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# ✠ Contra Mundum ✠

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Volume II, Issue 9

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

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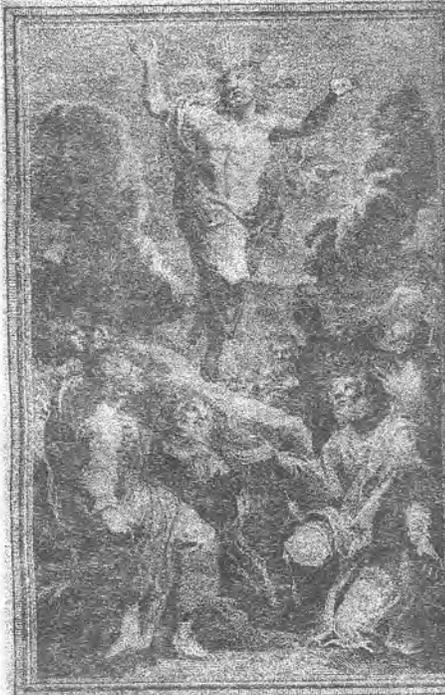
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## Notes from the Chaplain

**T**HE nails left their mark. They continue to figure prominently at Easter. Our Lord Jesus made something of the fact and so did His apostles.

When we think of Christ's sacrifice and the events which led to the Cross, we should include the whole of His life on earth. Jesus lived as well as died for us. All His life there were these constant sacrifices of God-made-man, and offered on our behalf. "God emptied Himself" in becoming man, and only He can know the extent to which He stooped to subject His humanity to the limits that confine us here. Jesus knew a child's weakness. He knew hunger, thirst, weariness, the death of loved ones, and dying Himself. And the spiritual poverty! He knew sadness, disappointment, fear, anguish. He even knew what it was like to die alone without God because some of us die like that. Christ redeemed us by the whole of His Incarnate Life.

At Easter, Christ rose from the dead in that whole Incarnate Life. It was not any simulated human body. His Risen Body was that same body which was born of Mary, and had lain lifeless in the tomb. That is the reason for the whole business about the nails.



The nails left a mark. And Jesus is quite insistent that the apostles take notice. "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; for a spirit hath no flesh and bones as ye see Me have."

To confirm the reality of the Resurrection, on other occasions, Jesus ate with the disciples. This is not because He any longer had need of food! The point was that the body that has the mark of the nails is the crucified and now risen Lord.

In the Upper Room, Christ does not plead for recognition by saying the usual "look at my face and see that it is I myself." He says "see my hands and feet." What you see risen and immortal and glorified is the One so recently obedient unto death. And

St. Thomas, having been absent, was sufficiently impressed by the other apostles to insist on the same conclusive proof. "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails...."

For the people of God, from that first Easter Day right down to our day, the mark of the nails is the constant reminder that we are a people purchased by His Blood, bought with a price, and that the risen, glorious, and ascended-into-heaven Lord Jesus bears forever in His body the marks of a First Century Roman execution.

No cheap shortcut religion here! The Gospel Good News is that there is no appropriation of the Resurrection for us without our dying to sin. The Paschal Mystery of Christ shows our way: "dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God." Alleluia!

With blessings in our Lord,

FATHER BRADFORD

## PATRONAL FEAST DAY, MAY 2nd

**T**HE Feast of St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria and Doctor of the Church is May 2nd. We will observe this day with Solemn Mass at 7:30pm. The Revd. Joseph F. Wilson, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn and a long-time friend of the parish will be our preacher. A reception follows the Mass.

Some may wonder how we can have two saints names. After all, we meet at St. Aidan's Church. But Athanasius has been asked by our congregation to protect and guide the work of the Anglican Use in the Archdiocese of Boston. Even before the small flock had officially entered the Catholic Church, we prayed that Athanasius would be our advocate and protector in the heavenly realm. He was outstanding both in his courage, and in his writings, in defense of the true teachings of the faith.

When the congregation was formally erected within the archdiocese, Cardinal Law decreed that it would be known as the Congregation of St. Athanasius. That patronal dedication will always be connected to the work of the Anglican Use in Boston, regardless of where our work is located geographically.

We hope that not only the members of the congregation, but our friends who wish us well, will join us for Mass on May 2nd, or observe the day elsewhere with a remembrance of us in their prayers.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEEDED FOR PENTECOST

It is not too early to sign up to read the epistle lesson (Acts 2:1-11) in a foreign language on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, June 11th. Last year we had many languages, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, Gaelic, Latin. No one gets a grade! But we all appreciate this special way to commemorate the gift

THOU DIDST NOT LEAVE HIS SOUL IN HELL



I ASCEND UNTO MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER AND TO MY GOD AND YOUR GOD

NEITHER DIDST THOU SUFFER THINE HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION

of the Holy Spirit to "all kindreds and tongues." This year a draft of a special book will be available to the readers, giving the lesson in many different languages.

## SHORT NOTES

A benefit bus tour to Prince Edward Island has been announced and details mailed to the congregation. We are pleased to say that an even lower price has been negotiated. The price is now \$475.00 per person, double occupancy. It is a benefit for the congregation.

The 64th Congress of the Archdiocesan League of Catholic Women will be held Thursday, May 11, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, Dedham. Cost for congress materials and luncheon is \$40.

Lenten Coin Folders should be returned to the congregation now. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities.

ASCENSION DAY is Thursday, June 1st. Procession & Solemn Mass

is at 7:30pm. A reception follows the service.

The Archdiocese of Boston and the Handel & Haydn Society present a concert in celebration of the Jubilee, 2000, on Sunday, May 7th at 3:00pm in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The program consists of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Handel's *Coronation Anthems*. The concert is free and open to the public.

