
✠ Contra Mundum ✠

Volume IV, Issue 3

October 2001

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

<http://www.locutor.net>

NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

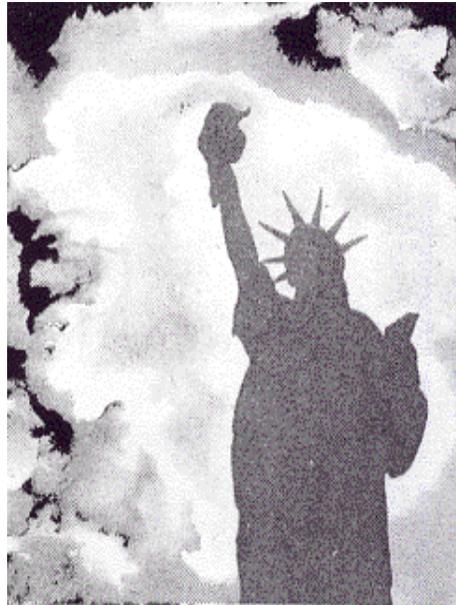
“Shew thy marvelous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.” Psalm 17:7

Those words were chosen as the text for the Sunday sermon on September 16th. Cardinal Law had authorized the use of a *Mass in Time of War or Civil Disturbance*, and our service ended with the singing of Hymnal 146 “God Bless our Native Land.” A copy of the sermon may be obtained from Janet Ray.

Among the prayers you are praying just now, please consider an old gem from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer [p. 36] “For Our Country”

For Our Country.

ALmighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from



violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The prayer does not speak of war or revenge, but rather reflects a concern we all have that Almighty God continue to form, shape, nourish, and cleanse, our way of life as a people and nation. The prayer was composed by an Episcopal priest in Bristol, Rhode Island, and was first published in 1883. It reflects another turbulent era in our national history: the Civil War was a fresh memory, President Garfield had been assassinated as he set out for the 1881 Williams College commencement; the American West was being settled; great numbers of immigrants were seeking here a peace and freedom they could not get at home; the industrial revolution was producing great wealth and labor unrest. There was corruption in high places, and the United States was beginning to emerge as a world power, with all the respect, distrust, and hatred that entails.

But the winning combination in this 1883 prayer is valid still: thanksgiving to Almighty God in prosperity, and trust in Him in times of adversity. Our Heavenly Father is “Our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and Our eternal home.” (Isaac Watts, 1719)

With blessings and prayers,

FATHER BRADFORD

SHORT NOTES

Our thanks to Fr. Raphael Caamano who was our preacher at Mass on Sunday, August 12th. He is a good friend, and we look forward to a return visit.

Many thanks to Fr. Robert McMillan, SJ who was our celebrant and preacher on August 19 and September 2. Fr. McMillan celebrated the Anglican Use Mass for the first time on September 2nd, much encouraged by and appreciated by the congregation.

Our longtime friend Fr. Joseph Wilson was our celebrant and preacher on August 26th, flying up from New York, where he serves a large parish. Father Wilson will also be one of the speakers at a Conference of the Anglican Use parishes in San Antonio October 3-5.

The Anglican Use Conference will be hosted by Our Lady of the Atonement Parish in San Antonio. David Burt and Dr. Terry Maltsberger will attend as our delegates. Father Bradford has chosen not to leave Boston at a time of uncertain air travel.

Sarah Weekes reports that the bus trip to Myrtle Beach over Labor Day weekend was an enjoyable time for all, and she presented \$1200 to the congregation as a result of the trip income. Sarah has been organizing these wonderful trips for years, always to the benefit of the Church.

If you would be willing to bring Altar Flowers (one arrangement, please) for Sundays, please select a date with Fr. Bradford. We have flower stands which are adjustable. Flowers are placed near the statue of Our Lady in the sanctuary.

Our Fall Parish Retreat is November 2-4 and the deadline for registration is October 17th. The cost is \$90 per person, which includes two nights' stay at St. Benedict Abbey, Still River, five meals, and an honorarium. Our retreat conductor is Fr. Peter Stravinskis. At St. Athanasius, the Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Fr. George Greenway, our good friend from East Longmeadow, Mass.

Many thanks to David Burt and Terry Maltsberger for preparing special music and the intercessory prayers used at Mass on September 16th. The service was much appreciated by all.

