
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume II, Issue 7

February 2000

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

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Notes from the Chaplain

THIS is the door of the Lord. The righteous shall enter through it. Open to me the doors of righteousness. That I may enter and give thanks to the Lord. With these words, Pope John Paul II then pushed open the Holy Doors in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. And then, while 8200 people in the great church stood in profound silence, with 55,000 more watching on huge screens in the square outside, the Holy Father, helped by his two masters of ceremonies, knelt down on the floor and prayed. There is a stunning photograph of the pope, leaning heavily on his pastoral cross as he is bent over in prayer.

The pope then crossed the threshold, leading the Catholic Church into the Jubilee Year. As first to cross, the Holy Father was following the instructions Our Lord Jesus Christ gave to the pope's predecessor, St. Peter, to whom alone the Lord gave the command to care for the sheep. (John 21:15-17). As Peter's successor, John Paul II is the shepherd leading his flock in prayer and penitence through the gates leading to salvation. In so doing, the Holy Father is encouraging every one of us to enter more profoundly into the mystery of

December 25, 1999

through

January 6, 2001

Holy Year of Jubilee

In honor of

The Most Holy Trinity

To hail in the new

Millennium

- / Hæc porta Domini.
- ± Iusti intrabunt in eam.
- / Aperiti mihi portas iustitiæ,
- ± Ingressus in eas confitebor Domino.

salvation present in the Church, the Bride of Christ, as she joyfully celebrates the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Her Lord Jesus Christ.

The jubilee has its origins in the Old Testament, where the people were called to a special year of prayer and reconciliation. A notable feature of the jubilee was a general amnesty, and the forgiveness of debts, the release of indentured servants, and the freeing of slaves. Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) instituted the observance of the jubilee during his pontificate, and Pope Paul II (1464-1471) decreed that the jubilee should be celebrated every 25 years, that is for a greater chance that every Catholic would experience a jubilee in his lifetime.

Why should every Catholic experience a jubilee? The reason is that a jubilee, by coming infrequently, and with a definite beginning and ending, is for many souls the much needed spur to works of devotion, penance, and charity so often lacking in our lives after baptism. During this Jubilee Year 2000, therefore, you will hear of the many opportunities to obtain a plenary (full) indulgence, a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven in sacramental confession.

“Another distinctive sign, and one which is familiar to the faithful, is the indulgence, which is one of the constitutive elements of the Jubilee.”

POPE JOHN PAUL II,
Incarnationis mysterium,
Bull of Indiction of the
Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

God's forgiveness of sin entails remission of eternal punishment. But because of the very nature of sin, we are left *after* forgiveness, with a wounded disposition that continues to have an unhealthy attachment or attraction to creaturely things, and from which we must seek to be purified. When the Lord Jesus said to the sinner woman, “neither do I condemn you, go, and sin no more,” He was pronouncing God's forgiveness,

and admonishing the woman to pursue holiness. After our sins are forgiven, we must avail ourselves of every grace and help to avoid the disposition that led to sin in the first place. That grace and help are to be found in one place, in the merits of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It was in the Son that the Father declared He was "well pleased."

The Church, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted her by the Lord Jesus Christ, intervenes on behalf of souls, opening to us those merits of Christ so that we may obtain a remission of the temporal punishments due for our sins, and actively pursue a life of holiness freed from the dispositions to sin.

You can read more about indulgences in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, pp. 370ff. There is also an excellent, recent, article on the subject written by our friend Fr. Romanus Cessario. I mention all of this because a special feature of the jubilee year is the granting of a plenary indulgence to those who visit the basilicas of Rome and enter through the Holy Doors fulfilling certain conditions:

1. Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father
2. Communion on the day of pilgrimage
3. Confession within the week prior or after the pilgrimage
4. Detachment from sin

The plenary indulgence may be gained only once a day, but the good work may be repeated, and it may also be applied on behalf of the souls of the deceased.

“Visits to shrines, particularly pilgrimages, constitute part of the vitality of the Church, a privileged place of evangelization, a truly efficient means of renewal in the sacraments and a driving force in the building of Church communities”

POPE JOHN PAUL II,
Tertio Millenio Adveniente

Not going to Rome? The plenary indulgence of the Holy Year of Jubilee is extended to the faithful who visit the local Cathedral of their diocese, and any other churches designated by the bishop as pilgrimage churches for the Holy Year. In the Archdiocese of Boston, the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, and thirteen other churches have been designated by Cardinal Law as shrines for Jubilee 2000.

The Holy Father has written that the Jubilee Year is a time to “let faith be refreshed, let hope increase, and let charity exert itself still more.” In this year observing the twenty centuries since the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm and witness to our identity with the Apostolic Church, preaching to the world Christ and no other, presenting to the world Peter as our common voice, and forming as we do together with Christ as our Head, the Living Lord present in and for His creation. For some of us, as recent converts to Catholicism, this may be the only Jubilee in our lifetimes. Let us celebrate it with dignity, decorum, and devotion, that all may draw closer to the Lord Jesus in lives that praise Him and serve each other in His Name.

