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# Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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Volume I, Issue 3

October 1998

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

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## Notes from the Chaplain

**S**EPTEMBER was a busy month for the congregation, settling in to Saint Aidan's Brookline, getting a parish office set up. I am grateful to Msgr. Copenrath for arranging the painting and the carpet cleaning in my new office. For me personally, it was also a time of quickly getting into the busy life of St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury, where I am on staff each week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday until noon.

In September we had our first Evensong, and, after supper, our guest speaker, Dr. Thomas Howard, did not disappoint. He once had Malcolm Muggeridge as a house guest, and who told a story on himself. A convert to Catholicism late in life, Muggeridge was a maverick for all his early days. He once said to Mother Teresa, "Well, Reverend Mother, I'm sure God needs a few good men outside the Church." To which Mother replied, "No. He doesn't."

One of the interesting challenges of anglican use is how quickly we will be able to support a program. Up until now, the Congregation of St. Athanasius supported its pastor by providing rectory utilities, car allow-



ance, and a pension fund contribution, but no salary! The archdiocese donated a rectory at no cost, and St. Mary's Church, Dedham, donated a convent at no cost. Now we need to pay our way as best we can. With the help of every member and our friends, those who want anglican use to succeed, we will do so. Watch for a scheduled meeting after Mass on October 18, and some information in the mail as you prepare to make your pledge for 1999.

Both Father Greenway and Ronald Jaynes are on the mend. Father took a nasty fall after Mass on August 20 and his doctors have told him to take it easy for six weeks. God willing, he will be back with us in November for a Sunday. Ron has been a patient in Melrose-Wakefield Hospital for over a month, fighting a persistent infection. Please God he

too is at the end of this ordeal and will take a few weeks to regain strength before going back to work. Please keep both in your prayers.

In this issue of the parish paper one of our members is recounting her journey that led to the Catholic Church. In coming months we hope many of you will tell your story as well.

With blessings and best wishes,

Father Bradford

## Dr. Peter Kreeft to speak on Nov 1

**T**HE second in this year's series of Evensong/supper/speaker programs is set for Sunday, November 1st, All Saints Day. The service begins at 5:00pm.

Evensong will be followed by supper at 6:00pm in the rectory. This is a catered meal and will cost approximately \$10.00 per person. RSVP please. We will need reservations by October 28. You may also take your meal in one of the fine res-

taurants close by and return for the talk in the Library at 7:00.

Our speaker is Dr. Peter Kreeft, Boston College professor and noted author, apologist for the faith, and a convert to Catholicism from a reformed church background.

## Becoming Catholic

**W**HEN I was asked to write for *Contra Mundum* regarding my "journey" into the Catholic Church, I was struck with the realization that everything in my past speaks volumes to me, now, of God's love for me even though, until the age of thirty, I did not know He loved me.

I was raised from childhood in a "low" Episcopal Church in Sharon MA (St. John's) with very wonderful people who truly cared for me. I'm sure the gospel was preached to me as a young person, but for unknown reasons, I never "heard" it with ears of faith, until I came to the age of thirty with two children and a troubled marriage not knowing where to turn. Since that time, I have had occasion to thank God for that small church and for the Liturgy, because it caused me to reach out for Him, no matter how haltingly, to find that He was indeed there.

Through a series of events, the Lord literally picked up our family and transported us to Bridgewater, MA, where my husband and I thought we would find a new start, but where He (the Lord) knew He could eventually draw us both to the

local Episcopal Church. Here we heard the Gospel preached in the power of the Holy Spirit, and both of us had a powerful conversion experience with life changing consequences. I was both "converted" (as Protestants say) and Baptized in the Holy Spirit at the same time. My life has never been the same since. Space prevents my telling of all the visible miracles, literally, the Lord has done in my life since that day in 1970.