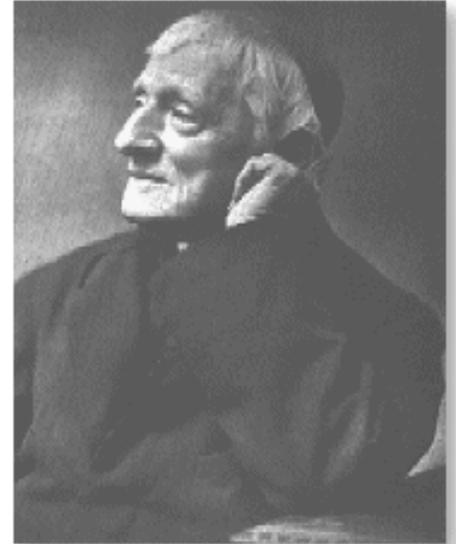
Parishioner Nathaniel Lloyd is now living with his parents in northern Virginia and has begun work in the computer department at Christendom College.

Parishioner Jessica Bradford's address is 2134 Fairfax Avenue, Apt B-9, Nashville, TN 37212-3631. She is a student at Vanderbilt Medical School.

A Solemn Mass will be sung on All Saints' Day, Thursday, November 1st at 7:30pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.



Saint of the Month



John Henry Cardinal Newman

John Henry Newman
(1801 – 1890)

John Henry Newman has not been declared a saint of the Church—yet. But the process has begun, and may yet come to fulfillment. He appears in this issue of *Contra Mundum* as “saint of the month” because of his particular relationship to many of us as former “high church” Episcopalians. He was after all the Anglican priest who did the most to ignite the “Oxford Movement,” the Catholic revival of the 1840s which led directly to the founding of the Church of the Advent in Boston, and to All Saints’, Ashmont. Readers will remember him as the author of “Praise to the Holiest in the Height,” and “Lead, Kindly Light.” He was an immensely attractive preacher and teacher at Oxford between 1833 and 1845.

According to *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, his “thought was nourished by the Fathers rather than by the Schoolmen, and his main contribution to the thought of his age lay much more in the fields of psychological analysis and acute moral perception than in matters strictly theological. His fruitful use of the idea of development in its application to the growth of Christian doctrine, and his profound insight into the nature and motives of religious faith, place him in the first rank of modern Christian thinkers.”

Just as his studies into the development of doctrine gradually convinced him that the Anglican position was not tenable (he was converted to the Roman Catholic Church on 9 October, 1845), so his writings have influenced many since, including some of the members of the Congregation of St. Athanasius, to follow the path his life illuminated. Resigning his offices at Oxford, he received priestly orders in Rome shortly afterward, and entered into a long and rather tormented period of his life as a Catholic. He was through no fault of his own embroiled in a number of painful controversies, and had the misfortune to incur the mistrust of Cardinal Manning, another famous convert. In 1864 he published *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, a moving and tragic work which is one of the greatest autobiographies in English. Its candor and sensitivity won him the sympathies of many previously suspicious Catholics and Anglicans. In his seventy-sixth year he was elected Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, and in his seventy-eighth, he was named Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII.

In 1993 Pope John Paul II declared Newman “venerable,” opening the way of his cause for sainthood. On the centenary of his death in 1990, the Holy Father wrote, “Newman’s quest for the truth led him to search for a voice that would speak to him with the authority of the living Christ. *His example holds a lasting appeal* for all sincere scholars and disciples of truth. He urges them to keep asking the deeper, more basic questions about the meaning of life and of all human history; not to be content with a partial response to the great mystery that is man himself; to have the intellectual honesty and moral courage to accept the light of truth, no matter what personal sacrifice it may involve.”

The cause for his beatification goes forward. Here is a prayer many Catholics continuously offer:

Prayer

***To obtain the Beatification of
John Henry Cardinal Newman***

God our Father, your servant John Henry Newman upheld the faith by his teaching and example. May his loyalty to Christ and the Church, his love of the Immaculate Mother of God, and his compassion for the perplexed give guidance to the Christian people today. We beg you to grant the favors we ask through his intercession so that his holiness may be recognized by all and the Church may proclaim him a saint. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Please report any favors received to: The Vice-Postulator, The Oratory, Birmingham, B16 8UE, England)

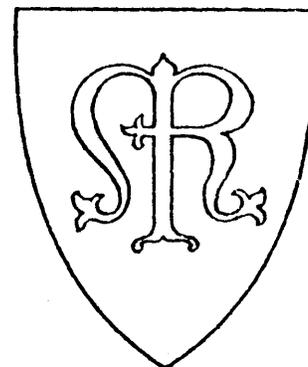
PARISH RETREAT

Our Annual Fall Parish Retreat will be held at Saint Benedict Abbey in Still River on November 2-4. We usually have a dozen upwards to twenty parishioners and friends join us, but the Abbey can accommodate many more. Those who attend these retreats recommend them to others, and our fall retreat will be no exception.

