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# ✠ Contra Mundum ✠

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Volume IV, Issue 1

August 2001

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

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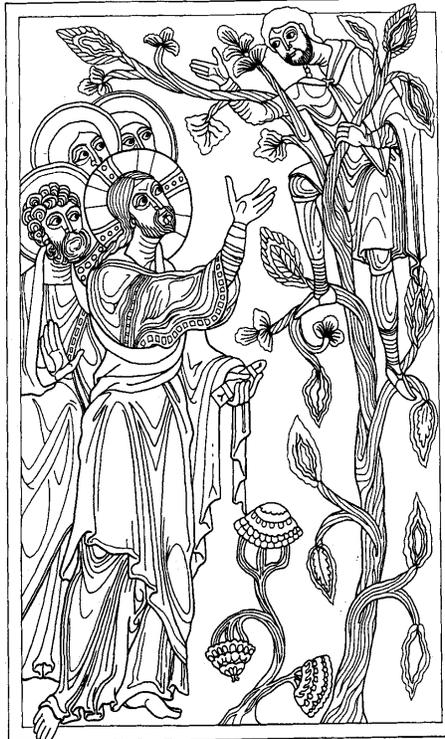
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## NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

What I want you to do, my dear Dioscorus, is this: submit yourself, with all your devotion, to Christ. Do not look for any other path towards reaching and seizing the truth than the one which He has laid down, for being God He sees clearly how stumbling are our footsteps. But that path is, firstly, humility; and secondly, humility; and thirdly, humility.”

So wrote St. Augustine to a correspondent who had asked him about some philosophical problems. Augustine is not alone in such a vigorous insistence that humility is the fundamental christian virtue upon which the whole enterprise we call the spiritual life is built. What follower of Our Lord Jesus could forget the Saviour’s cry “Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart”? Who can forget that on Maundy Thursday the Lord of Heaven washed the feet of mortal men? Clearly, humility is the principal lesson Christ wills to teach us.

True humility springs from two roots: reverence for God, and penitence for sin. We recognize the greatness of God, and fall down before



Him. But recognizing God’s greatness is not so easy for souls warped by sin. So God in Christ shows us the supreme example. We see consummate humility in Jesus’ relationship not only to His Father but also towards the men and women among whom He was come to dwell. We get the first part of this humility down as a practice a long time before we learn the second part! How often we kneel before God in Church and then come home and demonstrate all the symptoms of abominable pride! But do not despair at this. As devoted as the Apostles were to their Master, they were still trying to outmaneuver each other at the Last Supper!

How are we to cultivate this most important and fundamental virtue of humility? First, we are to be on guard against temptations to pride. Do we work “to be seen of men?” Do we talk too much of our own concerns? Even our private thoughts and day-dreams may be dangerously self-centered.

Second, patient acceptance of humiliations, whether they be inflicted by others or the result of our own doings, is a wonderful habit to cultivate. The saints welcomed humiliations as opportunities to grow more like Jesus. Patience comes from *passio*. It is no play on words to say that every time we show patience rather than resentment and self-assertion, we are sharing Our Lord’s Passion. And nothing but good will ever come of that!

Third, enlist the support of Our Blessed Mother Mary. After her Divine Son, she is the supreme example of humility. This is the virtue above all that God sees and loves in her. “He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.” Our Lady is always ready to aid those who desire to please her Son by imitating her humility.

Fourth, look to God in worship and adoration of Him in order to become more like Him.

In the gospels there are frequent accounts of invitations Jesus accepted, but only on one occasion did

Our Lord offer to become someone's guest. Only once did Christ seek anyone's hospitality. It was Zacchaeus. It was the Lord's reward and encouragement of Zacchaeus' humility. This rich commissioner of taxes exposed himself to public ridicule by the undignified manner of running down a street in Jericho and climbing a tree to see Jesus. Zacchaeus, you see, realized he was too small of stature to see Jesus otherwise. And so he braved the horse laughs and derision and sneers of the world.

Utter loss of human praise may be a necessary condition of Our Lord's acceptance of a soul as His chosen dwelling. If that is the case, then let us exclaim with St Paul "God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ" that salvation may come to our house.