Best-selling author Tom Wolfe, who calls himself a "lapsed Presbyterian" has praised the work of Catholic schools in the inner city. "I'm not Catholic, but I have eyes." He told a dinner audience in New York City that there should be no fears about separation of church and state and that the concern of the Constitution was to protect religion from the state, not the other way around.

Ordinations to the priesthood take place in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Saturday May 27th.

## THE BOOK OF MARY

*The Catholic Answer Book of Mary* has been published by *Our Sunday Visitor*. This two-hundred page book contains the best articles and sermons about the Blessed Virgin Mary which have appeared in the pages of *The Catholic Answer* during its fifteen years. We are pleased that a short sermon on the Assumption preached by Father Bradford is included in the collection. There are several articles by Fr. Romanus Cessario, Fr. Peter Stravinskis, and Dr. Donald C. Lacy, who are known to members of the congregation.

# Saint of the Month



St. Dymphna  
(15 May)

**A**LTHOUGH certain historical knowledge is lacking, according to legend, Dymphna was the daughter of a Celtic or British king. Her mother died when she was a child and her father lost his mind in grief. When Dymphna grew toward womanhood she greatly resembled the dead queen, and her mad father determined to marry her. With her confessor Dymphna fled to Antwerp to preserve her purity. Her father pursued them and found them living as solitaries at Gheel, in Belgium. When they refused to return the king killed Dymphna and his attendants killed the priest. Both bodies were buried on the spot.

Within a few hundred years many miracles of miraculous cures of insanity and epilepsy were reported. The cult of St. Dymphna rapidly

grew, and she became the patroness of the insane. From the thirteenth century many mentally ill came to live in Gheel, and the town developed a remarkable record for its humane tolerance and care for them. In modern times Gheel has become a model in residential care much imitated in the United States and elsewhere.



**W**E believe also in the resurrection of the dead... Now when we say resurrection, we mean a resurrection of bodies. For resurrection is a raising up again of what had fallen. But since souls are immortal, how should they be raised up?... This very body which is corruptible and subject to dissolution will itself rise again incorruptible.

ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

**A**T the center of the moral vision of the American founding documents is the recognition of the rights of the human person... The greatness of the United States lies especially in its respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and in all stages of development.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,  
Chaplain

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.

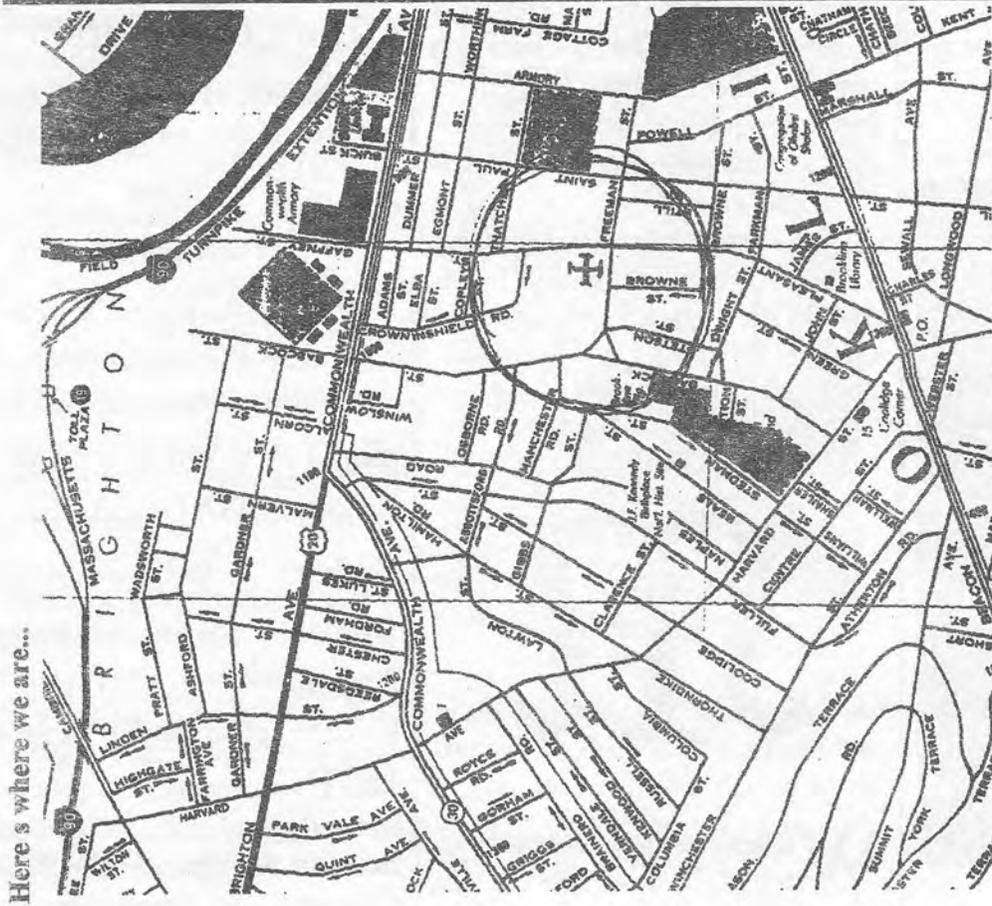
### Future Dates

**Tue., May 2:** St. Athanasius Day: Solemn Mass at 7:30pm.

**Sun., May 7, Jun. 25:** Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 5:00pm.

**Thurs. June 1:** Ascension Day, Solemn Procession and Mass, 7:30pm. A Reception follows the service.





Here's where we are...

**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.



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Brookline, MA 02446

