
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume I, Issue 11

June 1999

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

Notes from the Chaplain

AS was shared with the congregation at a meeting after Mass on April 25th, Saint Aidan's Parish is slated to be suppressed as of July 1st. An article in the Boston Globe appeared also on that same day and was read by many of you.

The Archdiocese of Boston is always, and prayerfully, seeking the best way to use its precious resources. Its purpose is to worship and serve Christ in the community. Its resources certainly include its priests, and its physical property. Sometimes it seems there is more of the latter than the former! In any event, a review of the Church's presence and witness in Brookline has been ongoing for the past few years.

In July, the members of Saint Aidan's Parish will become members of Saint Mary's Parish in Brookline. As previously discussed at our April 25th meeting, we have not been told to leave Saint Aidan's but, on the contrary, to remain on site. Just what arrangements will be in place for us have not yet been spelled out. As you may know, a community of Vietnamese Catholics also worships and has a program using the facilities of Saint Aidan's

One of the happiest parts of our anglican use venture in faith has been the welcome and encouragement we have received from the beginning. Our gratitude to Fr. John Dooher and the people of Saint Mary's Church, Dedham is a matter of record. We have been kindly received and treated by Msgr. Leonard Coppentrath and the Saint Aidan's Parish family. The priests have graciously allowed our use of their rectory's public rooms for our various programs. Provision was even made for me to operate my own office in the house. If we could influence events, there is not doubt each of us would wish Saint Aidan's to be prosperous and growing in every way.....and for us to be a part of the total ministry offered from this site. But such is not the case, and it is a reminder that all of us are called to serve, rather than be attached to a place we call our own.

Attachments are easy, and especially in a holy place where prayers, and tears, and joy, have been offered, where Christ has been found and where Christ has consoled, for all these years since 1911. Indeed, some of the members of the anglican use flock certainly know what it means to venture forth in faith from much-beloved buildings. It is not always easily done.

The way ahead is clear for the anglican use. It is only some of the details that need clarification.

I suspect that will always be the case for any venture in faith. For what is clear is that we are called to be faithful, and nothing needs to be clearer than that! In Matthew chapter 9, Jesus calls Matthew from the receipt of custom. And how does Matthew respond? He immediately gives a feast for two reasons: to thank God for Jesus Christ, and to bring his friends into contact with Jesus. Those motivations have been natural to the Christian disciple ever since. If He has change my life then I thank God for Jesus Christ and am desirous of bringing others into contact with Him. Each of us has those marching orders.

It is a privilege to now place on record our gratitude to Msgr. Coppentrath and the Saint Aidan parish family. They have shown us generosity and hospitality in the hallowed tradition of the Catholic Church. Something that is genuinely apostolic was at work in that welcome, and it serves as a model and paradigm for us all. Each member of the parish has our heartfelt prayers and best wishes for all good things in the days ahead, and in the life we joyously share in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Father Bradford

SAINTS of the MONTH

John Fisher, bishop, and Thomas More, martyrs (22 June)

EPISCOPALIANS have never been exactly proud that the independent Anglican Communion arose out of the bloody rage Henry VIII. unleashed on the Catholic Church after failing to wrest an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon from the Pope so he could marry Anne Boleyn. Some of the details of his revenge can make converts ponder those dark times.

Henry set himself up against the Pope and married Anne anyway, whereupon he was excommunicated by Clement VII. in 1533. First Henry turned on Cardinal Wolsey, his chief factor in the failed divorce negotiations, subjecting him to degradation and humiliation. Catherine (mother of Bloody Mary Tudor) was to die a prisoner. In 1534 he extorted from Parliament the Act of Succession which required all his subjects to acknowledge in nullity of his marriage to Catherine, and the legitimacy of all his offspring fathered on Anne Boleyn (Elizabeth I. was their daughter). To oppose this act was high treason. The King terrorized most of the clergy into submitting, and those who refused were persecuted without mercy.

The great Carthusian monastery of London, the Charterhouse, was singled out for special mistreatment. It was a powerhouse of prayer, spiritual home of the young Thomas

More. Its prior was arrested, and with two other Carthusian priors, dragged through the London streets in their white habits before they were hanged, drawn, and quartered on 4 May 1535. The monastery was dispersed and despoiled. Ten of the monks who refused to recant were imprisoned and starved to death.



