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# Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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

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## Notes from the Chaplain

**I**N the story of the healing of the paralytic (Mark 2:1-12) which we have had recently at weekday Mass, we are told that because of the crowd, the friends carrying the sick man could not get to Jesus. So they opened a hole in the roof of the house and lowered their sick friend to where Jesus was. We do not know who these resourceful men were but they are a type of the faithful disciple. It is no good simply listing the world's ills on a sheet of paper before we go to bed each night. We must work to bring about what we ask for in our prayers.

One thing for which we ask is that we may be instruments, agents, catalysts, for non-Catholics to come to the fullness of faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for that, for yourself and for the specific opportunity not only in Boston, but everywhere reached by our parish paper, printed sermons, tracts, and your personal testimony.

In a great city, each of us knows non-Christians: atheists, pantheists, Jewish and Islamic people, Unitarians, Mormons. But mostly our acquaintance outside the Catholic Church are non-Catholic Christians. These men and women acknowledge Our Lord Jesus Christ and attempt



to honor and obey Him as God has given them the light. But for five hundred years that light has been filtered, and so does not shine as brightly as Our Lord intends.

What sets Christians apart from non-Christians is the authority of Jesus Christ. Protestant friends are with us on that score. But what is the guidance He gives and where is it to be found? This is where we part company from our protestant friends. Catholics affirm as established fact that Our Lord before His Ascension founded a single, visible, and invisible, Church. That Church, in its apostolicity and sacraments is Our Lord's guarantee that nothing comes between Him and the individual soul. But the Church does come between Christ and the individual *mind*. It is through the Church that Christians are to find out what we are to believe and why we are to believe it.

Our protestant friends do not ac-

knowledge a visible Church but only an intellectual figment which invariably is disappointed when supposedly like-minded persons gather in conferences and conventions. The bedrock of the protestant approach is the inspiration of the Bible (which was universally accepted before the Reformation on the authority of the Church!) but in the twentieth century this bedrock has been first watered down and then smashed by Christian denominations which increasingly define doctrine in terms of the community rather than bringing the community of mankind under the terms of divine revelation.

I write this not as a polemic but that you and I know what are some of the issues as we deal, please God graciously, with Protestant friends who desire to follow Jesus Christ, to be faithful to Him, but whose access to the Divine Revelation has been filtered, increasingly badly filtered, by all sorts of departures from the whole (i.e. catholic) faith. Remember that *kata holos* means "according to wholeness." Don't souls deserve the proclamation of the *whole* faith?

Each of you is superbly equipped as an evangelist. You are confirmed Catholics, fed with His Body and Blood, you hear the Word of God preached by a priest in communion with the local Catholic Bishop and appointed by him. Many of you have firsthand knowledge of those you are

hoping to reach, for you were once non-Catholic Christians yourselves! And all of you have your story to tell, and how Jesus is Lord of your life. Your conversion stories are a high-light of the parish paper.

Where to start? I want to make some suggestions. Begin to pray, daily, for those you hope to reach and have embrace the Catholic Faith. Know that it is what the Lord wants for them anyway. But He wants *you* to pray for them. Then, secondly, know your Church and what she teaches, and where Protestantism has gone wrong. There are inexpensive tracts and pamphlets to help you with this. Periodically we publish lists of helpful books that converts to Catholicism have recommended to us. Occasionally we have a visit to the congregation by prominent and outstanding Catholic laymen and women to give an account of the faith that is in them, the inspirations and challenges. The Pauline Media Center in Dedham is a good source of Catholic literature, and the Daughters of St. Paul know you.

The friends of the paralytic had faith. But they had to open a hole in the roof so that the paralyzed man could be lowered into the presence of Jesus, where he was healed. Each of us with faith in Christ must seek ways to create an opening so that we may bring others nearer to Jesus. That is the work of each of us for whom the anglican use has been a great gift.....a gift the Church intends to share with others.

