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# ✠ Contra Mundum ✠

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The Congregation of St. Athanasius

A Congregation of the Pastoral Provision of Pope John Paul II for the Anglican Usage of the Roman Rite

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

IN the run up to the great Feast of Pentecost we frequently heard the word “truth” in the Mass gospels. In one of those readings, Our Lord Jesus says “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” In another, we have the account of Our Lord promising “the Spirit of Truth, who will guide you to all truth.” It is the assertion of the Christian gospel that all truth has its origin in Jesus Christ, Who is the Truth. All knowledge, both secular and religious, is derivative from His Divine Mind. He is the light by which we are able to discover truth in anything that is discoverable.

That means that every kind of truth, whether in the disciplines of theology or arts or sciences, is a ray of the true light. Whether it is a landscape painting, a research breakthrough in biology, the composition of *Parsifal*, or the arithmetic formula  $2+2=4$ , in all cases the truth arrived at reflects gleams of the infinite wisdom and truth in the Word of God.

Since the Holy Spirit of wisdom and truth is promised to the Church, it follows from all this that the Catholic Church is best fitted to receive all knowledge. From the fact that the whole point of our religion is to bring our minds into ever-closer likeness to



**The Parable of the Sower is the  
Sunday Gospel for July 10th.**

the Mind of God, it follows that there is a greater receptiveness for His wisdom where consciences are cleansed and strengthened by righteousness. *The Catechism* asserts that when our lives are conformed to God's will we flourish as God intended. And so such purified and stimulated minds are better able to discern not only the truth of theology and morals but also every realm of arts and science, every field of knowledge discoverable in God's creation.

The scientific fact upon which all antitoxins are based was discovered not by the brilliant chemists of the French Academy of Sciences but by a man of deep piety and conservatism. Louis Pasteur's mind was receptive

to the revealed truth because by prayer and sacraments it had grown to be more like that of the Word of God.

Jesus is Truth. Skepticism, personified in the Sadducees and in Pontius Pilate, crucified Him. When we guard Divine Truth we guard the safety of Our Lord Himself in our own day.

FATHER BRADFORD

## SHORT NOTES

Congratulations to Don and Helen Smith on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, June 4. The whole family gathered for a celebration at Ogunquit, Maine.

A former Episcopal priest, Eric Bergman is visiting Boston over the weekend of July 9-10 and with some of his parishioners is planning to attend the Anglican Use Mass on July 10th. A group of former Episcopalians in Scranton, Pennsylvania has diocesan permission to form an Anglican Use congregation there when Mr. Bergman is ordained a Catholic priest. We pray and wish them well.

A funeral Mass was held in Rhode Island on June 11 for Fr. John A. Cranston, a longtime headmaster of private schools in Newport and

after retirement a parish priest at the Episcopal Church of the Advent in Boston. Some of our parishioners may remember Fr. & Mrs. Cranston from their visits to All Saints' Ashmont at Fr. Bradford's invitation. Fr. Cranston was 87 years old. May he rest in peace.

## SEASONS FOR PRAYER

God hath made no decree to distinguish the seasons of his mercies; in paradise, the fruits were ripe the first minute, and in heaven it is always autumn, his mercies are ever in their maturity. We ask *panem quotidianum*, our daily bread, and God never says you should have come yesterday, he never says, you must again tomorrow, but *today if you will hear his voice*, today he will hear you. If some king of the earth have so large an extent of dominion, in north and south, as that he hath winter and summer together in his dominions, much more hath God mercy and judgement together: he brought light out of darkness, not out of a lesser light; he can bring thy summer out of winter, though thou have no spring; though in the ways of fortune, or understanding, or conscience, thou have been benighted till now, wintered and frozen, clouded and eclipsed, damped and benumbed, smothered and stupefied till now, now God comes to thee, not as in the dawning of the day, not as in the bud of the spring, but as the sun at noon to illustrate all shadows, as the sheaves in harvest, to fill all penuries. All occasions invite his mercies, and all times are his seasons.

