
Ñ Contra Mundum Ñ

Volume III, Issue 4

November 2000

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

<http://www.locutor.net>

Notes from the Chaplain

NOVEMBER is the month of the holy souls. We begin the observance with the great Feast of All Saints, expressing our belief in the communion of saints. And then we remember before God our beloved departed and all souls in purgatory. This is the realm of the Church Expectant. It is a good place. No one ever flunks out of purgatory! Those souls will, in God's good time, see their Heavenly Father as the angels see Him.

Some years ago I read a story about an old British soldier who in his retirement years spent time visiting the children in schools and telling them about his adventures in India and South Africa at the end of the 19th century. The children were always fascinated by tales of far-off lands. Someone would ask what was his greatest adventure, and the old man would always say he was still looking forward to it. That would get the children to politely wonder how an old veteran could expect to have any more thrilling exploits. And after a pause, the old man would say quietly, "I mean the first five minutes after I die."

Like all true adventures, there is something unknown (and not com-



All Saints' Day

Procession and Solemn Mass
at 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 1,
2000

pletely predictable) about what happens when we die. Truth to tell, any adventure worthy of the name is a bit scary in advance, and it gives us great satisfaction when we look back on it after the fact. In advance, death can make us sometimes afraid.

The only good news about death is Jesus Christ! He has told us that He has gone to prepare a place for us, so that where He is we might also be. "In My Father's House are many mansions." These mansions are not so much elegant multi-roomed houses such as an earthly architect might design, but rather "resting places" (literally caravan stops) in our spiritual journey. Depending upon how we have responded to the

Lord and the promptings of His grace here on earth, He has something next in mind for us in the Church Expectant. It is something we need, and therefore deserve.

God is a life lover. That assertion is in evidence on every page of the Scriptures. And so He is taking care of our beloved departed in better ways than we can desire or pray for. If they loved life here, and made the most of it for themselves and for you, they are certainly doing that all the more now they are freed of all earthly distractions and traps. If theirs was a life of concern and doing things for you and others, now they are "going from strength to strength in the life of perfect service." If they enjoyed beautiful things even amidst the physical limitations of our life, how much more beautiful are those things for them now, where there is no pain and no more dying? If our loved ones ever said prayers for us in this life, they are doing so fervently in a place where their vision is so very clear.

The Gospel tells us that death is the consequence of sin. But after the victory of Christ's death on the Cross, death itself is permitted to make its contribution for the good of our souls. Of course we can do nothing, and allow it to sneak up on us and meet us in a meaningless surprise. Or we may come to understand death as a part of the Lord's plan for life and

for our life to come. Then when it comes again to one we love, we will take it as a moment of transition from one part of God's Kingdom to the next, which is what Jesus said it was.

When we say "May they rest in peace" it is not so much a plea as a statement of confidence, that God will continue to provide for us and our loved ones as He has always told us. And may we all share in God's peace, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

FATHER BRADFORD

If the god to whom we pray is God the Creator and the Saviour and the Father of Jesus, then four-fifths of our prayer to him will be enjoying his presence: enjoying him, looking towards him, being hungry and thirsty for him, just seeking him because he is good and lovable and great and wonderful and glorious.

If we ask, "How can we thus find God?" then think of the wonder of his presence and his goodness in the beauties of nature; or think of his wonder in the life of Jesus as we read and absorb the life of Jesus; or think of his goodness to us in the special blessings he has given to each of us in our lives.

At All Saints-tide, think of the wonderful presence and power of God in the lives of good and lovely people, some of whom we have known well, some not so well.

In all these ways God is intimate, near, and lovable, and evoking for us a joy in him and his presence. It is that kind of joy in him and in his presence which is the real essence of Christian prayer.

ARTHUR MICHAEL RAMSEY
100th Archbishop of Canterbury

Saint of the Month



St. Winefride

Feast Day, November 3

A Welsh Virgin and Martyr of the 7th Century

As the legend has it, there was once a beautiful Welsh maiden whose name was Winefride. She was much influenced by her uncle, St. Beuno, and took a vow of chastity and devotion to our Lord, dedicating herself to a life of prayer and service.

The son of a neighboring prince, Caradoc, was overwhelmed by her beauty, and one day, after her parents had already left for Mass, he broke into her home and attempted to seduce her. Winefride told him she was betrothed to another, but he refused to leave her alone. Escaping through

a back door she ran away to the Church, but Caradoc, in a rage, pursued her on horseback. At the very door of the Church he drew his sword and cut off her head. '... and after the hede of the Vyrgyne was cut of and touchyd the ground, as we afore have said, sprang up a welle of spryngyng water largely enduryng unto this day, which heleth al langours and sekenesses as well in men as in bestes, which welle is named after the name of the Vyrgyne and is called St. Wenefrede's Welle...' So wrote William Caxton in 1485.

Rushing from the Church to behold the bloody scene, Winefride's uncle Beuno cursed Caradoc. It is said that the earth opened and swallowed him up alive, while at the same time Winefride's head was restored and she was raised from the dead. She became abbess of a nunnery at Holywell, according to one version of the tale.

The cult of Winefride's well grew and persists to the present. A pilgrimage center, King Henry V visited it on foot in 1416, as did Edward IV later. During the Reformation, Holywell became an important center for Catholic loyalists. Jesuits and secular priests were more or less in permanent residence there during the persecutions of Henry VIII, and his daughter, Queen Elizabeth I. Dr. Samuel Johnson saw people bathing there in 1774, just as they do in the present day, hoping to be cured of their ills and ailments. The chapel and well are the best preserved medieval pilgrimage center of its kind in all of Britain.

