
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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

<http://www.locutor.net>

Notes from the Chaplain

SILENCE must be a necessary ingredient in our observance of Lent. That is because the Church is ever mindful that the forty days of Lent are an invitation to participate in Our Lord's forty days' retreat in the desert. Much is made of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness; less is made of the fact that He was there in the first place to be on retreat. "Silence is the nutriment of devotion," said Thomas à Kempis. If we are trying to make progress in the way that leads to God, we would be foolish to ignore the teaching of the great masters of the spiritual life.

We all complain about the unceasing noise of our world. During my seminary days in New York City a study was published indicating that men and women used a great amount of nervous energy insulating and protecting themselves from urban noise. But dislike of noise, by which we mean other people's noise, does not imply a love of silence, nor can we equate the lack of exterior noise with interior silence.

Most often we live in the lives of those around us, and in the give and take of everyday events. Our own interior life is an unexplored no-man's land, and we edge away from it. We have a suspicion that in our



real self we will find sins and weaknesses we would prefer to ignore. And so we fill in the moments of silence and solitude with endless talk, television, and chat rooms. Truth be told, we flee from our own company as from the devil.

Our souls are dissipated by constant talk, ours and others, and by a corresponding lack of even external silence much less interior recollection. All of this contributes to a thinness in our prayers and our lack of interest in pursuing this venture when God seems very far away. Instead of "Speak, Lord, for thy servant listens" (1 Sam 3:9) we say in effect, "Hear, Lord, for thy servant speaketh!" And is it any wonder that instead of a conversation with

Almighty God, we are engaged in a monologue?

There is no reason to believe we are going to pass straight from the din and chatter of daily life into the silence in which God reveals Himself. To get there, we must begin to practice interior silence in the very ordinary places of our daily life, creating a little oasis of peace and quiet here and there, and curbing our tongues and reigning in our imaginations. In a mysterious way, that interior silence will have a salutary effect on our moral being, cultivating and preserving all godly virtues. Things begin to come together as they never have before. Life is integrated, not compartmentalized. Once we have prepared our souls with a willingness to listen, then we are dressed for success, for the prayers Almighty God desires to pray in and through us. "How rare it is," said Archbishop Fenelon, "to find a soul quiet enough to hear God speak."

Lent is the perfect time to appropriate for ourselves the benefits of silence, a time to be on retreat even if you cannot go on retreat. Done rightly, without overbearing on others, no one will know you are living an interior silence, no one except your Lord Jesus, which is as it should be.

With blessings in our Lord,

FATHER BRADFORD

SHORT NOTES

Proceeds from the Lenten Coin Folders will be sent to Catholic Charities. Please return your folders after the end of Lent.



Easter Flower envelopes are now available for your donations to the cost of decorating the church for Holy Week. Memorials and thanksgivings will be printed in the Easter service leaflet. The deadline for submitting names is April 16th.

Confessions every Saturday

11:30am - 1:30pm

Good Friday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Holy Saturday 8:00am - 8:45am

11:30am - 1:30pm

Daylight Savings Times begins Sunday, April 2nd. Set clocks AHEAD one hour at 2:00am (or before you retire for the night Saturday night).

Saint Athanasius Day is Tuesday, May 2nd. Solemn Mass is at 7:30. Fr. Joseph F. Wilson will be our preacher.

The Easter Sunday collection at all Masses is designated for the work of the Clergy Benefit Trust of the Archdiocese of Boston. Out of this fund is provided the medical and hospitalization costs for the clergy of the archdiocese.

We encourage that Hymnals be given in memory or in honor of loved ones or even favorite music teachers, organists and choir directors. The cost is \$20 per hymnal. A book plate is in the works. If everyone in the parish gives five hymnals, we should have more than enough for now. When the *Book of Divine Worship* is published, we can also give them in memory of loved ones, or clergy, religious and teachers who have helped us in our faith. An *Order Form* is enclosed and also available in the Church.

The 5 Day Prince Edward Island Tour, Aug. 31 - Sep. 4 has been reduced in price by special arrangement. It is now \$470, twin bed, double occupancy.

