

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,

Our June report details some of the mercies of the Sacred Heart here at St. Gertrude the Great, a church consecrated to that same Heart since its inception.

Even before the dedication of our first church building in 1980 we dedicated our parish to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ever since we have made a “perpetual novena” to the Sacred Heart each Friday night of the year. Neither has Our Lord in His mercy ever abandoned us nor handed us over to the power of our enemy.

But first this month the Sacred Heart, as promised, sent the Holy Ghost to strengthen, to confirm, us as children of God. Eleven new soldiers of Christ were confirmed at the ancient and impressive Pentecost Vigil on First Saturday. A second pontifical Mass followed on the feast itself. The church was in Pentecost red, and flickering votive candles throughout suggested the “parted tongues as it were of fire.”

Agreeably to plain old, but unpopular, canon law our newly confirmed were *now* ready for First Holy Communion. White in a sea of red, they received our dear Lord in their innocent fervor. The Holy Ghost is our Sanctifier, as we profess in the Creed. He prepares the way for Our Eucharistic Lord to come in Holy Communion. Confirmation, you see, is neither a graduation exercise nor an academic achievement but a commencement, “some beginning of His grace,” but also sacramentally its perfection. The ways of God are not the ways of man.

But we *did* have a graduation, and it was a grand day and a beautiful Mass for Trinity Sunday as we marked one of our largest classes ever for our wonderful little school: three high school seniors, and five eighth graders. These are as those “born out of due time,” for they were educated in the shadow of the tabernacle like Samuel, and daily fed with the Bread of Angels.

Corpus Christi Sunday, with its adoration and procession, coincided with Father's Day this year. Someone wished me a happy Father's Day, and wondered if we



As the high Mass started on the Sunday morning of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the sky was laden with dark rain clouds. Many prayers for more agreeable conditions were sent heavenward – and gratefully they were heard! The sun soon came out allowing us to honor Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament with the procession we had planned. (Above) The procession reenters the church with Fathers McKenna and Lehtoranta assisting Bishop Dolan.

would be having a barbecue that afternoon? “No indeed,” I replied, “this is our life” as I gestured to the sanctuary. There were still Exposition and Vespers and Benediction and the final sermon and Mass. One of the family fathers of the parish actually, and agreeably, passed the afternoon practicing the Vespers antiphons. This is our life at St. Gertrude. Oh, we do rest and relax, but by God's calendar, not the world's. The life of the Sacred Liturgy, of our Eucharistic God, is our world.

Tune in and join us. Pray with us. Support us. Offer your spiritual Communion in union with our sacramental Communion. You are with us at the altar daily.

Yours in the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



(Center) On the Feast of Corpus Christi the entire Divine Office was chanted by our clergy at St. Gertrude the Great Church. A midday solemn high Mass was celebrated by Father Bede Nkamuke who is visiting us this summer. Father's work in Nigeria keeps him very busy as he cares for an ever-expanding mission circuit. (Clockwise from center left) On the Vigil of Pentecost Bishop Dolan administered the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Gertrude the Great. The next day, the Feast of Pentecost, His Excellency gave Our Lord to several of our young soldiers of Christ for the very first time. Just prior to the reception of their first Holy Communion Bishop Dolan reminded the children of the wonderful Gift they were about to receive. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart (and the Vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist) a solemn high Mass of the feast was sung. Our customary St. John's Bonfire and parish cookout followed the ceremonies in church. We were glad to have Father Cekada back to provide entertainment. Torrents of rain fell for hours before the scheduled outdoor activities, only to stop in time to permit the faithful to enjoy a beautiful evening capped by the blessing of the bonfire, the recitation of the rosary, and, of course, roasted marshmallows! Our happy high school graduates display their diplomas and now prepare for new endeavors.