

‡ Contra Mundum ‡

Volume III, Issue 8

March 2001

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

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NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

HOW easily and readily most of us fall into self-indulgence, spiritual laxness, and intellectual softness. Our tendency to self-assertion leads us to neglect the claims of Almighty God and depend upon our own efforts, our wisdom and cleverness. Saint John the Evangelist calls this “the pride of life.” And then comes Lent, a yearly invitation to consider the malice of sin and the sheer havoc it creates in the place where, at baptism, we became the sanctuary of God’s Presence.

We are all aware that sin is a deliberate breaking of God’s law. But it is far more than just a violation of a moral code. It is the offence of a human person against the Divine Person. Sin is always primarily against God. That is because the sin is in the sinner. Another person may be the victim, but the sinning itself, without repentance, is catastrophic to a soul created for and called to nothing less than a life of love in Trinitarian communion.

In the only prayer He gave us, the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus refers to our sins



THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

COMMONLY CALLED LADY DAY

Friday, February 2, 2001

Solemn Mass and Sermon

Saint Theresa of Ávila Chapel

West Roxbury

Monday, March 26, 2001 7:30pm

A reception in the Pavilion follows the service.

as “trespasses.” We all know that to trespass means to walk on forbidden ground. When we sin we pass beyond the frontiers drawn by God for our good, for our safety, and our happiness. To trespass is to stray into areas of thought, desire, and action forbidden by the Creator for His creature. Sin robs Almighty God of that

which belongs to Him. It is a sacrilegious invasion of a place He had claimed for Himself.

Lent removes the rose-colored glasses and gets back to basics: this is God’s world, which He destined to be an earthly paradise. But it is a paradise that sin ravages. Every faculty of your spiritual being must be on full alert both to the ways of righteousness and the paths to perdition. Our Lord promised His servants would be blessed whom He found alert and ready for Him in the third watch of the night. The third watch is the time between midnight and dawn, when our vitality is at low ebb in every sense. Lent represents our lifelong determination to be found alert and ready: by prayerfulness, self-discipline, and love of Christ.

Sin is always crouching at the door of our hearts seeking to enter and devour. To deny that fact is just what the devil wants. But there is Another knocking at the door. His hands are nail-pierced, but that is the worst the evil thing could do to Him, and slinks away from before Him. Let in Christ, with all it means to do so, and no power of temptation will ever overcome you.

FATHER BRADFORD



BRIEFLY NOTED

SPRING PARISH RETREAT dates are May 4-6, at Saint Benedict Abbey. Cost is \$90 per person, covering two nights' lodging, five meals, and an honorarium. Our retreat director, Fr Romanus Cessario, OP is professor of theology at St John's Seminary in Brighton and noted author and columnist. Fr Cessario is known to you from his visits to our congregation. You may register for the retreat at any time, by sending your name with your payment to our treasurer, Bruce Rand. Checks may be made payable to the Congregation of St Athanasius.

Watch for Easter Flower envelopes in mid-March. Your memorial gifts help with the cost of adorning the sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter, April 8-15 this year.

Stephen M. Molloy, 36-year old son of Gloria and Bob, died unexpectedly on February 4. The Funeral Mass was celebrated in St Theresa of Ávila Church in West Roxbury by Father Bradford on February 8th. Burial was in Gethsemane Cemetery. Deacon Michael Connolly assisted at the Mass and the servers were Bruce Rand and Ronald Jaynes. Please keep the Molloy family in your prayers as they mourn Stephen's untimely death. May he rest in peace!

AIM is the Archdiocesan Institute for Ministry. It is headquartered at 1 Lake Street, Brighton. In March, AIM is offering a variety of courses designed to develop lay leadership and deepening adult faith. Courses are offered on weekdays, mostly in the evening, but some in the late afternoons, on such topics as Living the Christian Life and Understanding Pro-Life Issues. The various series take three to six weeks. For more information or a complete list of offerings, call 617-746-5870.

