
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume I, Issue 12

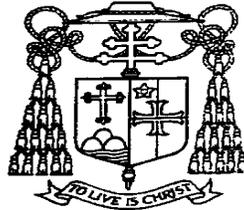
July 1999

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

Notes from the Chaplain

DEAR friends in Christ: About ten years ago we had occasion, after dropping off our elder daughter for her first year of college in South Carolina, to stop and visit Bishop Paul Reeves, living in retirement in the lovely area of the Smokey Mountains in North Carolina. Bishop Reeves had been the Anglican bishop of Georgia, and he and his wife have a very comfortable home. I had not previously met Bishop Reeves but knew from so many others that he was (and is) a fine holy man. After some lemonade on the porch, the bishop showed me around the house and eventually upstairs to his chapel/study. He said, "You know, now that I am retired and not getting about much, I can pray for all of you who are often too busy to pray." And I saw his well-thumbed devotional books and the list of people and ministries for whom he offered prayers. My name was on one of those lists.

I thought of Bishop Reeves recently when, in West Roxbury, one of the people to whom I regularly take the Sacrament at home, asked for something to do. No longer very active in a physical sense, and getting out rarely, this person still wanted to remain connected. I sug-



gested calling Catholic Charities and connecting with some agency doing a work of particular interest and for whom this person could pray. "Do other people do this?" was the question I was asked. And I thought to myself that the answer was that it wasn't being done often enough.

You remember the story Jesus told about the landowner who visiting his field saw a fruit tree bearing no fruit. So he told the caretaker to dig it up and burn it, and plant something that will produce a crop. The caretaker said, "Let it alone, sir, this year too, and I will prune and fertilize and water it and let us see if it will produce fruit again." The caretaker in the story was doing what we all must do: pray for souls, and for God's will to be done ("Let it alone, Sir.") and then working for what we have prayed ("I will prune it and fertilize and water it.").

So often we are busy working mightily to bring in the kingdom. There is much to be done. But we forget to pray for guidance and God's will in what we do. The Catechism reminds us that prayer is as vital to life as breathing. So prayer is never an option. Work, and pray. That is the ticket. And what better resource

for all the incredible richness of programs and ministries of the Catholic Church, covering every facet of society and our life, if amongst us are not only the professed religious, the monks and nuns, whose chief work is prayer, but the elderly and otherwise infirm, who desire to remain connected and making a contribution, who have the time to pray for those whose busy lives find prayer time much curtailed? For the Church there is no point to be working if we are not praying, or praying if we are not working.

To change the subject: it was a happy coincidence to see a sermon of mine (*The Catholic Answer* May/June, 1999) on St. Peter published in the same magazine as an article by my old friend and colleague, The Revd. Donald Charles Lacy, a Methodist minister in northern Indiana. (Some of you may remember Dr. Lacy preaching in All Saints' Church in the early nineties). His wonderful article was entitled, "Our View of Mary should unite Christians." He is pastor the Walkerton (Indiana) United Methodist Church.

Also I am pleased to tell you that the Most Revd. Lawrence J. Riley, Bishop Emeritus of Boston, will be our chief celebrant on the Feast of the Assumption, Sunday, August 15th. He is a very special friend of ours and looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Father Bradford



ELEVEN O'CLOCK MASS TIME SET

The Parish of St. Mary's, Brookline, to which the communicants of Saint Aidan's Church now belong, has announced new times for Sunday Masses at Saint Aidan's Church. The change entails a change in our Mass time from 9:30 to 11:00, beginning in July.

We will now be having the principal sung Mass at the time which was most usual for the main Sunday service in the Episcopal Church. This should facilitate people who come from a distance and young people who like to sleep late on Sunday.

BUS TOUR BENEFITS THE PARISH

There will be a four-day bus tour of Pennsylvania Dutch Country and the Gettysburg National Park, September 3-6, 1999. There is a flier in the tract case with details, a copy of which was also mailed to our homes. For reservations or more information you may call Sarah Weekes at 617-265-9499, or Sarah Greenaway at 617-296-1415.

A letter from Joyce Horton Sherman

24 May, 1999

My dear Brethren,

At St. Athanasius, Brookline, Mass....I am so deeply touched by your expressions of kindness and caring that you showed me at my confirmation and reception yesterday. Thank you.

