
✠ Contra Mundum ✠

Volume II, Issue 1

August 1999

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

Notes from the Chaplain

OUR fall parish retreat plans have been finalized. We have set November 12-14 at Saint Benedict Abbey in Still River, a place known to most of you. Our retreat conductor is The Revd. Carleton P. Jones, OP, pastor of Saint Mary's Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Father Jones, a Dominican priest, is, like many of our congregation, a convert from the Episcopal Church. He was a member of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (Cowley Fathers) and resided in the monastery on Memorial Drive in Cambridge. I mention this not because our retreat is about conversion, but because Father Jones' approach to Catholic spirituality comes out of an Anglican background similar to your own.

Some years ago I invited Prebendary John Pearce to preach in All Saints' Church on Ascension Day. He was vicar of Limehouse, London, and a much sought after retreat conductor in England. Father Pearce once wrote a tract called "Advance by Retreat," and in it here is some of what he wrote about retreats:

We believe that it is a vital help to spiritual growth for large

numbers of ordinary Christians, and that many people are missing a great blessing because they do not know that this opportunity is available for anyone who wants it. The purpose is really very simple: that we may be open to God, that we may come closer to him, that we may become more aware of him, that we may hear him speaking to us more clearly, and that we may grow in prayer. Of course all these things can happen perfectly well without experiencing a retreat, but we would suggest that great strides, which otherwise could take years to achieve, can be made in such a period of attention to God.

Last year about a dozen of us experienced our first parish retreat, conducted by our good friend Father Joseph F. Wilson of Brooklyn, New York. It was a memorable time for all of us. I know each retreatant would tell you that. My hope is that we can at least double attendance this year. There is plenty of room, accommodations and food are excellent, the setting peaceful, and every one of us has personally experienced the warmth of the Benedictine community on repeated occasions. So I hope you will mark the dates, plan to attend, save up for the reasonable cost for food, lodging, and honorarium, and enjoy these days in the country.

On Sunday, August 8th, our celebrant and preacher will be Msgr. Richard G. Lennon, who is Rector of Saint John Seminary. He was our first chaplain, and is known to most of you. The next Sunday is the Feast of the Assumption, and our celebrant and preacher is The Most Revd. Lawrence J. Riley, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Boston. He is very much looking forward to his return visit to you all. I will con-celebrate the Roman Rite Mass with Bishop Riley on that day. Later in the day there is Evensong & Benediction at 5:00 p.m., followed by a cookout in the churchyard.

If you are traveling this summer, you might find the location and time of Mass by dialing 1-800-MASS-TIM(ES) (i.e. 1-800-627-7846) Using a ten digit phone key pad, enter the zip code or area code & exchange number of the desired area. And let me know if it works! I have not tried it myself!

Please remember Father David Stokes and his family in your prayers. He has resigned as rector of Saint Stephen's Church, Providence, and the family has been received into the Catholic Church. Father Stokes hopes to be ordained a Catholic priest, and has joined the faculty of Providence College. We wish them well.

Father Bradford

August 6

Transfiguration of Christ Two Icons

There are two icons of the transfiguration which struck me very deeply when I saw them in the original in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow. One is by Rublev and the other by his master, Theophan the Greek. In both there are three mountain peaks, the Lord Jesus in the centre, with Moses and Elijah on the right and left-hand sides, and the three disciples on the slopes of the mountain. The difference between the two icons lies in the way in which things are



seen. The Rublev icon shows Christ in the brilliancy of his dazzling white robes which cast light on everything around. This light falls on the disciples, on the mountain and the stones, on every blade of grass. Within this light, which is the divine splendour – the divine glory, the divine light itself inseparable from God – all things acquire an intensity of being which they could not have otherwise; in it they attain to a

fullness of reality which they can have only in God. The other icon is more difficult to perceive in a reproduction. The background is silvery and appears grey. The robes of Christ are silvery, with blue shades, and the rays of light falling around are also white, silvery and blue. Everything gives an impression of much less intensity. Then we discover that all these rays of light falling from the divine presence and touching the things which surround the transfigured Christ do not give relief but give transparency to things. One has the impression that these rays of divine light touch things and sink into them, penetrate them, touch something within them so that from the core of these things, of all things created, the same light reflects and shines back, as though the divine life quickens the capabilities, the potentialities of all things, and makes all reach out towards itself. At that moment the eschatological situation is realized, and in the words of St. Paul, 'God is all and in all'.

METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF SOUROZH

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. For reservations or more information call Sarah Weekes at 617-265-9499, or Sarah Greenaway at 617-296-1415.

One result of the stimulation of your intellectual life that takes place in college is usually a shrinking of the imaginative life. This sounds like a paradox, but I have often found it to be true. Students get so bound up with difficulties such as reconciling the clashing of so many different faiths such as Buddhism, Moham-medanism, etc., that they cease to look for God in other ways. Bridges once wrote Gerard Man-ley Hopkins and asked him to tell him how he, Bridges, could believe. He must have expected from Hopkins a long philo-sophical answer. Hopkins wrote back, "Give alms." He was trying to say to Bridges that God is to be experienced in Charity (in the sense of love for the divine image in human beings). Don't get so entangled with intellectual dif-ficulties that you fail to look for God in this way.

