
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

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

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Notes from the Chaplain

THIS fall's presidential election brings us all the positions of the candidates of the rival political parties. We expect them to be different. We do not expect the Democrats to sound like the Republicans. We would be surprised if they did. Al Gore is not expected to sound like George Bush and vice versa. The differences between them gives the voters a choice, and we will elect a new president in November.

In September the Catholic Church issued a declaration "*DOMINUS IESUS* on the unicity and salvific universality of Jesus Christ and the Church" in order to reaffirm and make clear to the present-day world what the Church teaches and has always proclaimed: that Jesus is Lord; that no one gains salvation except through Him; that the inseparability of Christ and His Church means that just as there is one Christ, so there exists a single body of Christ, "a single Catholic and apostolic Church."

All of this is what you might call "boiler plate." It is straight catholic-talk. It is what the Catholic Church says about Christianity. Most converts to catholicism have come into the Church because they have heard these claims about Christ and His Church and have come to believe



November 2

All Souls' Day

When we remember the Faithful Departed

they are true.

But the declaration *Dominus Iesus* has elicited a howl of dismay and horror from numbers of people both within and outside the Church who say they are "surprised" by the contents of the document, and that it sets back ecumenical relations by many years. *The Boston Globe* even weighed in with an article on "Catholic Absolutism" as if being absolute were a pejorative word. (There is a high-quality brand of vodka which would deprecate that notion! Not to mention that the New Testament has the most "absolute" view of any book in the world.)

No one is chagrined when the Democrats do not sound and act like the Republicans. It is even expected

that the Democratic candidate be an "absolute" Democrat. But the Catholic Church is not allowed to be true to itself and its Lord as God has given it the light.

People who say they are surprised or horrified by the Catholic Church either have not understood what the Church has always taught, or else they know what it teaches and disagree with it. But in neither case does that condition affect the Church's proclamation as declared in *Dominus Iesus*. As for the spin in the secular press, Fr Stephen Powers reminded me recently of a prominent newspaper advertising for a religion writer assuring applicants: "no experience necessary!"

Catholics, be of good heart! The recent World Youth Day reminded me of the Denver Youth Day some years ago and a column in the archdiocesan paper quoting a sixteen year old talking about the Holy Father. "There are a lot of people in America today who make fun of him or criticize him, but to us, he's our hero because he dares to say the things that Christ would say if He were here."

THE PILOT, August 27, 1993

That's the point. Catholics believe that he does. And we pray the rest of the world will come to believe us.

FATHER BRADFORD

SHORT NOTES

On Sunday, October 15, being the Feast of St Theresa of Avila, the noon Mass in the parish will be celebrated by Bishop Murphy. It might be a prudent thing to have parked your car on Pine Lodge (at the front door of the convent) in order to facilitate your leaving the area after coffee hour that day.

The Daughters of St Paul are sponsoring and hosting a conference EUCHARIST 2000 October 20-21 at Fontbonne Academy in Milton. Featured speakers include Norbertine Father Alfred McBride. Fr Romanus Cessario, OP will be a workshop presenter. Cost is \$35.00. Call Sister Nancy Michael 617-522-8911 for information.

Fr George G. Greenway will be our celebrant and preacher on Sunday, October 29th. Please welcome the return of this longtime friend of our congregation.

Fr & Mrs Bradford are grateful for the many expressions of sympathy on the death of her mother, Helene Loyer, at age 92. Mrs Loyer died in Holland, Michigan on August 18th. May she rest in peace.

Thirty-one people went on a tour of Prince Edward Island August 31-September 4. This tour, which was a benefit fund raiser for the congregation, was arranged by parishioner Sarah Weekes. Our thanks to Sarah for the successful tour; a good time was had by all.

There is a SPECIAL INSERT for your list of departed to be remembered at Mass on All Souls' Day, November 2nd.

Saint of the Month



St. Wilfrid

(c. 633-709)

Feast Day, 12 October

IT is easy to forget the terrific struggles and efforts the consolidation of the Church required in its first few centuries. St. Wilfrid was an important leader in bringing English warring factions and parties together under the leadership of Rome as the young Church put down its roots in Albion.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, an Italian by birth, the first English archbishop, had died in 604, after he and thirty monks, sent by Pope Gregory, brought Christianity to England in 596. Introducing Christianity was

difficult enough, but imposing some order on the young Church was equally difficult.

