

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,

July has slipped into August, as quiet summer months will, so it is past time to offer a report of our many activities at St. Gertrude the Great.

An early Girls' Camp in June saw the faithful in good numbers join with our young ladies in keeping St. John's Eve on June 23, replete with solemn high Mass, a parish cookout and the blessed bonfire of St. John, with music and marshmallows as well as the holy rosary.

Two Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas joined us for the camp, and their religious presence was welcome indeed. The Sisters did not stay long, though, for the ordination of Father Philip Eldracher was scheduled for the following week, on Ss. Peter and Paul, at the seminary. I marked my fortieth priestly anniversary rather quietly, on the same day, but still with a high Mass.

This summer Father Cekada has been receiving chemotherapy for his cancer, and we're all doing what we can to help, in different ways. Thank you for your concern and prayers. Our Summer Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Anthony is being offered for Father, and the persevering attendance at the Thirteen Tuesdays thus far has been impressive. Both Bishop Sanborn and Father Saavedra have visited Father

Cekada, who is slowly recovering from his final treatment, and will probably have surgery in August. Please keep those prayers coming!

We always observe Independence Day each July 4th at our church, with a votive Mass of the Immaculate Conception, our country's patroness. In my remarks that day I noted an interesting aspect of true patriotism, the virtue which inclines us to love our native land. In the spirit of this virtue we grate-



On July 24th, Bishop Dolan returned for the first time to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Cordoba, Vera Cruz, some twenty years after he dedicated this humble chapel built to God's glory. The founding patron, Don Tomás, was present for Mass, along with a small congregation. Father Martin Gomez serves them most Sundays now at great sacrifice, for he already offers three Masses at his main church!

fully recognize something about the American character, which seems to have fitted us today for a leading role in the preservation of the Catholic Faith throughout the world. For all of our faults we Americans are independent, bold, brave, generous, ingenious and dogged in our devotion for our unchanged Faith. This is doubtless a happy heritage of the many Catholic cultures which met and mixed in our land. Thus the whole world, or rather our little remnant Church dispersed in the darkness of this Eclipse, looks to us for future priests, as well as for sacraments and all kinds of assistance, material and spiritual. But most of all it is the clear, correct, orthodox teaching dispensed by our American clergy which gives direction in this darkened world

today.

At St. Gertrude the Great, with your generous assistance, we do this by means particularly of our Internet apostolate: webcasts, writing, sermons, videos, books and so much more. Most of all, it is the careful worship of God which engages us here, and renders fruitful our international apostolate. Thank you for being a part of it.

Next time I must tell you about my latest Mexican trip and our Boys' Camp. For now I close with every prayer for a blessed month of August, month of the Eternal Wisdom of God, and of the Assumption and Immaculate Heart of the Mother of God.

I send a grateful blessing, in the Heart of Jesus and Mary,

– **Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan**



(Below left and above) Our annual Girls Camp was held in late June. Again this year the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas kindly assisted Father Lehtoranta and our volunteers in providing three days of activities including daily Holy Mass, the St. John's Eve Bonfire, crafting, and canoeing.



On Independence Day at St. Gertrude the Great we honored the patroness of our country, the Blessed Virgin Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception.



At St. Clare Mission in Chillicothe, Ohio, Father McGuire recently baptized the newest member of the congregation.