

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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

### FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

The month of the Immaculate Heart rejoices our own, as much for the universal homage rendered our dear Mother by the holy day of her heavenly Assumption, as for the heaven-sent peace plan of devotion to that same motherly Heart, harbinger of peace for this war-torn world. We have, each of us, a part in these peace proceedings. Popes have preached this devotion of reparation, and if the consecration once called for was never made, still **we** may make a difference in great world events by little things, done with love for Mary: the small Brown Scapular devoutly worn as a sign of our consecration, the blessed beads carried and meditated daily, the First Saturday Holy Communion and meditation. The Fatima tradition teaches that we can lessen punishment and hasten mercies from heaven. This is good news.

I have more. This news takes me back to the first happy exciting years of St. Gertrude the Great, mission and church. What spirit, what enthusiasm, what generosity was granted by God and St. Gertrude, and generated in turn such growth in those wonderful first years from 1978 onward! The same story was told in churches, bought, refitted or reclaimed throughout the country, and dedicated to the true worship of God.

Things have changed since then, and one would think such stirring stories were for the past. I remember from that era, the story of Fr. Keane of Boston, "Keane on Tradition," and his chapel of St. Roger and St. Mary. Never would I have thought that the ground zero of Feeneyism would a second time give grounds for joyful hope.

A few years ago a group of devout young men banded together to promote soul saving devotion to the Scapular and the Rosary, chosen weapons of the Mother of God in the battle against hell. In time Our Lady led these men to reject the bogus new religion, and to go to the good Dominican Bishop McKenna, for guidance and direction. The bishop formed them as Dominican Brothers of the Third Order of Penance. The Brothers began living a community life together, and were given the privilege of wearing the holy habit.

Visiting priests offered Mass for them and a growing group of faithful. In time, one of the many beautiful parish churches closed down by the financially – and morally –



*On the Feast of the Assumption Bishop Dolan was assisted by a new generation of clerics during the course of the pontifical ceremonies held at St. Gertrude the Great Church. (From right to left) seminarian Mr. Robert Von Berg; Father Julian Larrabee, assistant priest; Rev. Mr. Vili Lehtoranta, deacon; and tonsured seminarian Mr. Bede Okechukwu, subdeacon walk in procession to our outdoor Lourdes grotto for the blessing of herb, flowers, and first fruits.*

bankrupt Boston archdiocese was purchased. Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts had been a magnificent Gothic stone structure, but its interior was left defaced, with smashed altars and stations. Four years ago, the first Mass was offered on St. Dominic's Day in the basement of the church, with the Brothers and a small group of faithful, and much work ahead.

This St. Dominic's Day saw rather a different scene. Not only has the truly impressive church been correctly and tastefully restored by the hard working brothers and faithful, but God has blessed their community with a vocation. Bishop McKenna arranged for private studies for Brother Stephen McKenna in Spokane, Washington, under the devoted tutelage of Fr. Kevin Vaillancourt. I was requested to bestow subdiaconate upon the seminarian, and did so happily in the course of a beautifully sung Pontifical Mass with chaplains in the spacious (if warm!) marble sanctuary on the night of St. Dominic's feast.

Thus it was that I witnessed a heartwarming scene of enthusiastic cooperation, and true growth for the Church in our day. The edifying religious are privileged to have in their midst Fr. Clement Procopio, O.F.M., (ordained in

1944) who belies his ninety two years by his enthusiastic priestly ministry at the altar and in the confessional. Fr. Joseph Bachtiger, one of Bishop Hesson's priests, charitably travels a circuit from Florida to Boston to assure Sunday morning Mass, before leaving for St. Mary the Virgin Chapel in Camden, New Jersey. The faithful at Sacred Heart are well organized in guilds, and their number is growing, having reached one hundred this Spring. A good number of them join the Brothers for one of their three daily public Rosaries, and Holy Mass.

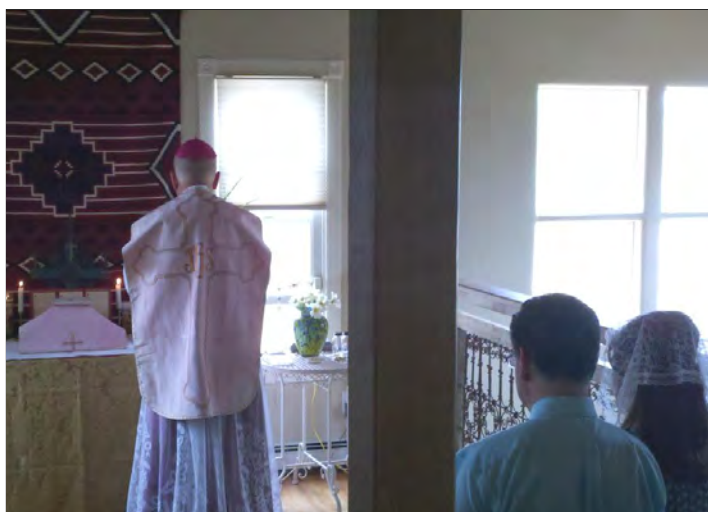
Rejoice with me at this sign of hope in an age of squabbles and schisms, that young and old join in selflessly together in professing the unchanged faith of the unchanged Church. Behold the power of the Mother of God, and of her Rosary. For many it must replace the Mass. For these blessed souls it has restored it.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

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



*August 4th was a joyous day for the Dominican Brothers of the Third Order of Penance as one of their own, Stephen McKenna, was ordained to the subdiaconate by His Excellency Bishop Dolan.*



*In Santa Fe, New Mexico, Bishop Dolan offered Mass for friends who were celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary.*



*While visiting New Mexico, Bishop Dolan said Mass and preached to a small, but fervent flock in Albuquerque. The coordinator has painstakingly and tastefully transformed his living room into a small chapel which is also visited by Father Palma each month.*

*(Right) Bishop Dolan poses on the front porch of the Convento San Marco (originally designed as a convent, but which now serves as a rectory for our younger priests and visiting clergy) in the late afternoon of a beautiful, but warm summer afternoon here in West Chester, Ohio. In the background is a gorgeous vista of the surrounding terrain showing some of the shrines on our grounds that foster the devotion not only of our own clergy and faithful, but also of visitors from the neighboring subdivision across the street.*

