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# Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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Volume II, Issue 11

June 2000

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

<http://www.locutor.net>

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## Notes from the Chaplain

**W**HEN the day of Pentecost came, the Holy Spirit did not descend for the sake of the apostles alone. There must be no confusion about this. To be sure, the apostolic band (fully up to strength with the addition of Matthias) would be fortified for its mission and witness. The Catholic Faith is the Apostolic Faith, sent out, **apostolic**, from Christ with power.

But Pentecost is not a *Good Housekeeping seal of approval* upon the apostles as God's accredited agents! Christ had made them that. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to bring about the establishment of the Catholic Church.

Jesus once told Nicodemus that the Spirit "bloweth where it listeth." (How do you improve upon the King James Version?) And yet that Holy Spirit has a particular and characteristic operation in the Church He came to possess, animate, and govern as the Mystical Body of which Christ is the Head. The Catechism (749) says that the Holy Spirit "flourishes" in the Church.

Pentecost will not occur again, in the sense that there can only be one first coming of the Holy Spirit. But God's Holy Spirit dwells still in the Church without any diminution of



power. When souls are added to the Mystical Body in Baptism, they are "born again of water and the Holy Ghost." In Confirmation, souls are strengthened for spiritual warfare by receiving the Spirit's seven-fold gifts. In fact, all of the sacraments have their effects through the operation of the Holy Spirit. And there is more. All down the centuries, through the spiritual writings of great and holy men and women, it is the Holy Spirit who has brought from the storehouse of Divine Wisdom "things new and old." And the wonderful conversions, martyrdoms, and lives of heroic sanctity all bear the stamp of the Holy Spirit.

Christianity is a revelation. God reveals and we respond. (Nowadays, modern man wants to weigh in with his own views of what revelation should be!) That Divine Revelation is quite clear that Almighty God through the power of the Holy Spirit has lavished His limitless care and craft on the fashioning of His Mystical Body, the Catholic Church, which is ONE because Christ is one, CATHOLIC because "according to wholeness," APOSTOLIC because "sent out from Christ", and HOLY because the Holy Spirit dwells in it.

Saint Augustine told us "as the soul is in our body, so is the Holy Ghost in the body of Christ which is the Church." And the Pentecost descent of the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles as representatives of the whole Church, not for that day only but for all the ages to come. For the Holy Spirit was promised by Christ to "remain with you always" and to "lead you into all truth."

Christianity without the Church? They'll have to find a new name for their new religion! Pentecost means that the Christian faith and its Church are inseparable. "Where God's Spirit is, there is the Church and every grace" (St. Irenaeus).

Affectionately in our Lord,

FATHER BRADFORD

## SHORT NOTES

Father Joseph F. Wilson was our preacher at Mass on our patronal Feast of Saint Athanasius, May 2nd. Copies of his sermon are available from Janet Ray.

Greatful thanks go to some parishioners of Father James O'Driscoll, who have made generous contributions to begin our fund for solemn Mass vestments. We much appreciate their support. You can contribute too!

Samantha Alpert made her first communion at the noon Mass in St. Paul's Church, Cambridge on Sunday, May 14th. Congratulations to Samantha and her parents Robert and Susan on this happy occasion.

ASCENSION DAY, Thursday, June 1st, is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. You may attend Mass in any Catholic Church. The Anglican Use Procession & Solemn Mass is at 7:30pm.

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TOUR

August 31 - September 4  
benefits the

Congregation of St. Athanasius  
\$470 per person double occupancy  
Contact Sarah Weekes  
(617) 265-9499

a description of the tour may be  
found in the tract case.

### FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saturday, June 24, 2000  
Low Mass at 9:00am

## Saint of the Month



St. John Fisher, Bishop and Martyr  
(1460-1535)

Feast Day, with St. Thomas More,  
22 June

**H**OW many university administrators, priests, or bishops in our own secular day would have the courage to go to the block rather than repudiate the authority of the Holy See as supreme in the Church? King Henry VIII, desperate for a male heir, had defied Rome over the matter of remarriage and took Anne Boleyn to wife; defying the Pope, he declared himself Supreme Head of the Church of England and commanded everyone to swear agreement. St. John Fisher humbly but unyieldingly refused to swear falsely. For this he was, though sick and frail, imprisoned in the Tower of London for ten months, then tried and condemned as a traitor. The royal executioner chopped off his head five days later on Tower Hill on 22 June 1535. Two

weeks later St. Thomas More was also beheaded.

Fisher lay suffering the cold austerities of the Tower when the Pope, Paul III, created him a Cardinal. In a rage Henry declared that even if the Holy Father sent Fisher a red hat, he would have no head to put it on, and moved forward to trial and execution.

The son of a dry-goods merchant who died when John was 17, young Fisher was sent up to Cambridge at the age of 22 where he quickly distinguished himself for his brilliance in theological studies, and, later, for his skills at administration. He rose to the Chancellorship of Cambridge and was a major figure in the promotion of the New Learning, which is to say, Christian Humanism. It was he who invited Erasmus to England, and he became fast friends with Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England. Bishop of Rochester from 1504, he distinguished himself for the loving care he showed the clergy and people of his diocese. He is remembered for his defense of the doctrine of the Real Presence in the face of the Lutheran incursions of the time.

Fisher and More were the Catholic victims of evil times. We may well remember that Latimer, Ridley, and Cranmer were all put to death as protestant martyrs of the same evil times.

### CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday, June 25, 2000

Solemn Mass at 11:00am

Solemn Evensong & Benediction  
The Revd. Msgr. William Helmick,  
Preacher  
at 5:00pm



## ASCENSION DAY

Thursday, June 1, 2000

Procession & Solemn Mass at 7:30pm

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION



## THE DAY OF PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2000

Procession & Solemn Mass at 11:00am

Epistle read in many languages

Wear RED clothing on Pentecost!

## 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

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

**Sat. June 24:** Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Low Mass at 9:00am.

**Sun. June 25:** Corpus Christi, Solemn Evensong & Benediction at 5:00pm, Msgr. Helmick, Preacher.



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.

