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# Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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Volume I, Issue 2

September 1998

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The Congregation of St. Athanasius - Roman Catholic, Anglican Use

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## Notes from the Chaplain

**A**T the time of my ordination on May 30, 1998, Cardinal Law appointed me the second chaplain of The Congregation of Saint Athanasius. (The first was Msgr. Richard Lennon). The title "chaplain" reflects the fact that at this point the congregation is too small to be called a parish. Whatever our status, and *wherever we are located*, we will be known as The Congregation of St. Athanasius, for that is the legal title of the anglican use congregation in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Cardinal Law also announced that I would receive another part-time appointment in the archdiocese. On September 1st. I will begin working several days each week at St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury. These days will be in the *middle* of the week. I am grateful to Msgr. William Helmick, pastor at St. Theresa's and look forward to being a part of the staff at this large and active parish.

Although a set schedule has not yet been determined, I expect that I may be reached in Brookline Friday afternoons - evenings, Saturday mornings, and Monday during the day. The telephone number is 277-0854. (The main number for St. Aidan's is 277-0799). My rectory in



Brighton will no longer be my office but only my personal residence. Phone and fax is 787-0553. All numbers are area code 617. Included in this second issue of our newsletter is a letter of welcome from Msgr. Leonard Coppenrath, pastor of St. Aidan's. There is also a short story about St. Aidan. And we have included a brief history of the pastoral provision which made the whole anglican use enterprise possible. You may find it to be of interest.

On Saint Michael's Day, Tuesday, September 29, we will observe the first anniversary of the erection of the anglican use congregation in Boston, with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 7:30pm. A reception will follow the Mass. We hope that many parishioners and friends will join us on this happy occasion.

Father Bradford

## The Pastoral Provision Decision

**I**N the late fall of 1976, the north American Province of the Society of the Holy Cross (SSC), a secular institute of Anglican Priests, meeting in synod, unanimously decided to ask its provincial to approach the Apostolic Delegate of the Holy See in Washing to initiate a request on behalf of the Episcopal priests who are married and who would offer themselves for priestly ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, and for Episcopalians who would want to enter the Roman Catholic Church with some type of spiritual and liturgical common identity.

Later in 1977 a small group of parishes, withdrawn from the Episcopal Church, formed the Pro-Diocese of Saint Augustine of Canterbury and sought to approach the Catholic authorities with a similar request.

Individual Episcopal priests had advanced such requests to various Catholic local ordinaries.

In 1980 the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith announced the Holy See's favorable decision in the matter, and described the basis on which a *Pastoral Provi*

sion for former Episcopalians could be erected. Bishop Bernard F. Law of Springfield-Cape Girardeau was appointed the Holy See's Ecclesiastical Delegate to coordinate the process.

The Sacred Congregation's *Public Statement* said:

"In June 1980, the Holy See, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, agreed to the request presented by the bishops of the United States of America on behalf of some clergy and laity formerly or actually belonging to the Episcopal (Anglican) Church for full communion with the Catholic Church. The Holy See's response to the initiative of these Episcopalians includes the possibility of a 'pastoral provision' which will provide, for those who desire it, a common identity reflecting certain elements of their own heritage.

"The entrance of these persons into the Catholic Church should be understood as the 'reconciliation of those individuals who wish for full Catholic communion,' of which the Decree on Ecumenism (no. 4) of the Second Vatican Council speaks.

"In accepting former Episcopalian clergy who are married into the Catholic priesthood, the Holy See has specified that this exception to the rule of celibacy is granted in favor of these individual persons, and should not be understood as imply-



ing any change in the Church's conviction of the value of priestly celibacy, which will remain the rule for future candidates for the priesthood from this group.

"In consultation with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has appointed the Most Reverend Bernard F. Law, bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, as ecclesiastical delegate in this matter. It will be his responsibility to develop a proposal containing elements for the pastoral provision in question to be submitted for the approval of the Holy See, to oversee its implementation and to deal with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in questions pertaining to the admission of former Episcopalian clergy into the Catholic priesthood."

Vatican agreement to the initial request of the U.S. bishops was announced publicly for the first time August 20, 1980, by Archbishop John R. Quinn, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## Tom Howard to speak at Choral Even- song Series

**O**N Sunday, September 13, November 1, and November 22, we will have Choral Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with a supper and a guest speaker afterwards. There will also be a guest choir.

Noted author, lecturer, and convert, Dr. Thomas Howard, will kick off the series this month on September 13.

The purpose of this series is not just for us to glory in the beauty of Choral Evensong. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for other people to come, experience our worship outside of the Holy Eucharist, to share some Christian fellowship with us, and to hear an inspiring speaker. Please invite your friends, and particularly anybody who may be interested in us.

If you are reading this and are not presently a member of our congregation. Please consider this an invitation to come to Evensong, share fellowship with us, and to enjoy a fine supper and talk.

St. Aidan's Rectory  
 158 Pleasant Street  
 BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02446  
 (617) 277-0799

August 29, 1998

WELCOME!

St. Aidan's offers a warm and hearty welcome to the members of St. Athanasius community. You have been on a long and arduous spiritual journey: we love having you "pitch your tent" here, to stay, we hope. We also hope this holy place and your brothers and sisters of St. Aidan's will provide a nourishing oasis for you. After all, we are all members of one family, Christ's family. So, dear St. Athanasius community, a hundred thousand welcomes to you in the name of Jesus.

Msgr. Leonard Copenrath

Father James Coffey

## Aidan

**S** AINT Aidan was an Irish monk of Iona, Aidan (died 651) was chosen as a missionary for Northumbria and consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne. With the help of King Oswald, he journeyed far and wide establishing missionary centers and a monastery for the training of English clergy.

Aidan was sent, when he had been made bishop, to preach the Faith of Christ to a province of the English. Among other evidences of holy life, he gave his clergy an inspiring example of self-discipline and continence, and the highest commendation of his teaching to all

was that he and his followers lived as they taught. He never sought or cared for any worldly possessions, and loved to give away to the poor who chanced to meet him whatever he received from kings or wealthy folk. Whether in town or country, he always travelled on foot unless compelled by necessity to ride; and whatever people he met on his walks, whether high or low, he stopped and spoke to them. If they were heathen, he urged them to be baptized; and if they were Christians, he strengthened their faith, and inspired them by word and deed to live a good life and to be generous to others.

(The foregoing information was provided by Father Copenrath.)

## Parish Retreat

November 13-15 at  
 St. Benedict Abbey, Still  
 River, Massachusetts  
 \$70

## Advent Pilgrimage

December 4-6 to New York  
 and Bethlehem, PA

see the

**"Best Christmas Pageant  
 Ever"**

\$349 - single occupancy  
 \$269 - double, \$259 - triple  
 all meals included.

Price benefits the Congregation of St. Athanasius. To indicate interest, call Sarah Weekes 265-9499

## Dates for September

**Nativity of the  
 Blessed Virgin Mary**

Tuesday, Sep. 8, 7:30pm: Sung Mass with reception following

**Choral Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**  
 Sun, Sep. 13, 5:30pm followed by a supper and a talk by Tom Howard.

**Celebration of Anglican Use Feast of St. Michael, Tuesday, Sep. 29, 7:30pm: Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with a reception following.**

**Weekly**

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

Saturdays 11:30 - 1:30 Confessions in the chapel, Fr. Raphael Caamano. No appointment necessary.

Here's where we are...



### Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius  
158 Pleasant Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

#### **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.

