

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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## MARCH 2011 NO. 122

SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH 4900 RIALTO ROAD WEST CHESTER OHIO 45069  
[sgg.org](http://sgg.org) [traditionalmass.org](http://traditionalmass.org)

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### FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

I write this March newsletter right in the middle of the month, Ember Wednesday, when we fast and pray for spring, for the new season, and new priests who will be ordained. We are looking especially towards the ordination in autumn of Mr. Villi Lehtoranta, scheduled at St. Gertrude the Great for her feast day. When he finishes his studies at the seminary, his first assignment will be St. Gertrude the Great. Please pray for him, and all of our seminarians.

Bishop Sanborn (*support his seminary*) recently commented that the challenge for our young Catholics to keep and spread our unchanged Faith is the greater because they have never had to fight for it, as we did, during the decades of the changes. These young people grew up with schools and chapels and clergy pretty much in place. The danger is that they will take these things for granted, and never consider sacrificing themselves, or even their possessions, in any significant way, for their faith.

How different was the experience of the Angel of the Schools, St. Thomas Aquinas, whom we honored on the seventh of this month! The young Aquinas fought fiercely, but, in such a calm and contemplative manner, for all that he gained so as to give it to God and to souls.

The child makes the man. As a toddler, once young Thomas got hold of a precious parchment holy card, illuminated with the Ave Maria. Of course he wanted to taste it, but the nanny tried to take it away. A struggle ensued. Try as she could, she was unable to wrestle it from his fat little fingers, and the baby triumphantly swallowed the holy card, his first taste of the sweetness of God's word and His Mother.

Later, Thomas had to fight his family for his vocation. The Holy Ghost called him to the new order of preaching—and begging—friars founded by St. Dominic. His aristocratic family opposed so disrespectful a choice that they kidnapped him, imprisoned him, and even tried to seduce him into sin so as to deter him from heeding God's call. It was in vain. He fought manfully, and



*March nineteenth, the Feast of St. Joseph, was observed with its usual solemnity at St. Gertrude the Great Church. The early morning Mass, which was sung by our school children, was followed by the blessing of the St. Joseph's Table and a light breakfast for all who attended.*

gained the victory, and the Church one of her greatest champions.

He triumphed, too, over the teasing of his fellow students, who called their big boned and silent confrere “the dumb ox.” As St. Albert the Great prophesied, this “ox” would be heard throughout the world. His times, too, saw controversy in the area of philosophy and theology. But St. Thomas conquered for the sake of the Catholic Faith, using the system of the Greek philosopher Aristotle, a pagan, as an excellent means of explaining and defending the truths of Catholicism: objective reality, and not the fuzzy feelings of subjectivist philosophy.

No wonder the conciliar false popes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, with their personalist philosophy and modernist theology are united in despising the Angelic Doctor. Never mind. In due time he will conquer, calmly and quietly, these latest loud voices of confusion and heresy. May St. Thomas inspire us, and our youth especially, to fight for the Faith, our most precious posses-

sion, the key to Heaven.

This month I am asking, as in customary each March, for a little Lenten alms from each of you for our little school, which bravely fights on for the Faith, and does surprisingly big things. I think of the edification afforded the whole world by our daily Web Masses, with their beautiful music, as well as for the individual attention and education lavished upon our students—our future, by lay teachers and priests.

Be sure we pray for you, our benefactors, in return. Let us pray and work together to pass our Faith, and the holy enthusiasm it engenders, to the next generation. May St. Thomas inspire your Lenten sacrifices, and St. Joseph reward your generosity with many graces.

—The Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan



*(Above) A healthy body is just as important as a healthy mind. Our boys participate in fencing classes as well as compete against area schools. (Below) March is the month to plant seeds, so some of our elementary students with green thumbs (among other things) didn't waste any time getting started!*



*St. Gertrude the Great School students sing at Mass each day. While it is sometimes a challenge to keep up with the liturgical cycle, the dedication of these young Catholics in giving God their all for His public worship is admirable.*



*"Try rewriting this again." Our high school English professor assists our graduating seniors with the preparation of their term papers.*

## Easter Novena of Masses

Remember your loved ones  
during Easter Week in a  
*Novena of Masses* beginning  
on **Easter Sunday, April 24th**, at  
St. Gertrude the Great Church.

*Please use the enclosed envelope  
to list your intentions.*