Saint of the Month

St. Fidelis (1577-1622)

24 April

SAINTE Fidelis was born in 1577 at Sigmaringen, a town in the principality of Hohenzollern. In 1612 he received Holy Orders and soon afterward, entered the Capuchin Order at Fribourg, changing his baptismal name, Mark, to Fidelis. At the request of the Congregation of Propaganda he undertook, with eight Fathers of his Order, the mission among the Calvinists in the Canton of the Grisons in Switzerland, although his life was threatened. In spite of opposition he gained many converts. He spent much time at the foot of the altar or before his crucifix, preparing himself for the martyrdom of which he had a premonition.

In April 24, 1622, he made his confession, said Mass, and preached at Gruch. At the end of his sermon he seemed in an ecstasy and foretold his death to several persons. From Gruch he went to Sevis where he was fired upon by a Calvinist, though without effect. On his way back to Gruch he met twenty Calvinist soldiers with a minister at their head. They called him a false prophet and urged him to embrace Calvinism. He replied, "The Catholic religion is the Faith of all ages; I fear not death." He received a blow upon his head, arose upon his knees, prayed for his persecutors and with the name of Jesus and Mary on his lips, he received the death-stroke. His feast day is April 24th.

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STORY OF THE PALM CROSS

ON the Monday after Palm Sunday, I had an early morning dental appointment. While talking to the receptionist, I realized that I had a palm cross in my jacket pocket that I had retrieved from the floor of the church.

"What church are you with?" she said. After I told her, she responded, "I was married in that church." Suspecting how she might answer, I asked her what church she attended now. "Well, not any. I suppose I should go somewhere, for the sake of my little boy who is now seven."



On my way out of the dentist's office, rather spontaneously, I reached into my jacket pocket and handed the receptionist the leftover palm cross. As I handed her the cross, I said, I believe this cross has your name on it." She smiled broadly, and I left.

It is your personal identification with the Cross of Jesus that can make a difference in you life.

The miracle of the resurrection begins on Good Friday when you begin to recognize the agony of His Cross was meant to bring new life to you.

THE RECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE LESS; SCARSDALE, NY

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contrition

1. sincere penitence or remorse
2. *Theol.* sorrow for and detestation of sin

O LORD, we beseech thee, mercifully hear our prayers, and spare all those who confess their sins unto thee; that they, whose consciences by sin are accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SOMEHOW or other, and with the best intentions, we have shown the world the typical Christian in the likeness of a crashing and rather ill-natured bore -- and this in the Name of One who assuredly never bored a soul in those thirty-three years during which He passed through the world like a flame.

Let us, in Heaven's name, drag out the Divine Drama from under the dreadful accumulation of slipshod thinking and trashy sentiment heaped upon it, and set it on an open stage to startle the world into some sort of vigorous reaction. If the pious are the first to be shocked, so much the worse for the pious--others will pass into the Kingdom of Heaven before them. If all men are offended because of Christ, let them be offended; but where is the sense of their being offended at something that is not Christ and is nothing like Him? We do Him singularly little honor by watering down His personality til it could not offend a fly. Surely it is not the business of the Church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ.

It is the dogma that is the drama--not beautiful phrases, nor comforting sentiments, nor vague aspirations to loving-kindness and uplift, nor the promise of something nice after death--but the terrifying assertion that the same God who made the world lived in the world and passed through the grave and gate of death. Show that to the heathen, and they may not believe it; but at least they may realize that here is something that a man might be glad to believe.

THE DOGMA IS THE DRAMA
DOROTHY L. SAYERS

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,
Chaplain

worshipping at

Saint Aidan's Church
158 Pleasant Street
Brookline, Mass. 02446-3149

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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.

Weekday Masses in Lent, Easter Week and Future Dates

*Please refer to Holy Week Card
for Holy Week and Easter*

Tue., Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25: Low Mass 10:00am.

Fri., Apr. 7, 14: Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 7:00pm.

Sat., Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, (Altar Service), 29: Low Mass, 9:00am.

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.

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.

