

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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

My dear Friends,

November is always a glorious month at St. Gertrude. It started this year, as usual, with the gold of All Saint's on the altars, hundreds of relics and a fine group of innocent little ones dressed in their honor, with a story to tell. Then, Holy Week like, we suddenly change to black and chant Requiems and visit cemeteries, and give Absolutions for our dear dead.

But while daily remembering our poor souls, we remember as well our Patroness, St. Gertrude the Great and the dedication of our beautiful "new" church, already 15 years ago. All of this gives us a good appetite for thanksgiving, genuine "to God gratitude." The True Mass, the Pure Oblation enables us to offer this thanksgiving, along with our adoration and reparation, and our many prayers of petition.

But...no priest, no Mass. This is the sad experience of so many scattered Catholics throughout the world. They woke up from the New Religion to see they had been living a nightmare, and now only dream of being able to hear Holy Mass. (Thank God for the webcast, though (sgg.org/for-newcomers/mass-streaming/). How much we must pray and work for vocations, for seminaries, for priests, for *our* priests. Support them, help to sustain them, whose life it is to help you on the way to eternal life.

But no bishop, no priests. Only a bishop may ordain priests. They are few and far between, good Catholic bishops, and worth celebrating sometimes. This explains why we ended golden November on a silver note. The vestments for the gorgeous Pontifical Mass (sundaystreams.com/go/sgg) were red, the two assisting bishops wore choir robes of purple, but we all were thinking silver, as in a 25th anniversary celebration.

I thank God for these 25 years, and thank my consecrator of so long ago, Bishop Mark Pivarunas, as well as all of the bishops, priests and faithful who have aided and sustained me over the years, and who were able to join me in celebrating Holy Mass for my silver anniversary.

I selected a Palm Sunday hymn, "Ride on in Majesty" to be sung before Pontifical Mass on St. Andrew's Day, because I feel that the first day of Holy Week summarizes a bishop's consecration day. All is a kind of measured majesty to honor a High Priest, a successor of the apostles: the purple, the ring, the shoes, the mitre, the crozier and cross and skull cap; the honorifics and bows and kisses.



His Excellency Bishop Dolan poses with clergy at the reception marking the occasion of his Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Consecration. To his right is Bishop Selway and to his left is Bishop Sanborn. Fellow priests from left to right are: Father Fleiss, Father Saavedra, Father McKenna, Father Dutertre, Father McGuire, Father Cekada, Father Ercoli, and Father Nkamuke. Also in attendance, but not pictured, was our Father Lehtoranta.

Yet all of this, and rightly so, points to the office, not the man. The priest is consecrated a bishop so that he may ordain priests most of all, men who will offer the Sacrifice of Calvary. But, the bishop, who is by his consecration in the "state of perfection" (an awesome and terrifying thought) must ever remember as he "rides on in majesty" that he is riding to Calvary, himself and daily, to be offered in sacrifice. "My life for my sheep" were never truer words. But while never sparing himself for the least of his brethren, the bishop also cares for the finest of his flock, his priests. Pray for bishops too.

Ember Saturday and the Last Sunday of Advent offer a good meditation upon this theme in the Epistle, and I recommend all of our clergy to your prayers in this holy season, and throughout this new year.

Thank you for your interest, prayers and support for our apostolate. Please remember that the donations you send are chiefly to support priests, good but very poor priests, who are "most in need of your mercy." They call down God daily upon the altar. Do not be deaf to this call for their sustenance in turn. May the blessings of Christmas, Christ's Mass, be yours!

— Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



The students of our school had several opportunities during November to practice one of the corporal works of mercy – to bury the dead. Among those opportunities was the annual cemetery procession. The autumn sun shone brightly on the little band that included Fathers Lehtoranta and Nkamuke, students, teachers, parents with toddlers, and grandparents. The Rosary was led by Father Nkamuke, who then blessed the graves of long-deceased sisters whose mortal remains repose there.



The Kiss of Peace is being given by Bishop Dolan to Father McKenna (who functioned as the deacon) at His Excellency's Silver Jubilee pontifical high Mass. The beautifully adorned altar was flanked by three bishops, nine priests, fifteen servers. One hundred thirty laity were also in attendance on this memorable day. A marvelous reception, which spanned several hours, followed in Helfta Hall.

Christmas Novena of Masses

PLEASE SEND US THE NAMES OF LOVED ONES,
LIVING OR DECEASED, THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE REMEMBERED AT CHRISTMAS. THEIR
NAMES WILL BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR FOR
THE DURATION OF THE NOVENA.