you to ever greater love for Our Lady!

Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

—**The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan**

MARCH 8-13: MEXICO TRAVEL DIARY

March 8- St. John of God, the saint of charity who traveled so extensively to do God's will, is a good patron for this trip. I'm starting out with stomach problems, instead of picking up something along the way, as often happens. "Never mind," I think as I offer a quiet early morning Mass before Ernie takes me to the airport, "St. John of God is the patron of the sick, and tomorrow we're going to see the Little Doctor Jesus." Father Siordia kindly meets me at the Mexico City airport, and puts me up at his little convento, a guest house on the church grounds.

March 9- Father Siordia gets talking and we miss the turn to Puebla, but have a most worthwhile conversation. The Child Doctor receives us in Tepeaca, and seems laughing and smiling to Father, but serious and spiritual to me, with his eyes raised to Heaven, and tracks of tears on His little rosy cheeks. We buy more statues to propagate the devotion, and leave for Orizaba after lunch and a final visit. I prayed for everyone, Father says the Holy Child was a little sad as we left, but he comforted Him. The dangerous



Ecce lignum crucis... The unchanged pre-1955 Holy Week was observed again this year at St. Gertrude the Great Church with its customary solemnity. On Good Friday, His Excellency Bishop Dolan led the solemn pontifical ceremonies (as he did for the entire Sacred Triduum). (Above) Bishop Dolan unveils the cross while being assisted by Rev. Mr. Guillaume Hecquard of Rennes, France, who functioned as deacon; seminarian Mr. Villi Lehtoranta of Most Holy Trinity Seminary, who served as subdeacon; and Father Charles McGuire, as the assistant priest.

mountain crossing went quite smoothly, and we arrived early in Orizaba.

March 10- Father Hernan Vergara has prepared a proper reception with firecrackers, confetti, canopy and a band at his church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the little village of Dos Rios. Another priest has come from a very great distance. After Mass I have *just enough* rosaries for everyone, and then plenty of Holy Ghost for our young and very young confirmands. A charming parish fiesta dinner awaits us in front of the as yet unfinished church, and there is time to talk with the Fathers as well, as we compare notes about what the devil is up to of late.

March 11- This is a rest day after yesterday's long journey, but no one is meant to sleep in. They start "ringing the dead" on the church bells at 5:40 A.M. (see Bishop Dolan's

sermon for March 14, at www.sgg.org/category/sermons/) That afternoon I visit the Franciscan Sisters in Atlalauca for a spiritual conference, confessions, and a meal. The Sisters surprised me with a Spanish style vestment, all hand worked in gold thread. The Sisters, now eight in number, make vestments to help support themselves and their modest new convent.

March 12- Today is the day of the great feast of Our Lord at the Third Fall of the Way of the Cross, called the “Quarta Feria,” short for the fourth Friday of Lent. Plans change at the last minute and there is a procession through town to meet me and escort me to church. As last year, there is a beautiful carpet of fresh painted sawdust in magnificent designs, for the bishop to walk upon. This labor of love is most touching, as is the packed church, and very beautifully rendered Gregorian Chant during the Missa Cantata. Alas, the dancing Aztecs were drumming and dancing outside the church during much of the Confirmation ceremony, the last part of the long day’s liturgy. When I saw them waiting in the Atrio before Mass, I knew they would only be able to contain themselves so long. Patience! The Mayor Domo of the Fiesta is feeding everyone at his house, on long tables under tents. The Sisters kindly produce some meatless fare for the Fathers, and I am grateful. I greeted some danced-out Aztecs as I leave, who are now enjoying a refreshing cerveza. That evening there will be a procession with the miraculous image of Our Lord of Tepelcingo, and thousands of dollars of fancy fireworks, but I head back to Cocoyoc, where I must pack my little Baby Doctor Jesus statues for tomorrow’s return journey.

March 13- Father Siordia and I get an early start for the long airport trip. The mountain toll road is always clogged with slow moving trucks, and passing is a delicate combination of skill and desperate prayer. Do keep Father Siordia in your prayers. He, too, has been under vicious attack, but he goes on quite calmly and quietly with his humble work as a parish priest. He is helping very much these days the souls in purgatory, as should we.

Remember your mother and
our Blessed Mother in a special high
Mass, Procession and May Crowning
this May 9th. Please complete the
enclosed envelope and return it to us.



(Above) Bishop Dolan distributes rosaries at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Dos Rios, to all present who wished to receive one. Rosaries are made by our volunteers (who are, in reality, lay missionaries) for distribution in the missions.



(Above) Bishop Dolan, assisted by Fathers Siordia and Vergara, administers the sacrament of confirmation to one of the young faithful during the course of the March pastoral visit to Mexico. (Below) First Holy Communion is received from the hands of His Excellency.