Thomas More (1478-1535), Lord Chancellor of England and once the King's friend, watched from the Tower of London as the priors were hauled to their deaths. He, too, had refused assent to the Act of Succession. Brilliant, scholarly, funny, ironical, acerbic, strict, loyal, but above all honest, More was a friend of Erasmus, Linacre, Grocyn, and other exemplars of the English Renaissance. He had succeeded Cardinal Wolsey in 1529, but would not conform himself to the King's demands. He was beheaded on 6 July 1535, declaring that he died for the faith of the Holy Catholic Church, and was the King's good servant, but God's first.



John Fisher (1469-1535), the Bishop of Rochester, also a friend of the New Learning and an acquaintance of Erasmus and More, is remembered for his defense of the doctrine of the Real Presence in the Eucharist in the face of protestant reformers. He had been confessor to Catherine of Aragon and opposed the King's nullity suit. Refusing the Oath of Succession, he was deposed by Henry and sent to the Tower. Pope Paul III. made him a cardinal, but the King's friends joked that his head was off before the hat was on. He was beheaded on 22 June 1535.

Fisher and More were canonized in 1935. Such is the history of the Catholic Church in England, the heritage from which the Congregation of St. Athanasius rises.

Hundreds more were martyred after 1535. A group of these further victims have been canonized as the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales (Feast 25 October)."

September 3-6, Tour of
Pennsylvania Dutch
Country and Gettysburg.
Call Sarah Weekes at
(617) 265-9499



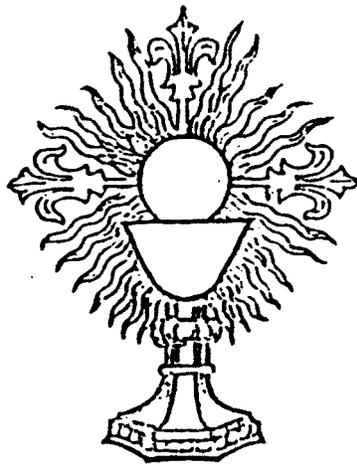
CONFIRMATION

Joyce Horton Sherman was received into full communion and confirmed at Mass on the Feast of Pentecost. Please welcome Joyce on his happy occasion.

THE BOOK OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Work continues apace on *The Book of Divine Worship*. Thanks are due to Father Bradford, Marcia Rand, the Lawler family, Christine Frances Collins, Elizabeth Edwards, Eileen Brathwaite, James Reedy, Br. Jerry Dowsky, Arthur Swanberg, Philip Crotty, Joseph Huepscher, and Dr. Maltzberger for their help in the preliminary proofreading of the text. It has been submitted to Msgr. Detcher for his approval, and then following some further proofreading, copies will be distributed to the clergy of the anglican use.

This text represents what was approved by Rome in 1980. A deci-



Feast of Corpus Christi
 Sunday, June 6, 1999 at 5:00pm
 SOLEMN EVENSONG AND
 BENEDICTION
 The Most Revd. John P. Boles,
 Celebrant
 St. Theresa of Avila Parish Choir
 Richard Bunbury, conductor
 Catered supper in the Rectory at
 6:00, \$12.00 or bring your own.
 Reservations please.

sion needs to be made whether to publish it as is, or to seek the approval of Rome for some changes.

One might well ask why it has taken nineteen years to get to this point? Could it reflect a general dissatisfaction with the text, which, after all, is largely based on the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, not a hugely popular book among Continuing Anglicans and Pastoral Provisioners. *The Anglican Service Book* was very well received by our congregation while they were still ostensibly Episcopalian.

Perhaps we should push for a revision of the BDW incorporating some of the good points of the *Anglican Service Book*. Or, perhaps we should publish the BDW now, as it is.

You are encouraged to take a look at the draft book. Fr. Bradford has a copy and I have one. Let us know how you feel about it.

C. David Burt



Father Bradford's 1998 sermon on the feast of SS Peter and Paul appears in the current issue of *Our Sunday Visitor's* "The Catholic Answer."

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

worshiping at

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

Parish House: (617) 227-0854

Rectory: (617) 787-0553

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

Tuesday, June 29th, St. Peter's Day
 10:00am Mass

Saturday, June 5 & 12,
 9:00am Mass

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 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.