*Donne, Sermons, vol. 2, p. 172.*

¶ *John Donne (1571/2-1631) was one of the most remarkable poets and preachers of the 17th century. He was a member of a Catholic family, yet renounced his faith. After a failed secular career he was ordained in 1615 in the Anglican Church. Yet as late as 1617 his renunciation of Catholicism still troubled his soul. This is seen in a sonnet "Show me, dear Christ, thy spouse." John Donne was a profound influence in the life of T.S. Eliot.*

## SAINT OF THE MONTH



Saint Elizabeth of Portugal (1271-1336) is remembered on our Independence Day, July 4th (or on some calendars, July 8th). She was born to royalty, the daughter of King Pedro of Aragon and his wife Constantia. She was related to Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, supposedly for whom she was named. At age 12 she was married to King Diniz of Portugal and bore him two children: Princess Constantia and Prince Affonso (who later succeeded his father's throne). Though her husband was unfaithful to her and fathered several illegiti-

mate children, she maintained the prayerful life of her upbringing and was known for her work among the poor, the sick, orphans, and prostitutes. She became a Franciscan tertiary after the death of her husband in 1325. She died of illness in Estremoz and was buried in the convent of the Poor Clares (which she had founded) in Coimbra. Miracles were reported to have occurred at her tomb, and she was canonized in 1625 by Pope Urban VIII. She is considered the patron saint of Coimbra and of all of Portugal. She is also known as a patron saint to peacemakers because at least twice she was known to have stepped between warring parties (in her own family) on the battlefield, to effect reconciliation.

## ON THE PRIEST AT MASS

"The turning of the priest towards the people has turned the community into a self-enclosed circle. In its outward form, it no longer opens out on what lies ahead and above, but is locked into itself. The common turning towards the East was not a 'celebration towards the wall'; it did not mean that the priest 'had his back to the people.' The priest himself was not regarded as so important. For just as the congregation in the synagogue looked together towards Jerusalem, so in the Christian liturgy the congregation looked together 'towards the Lord'. As one of the fathers of Vatican II's Constitution on the Liturgy, J. A. Jungmann, put it, it was much more a question of priest and people facing in the same direction, knowing that together they were in a procession towards the Lord. They did not lock themselves

into a circle, they did not gaze at one another, but as the pilgrim People of God they set off for the *Oriens*, for the Christ who comes to meet us.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI  
*The Spirit of the Liturgy*  
(Ignatius Press, 2000)

## A SERMON BY THE CHAPLAIN ON PADRE PIO

John McCaffery tells the story of meeting a farmer in a train from Bologna bound for Rome. After politely discussing business, the farmer asked McCaffery his destination. It's a place you probably never heard of, San Giovanni Rotondo. Then the farmer looked at him for a moment, took out a photo from his wallet and said "Is that him?" John McCaffery took out his own photo of Padre Pio and they both laughed.

Then the farmer told his story. Even before he knew there was a Padre Pio, he had had a farming accident resulting in a double embolism, one on each lung. None of the miracle drugs seemed to work and the man realized he was dying. So he prayed an extraordinary prayer. "Lord, let someone more worthy than me intercede for me."

The answer was that one day, lying in a hospital bed, the farmer opened his eyes to see a bearded monk, who bent forward, laid his hand on the farmer's chest, smiled, and then left. The farmer later asked who this person was, and nobody in the hospital had seen him or knew him. But the farmer felt that immediately he had been cured, and, to the

amazement of the doctors, this was confirmed by further tests.

The farmer kept his secret until one day a few months later, doing business in Padua, he went to a colleague's home for lunch, saw a photograph of the same monk who had visited him. He asked his host who it was, and caught the train for San Giovanni Rotondo that night.

The farmer arrived around four in the morning, amused at his silly escapade, but made his way just in time for Padre Pio's 5am daily Mass. When the holy man entered the sanctuary, the farmer knew for certain that this was the monk who had appeared in his hospital room in response to his prayer for intercession.

Because it was mid-winter, the lines for confession were not long. So the man resolved to go to Padre Pio for confession. And at the end of it, in the most natural conversational way, Padre Pio said "And tell me, what about the lungs now? How are they?" "Thank you, Father, they are perfect." "Have you had them X-rayed?" Yes, Father" "Good, Thanks be to God. And God bless you." Holy Padre Pio, pray for us.

¶ *The story is found in a book by John McCaffery, Holy Padre Pio, pray for us. The Friar of San Giovanni (Dartton, Longman & Todd, 1978)*

## MONTH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Pope Pius IX Instituted the Feast of the Most Precious Blood in thanksgiving for his return to Rome from Gaeta after the revolution of

1848. He assigned the first Sunday in July to the observance. In 1934 Pope Pius XI elevated the Feast, then kept on July 1st, to the highest rank in order to commemorate the 19th centenary of the Redemption. The whole month of July is unofficially connected with the devotion to the Precious Blood. St. Peter says "You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19) Westminster Cathedral in London is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood.