(From the first printed version of the 'Life of St. Winefride' by William Caxton 1485.)



Commemoration of the Faithful Departed



All Souls Day

Solemn Requiem Mass at 7:30pm
Thursday, November 2, 2000

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

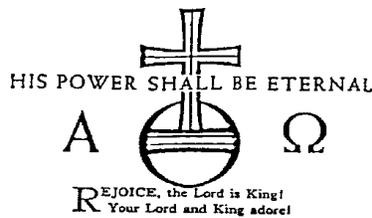
One consequence of the mystery of Christ is that Christian people don't stand—so to say—on the ground of the present moment, and view past generations, or their comrades in paradise, as people some distance away from them.

No, we see the present moment more clearly and bravely because our stance is within the Communion of Saints. How closely, how lovingly, they are praying with us today.

ARTHUR MICHAEL RAMSEY 100TH
Archbishop of Canterbury

HONOR
GOD
WITH YOUR
SUBSTANCE

Our Every Member Canvass is underway. Please send in your pledge of financial support for the program of the congregation during the coming year. Many thanks.



FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
Sunday, November 26
Solemn Evensong and Benediction
at 5:00pm
Saint Theresa's Chapel

Christ the King is the last Sunday of the church year, and the new liturgical year always begins with the First Sunday of Advent. The idea behind Christ the King is the sovereignty of Christ over all nations, a fitting conclusion to the Church year.



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.

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

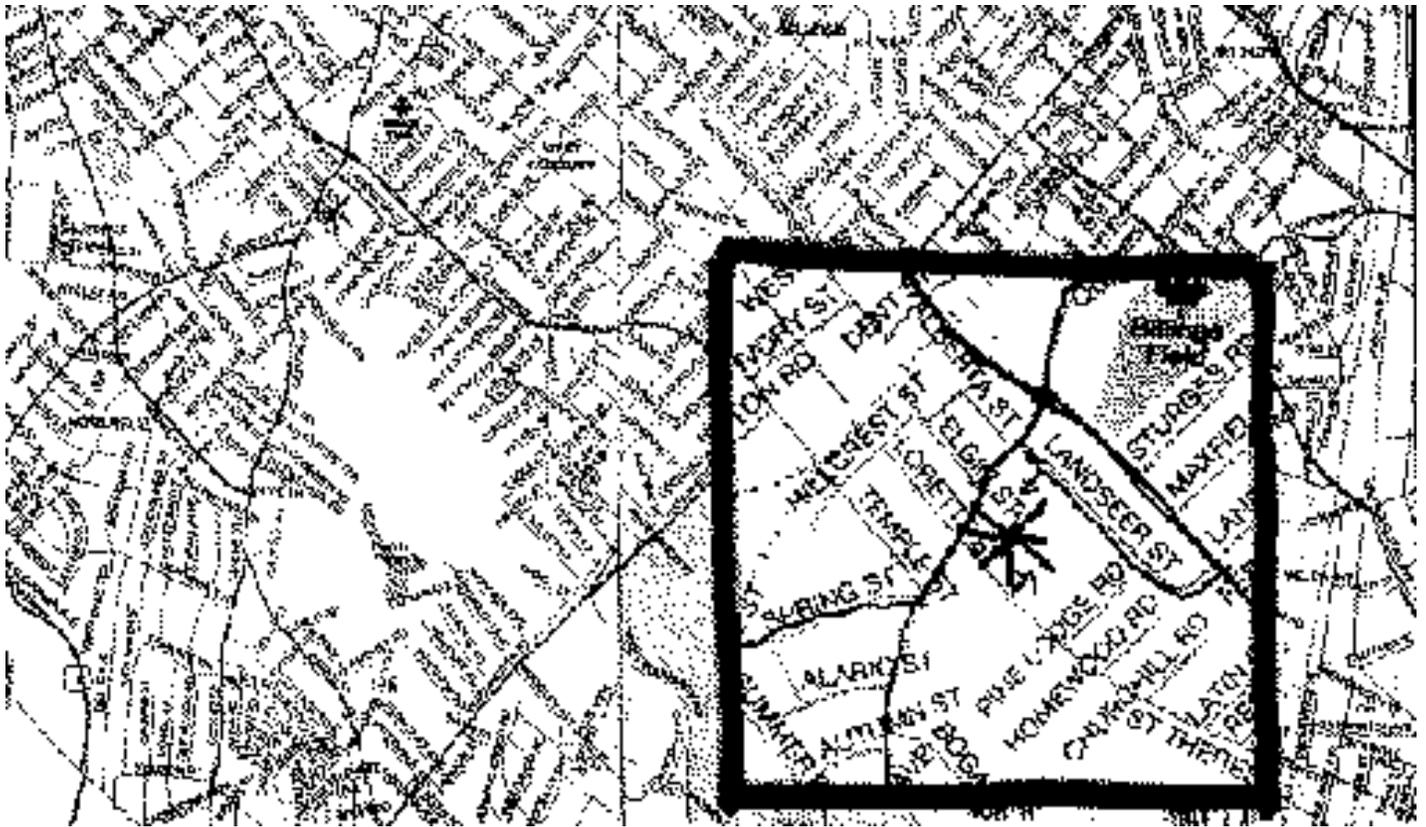
North and Mass Pike. Take Route 128 South to Route 109 East towards Dedham. Route 109 ends at the VFW Parkway and becomes Spring Street which leads to St Theresa's Church.

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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