
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume I, Issue 6

January 1999

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

Notes from the Chaplain

HAVING cautioned our readers in last month's parish paper against any premature celebration of Christmas, I hope this letter finds you in the midst and not the end of merriment. Holiday is secular dumbing-down of holy day, and the Christmas holy day lasts twelve days. Holy Church does not want us to let go of the celebration of Christ's Nativity so quickly. So while the world has consigned its Christmas trees to curbside pickup, Catholic Christians are celebrating the Season. We have cause to celebrate: in His Manger-Throne our Lord has stored up so many treasures and graces.

Several people have asked about the title CONTRA MUNDUM for the parish paper. These are Latin words "against the world." They were particularly associated with our patron saint who often stood alone for right belief in the fourth century. Athanasius contra mundum is a reminder to our own age of relativism that Christianity is a revealed religion, not something made up as we go along. Making age-old truths fresh in a modern world is what we call renewal, and the work is a fresh challenge for every generation. But the age-old truths never change.



Holy Church sometimes has to say right is right even if nobody is right, and wrong is wrong even if everybody is wrong. Athanasius is a saint for our time, and in the parish office soon-to-be tract case may be found pamphlets long and short that tell of this saint and his importance for the Catholic faith.

Thanks to all of you who supported the relief efforts of the Archdiocese for the benefit of all those suffering in Central America as a result of last fall's devastating hurricane. Our very small flock contributed \$1555.00 to the appeal.

Marysia Swanberg continues to convalesce at home from a slight stroke suffered last year and it will be a happy day to have the Swanbergs back in church! It WAS a happy day when Ron Jaynes came

to Mass for the first time after a lengthy illness kept him in hospital for several months. Ron took his place among the servers on December 8th, and the reception in the rectory was in his honor, complete with a "welcome back" cake provided by Bruce and Marcia Rand. Bob and Gloria Molloy attended the Mass celebrating Cardinal Law's 25th anniversary of ordination as a bishop. The guests received a commemorative medallion and had a photo taken with His Eminence. Speaking of the jubilee, there is a special commemorative edition of the Pilot, surely a keepsake. In it is a story by Fr. James Parker on the history of the pastoral provision we enjoy as a congregation. God willing, we will someday have a visit of Fr. Parker to our congregation, and if you are even close to Charleston, go visit him. There is a noticeable groan in his congregation if he DOESN'T have a story to tell at announcement time!

This month's paper has Peter Kreeft's list of "raft books for those swimming the Tiber"! There is also an Evensong schedule for the next few months and dates of other special services. When we get to Lent, I will offer a Mass on Saturdays and/or Mondays (in the morning) if there is interest, Please let me know. Ash Wednesday is February 17th.

Blessings to all, for everything good in this new year.

Father Bradford

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Helena, the mother of Constantine, discovers the relics of the cross of Christ, and reflects on the three Kings:

‘Like me,’ she said to them, ‘you were late in coming. The shepherds were here long before; even the cattle. They had joined the chorus of angels before you were on your way. For you the primordial discipline of the heavens was relaxed and a new defiant light blazed amid the disconcerted stars.

‘How laboriously you came, taking sights and calculating, where the shepherds had run barefoot! How odd you looked on the road, attended by what outlandish liveries, laden with such preposterous gifts!

‘You came at length to the final stage of your pilgrimage and the great star stood still above you. What did you do? You stopped to call on King Herod. Deadly exchange of compliments in which began that unended war of mobs and magistrates against the innocent!

‘Yet you came, and were not turned away. You too found room before the manger. Your gifts were not needed, but they were accepted and put carefully by, for they were brought with love. In that new order of charity that had just come to life, there was room for you, too. You were not lower in the eyes of the holy family than the ox or the ass.

‘You are my especial patrons,’ said Helena, ‘and patrons of all latecomers, of all who have a tedious journey to make to the truth, of all who are confused with knowledge and speculation, of all who through politeness make themselves partners in guilt, of all who stand in danger by reason of their talents.

‘Dear cousins, pray for me,’ said Helena, ‘and for my poor overloaded son. May he, too, before the end find kneeling-space in the straw. Pray for the great, lest they parish utterly. And pray for Lactantius and Marcias and the young poets of Trèves and for the souls of my wild, blind ancestors; for their sly foe Odysseus and for the great Longinus.

‘For his sake who did not reject your curious gifts, pray always for all the learned, the oblique, the delicate. Let them not be quite forgotten at the throne of God when the simple come into their kingdom.’

