

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2015 No. 159

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE • 4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Today the young Fathers celebrated a fine solemn high Mass, beautifully sung by the children of our school choir. St. Patrick's Day has always been a special one for us, but in addition to the customary celebration, with Irish music and "the wearin' of the green," the parties and the rejoicing, there was a clear sense of the "Faith of our Fathers" being passed on to another generation, and spread, Patrick-like, throughout the world.

Our local missionary, Father McKenna, celebrated the Mass, which was offered for our Nigerian missionary, Father Nkamuke, and his flock, who, like the Irish, were celebrating their patronal saint. God grant us the Irish grace of peacefully reclaiming these lands once Catholic, but now fifty years submerged in the flood of Vatican II's new religion.

These were the same thoughts I had last month visiting two churches in Baja California, at Tijuana and Mexicali. At Tijuana, I administered twenty-eight confirmations. The church in Tijuana was built years ago, and boasts a thriving and well-formed congregation under their pastor, Father Villegas. Every Sunday afternoon this priest travels three hours over what is considered the most dangerous mountain pass in Mexico, the Rumorosa. But what faithful Catholics are doing there, and throughout the world, is far more dangerous to the devil and his plans for the destruction of the Catholic faith.

With the passage of time – fifty years now! – and of a whole generation of Catholics who recognized the enemy of our souls, and resisted with all of their strength one always fears for the next generation. Will they take it all for granted, be tepid, Sunday Catholics, and perhaps not even persevere? Well, there is no fear of this in the desert town of Mexicali, blossoming with the Catholic faith.

It is a young group which is building, slowly but surely, not only a beautiful church outside of town, but also the foundation for the restoration of the Faith there. Since the church is not yet completed, the faithful set up



St. Patrick's Day is always celebrated with great enthusiasm at St. Gertrude the Great Church. We consider ourselves fortunate to possess a beautiful statue of this great missionary, which serves to remind us that as Catholics, we must always take seriously our duty to be missionaries of Christ's Church.

everything every Sunday, as we did here years ago; altar, statues, confessional, vestments, and then take it all away again until the next week. Before Mass, and very fittingly, I had the symbolic blessing of the first stone. After Mass, sixteen soldiers of Christ were confirmed. Afterwards all the faithful were invited to a very fine dinner outdoors under the stars and again it was the young people who were prominent in serving.

Everything was done with so much precision and care and evident devotion that one could not help but be edified and mightily encouraged. While it is the duty of the bishop to travel and "confirm his brethren in the faith," it is the bishop who oftentimes ends up being himself strengthened to see another generation stepping forward and working hard for the Faith which we almost lost, but which the Modernists and the world will never take from us.

We are hurtling towards Holy Week as I write these lines, everybody busy here with a devout and very ener-

getic Lent, as well as with the usual demands of the apostolate. As usual, I ask your support for our work, especially for our school, which has never been larger, as well as for our priests. A number of priests have been ill of late, especially in Mexico. But all good priests are the object of Satan's envy, and should be the subject of our charitable prayers. Without priests none of this work would be possible. Pray, too, for Bishop Sanborn and his crucial work of training new priests.

May your Holy Week be holy, and your zeal for the Faith unflagging!

Yours in Jesus Crucified,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



St. Gertrude the Great schoolchildren were just as excited as Father Cekada when the "new old organ" was delivered and installed recently. With the installation still in progress, students wanted to satisfy their curiosity by stopping by immediately at the end of the school day for a sneak peak! To everyone's delight the organ sounded simply grand!



Despite snow and bitter cold, Lent at St. Gertrude the Great got off to a good start with the faithful coming to church to receive their ashes.



On March 17, solemn high Mass was sung to honor St. Patrick, the Church's great missionary to the Irish. Father McKenna was the celebrant, with Father Lehtoranta serving as the deacon and Father McGuire as the subdeacon. Following the Mass was a little party that included McDonald's! His Excellency and the Fathers joined in the festivities with the schoolchildren and faculty. Éirinn go Brách!

Easter Novena of Masses

Remember your loved ones
during Easter Week in a
Novena of Masses beginning
Easter Sunday, April 5th, at
St. Gertrude the Great Church.

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