

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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

My dear Friends,

I am writing this April report to you on Easter Friday, when our Lord tells the Apostles in the Gospel “Going therefore teach ye all nations...” Surely these words are addressed to all of us as well. As we turn words into deeds, we turn to you as well for your support for what is becoming more and more a worldwide apostolate. God is blessing our humble efforts, and surely will reward your assistance which makes our apostolate possible.

At the end of February I visited Father Roberto Mardones who has chapels in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas. Father Mardones had only visited us the month before for a Solemn High Mass on Epiphany to celebrate his Silver Ordination Anniversary. Father is a longtime and loyal friend to us, as well as a true pastor to his people in what has been in recent years one of the most difficult, even dangerous, parts of Mexico. His chapel there is a beauty to behold with its many altars, statues and careful organization. On Sunday afternoon we crossed back into Texas and I offered Mass in a small charming chapel, full of character and devotion, like the people who attend it. Father Mardones' flock has always been relatively modest in size, but under his priestly guidance serves as an example of Catholic perseverance in a pagan world.

In early March our “northern” missionary, Boston-born Father McKenna, offered Mass for a small group of faithful in Quito, Ecuador, and was privileged to be admitted into the Conceptionists' cloister to visit the famed image of Our Lady of Good Success, a great grace which is granted to very few.

Curiously enough, no one has ever started a chapel or mission in Quito, which has developed into a kind of spiritual headquarters for the R&R groups. But Our Lady seems to be favoring our work, and a number of priests have expressed their willingness to visit there with a true, good Mass, one not offered in union with the Argentine apostate who occupies Rome.

Meanwhile, without ever leaving West Chester, Father Cekada has dedicated himself to producing informative and entertaining videos on the questions of the day. His presentation on Archbishop Lefebvre, Sedevacantist, has already been seen by thousands. We hope to present a French version, as well.

Truly, “their voice is gone forth to all the world,” whether in writing, online, in videos, by the Mass webcast, or...the old way, in person. But what would be the benefit of speaking to men if we did not address ourselves first and best to Almighty



*Our Holy Week at St. Gertrude the Great Church began with Palm Sunday's pre-1955 blessing of the palms. The lengthy, but beautiful, ceremony included the many prayers suppressed by the masonic architects of the reformed Holy Week. (Above) Bishop Dolan accompanied by Fathers McGuire and McKenna, who served as chaplains during the ceremonies, reenters the church.*

God in the unchanged and Sacred Liturgy?

Thus, the worship of God is always our first concern here, all liturgical year 'round. But never is this more true than at Holy Week, when all other things cede to the divine service, both day and night, solemn services with a full church, as well as quiet chant and whispered Masses with only birds and angels as witnesses. This is the secret—and the urgency—of our work and apostolate at St. Gertrude the Great. *Primerio Dios*, God First, as the Mexicans like to say.

If our church is increasingly becoming a shrine which draws visitors from all over, if our videos and all the rest receive worldwide attention, it is only because we enshrine God Himself in the tabernacle, and dedicate ourselves first to His worship, be we ever so few and humble, in our daily service, or many and magnificent at our feast day Masses.

Please pray for our priests, our faithful and benefactors, and join us in the profession and support of the unchanged faith of our fathers.

A blessed Eastertide to you!

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan





*(Above) The crucifer knocks three times on the doors of the church at the conclusion of the hymn Gloria Laus. (This hymn and ceremony was a casualty of the innovators.) The closed doors not only symbolize the initial resistance of the Jewish people and the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem, but also the triumph of Christ's cross, which throws open the doors of heaven just as it is the cause of our resurrection.*



*At the conclusion of the pontifical high Mass on Maundy Thursday the procession to the Altar of Repose included our school children who cast flower petals along the way. The Blessed Sacrament is reserved for Good Friday's ancient Mass of the Presanctified. The faithful came, adored, and kept watch throughout the night and early morning hours of Good Friday.*



*Father McGuire places the Blessed Sacrament inside the repository at the ornately decorated chapel that contained the Altar of Repose. Dedicated volunteers of our congregation spent many hours early in Holy Week preparing this Altar of Repose and continued to selflessly give of their time to make sure that the many detailed preparations for the ceremonies were completed.*



*(Above) The price of our redemption. The crucifix is unveiled on Good Friday. (Below) The Paschal Candle is plunged into the water as Bishop Dolan implores the Holy Ghost to descend into the water.*



*Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. (Above) Father McKenna carries the newly blessed fire into the church atop the triple candle reed. (Below) The Litany of the Saints is sung prior to the start of the Easter Vigil Mass.*



*(Above) The oil of catechumens and the holy chrism are poured together into the water of the font in the form of a cross. (Below) Father McGuire blesses Easter baskets following the Easter Vigil.*