FATHER BRADFORD

## SHORT NOTES

God willing, Sandra Greenaway and Alfred Dougal will be united in Holy Matrimony in Saint Theresa of Avila Church on Friday, August 3rd. We wish every blessing on this couple in their life in Christ as man and wife.

The Holy Father has named Msgr. Richard Lennon as a bishop, along with Msgr. Walter Edyvean. The service of ordination will take place on September 14th. Msgr Lennon, who is Rector of St. John Seminary, was the first Anglican Use Chaplain in Boston and guided the entry of many of us into the Church. Our prayers of supplication and thanksgiving are with him, and Msgr. Edyvean, at this time.

Jerry Dowsky celebrates his 25th anniversary as a Marist Brother on the Feast of the Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8th. Congratulations to Jerry on this milestone of faithful dedicated service to our Lord.

# Saint of the Month



## St. Lawrence

10 August

**B**orn in Huesca, Spain in the Third Century, St. Lawrence became a deacon in Rome and suffered in the persecution of Christians under the Emperor Valerian.

Lawrence, as keeper of the treasures of the church, was ordered by the Emperor after the martyrdom of

of Pope Sixtus II, to appear and turn over all the treasures of the Church of Rome. Lawrence did appear and brought with him the blind, the halt, and the maimed, declaring that this was the true treasure of the church. For this he was put to death on August 10 by being roasted on a gridiron.

The gridiron or *escorial* in Spanish became his symbol. Many churches have been dedicated to St. Lawrence, but perhaps none so famous as the Monastery-Palace of San Lorenzo de El Escorial near Madrid, Spain. Built by King Philip II to fulfil a promise of his father, the Emperor Charles V, and in thanksgiving for the assistance of the saint in the battle of San Quintin, August 10, 1557, the architecture of the enormous complex takes the form of a gridiron (hence *escorial*), with the patios representing the opening.



In the center is the huge basilica and just off the high altar visitors today may see the private room of King Philip II. This devout Catholic king, after the death of his wife, Queen Mary I of England, and the defeat of the famous armada, contemplated his failure to restore the Catholic Religion in England. Here he established a monastery and retired, attending the affairs of state and assisting at Mass daily, finally in his decline only being able to view the elevation of the host at the high altar from his bed through a small window in his chamber.

St. Lawrence is the patron of librarians and archivists for his preservation of the treasures of the church, and he is the patron of school children and seminarians.

St. Augustine wrote, "On this day St. Lawrence trod the furious pagan world underfoot and flung aside its allurements, and so gained victory over Satan's attack on his faith." The shocking thing is that even today some Christians are still being called to such brutal martyrdom. We too should be so brave in our defense of the faith.



**W**HEREFORE, O Lord, we thy servants, and thy holy people also, remembering the blessed passion of the same Christ thy Son our Lord, as also his resurrection from the dead, and his glorious ascension into heaven: do offer unto thine excellent majesty of thine own gifts and bounty, the pure victim, the holy victim, the immaculate victim, the holy Bread of eternal life, and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

FROM THE CANON OF THE MASS

**FEAST OF THE  
TRANSFIGURATION**  
Monday, August 6th  
Sung Mass and Sermon at  
7:30 p.m.  
St. Theresa Convent Chapel

## MERE CHRISTIANITY

C.S. Lewis wrote a wonderful little book titled *Mere Christianity*. And in it he likened the title to the hallway of a house. This is what he says about it: "The hall is a place to wait in, a place from which to try the various doors, not a place to live in. For that purpose the worst of the rooms is, I think, preferable. And, even in the hall you must begin trying to obey the rules which are common to the whole house. And above all you must be asking which door is the true one; not which pleases you the best by its paint and paneling."

Lewis died an Anglican. But such reasoning as his has led many souls to the Catholic Church.