FATHER BRADFORD

Jubilee Churches

One of the key elements of the Church's commemoration of the Holy Year throughout history has been the pilgrimage. Many pilgrims will travel to Rome and the Holy Land to celebrate the Jubilee Year: The local churches are a rich resource for pilgrimage. In the Archdiocese of Boston, the following churches have been designated shrines for pilgrimage during the Year 2000.

Cathedral of the Holy Cross,
Boston

Madonna Queen National Shrine,
East Boston

Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Boston (Mission Church
Basilica)

Our Lady of Victories Church,
Boston

Saint Clement Eucharistic Shrine,
Boston

Saint Stephen Church,
Framingham

Portiuncula Chapel,
Hanover

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine,
Holliston

Saint Patrick Church,
Lawrence

Immaculate Conception Church,
Lowell

Saint Joseph the Worker Shrine,
Lowell

Saint Mary Church,
West Quincy

Immaculate Conception Church
(Old Saint Mary), Salem

Saint Theresa of Ávila Church,
West Roxbury

Around the Parish

Thanks to the readers participating in this year's Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols, and to organist James Reedy for managing to be on the bench for all of the extra services. Jim played two Christmas Eve Masses. While on the subject, the single best attended service during the whole season was New Year's Day in the morning, when we had quite a good number of visitors.

Congratulations to Fr. Carleton Jones on publication of his Christmas season story "Isaac's Epiphany," in the January 2-8 issue of the *National Catholic Register*. Fr. Carleton was our 1999 fall retreat leader.

Fr. James O'Driscoll joined us for Solemn Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th, and plans to be with us again for Candlemas, February 2nd.

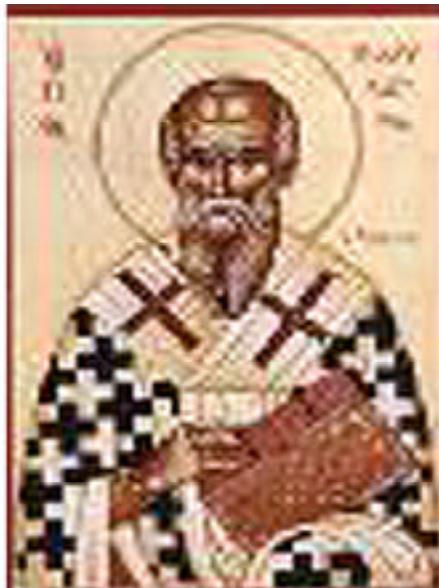
Bring palms for burning February 27 - March 5. Ash Wednesday is March 8th.

Solemn Evensong will be sung on Sundays, March 12, May 7, and June 25 at 5pm. The Office is followed by the celebration of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Christine Sorenson sends greetings to all. She is mostly recovered from hip surgery, and looks forward to joining us for Mass on Sunday when her son David is in Boston. Chris enjoys hearing from parishioners, so be sure to call or write to her.

Condolences are offered to Terry Maltsberger on the death of his mother in Texas, January 15th.

Saint of the Month



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Polycarp, Saint and Martyr 23 February

POLYCARP is remembered as a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist, and as one of the second generation of Christian leaders who sat at the feet of the Apostles and heard their stories of their life with our Lord from their own lips. As the Apostles died the Church was beset with a swarm of heresies as thick as a cloud of flies, and controversies burgeoned over how to celebrate liturgy, rules for which Jesus never laid down. Polycarp, as a holy man the bishop of Smyrna, saw there was only one answer: to tell the truth and to imitate the life of our Lord.

He spent his life teaching the Faith with kindness and with great courage in the face of constant persecution. Once he complained, "Oh

good God, to what times hast thou spared me, that I must suffer such things?"

When he was an old man of 86 he was in Rome when a particularly ferocious persecution of Christians was raging. One day during a bloody martyrdom when Christians were being thrown to wild animals the crowd demanded more blood, crying out that Polycarp should be found. (He was known not only as a leader but as a particularly venerable old holy man.)

He tried to avoid martyrdom by hiding on a farm, where during prayer he had a vision that his pillow turned to fire. He predicted to his friends this meant he was to be burned alive.

It was on the Sabbath, about 23 February 156, when they carried him away into the arena. Required by the mob to revile Christ in order to escape, he replied: "Eighty and six years have I served Him and He hath done me no wrong. How then can I speak evil of my King who saved me?"