Our retreat conductor is The Very Revd. Peter Stravinskis, He is one of the nation’s leading Catholic apologists. As editor of *The Catholic Answer*, and *Our Sunday Visitor’s* best-selling Catholic Encyclopedia and Catholic Dictionary, he is in constant demand as a speaker, retreat conductor, and conference panelist. Fr Stravinskis first visited many of our people when we were still members of All Saints’ Episcopal Church.

Fr. Stravinskis is the founding superior of the Diocesan Oratory of St. Philip Neri in the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The cost of the retreat is \$90 per person, and includes two nights’ stay at the Abbey, five meals, and a honorarium for our conductor. Deadline for registration is October 17th. You may register with our treasurer, Bruce Rand, or with the chaplain.





Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles.

Sunday, October 28, 2001
SOLEMN EVENSONG &
BENEDICTION at 5:30PM

October 28. Feast Day of Sts. Simon & Jude. We know little about Simon other than that he is listed among the Twelve and called “the Zealot,” indicating that he may have previously been a member of the Zealot party of nationalistic Jews who sought to achieve political Independence from Rome through violent means. We know as little about Jude the Apostle, also called Thaddeus. In John 14:22 he is called Judas (not Iscariot), to distinguish him from the traitor. He is not to be confused with the author of the Epistle of Jude, the brother of James of Jerusalem and kinsman of our Lord. Jude, despite the obscurity of his life, is now quite popular: he is St. Jude, patron of lost causes. Perhaps the initial neglect of devotion to this apostle and his having the same name as that of the traitor conspired to make him the patron of the hopeless.

PARISH RETREAT

November 2-4

at Saint Benedict Abbey,
Still River, Mass.

Fr. Peter Stravinskis
Retreat Leader

A RESPONSE TO LOVE

For many years, I failed to see any personal fulfillment in giving. I tried to keep my contribution to the church low enough so that my life-style was not impaired, but high enough so that I didn’t feel too guilty about it.

But then, quite unexpectedly, I was exposed to a priest of our church who taught stewardship by asking questions, each of which he asked those in the group to answer silently.

Although an important component of stewardship is the giving of money, my teacher did not once refer to the parish budget and the need to raise more money to meet the higher cost of utilities. Nor did he make me feel bad about myself by comparing all the money I spent on my hobbies and luxuries to how much I gave to the work of Our Lord. Nor did he emphasize how bad off the church was financially.

Instead, the first question was, “Do you believe that God has created you and that he cares how you live your life? To that question, I could answer very readily in the affirmative.

Next, “Do you believe that God loves and cares for all people — the poor and the rich, the free and the oppressed, the sick and the well, the powerful and the powerless?” Here, too, a “yes” answer seemed appropriate.

Question three was this: “Do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, who lived and died among us to show us what love and life are and mean? No question,” I said to myself silently.

The fourth question: “Do you believe that God expects us to respond to him in thankful and loving

service?” This question caused me to pause. Sensing that my priestly teacher was gracefully setting me up to extract a commitment from me, I responded with an unconvincing, silent yes.”

Finally, he asked, “Do you believe that the tithe is a guideline for God’s people trying to express their thankfulness to God and His Lordship over all life?” Now that was a tough question. “Me, tithe?” But yet, in the previous four questions I had agreed that our Lord cares about me and how I live my life; I agreed that Christ had lived and died among us to show his love; I had agreed that God expects us to respond in loving service. How could I not agree to respond by tithing?

My teacher went on to say that the first thing a person discovers is that tithing changes his whole life. The tither puts God first and at the center of his life and interest. The person is then released for God’s sake.

There is a cliché going around that people should give until it hurts. I would like to suggest that we should give until it feels good. There may be no such thing as sacrificial giving because it feels so good to give generously. I have never met an ex-tither.