EVELYN WAUGH

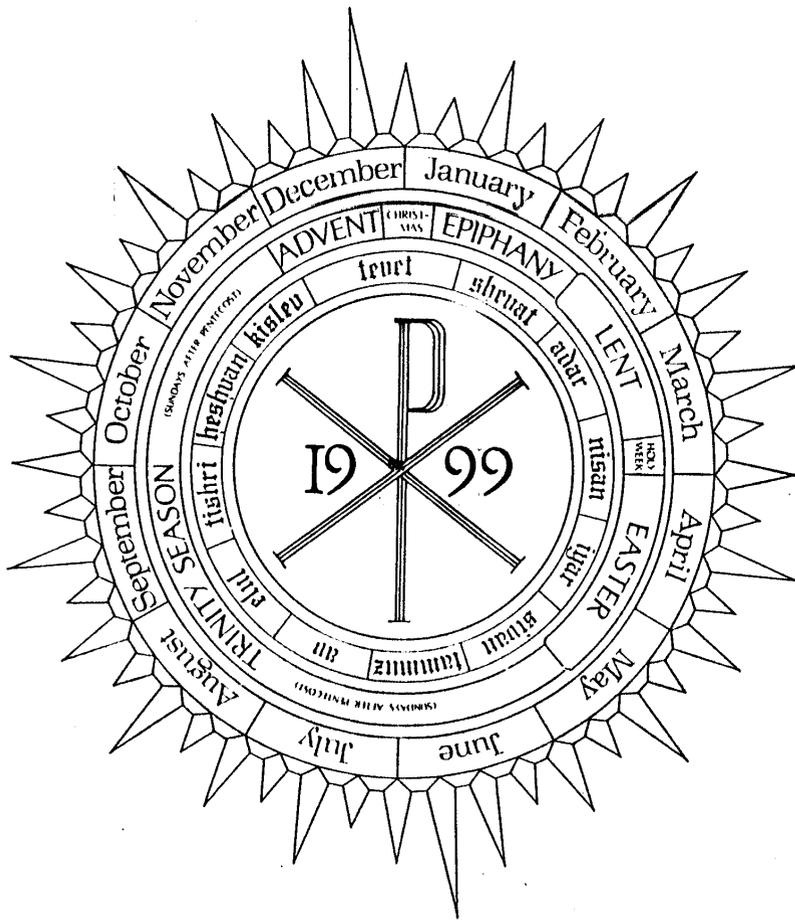
Boston College
Philosophy Department
11/15/98

Dear Fr. Bradford:

My Short List of Raft Books for Tiber Crossings (in no particular order):

1. The Catechism of the Catholic Church
2. Tom Howard: Chance or the Dance?
3. Evangelical is Not Enough
4. On Being Catholic
5. Ronald Knox: The Belief of Catholics
6. Knox & Arnold Lunn: Difficulties
7. Scott Hahn: Rome Sweet Home
(and hundreds of tapes)
8. Alan Schreck: Catholic and Christian
9. Rhonda Chervin: Church of Love
10. G. K. Chesterton: Orthodoxy
11. The Thing
12. The Catholic Church and Conversion
13. John Henry Newman: Apologia Pro Vita Sua
(not for beginners!)
14. Karl Adam: The Spirit of Catholicism
15. Anton Pegis, ed.: The Wisdom of Catholicism
16. St. John of the Cross: The Ascent of Mount Carmel
17. St. Theresa of Liseaux’s Autobiography:
“The Story of a Soul”
18. de Caussade: Abandonment to Divine Providence
19. Brother Laurence: The Practice of the Presence of God
20. Frank Sheed: A Map of Life
21. Theology and Sanity
22. Society and Sanity
23. The 3 or 4 volume series of practical Catholic apologetics manuals used for training London street preachers and debaters
24. Fulton Sheen: The World’s First Love (on Mary)
25. Three To Get Married
26. Dorothy Sayers: Creed or Chaos?
27. Fathers Rumble & McCarthy: The Question Box
28. Encyclical, “The Mystical Body of Christ”
29. Wolton M. Miller, Jr.: A Canticle for Leibnitz
30. Robert Bolt: “A Man for all Seasons”

Under the Mercy,
Peter Kreeft



ELEMENTS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

EVERY parish priest knows that it is difficult, if not impossible, for some people to pray in their homes, and it is necessary to encourage them to use the church for this purpose; this encouragement should not only take the form of teaching and exhortation, but also of making the parish church the real spiritual powerhouse of the parish. We must thank God that now almost every parish church is open for prayer at least some time during the day; but, alas, not every parish church is the home of the people.

One has visited churches which, so far from inviting people to pray, really dissuade them from doing so by their coldness (spiritual and sometimes physical) and stiffness; others suffer from hosts of budding organists whose energy, though commendable in itself, makes prayer an impossibility; others again, though open all day, are closed as soon as the workers return home; there are yet too few still, dim shrines of prayer filled with the peace of the Presence of God, into which one can slip unnoticed and be at home."

F. P. HARTON

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

worshiping at

Saint Aidan's Church

158 Pleasant Street

Brookline, Mass.

Parish House: (617) 227-0854

Rectory: (617) 787-0553

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.

Future Events

Jan. 1: (Friday) Octave of Christmas: Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation, Mass at 10:00am

Jan. 6: (Wednesday) Feast of the Epiphany: Solemn Mass at 7:30pm. A reception follows the service.

Jan. 10: (Sunday) Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. *Asperges, me* precedes the Mass.

Feb. 2: (Tuesday) Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) Blessing of Candles, Procession, Solemn Mass at 7:30pm.

Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday, First day of Lent, Solemn Mass at 7:30pm.

Sundays, February 21, April 18, and June 6: Evensong and Benediction 5:00pm.

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.

