
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume I, Issue 1

August 1998

Congregation of St. Athanasius - Roman Catholic, Anglican Use

Father Bradford Ordained by Cardinal Law

ON Saturday, May 30, Cardinal Law ordained our Priest, Father Richard Bradford, to the Priesthood. The Previous Saturday, he received the Diaconate from Bishop Riley. Msgr. Lennon, our Chaplain since we were received into the Catholic Church, was the presenting Priest in both cases.

St. Mary's Church, Dedham, was not filled to overflowing; we have a long way to go before that happens, but in addition to the regular parishioners there were a number of visitors, some from quite a distance away. The music was presented by Dianna Daly, cantor, The Paramount Brass, and Glen Goda, organist, with the choir he selected for the occasion. In addition, the Saint Benedict Abbey Schola, under the direction of Brother Alfonsus Maria, sang the chant portions of the liturgy.

The Boston Globe on the following day came out with the headlines, "Priest rewrites rules", apparently in reference to this being the first ordination of a married priest in the Archdiocese of Boston. What the article seemed to miss entirely was the fact that this was not the breaking of any rule, but the end of a long canonical process under the Pastoral Provision for Anglicans, promulgated by the



Pope in 1980. The Pastoral Provision provides two things: firstly that Anglican priests who are married and wish to become Catholic Priests, may apply to be ordained, notwithstanding the fact that they are married, and secondly, that congregations received into the Catholic Church may continue to worship in the way to which they are accustomed.

Father Bradford chose to seek the priesthood in the Catholic Church because he believed he had exhausted all possible options of practicing the Catholic Religion in the Episcopal Church. This is not the place to list the differences we have with the Episcopal Church, but you are welcome to ask any of us, if you want to know. The main point is that

he felt called to the Catholic Priesthood, and he answered that call from the pulpit of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Ashmont, where he served as Rector. A number of his parishioners came with him, and they make up the bulk of The Congregation of St. Athanasius.

The road to Rome is an interesting road, peopled with many interesting characters. One might wish that Chaucer could be alive today to narrate the tales each of us has to tell of our spiritual pilgrimage. Perhaps in future editions of this newsletter, we will be privileged to hear some of those tales.

Nevertheless, the ordination of Father Bradford was not without fanfare. The trumpets did sound. The church rocked with the lusty singing of *Down Ampney* and *St. Patrick's Breastplate*. The Cardinal remarked on our singing of "Danny Boy"; really it was Timothy Dudley-Smith's hymn, "O Christ the same through all our story's pages," set to the *Londonderry Air*.

Following the liturgy there was a catered garden luncheon on the Rectory lawn. The weather was perfect, and all had the opportunity to congratulate Father Bradford.

Next day, Whitsunday, Father celebrated his first Mass as a Roman Catholic Priest in the Convent Chapel, where we have been meeting since we left Ashmont. *Hail thee Festival Day*, complete with a

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procession around the inside of the little chapel, was the opening hymn. People had to move folding chairs to get out of the way of the procession. The sermon was superb. Ask for a copy of it, if you were not there.

This was to be one of the last services we had in the chapel, since we moved to the lower church at St. Mary's for a number of Sundays, for which we are most grateful, and then to Saint Aidan's Church in Brookline. Now finally we have a home, a beautiful and historic church, which has all the atmosphere of an English country parish church. We have Mass on Sundays at nine. Please come and worship with us.

C. David Burt

A NEW VENTURE

GOD willing, we will publish a monthly paper for and about the anglican use congregation in the Archdiocese of Boston. This paper will contain a variety of materials: schedules of dates and events, articles about faith and practice, news and views of parishioners, and guest editorials. The paper will be sent to all families of the congregation and to others who are interested in or supportive of anglican use and its apostolate in the archdiocese.

We have chosen as a title for this paper *CONTRA MUNDUM*, i.e. "against the world". "Athanasius Contra Mundum" is a phrase that described our patron saint even in his own time, as he stood firmly for the fullness of the faith. In some editions of this paper you will read about St. Athanasius, and about many other

things as well. We will put good effort into this paper, and if you enjoy it, share it with others. If not, tell us!

Father Bradford

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

IN this first edition of the parish paper we have enclosed a tract we often give to newcomers and visitors. It gives a brief history of our congregation and its reason for coming into existence. We are grateful to Fr. Allan Hawkins and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Arlington, Texas, for the format and much of the content of this tract. We hope as you read it you will understand that we are here to condemn no one but rather to share the whole faith of God as revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. In everything we give thanks to Almighty God for the very special ministry we have been given in the Archdiocese of Boston.

WHAT ABOUT COMMUNION?