Saint of the Month



St. Margaret of Clitherow
1556-1587
March 25

MMARGARET Clitherow was the first person to be executed for loyalty to the Catholic cause under the reign of Elizabeth I. A recent subject in the adult education class in the Congregation of St. Athanasius has been the religious turmoil under the Tudors. After the death of her elder sister Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) Tudor, Elizabeth outlawed Catholic worship and required all her subjects to attend the new Church of England, set up by her father Henry VIII. Catholic loyalists were persecuted as traitors, though they were perfectly content to give their allegiance to the English crown, except in the matter of religious observance. The Pope excommunicated Queen Elizabeth who set in

motion a hideous persecution of her Catholic subjects. Of the many who suffered for their faith Pope Paul VI. canonized The Forty Martyrs of England and Wales in 1970.

Born under the reign of Mary Tudor in York, Margaret was the daughter of a prominent chandler, who raised her as a protestant. At 18 she married a wealthy York butcher, John Clitherow, who was obedient to the Queen and now a member of the Church of England. After about two years Margaret returned to the Church of her ancestors. Her husband was kind and tolerant about this, even allowing his children secretly to be educated and raised as Catholics. In his home there was a secret room to hide visiting priests (a "priest's hole"). Vestments, wine and altar bread were concealed in a cupboard, and children from Catholic families were secretly taught there by a tutor.

Her sympathies were noticed by the authorities, and she was sent to prison on several occasions to suffer for her faith. There she taught herself to read and write. The eldest Clitherow son Henry was sent to study at Douai in Belgium. When John was interrogated about this their house was searched and the incriminating vestments and altar materials were found, as well as the secret room for a priest.

Refusing to plead upon her arrest, and protesting her innocence, Margaret was tortured. She was condemned on 15 March 1586 in the Court of York while she was pregnant with her fourth child. "You must return from whence you came, and there, in the lowest part of the prison, be stripped naked, laid down, your back on the ground, and as much

contrition

(kən trish' ən) n. **1.** sincere penitence or remorse **2.** *Theol.* sorrow for and detestation of sin

○ 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.*

weight laid upon you as you are able to bear, and so to continue for three days without meat or drink, and on the third day to be pressed to death, your hands and feet tied to posts, and a sharp stone under your back.”

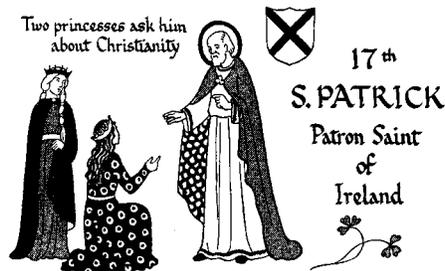
She was separated from her children and her husband and some time later the sentence was carried out. Fortunately she died within fifteen minutes, crying out to Jesus for mercy.

Her home at 36 The Shambles, York, is now a place of pilgrimage for thousands who come there every year. When Pope Paul VI. canonized her, she was given the name, “The Pearl of York.”



Mar. 19 - FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
 Low Mass
 Monday, March 19, 2001
 12 Noon
 Saint Theresa Convent Chapel



“Ireland is far more favored than Britain by latitude, and by its mild and healthy climate. Snow rarely lies longer than three days, so that there is no need to store hay in summer for winter use or to build stables for beasts. There are no reptiles, and no snake can exist there; for although often brought over from Britain, as soon as the ship nears land, they breathe the scent of its air, and die.”

THE VENERABLE BEDE

Saint Patrick is also the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. On Saturday, March 17th, His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law will celebrate a Noon Mass in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. All are invited.

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,
 Chaplain

worshiping at

Saint Theresa Convent
 Chapel

10 St. Theresa Ave.
 West Roxbury, Mass.

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.

Mon. Mar 19. Feast of St. Joseph, Low Mass, 12 Noon, Convent Chapel.