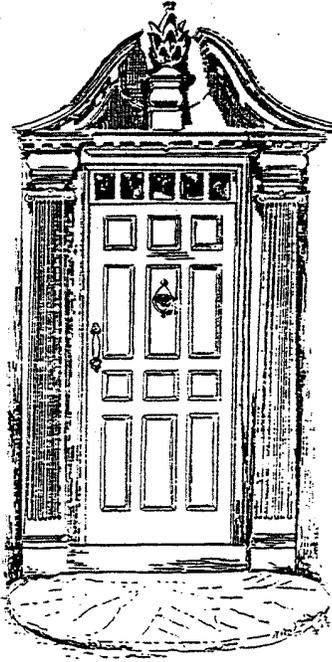
It so happened that the Episcopal Church, at the time we landed in Bridgewater, was to go through an upheaval within the next seven or eight years much like a hurricane. The Prayerbook was "revised" with significant omissions, and women were to be ordained Priests!!! The Priest in charge in Bridgewater was in no way in favor of these changes, and the whole church, some three hundred strong by now, voted to leave the Episcopal Church in about 1977 to become American Orthodox. And so we did, with much turmoil. Some, who leaned toward the Pentecostal and Evangelical, did not like Orthodoxy when they got there. Some thought we should be "Independent". Some wanted power, because this was a wonderfully vibrant, Spirit-filled church. And sadly, in the end, the Priest was asked by a majority of these dissident parishioners, some of whom had found their way onto the church council, to leave. One year later, almost to the day, he was dead at the age of forty seven, some say of a broken heart. I have no doubt. I know mine was broken. To this day, I hold in my heart the deepest love for that church, for that Priest, and especially for the Lord who led me there.

In the years that followed, I remained in this small American Orthodox Church which had been formed, until it became evident that the work would not survive. I spent some time back in Sharon at St. John's, until it became evident that the leadership was so liberal, that I could not survive. It was then that I heard about The Parish of All Saints in Ashmont.

I want to say, that it was at All Saints, specifically under Fr. Bradford, that I began to learn what it was to be Catholic. Slowly, over the five or six years I was a parishioner, I found my anti-Catholic prejudice wearing away. It was a time of healing for me, and I thought I had found a home, until the rumbling of war in the Episcopal Church grew louder and eventually the sound of battle raged inside All Saints itself. When Father Bradford declared he would become Roman Catholic, it was then that my own battle began. I respected this man, and I had to find out why he would do this. I began to ask the questions "Could there be one Church on earth? Could this possibly be the Catholic Church?"

Armed with every book I could find, I read about this great Church for months. I read conversion stories, I read Church history, I listened to tapes of Charismatic Catholics and I battled with the place of the Virgin Mary, the Pope, and Indulgences. In the end, I believe the Lord helped me to "see" the Church for what she really is in all her splendor. Our faith is, after all, a revelatory faith. I thank the Lord for his goodness to me, for bringing me into His Church, and for all His many gifts to me.

Margaret Evers



Saint Benedict Abbey  
252 Still River Road  
Post Office Box 67  
Still River, Massachusetts 01467

### Parish Retreat

November 13-15 at  
St. Benedict Abbey, Still River,  
Massachusetts  
Fr. Joseph Wilson, conductor.  
Cost is \$70 per person. Deadline  
for registration is October 28th.  
The cost includes 2 nights and 6  
meals. Reserve space now. We  
have places for thirty people. Call  
617-787-0553 or give your reser-  
vation in writing to Fr. Bradford.

### Video Tapes of Father Bradford's Ordination and First Mass.

\$35 for the set of two tapes, or  
\$20 individually.

### 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

### Future Dates

- Oct. 4: Msgr. Lennon is cel-  
ebrant and preacher at 9:30  
Sunday Mass.
- Oct. 25: Daylight Savings Time  
ends. Set clocks **back** one hour  
Saturday night.

Oct. 28: Deadline for fall retreat  
reservations. Deadline for No-  
vember 1st supper reservations.

Nov. 1: Evensong and Benedic-  
tion at 5:00 followed by supper  
and a talk by Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Nov. 2: All Souls Day. Mass at  
10:00am.

Nov. 13-15: Parish Retreat

#### Weekly

Sundays, 9:30am. Sung Mass fol-  
lowed by coffee and fellowship.

Saturdays 11:30 - 1:30 Confes-  
sions in the chapel, Fr. Raphael  
Caamano. No appointment nec-  
essary.

### All Souls Day

A Requiem Mass will be cel-  
ebrated on Monday, November  
2nd, at 10:00am. Use the sheet  
at the right for names of de-  
parted souls to be remembered  
at Mass. If you do not want to  
cut your parish paper, extra  
copies of the intercession list  
will be found in the church dur-  
ing the month of October.

"Lay this body anywhere, only this I beg of you,  
That you remember me at the altar of the Lord."  
(Dying words of St. Monica to St. Augustine)



TO BE REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR  
ON ALL SOULS DAY  
AT THE . . . O'CLOCK SERVICE


### Memorable Quote:

"All of the glory, none of the guilt"  
Guess to whom it doth refer.  
Anyone know who did say it?

REQUESTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Return Before All Souls Day

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.