The intellectual difficulties have to be met, however, and you will be meeting them for the rest of your life. When you get a reason-able hold on one, another will come to take its place. At one time, the clash of the different world religions was a difficulty for me. Where you have absolute solutions, however, you have no need of faith. Faith is what you have in the absence of knowl-edge. The reason this clash doesn't bother me any longer is because I have got, over the years, a sense of the immense sweep of creation, of the evolutionary pro-cess in everything, of how incom-prehensible God must necessarily

be to be the God of heaven and earth. You can't fit the Almighty into your intellectual categories.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR

'If you say a thousand times that you are a Christian and continually sign yourself with the cross of Christ, but do not give alms according to your means, and you do not want to have love and justice and chastity, the name of Christian will profit you nothing.'

Caesarius of Arles (d. 542)

CARDINAL'S APPEAL

The annual Cardinal's appeal is the lifeline of the Archdiocese. It plays the same role at the Archdiocesan level that the Sunday collection plays at the parish level. It allows operation of the outreach programs that serve so many people in need. As of June 24th, there were 78,570 donors who had pledged \$14,022,658. There are information packets with envelopes in the tract case.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON WEB SITE

You can access the Archdiocese of Boston on the internet at rcab.org. Through this site you have access to the Vatican and other Catholic sites throughout the country, as well as the Archdiocese of Boston, the Pilot, and all of the archdiocesan organizations.

FALL ANGLICAN USE CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend a conference of the Anglican Use parishes, at Saint Mary the Virgin Parish, Arlington, Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth area) October 27 - 29. The host is The Revd. Allan R. G. Hawkins, known to some of you from his visits to us in Boston. Details soon.



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sunday, August 15, 1999

Solemn Pontifical Mass

The Most Revd.

Lawrence J. Riley, Celebrant

11:00 o'clock

Solemn Evensong &

Benediction

5:00 o'clock

followed by a cookout in the church yard



Parish Retreat

November 12 - 14 at

Saint Benedict Abbey

Still River, Mass.

Fr. Carleton Jones, OP

Retreat Leader

Approximate cost: \$80

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius

worshiping at

Saint Aidan's Church

158 Pleasant Street

Brookline, Mass 02446-3149

Parish House: (617) 277-0854

Rectory: (617) 787-0553

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

Saturdays 11:30 - 1:30 Confessions in the chapel, Father Raphael Caamano. No appointments necessary

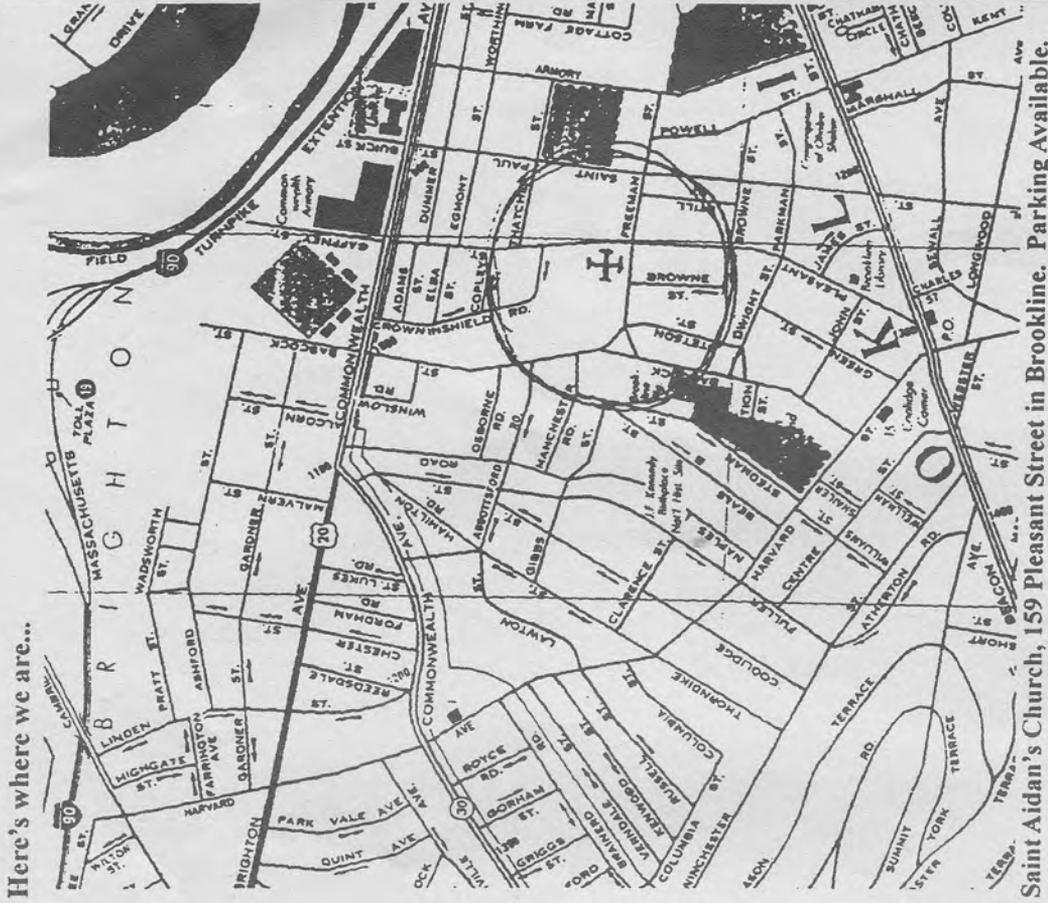


MONTHLY REQUIEM MASS



Saturday, August 28th at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Sign names of departed souls to the list on the notice board on the porch. They will be remembered at Mass on that day.



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 Alliston-Brighton tolls, take ramp for Cambridge Street-Alliston 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.



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