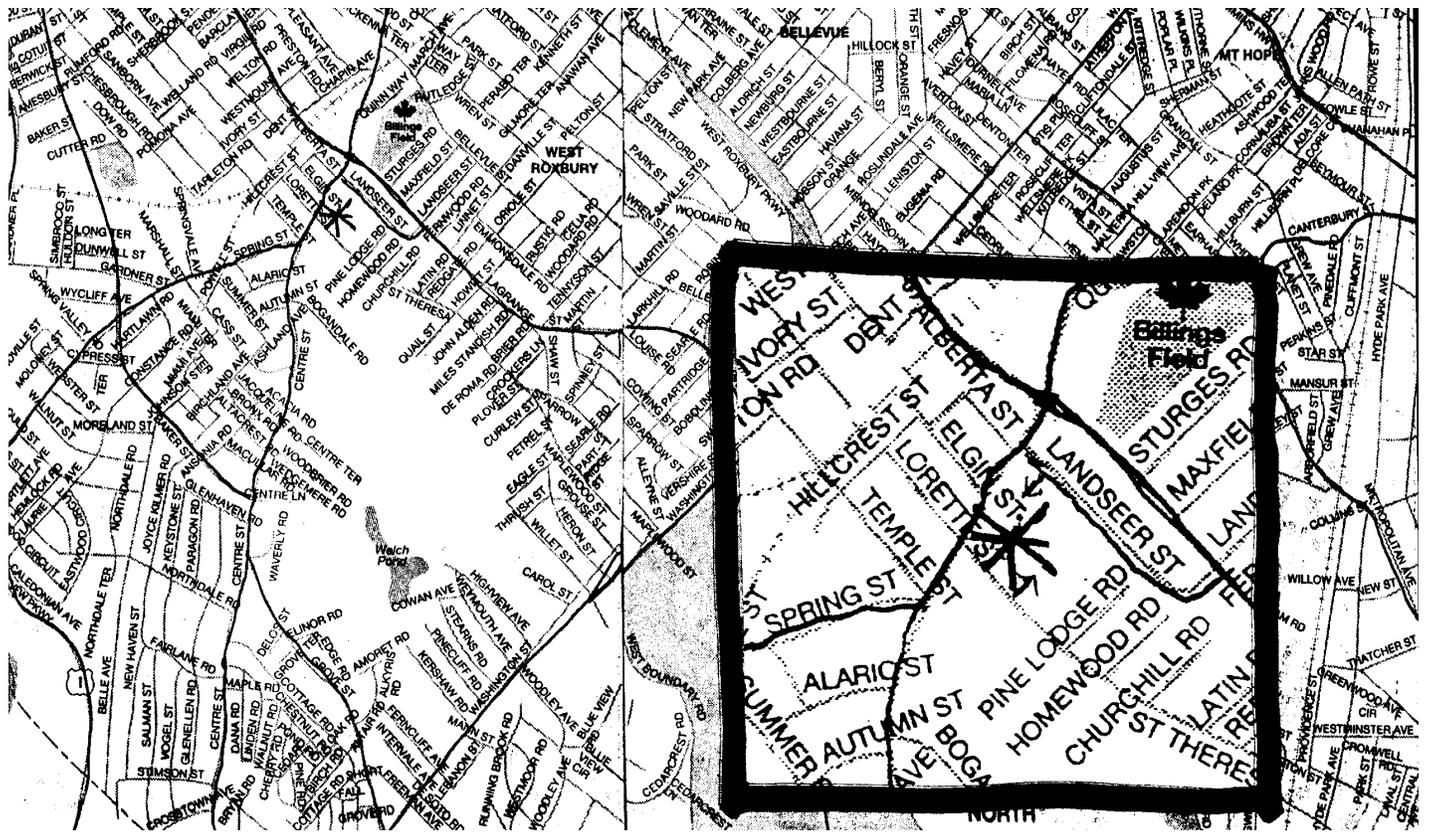
Mon. Mar 26, The Annunciation, Saint Theresa of Ávila Chapel, Solemn Mass at 7:30pm. A reception follows in the Pavilion.

Sun. Mar. 30: Stations of the Cross and Benediction, 7:00pm. In the Chapel of St. Theresa’s Church.

Future Dates

May 4-6, Spring Parish Retreat, St. Benedict Abbey, Still River, Fr. Romanus Cessario, OP, conductor.





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10 St. Theresa Avenue
West Roxbury, MA 02132