**AUGUST**  
15<sup>th</sup> FALLING ASLEEP of the B.V.M.  
when Mary joined her Divine Son in Heaven

**FEAST OF THE  
ASSUMPTION**  
Wednesday, August 15th  
Sung Mass and Sermon at 7:30  
p.m.  
St. Theresa Convent Chapel  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

**PARISH RETREAT**  
November 2-4  
at Saint Benedict Abbey,  
Still River, Mass.  
**Fr. Peter Stravinskis**  
Retreat Leader

## 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. Adult Christian Education two Sundays a month.

August 5 & 26, New Testament, The Gospels.

September 9 & 23, Spirituality: The Desert Fathers and Monasticism.

October 14 & 28, Rita Strow: Iconography and Stained Glass.

November 11 & 25, Terry Maltzberger: Legendary Saints.

December 9 & 16, Doctrine in the Church of England.

January 13 & 27, Paganism

February 10 & 24, The Mediaeval Church.

March 10 & 17, Scholastic Theology

April 14 & 28, Renewal Movements in the Church

May 12 & 26, Educating Children

June 9 & 23, History of the Divine Office

St. Theresa Church and Convent  
Chapel, West Roxbury, MA 02132  
Pine Lodge Road (off St. Theresa  
Avenue)

Either park in the church parking lot or on Pine  
Lodge Road. The side door of the convent is  
open during the time of our services.

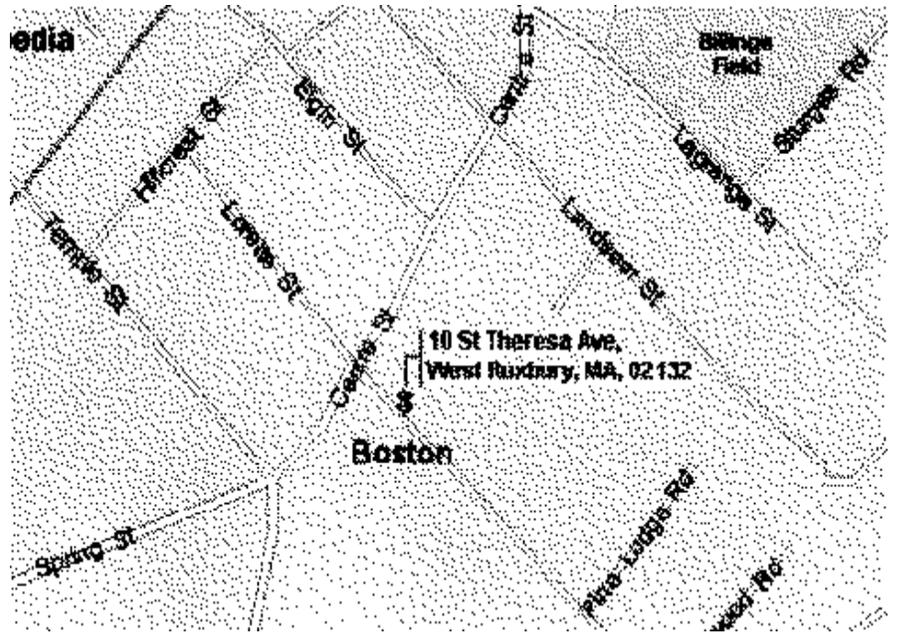
**Directions by Car:** *From the North:* Route  
128 to Route 109, which becomes Spring Street  
in West Roxbury. Spring Street ends at a  
traffic light at Centre Street in sight of the  
church. At this light bear left onto Centre St.  
and immediately turn right at the next light  
onto St. Theresa Ave.

*From the South:* Route 1 north through  
Dedham to Spring Street. Turn right onto  
Spring Street then follow the directions above.

*From Dorchester and Mattapan:* Cummins  
Highway to Belgrade Avenue to Centre Street  
left on St. Theresa Ave.

*From Boston:* VFW Parkway to LaGrange  
Street. Turn left onto LaGrange Street, crossing Centre Street and turn right onto Landseer Street. Turn right into church parking lot.

**Directions by Public Transportation:** *Orange line* to Forest Hills terminal. Bus to West Roxbury. #35 bus to Dedham Mall. #36, #37, and #38 also stop at St. Theresa's. *Commuter train* to West Roxbury Station is a short walk to St. Theresa's. Departs from South Station, but no Sunday service is available.



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West Roxbury, MA 02132