Wilfrid was a nobleman's son and a rough contemporary of the Venerable Bede. Encouraged by the Queen, he studied at Canterbury and later at Rome, and, returning to England, introduced the Rule of St. Benedict and promoted the Roman method of calculating Easter. Chosen as bishop, he went to France to receive his consecration, but, staying there too long, came home in 666 to find that his place had been usurped. After a period of struggle he was reinstated in 669. Enjoying the favor of King Egfrith and his wife, Queen Etheldreda, he obtained large endowments of land for his churches. Though he built up his diocese, his troubles were not over; again his position was usurped, and he was forced to appeal to Rome for restoration. To do this, the first Anglo-Saxon to turn to the Pope under such circumstances, he had to travel to Italy. On his way there he spent a year preaching in Frisia—he is credited with starting the influential Anglo-Saxon Christian mission on the Continent.

The Pope restored Wilfrid, but on his returned home the hostile King Egfrith had him imprisoned. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that Wilfrid had encouraged the Queen to leave her husband and become a nun in 672. Released on condition he go into exile, Wilfrid retired to Sussex. He was reinstated in Northumbria in 686, but there were more troubles. There was conflict with the Archbishop of Canterbury who removed him from his see at York, but again Wilfrid appealed to the Pope, and again he was vindi-

cated. He was to regain control of the diocese of Hexham and of other monasteries, and died at the age of 76 at the monastery at Oundle.

After his death he became more and more widely known and was much venerated. Forty-eight ancient churches were dedicated to this great bishop. In art he is often represented as either preaching to, and baptizing

the pagans, or else as a fully robed bishop with a pastoral staff.

Wilfrid was an apostolic pioneer, a monastic founder, a builder of churches, a patron of art, and a person of remarkable fortitude and persistence. We remember him as one of the most important men in the development of the Catholic Church in England.



In October we will conduct an Every Member Canvass. Most if not all of the congregation's parishioners make an annual pledge of support to the operation fund, indicating what they expect to be able to contribute during the course of the year. Knowing this amount greatly assists our planning. Making a pledge also encourages good Catholic stewardship, that it be intentional and not casual or random. A pledge, written down, does not go away!

The "minimum standard" for Christian giving is the Biblical tithe. It is called a tithe because it is 10% of annual income. It is Biblical because the tithe is contained and enshrined in Holy Scriptures. Some Christians have been practicing tithing for years. For all of us, it is the place where we want to be even if we are not there now. In the view of Almighty God we can live on 90% of income.

If you are not tithing, it may be difficult to begin doing it "all at once." Some people can jump into it. It fits their personality. Others are trying to get there by stages. Start where you are. Figure out what your income really is and take 10% of that and pray about how far towards that amount you can move. And then pledge that amount and get on with your christian life, asking God in all things to help you grow in grace as you grow in years. Remember, He is not through with you yet!

In addition to our parishioners, our congregation has many friends and readers who are interested in our work and wish (and pray) us well. Most everyone on our mailing list will also be asked to consider making a contribution (although we're not going to stop mailings if you don't pledge!). So watch for some material from the congregation by mid-October.

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,
Chaplain

worshiping at

Saint Theresa Convent
Chapel

10 St. Theresa Ave.

West Roxbury, MA 02132

Rectory: 192 Foster Street,
Brighton, MA 02135-4620

Tel/Fax: (617) 787-0553

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

Sundays 10:30am. Sung Mass, followed by coffee and fellowship in the convent solarium.

Future Dates

Weds., Nov 1: All Saints' Day

Thurs., Nov. 2: All Souls' Day, Requiem Mass.