Father Bradford



The Presentation of **CHRIST**  
in the Temple, or  
**THE PURIFICATION OF**  
**SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN**  
commonly called

## CANDLEMAS DAY

This feastday originated about AD 350 in Jerusalem; it has several titles because of the many facets of the Gospel narrative (*Lk 2:22-40*) it commemorates.

- v "Purification of the Blessed Virgin" because of the purification rites (*v.22*) in the Jewish law (*Lev. 12:3-4*);
- v "Presentation" because of the presentation of the firstborn male to the Lord (*vv. 22b-23, Ex 13:2*);
- v Hypapante ("The Meeting"), the Greek title used in the East, a reference to the meeting between the Child and Simeon and Anna in the Temple (*vv. 25-38*); and finally,

v "Candlemas," because of the candles blessed in the Western churches at this feast, a sign of the "light for revelation to the Gentiles" (*v.32*).

### February 2nd

The Blessing of  
Candles, Procession,  
and Solemn Mass at  
7:30pm.

A reception follows Mass.

You may bring unused candles for home use to be blessed at the service. Please have them wrapped and identified with your name.

### Ash Wednesday

Remember  
O man  
that dust  
thou art



and to dust  
shalt thou return

Imposition of Ashes and  
Solemn Mass at 7:30pm.

**BEGIN LENT IN  
CHURCH ON ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

## MATTERS TO THINK ABOUT

Our culture is geared to eliminating mystery, to solving problems, to answering questions. As science and technology march forward, mystery seems to be pushed back. Answers come faster than questions. Computers, in fact, give us answers to questions we never asked. Instant analysis is the order of the day.

Robert L. Cohn  
Journal of Reformed Judaism

*Mr. Cohn should Study Astronomy, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Every new discovery seems to raise new questions. (ed.)*

### PRAYER: A DIRECT ATTACK

**E**VERY act of prayer you perform is a blow struck with that weapon, and the blows are struck at the very centre of the enemy's position, in the heart of your being and mine, where all our evil begins first to germinate like a seed. Prayer makes the centre of our beings distinctly unhealthy for the seeds of evil. It is a direct attack upon the enemy's supplies and upon the route by which they reach the front line of our battle with him. I know that is a mixed metaphor, but I'm quite unashamed about it, because both the idea of the seed and the idea of the enemy's supplies convey what I want to get across to you of a worthwhile-ness of prayer even when no immediate results are at once apparent.

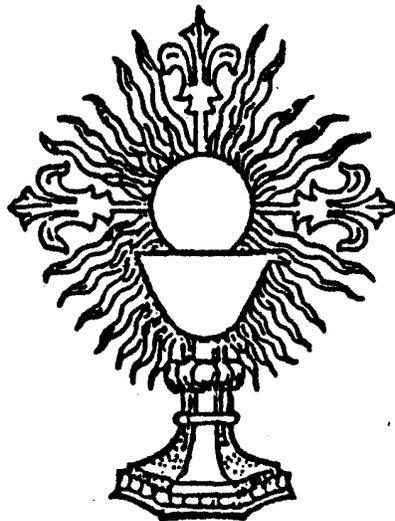
Dom Bernard Clements



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS IN LENT  
Beginning February 26th

6pm soup supper  
7pm Stations and Benediction



EVENSONG and BENEDICTION  
Sunday February 21st at 5pm

Supper at 6pm  
Program at 7pm

Reservations for supper required (\$12 per person) or you may bring your own supper, patronize a nearby restaurant, and return for the program.

Singers wanted for  
Schola Cantorum.  
Speak to David Burt  
(508) 337-6241

## The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

worshipping at  
Saint Aidan's Church  
158 Pleasant Street  
Brookline, Mass. 02146-3149

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.

### Lent

**Tuesdays 10am** Mass

**Fridays 6pm** soup supper, 7pm The Stations of the Cross and Benediction.

**Saturdays 9am** Mass

### Future Events

**Feb 2: (Tuesday)** The Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Blessing of Candles, Procession and 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 5pm.

Here's where we are...



### Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius  
158 Pleasant Street  
Brookline, MA 02146-3149

#### **Saint Aidan's Church, 158 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.