God, with His infinite Love and Mercy, put me in your presence, It is with great humility that I tell you that I am honored to be among you. I look forward to joining you as we go forth and do His will.

As for yesterday's festivities, I shall never forget your sharing in my most blessed event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joyce Horton Sherman

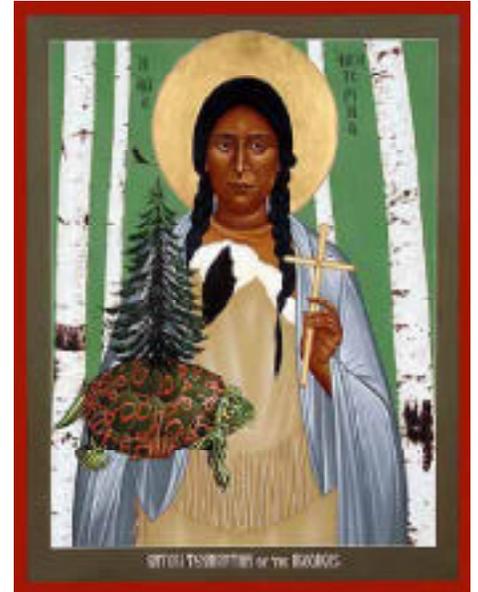
editor's note: Joyce was received, confirmed, and made her first communion of the Feast of Pentecost. She is a former Episcopalian.

ANGLICAN USE ASSOCIATION

At the annual conference of the Anglican Use congregations a devotional society was established, to be made up of persons who will pray for specific daily intentions. There is no fee for membership but there is an enrollment form which may be obtained in the parish office.

The conference was attended by nearly 200 persons and there is a set of tapes recording most of the talks. The Very Revd. Peter Stravinskias was the principal speaker.

Saint of the Month



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
(14 July)

Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656, the daughter of a Mohawk warrior of the Turtle clan, and a Christian mother, an Algonquin, who had been captured by the Iriquois but was rescued by Kateri's father. When Kateri was only four years old her family died of smallpox. Though she survived, an orphan, smallpox had scarred her face for life and seriously impaired her eyesight. Jesuit missionaries passing through her village were the first to teach her something about Christianity, and she appears to have been secretly converted then, at the age of eleven. When she was eighteen a missionary arrived to take charge of the mission which included the Turtle clan, and from him Tekakwitha received baptism. She practiced her religion unflinchingly thereafter in the face of terrific opposition from the Mohawk commu-

nity. After a time she was assisted by some Christian Indians to escape to Caughnawaga on the St. Laurence in Quebec. She received her first communion at Christmas in 1677 and immediately took a vow of chastity. Her extraordinary sanctity soon impressed not only her own people there, but the French, and the missionaries. Her mortifications were extreme, and she was profoundly prayerful. All the while she worked hard to contribute to the needs of her community.

When she died in 1680 the Indians almost immediately began to show her devotion. Many pilgrims began to visit her grave in Quebec and have continued to do so to the present.

Kateri Tekakwitha is the first native American to be beatified, which Pope John Paul II. proclaimed in 1980. The Councils of Baltimore and Quebec have both petitioned for her canonization, a cause which is in progress.



CONFIRMATION

John Terrence Maltsberger and Joseph Huebshner were received into full communion and confirmed at Mass on Sunday, June 20. Please welcome them on this happy occasion.

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

Sundays 11:00am. Sung Mass followed by coffee and fellowship.

Saturday, July 3

9:00am Mass

Saturday, July 17

9:00am, Requiem

You may submit names of the departed souls to the parish office. They will be remembered at Mass that day.

Saturdays

11:30 - 1:30 Confessions in the chapel, Fr. Raphael Caamano.

No appointment necessary.

A man cannot have salvation except in the Catholic Church. Outside the Catholic Church he can have everything except salvation. He can have honor, he can have sacraments, he can sing alleluia, he can answer amen, he can possess the gospel, he can have and preach faith in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; but never except in the Catholic Church will he be able to find salvation.

St. Augustine of Hippo
Discourse To the People
of the Church at Cæsarea
[AD 418], Jurgens, # 1858.

Those who make comfort the great subject of their preaching seem to mistake the end of their ministry. Holiness is the great end. There must be a struggle and a toil here. Comfort is a cordial, but no one drinks cordials from morning to night.

John Henry Newman
September 16, 1824
Letters, Vol. I, p. 76.



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.