**Saint Theresa's Convent Chapel,
10 St Theresa Avenue in West
Roxbury. Parking available.**

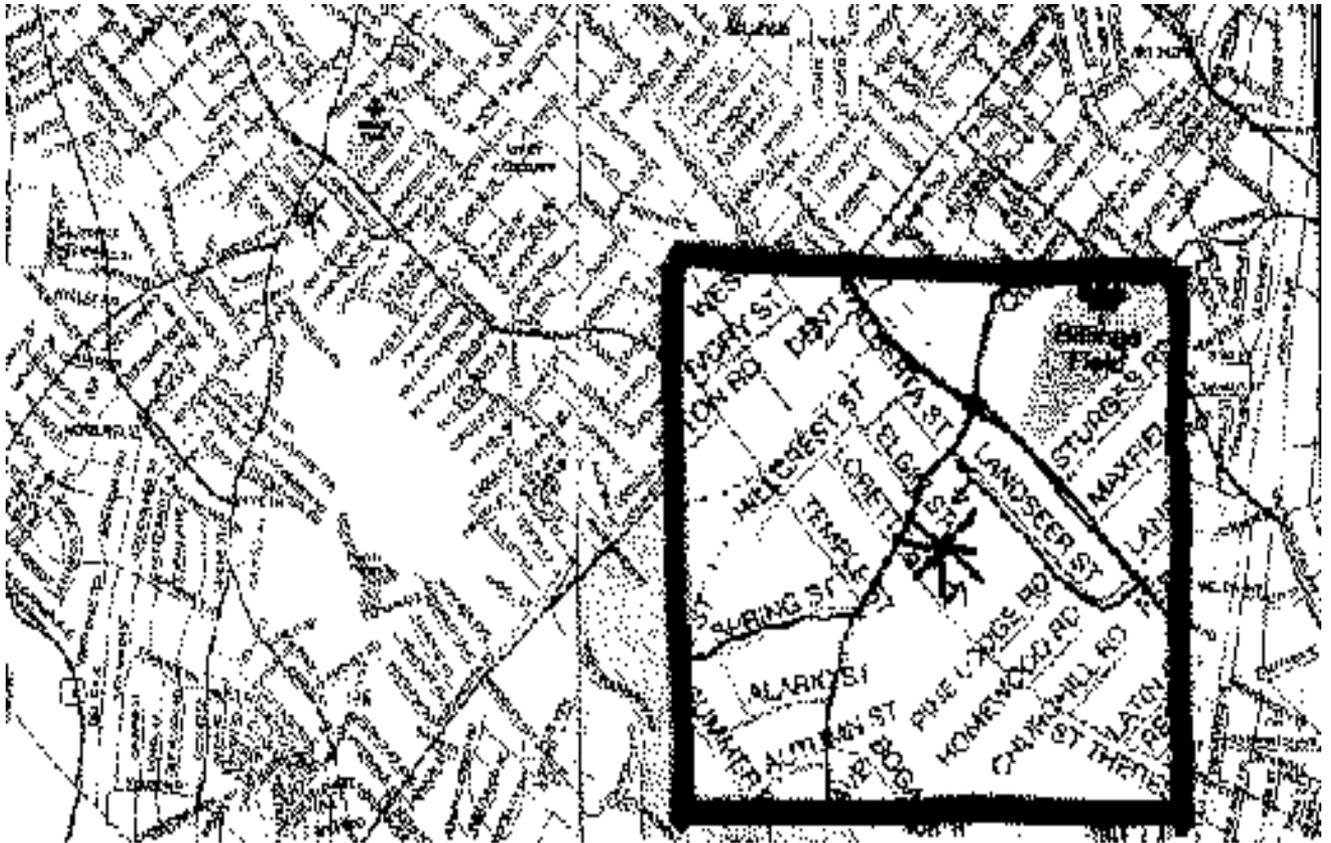
North and Mass Pike. Take Route 128 South to Route 109 East towards Dedham. Route 109 ends at the VFW Parkway and becomes Spring Street which leads to St Theresa's Church.

South. Take Route 128 to Route 1A North at Dedham and continue on Route 1 to Spring Street and turn right onto Spring Street which leads to the Church.

Dorchester and Mattapan. Take River Street to Cummins Highway to Washington Street, south to LaGrange Street, and west (right) on LaGrange to Landseer Street and into St Theresa's parking lot.

Brookline. Take VFW Parkway to LaGrange Street, turn left onto LaGrange into West Roxbury. Cross Centre Street and turn right on Landseer Street and into the Church lot.

MBTA Orange Line to Forest Hills. Then take the #35 (Dedham Mall) bus, which has the most frequent service. Routes 36, 37, and 38 also stop in front of St Theresa's Church.



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West Roxbury, MA