Viewed in this context, stewardship is no longer just another word for money in the church. Stewardship is nothing less than our complete life-style. It is a total response and accountability before our Lord, one component of which is giving money for the work of our Lord through the parish church. Stewardship is what a person does after he says, “I believe..

FROM A FORWARD MOVEMENT
TRACT BY JOHN C RETTEW

During the month of October the members and friends of the Congregation will be canvassed for their pledge of support for our work during the coming year. The Congregation is funded principally by these annual pledges of support rather than by collections at Mass. Your support is much appreciated.



*Remember,
O Lord,
Thy Servant...*

The annual ALL SOULS' DAY REQUIEM MASS will be held on Friday, November 2nd at 9:00am. Please return your intercession list of departed souls by Sunday, October 28th. You may place your list in the alms basin on Sundays or mail it to the chaplain.



Saviour, who didst healing give,
Still in power go before us;
Thou through death didst bid men live,
Unto fuller life restore us;
Strength from thee the fainting found,
Deaf men heard, the blind went seeing;
At thy touch was banished sickness,
And the leper felt new being.

Thou didst work thy deeds of old
Through the loving hands of others;
Still thy mercies manifold
Bless men by the hands of brothers;
Angels still before thy face
Go, sweet health to brothers bringing;
Still, hearts glow to tell his praises
With whose name the Church is ringing.

Loved physician! for his word
Lo, the Gospel page burns brighter,
Mission servant of the Lord,
Painter true, and perfect writer;
Saviour, of thy bounty send
Such as Luke of Gospel story,
Friends to all in body's prison
Till the sufferers see thy glory.

H. D. RAWNSLEY

The Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist is Thursday, October 18th. By tradition the evangelist was a physician and an iconographer.

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.

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

November 11 & 25, Terry
Maltsberger: Legendary Saints.

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

January 13 & 27, Paganism

February 10 & 24, The Medieval
Church.

March 10 & 17, Scholastic
Theology

April 14 & 28, Renewal Move-
ments in the Church

May 12 & 26, Educating Chil-
dren

June 9 & 23, History of the
Divine Office

July 14 & 28, Old Testament:
The Prophets

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

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

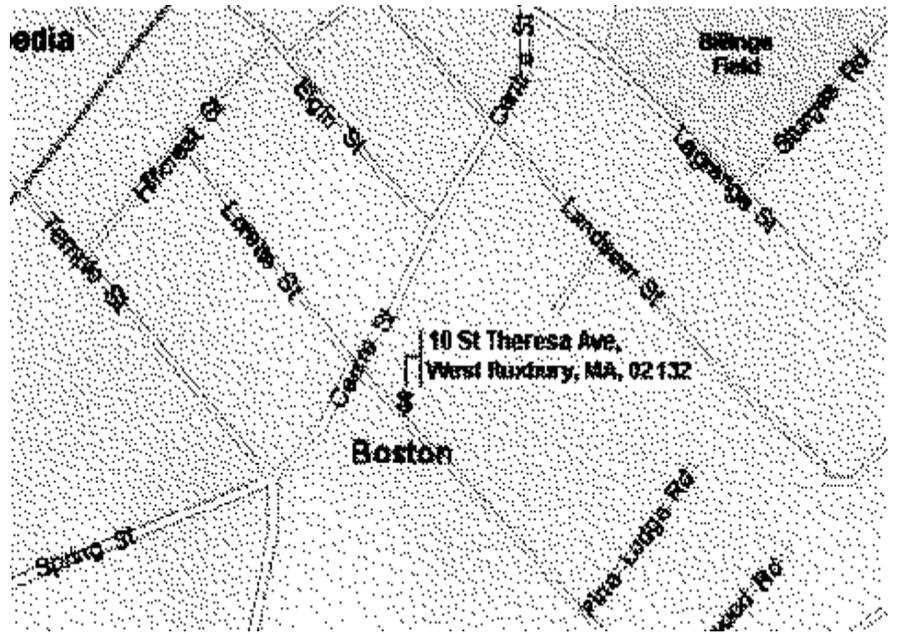
Directions by Car: *From the North:* Route
128 to Route 109, which becomes Spring Street
in West Roxbury. Spring Street ends at a
traffic light at Centre Street in sight of the
church. At this light bear left onto Centre St.
and immediately turn right at the next light
onto St. Theresa Ave.

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 left into the 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.



Contra Mundum
The Congregation of St. Athanasius
10 St. Theresa Avenue
West Roxbury, MA 02132