St. Athanasius is a congregation of the Archdiocese of Boston. It is governed by the Canon Law of the Catholic Church. This means that while anyone may attend our services, and many do, Catholics and Protestants alike, only Catholics in good standing in the Church are permitted to receive the Sacrament. At any given service, you will find men and women who are in various stages of preparation for confirmation/reception into full communion. That is a place where

many of us have been recently and we rejoice in that. When you attend our masses and are not a communicant, please do not feel in any way "left out". You are the primary reason we exist as a congregation! Our hope is that everyone, Catholic and Protestant alike, all who desire to draw close to the Lord Jesus, will find our congregation and its ministry to be a great help in strengthening Christian discipleship.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

ON August 6, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, when He "taketh Peter and James and John, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light." (Matthew 17:1-2)

Peter later testifies to the fact that he and the others had been eyewitnesses of His greatness: "For he received from God the Father, honor and glory: this voice coming down to Him from the excellent glory: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him. And this voice we heard brought from heaven, when we were with him in the holy mount." (1 Peter 1:17-18)

Moses and Elijah, both of whom had been privileged to behold the glory of God on a mountain appeared with Jesus on the Mount Tabor in the

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON
 2121 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
 BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

VICAR GENERAL
 MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

13 July, 1998

Dear Father Bradford and the Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all your well wishes and congratulations upon my celebrating my twenty-fifth Anniversary of Priesthood and for the very generous gift you gave me.

One of the great blessings God has bestowed upon me in my Priesthood has been the opportunity to know you and to journey with you into Full Communion in the Catholic Church. I have been touched by your sincerity and courage as you trusted in God and his providence. Also, by your graciousness in accepting me so warmly, you demonstrated your goodness and hospitality in the very best Catholic sense. I am most grateful for your kindness toward me.

Please be assured of a very special place in my prayers and thoughts. In your charity may I ask an occasional remembrance in your prayers for me and the work that I am called to do in the Church.

With sincere best wishes, I have the pleasure of remaining

Sincerely yours in Christ

Monsignor Richard Lennon

presence of His disciples. Thus the identity of Christ with the God of Israel is clearly established.

The glory of God was revealed to the disciples as far as they were able to bear it, and they fell on their faces for fear. Not only “was the fashion of the Lord’s countenance altered” (Luke 9:29), but Mt. Tabor was covered with light, the Lord’s raiment became white and glistening, and the earth trembled. All of this prefigured Jesus’ resurrection, the transfiguration of the cosmos at the end of time, and the participation of

those who might be worthy in the divine glory.

MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER

“Mary, as the Mother of Christ, is in a particular way united with the Church, which the Lord established as His own body...Glorified at the side of her Son in heaven, Mary has already crossed the threshold between faith and that vision which is

‘face to face.’ At the same time, Mary does not cease to be the ‘Star of the Sea’ for all those who are still on the journey of faith.

“The Church sees Mary maternally present and sharing in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families and nations; she sees her helping the Christian people in the constant struggle between good and evil...”

Mother of the Redeemer,
 by John Paul II

Parish Retreat
November 13-15 at
St. Benedict Abbey,
Still River, Mass.

Fr. Joseph Wilson
Retreat Leader

Approximate cost:
\$70

Dates for August

Feast of the Transfiguration
 Thursday, Aug. 6, 7:30pm: Sung Mass with reception following

Feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M.
 Sat., Aug. 15, 9:00am: Sung Mass followed by a light breakfast

Monthly Requiem Mass
 Monday, Aug. 31, 10:00am.
 Please give names of loved ones.

Weekly
 Sunday, 9:30am. Sung Mass followed by coffee and fellowship.

Here's where we are...



Contra Mundum
Congregation of St. Athanasius
Rectory: 192 Foster St.
Brighton, MA 02135

Saint Aidan's Church, 159 Pleasant Street in Brookline. Parking Available.

Commonwealth Avenue: From east or west, turn onto Pleasant Street south to the church at the corner of Freeman Street.

Boylston Street: From east, turn onto Harvard Street, veer right onto Sewall Avenue and left on St. Paul Street. At the corner of Freeman, turn left to the Church. From west, you cannot make a left turn onto Harvard Street. Turn right around the fire station, cross Boylston Street and proceed northbound on Harvard Street. Follow directions above.

Beacon Street: From east or west, turn onto James Street and right onto Pleasant Street and proceed to church.

Mass Pike: Exit at Allston-Brighton tolls, take ramp for Cambridge Street-Allston to Harvard Street, Left on Harvard and left on Brighton Ave. which merges into Commonwealth Avenue. See directions for Commonwealth Avenue above.

MBTA Green Line B car, stop request at Pleasant Street. Walk four blocks south on Pleasant Street.

