

Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume II, Issue 8

March 2000

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

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Notes from the Chaplain

THEODORE Thomas was arguably the greatest musician in America in the last quarter of the 19th century. He was what we would call “box office.” And when he left New York to organize a new orchestra in Chicago in 1891, his grateful colleagues gave him a laurel wreath as a farewell present. According to Thomas’ biographer, the wreath still hung on the hall tree in the conductor’s office many years later. It was all withered and crumbling. No doubt more than one housekeeper had been given strict orders not to touch it.

Lenten Fast

*Our Lord Himself fasted of-
ten. He fasted forty days and
nights before He began his
public life. By Church law,
Catholics between the ages of
18 and 60 are bound to ob-
serve the law of fast, and all
Catholics over 14 years of age
are bound to observe the law
of abstinence. Ash Wednesday
and Good Friday are the days
of fasting. Ash Wednesday and
the Fridays of Lent are days of
abstinence. Many Catholics
still observe the Friday absti-
nence from meat (except dur-
ing Christmastide and
Eastertide) as weekly remind-
ers of the Lord’s crucifixion.*

In reading about Theodore Thomas many years ago I was reminded of what St. Paul had written. “Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown.” (I Cor. 9:25). Paul was describing a track and field event so popular in Tarsus and throughout the classical world. The “crown” had nothing to do with kings and precious gems. It was a *stephanos*, the wreath made of laurel or ivy, and given for first place. Sometimes the wreath was even made of parsley, and for



the original Olympic games, the wreath was made of wild thyme!

St. Paul used these sporting events, requiring a great effort of training, physical exertion, and agility, as a metaphor for aspects and the quality of Christian life. The inescapable fact was that no matter how glorious the victory, the prize was perishable and impermanent. After the exhilaration of the moment, the weeks pass and the laurel wreath dries, the leaves shrivel, curl up and become dusty. Finally the wreath is derelict and forlorn and an embarrassment. No wonder the housekeeper wanted to put it out with the trash.

As Lent approaches and begins this month, I want you to think about how short our time on earth is and how much of that time is wasted in the weary business of striving after things that will not last. Even as small children we learned how the things we desired so seldom satisfied us when we finally attained them. Boethius long ago observed "there is something in every one of us which before trial we seek and having tried abhor."

It is a good thing to have worthy goals, and to have an end in life. But it is a far grater thing to have an end beyond life. Believing that will make all the difference now. Do we choose to limit our energies solely to making fame and fortune now, going after laurel wreaths? Or do we regard life as a school for souls?

Where are your affections? Are they for the Lord Jesus? Or is there something else that dominates your thoughts when you are alone? Is there something that distracts you repeatedly when you try to say your prayers? It is crucial to identify such things and face them honestly and with the Lord. You and I cannot run in more than one race at the same time. So if we run after a corruptible crown we cannot expect to gain an incorruptible one.

A life spent enduring temptation for Christ's sake will be rewarded with "the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him." (James 1:12) So the question for the beginning of Lent is: do we strive for a laurel wreath that will crumble on the hall tree? Or do we seek "the crown of glory which fadeth not away?" (1 Peter 5:4).

FATHER BRADFORD

Saint of the Month

S AINT Cyril of Jerusalem was Bishop of Jerusalem from c. 349 to 18 March 387. He was involved in the great Christological debates of his day, and was in contact with Athanasius and Jerome among others. St. Cyril's theology, powerfully Johannine, is expressed in his *Catechetical Lectures*. Those who know of him today generally remember him because of Flannery O'Connor's citation of his haunting warning to his catechumens: "We journey to the Father of Souls but our way lies past the Dragon."

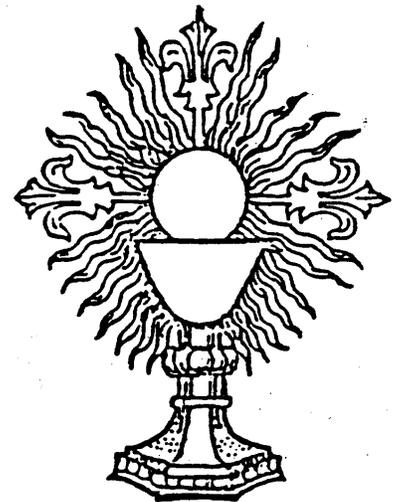
Cyril was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem after the death of his bishop and mentor, St. Maximus. During the Arian controversies he suffered exile on a number of occasions. The Arians suspected him of being friendly toward them, and the Orthodox were wary of him too, but he turned out to be staunchly orthodox.

Finally returning to Jerusalem, all suspicions against him were put aside by the Council of Constantinople in 381, where the Nicene Creed and orthodoxy triumphed, and Arianism was finally condemned. He enjoyed eight years of relative peace in Jerusalem before his death in 386 at about seventy years old. Pope Leo XIII recognized the need for his teaching to be more widely known, when he declared him a Doctor of the Universal Church.



ASH WEDNESDAY THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

March 8, 2000
Blessing & Imposition of Ashes
Solemn Mass & Sermon 7:30pm



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday, March 12, 2000
Solemn Evensong & Benediction
5:00pm

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

worshipping 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.

Lenten Schedule

Mar. 8, Wed.: Ash Wednesday, Mass 7:30pm

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

Mar. 25, Sat.: The Annunciation, Solemn Mass 10:00am

Mar. 14, 21, 28, Tue.: Low Mass 10:00am

Mar. 17, 24, 31, Fri.: Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 7:00pm.

Mar. 18, Sat.: Low Mass 10:00am

Mar. 20, Mon.: St. Joseph (transferred), Low Mass 10:00am

Future Dates

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.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

Fridays, March 17, 24, 31
at 7:00pm



St. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, March 20 (transferred)
Low Mass 10:00am



THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY COMMONLY CALLED LADY DAY

Saturday, March 25, 2000
Procession, Solemn Mass and Sermon 10:00am
Choir under the direction of Edmund Murray



LOW MASS

Tuesdays, March 14, 21, 28
at 10:00am

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.