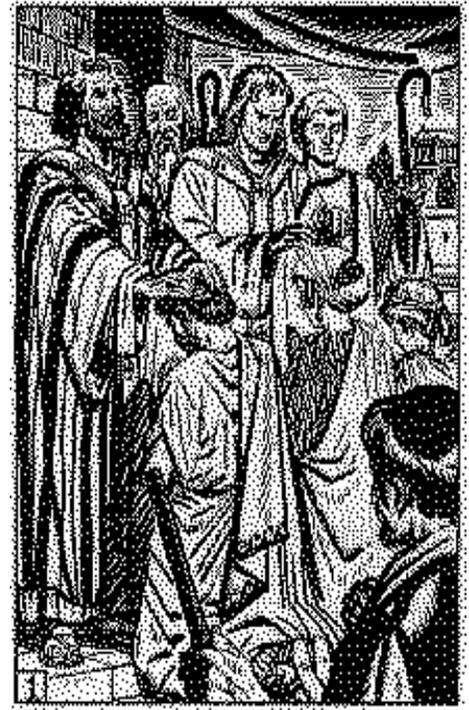
It is said that those present reported a miracle when the fire was lit. It burst up in an arch around Polycarp, the flames surrounding him like sails, and instead of burning he glowed like gold being refined in a furnace. When his captors saw he did not burn, they stabbed him to death, and his blood put out the fire.



The sacrament of Penance was instituted by Our Lord. The Apostles administered it. Thus in their time, as the Bible says, the Christian converts came to them, "confessing and declaring their deeds." Thus they came to St. Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:18).



The first Christians received the Body of Our Lord daily. It is the wish of the Church that if we cannot immitate them, we should at least receive Holy Communion every time we hear Mass, on Sundays and holydays of obligation. We should not need to go to Confession for each Communion.



The apostolicity of the Church receives additional proof from the fact that today it still administers the very same seven sacraments administered by the Apostles. Non-catholic churches have abandoned most of the sacraments, but the Catholic Church preserves and administers them all.

MATTERS IMMEDIATELY AT HAND

WHEN men do what is right in the particular circumstance, in the task at hand, in the details of what lies immediately before them, they may be building greater than they can ever know. It is not given to most men to see great visions, or to construct grand concepts. But it is given to every man and woman to make decisions about the matters immediately at hand, putting what is right before what is capricious, putting divine law before human wilfulness.

When that happens, God in his good providence gathers up our little actions of the moment, and uses them in his design down the ages. Did not Christ say that he who is faithful in little shall have great riches? The riches may be incalculable results in later times.

ARTHUR MICHAEL RAMSAY

100th Archbishop of Canterbury

WE read that God's creation is completed by the making of man, and that looking upon all that he has made, God sees it to be very good. We turn a few pages and find something different: It repented God that he had made man, for the imagination of the thought of man's heart was evil continually. Nevertheless god's delight in the work of his hands prevails. He rejoices infinitely in having made you; what is more, he rejoices in the you that he has made in spite of the pitiful imaginations of the thoughts of your evil heart. For his crown of satisfaction in what he has made is satisfaction in his beloved Son, and you are in his Son. God can look upon the man he has made and find his work good, because he looks upon the man Jesus Christ and sees the Son of his love, in whom he is well pleased. God's delight in you is immeasurable, because Christ is in you and you are in Christ. You do not see it, but he sees it. Be at one with Christ, and fulfil the delights of God's heart.

AUSTIN FARRER



Among the sacraments thus preserved are Confirmation and Extreme Unction. St. Peter and St. John administered the first (Acts 8:14-17). St. James wrote about the second (James 5:15, 15).

**DO YOU INVITE FRIENDS
TO SHARE IN WORSHIP?**

ALLEXANDER Solzhenitsyn, the Nobel Prize winner, was in Zurich shortly after winning the prestigious prize. On a Saturday afternoon, he was conferring with his attorney on the marketing of his books. The attorney told the author that the Mayor of Zurich wished to honor him the next day. The author interjected: "But tomorrow is Sunday. I go to Mass."

"But the Mayor has set aside this time and his schedule is busy." The reply was: "If he wishes to see me, he is invited to go to Mass with me." "But the Mayor does not go to Mass," stated the attorney. "Nevertheless," Solzhenitsyn said, "that is my condition."

The Monday morning edition of the *Zurich Zeitung* stated: "The Mayor of Zurich attended Mass at the Catholic Church of Our Lady of Einseideln."



February 2nd.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE, or
**THE PURIFICATION of
SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN**

COMMONLY CALLED CANDLEMAS DAY

Blessing of Candles, Procession, and Solemn Mass

7:30pm

**The Congregation of
Saint Athanasius,**

worshiping at

Saint Aidan's Church

158 Pleasant Street

Brookline, Mass. 02446-3149

Rectory: 192 Foster Street

Brighton, MA 02135-4620

Tel/Fax: (617) 787-0553

Web: <http://www.locutor.net>

Sundays 11:00am. Sung Mass, followed by coffee and fellowship in the sacristy.

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

Future Dates

Feb. 2, Weds.: Candlemas (Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple), Blessing of Candles, Procession, and Solemn Mass. 7:30pm.

Mar. 8, Wed.: Ash Wednesday

Mar. 12, Sun.: Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:00pm.

May 7, Sun.: Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:00pm

Jun. 25, Sun.: Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:00pm.

Here's where we are...



Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius
158 Pleasant Street
Brookline, MA 02446

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.