The opposite of catholic is not protestant but heretic.

"Avoid heretics like wild beasts; for they are mad dogs, biting secretly. You must be on your guard against them; their bite is not easily cured."

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH (A. D. 115)

## NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

A few years ago our friend Fr. Stephen Powers told of an advertisement in a San Diego newspaper which was seeking candidates for the job of religion writer. "No experience necessary" said the ad. The paper would require some background experience if the job opening covered gardening tips, movie reviews, or contract bridge tournaments. But not religion.

A recent edition of *Catholic Eye* gave us some example of this trend in

the reporting of the funeral of Pope John Paul II. One BBC subtitle identified “Karma Light nuns” and could not figure out what the “*Oremus*” in the Latin Mass meant so described it as “chanting in a foreign language.” The Franciscans were described in a subtitle as “Fancy Scam monks.” Top honors went to the *International Herald Tribune’s* description of the Holy Father laid out in vestments in the Clementine Hall. “dressed in white and red vestments...tucked under his left arm was the silver staff, called the crow’s ear, that he had carried in public.”

It makes you laugh. But it also shows the utter contempt and disregard the broadcast and print media have for religion and religious issues.

## THE BRITISH MARTYRS

OVER the years 200 men and women have been beatified for their heroic witness to the Catholic Faith in the British Isles during and after the Protestant Reformation. Here we continue brief mention of some of these individual martyrs.

BLESSED JOHN FELTON  
*Layman and Martyr (†1570)*

This husband and father, a gentleman of Norfolk origin living in Southwark, England, had the courage to post on the door of the bishop of London’s house the bull of excommunication issued by Pope Saint Pius V against Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Discovered after a search, John was imprisoned and racked three times before being

hanged in Saint Paul’s churchyard. His son Thomas, two years old at the time of his martyrdom, became a Franciscan Friar and followed his father to martyrdom twenty years later as Blessed Thomas Felton.

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BLESSED FRANCIS TAYLOR  
(TAILLER)

*Martyr († 1621)*

Francis Taylor, a merchant, became mayor of Dublin, Ireland, in 1595. He also served as a Dublin alderman (councilman). After he was elected to Parliament, his election was overturned by the English Protestant authorities, who thereupon arrested him. Enduring repeated persecution for his Catholic faith, Francis was steadfast in his fidelity to God, in his profession of his Catholicism, and in his unwavering obedience to the papacy. Advanced in age, he died after seven years of harsh imprisonment.

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## MEDITATION

During this vacation period my thoughts turn especially to families. How often do they endure the hardships of the grinding pace of work, especially in big cities! How often it is hard for them to find a serene and relaxed atmosphere to enjoy intimacy, to talk to one another and to share plans. This is when holidays become above all a favorable time to fill these gaps, so to speak, with

“humanity,” peace, and festivity.

Hence the need for holidays is effectively a time of human renewal, in which, far from the rhythm of daily life, one can rediscover oneself and others in a more balanced and serene dimension... It would be good if this beneficial tendency were not restricted to the holiday period alone but that satisfactory ways could be found for it to accompany daily activity at other times of year. The real challenge, in fact, lies in safeguarding our inner harmony, so that the pace of daily life will always have that supernatural dimension which each of us needs.

Today, let us entrust all who are beginning their vacation and those who have ended it to the protection of Blessed Mary. In a special way let us entrust to her those who for reasons of health or for many other reasons cannot benefit from this holiday season. May people on holiday enjoy the refreshment they deserve, and may those who instead do not have this possibility at any rate feel surrounded by concrete acts of friendship and solidarity.

POPE JOHN PAUL II  
*Angelus Address,*  
*Sunday, August 1, 1999*

SAINT MARY  
MAGDALENE

July 22

ON Easter Day morning, Mary Magdalene could not get it out of her head that the body of Christ had been taken away. She may have elaborated on this theory to Peter and John, but we do not know this. What

we do know is that the two apostles had checked things out at the empty tomb and headed for home. Mary Magdalene could not do that. Jesus may be gone, but it was here that He had been laid to rest. This place was important as the last place of association with her Master. Here she would remain.



That was a mark of her devotion to Christ. And we cannot fail to notice that she referred to the Lord's dead body as "her Lord." She even thought that she would be strong enough to carry His body back to the tomb from wherever it had been taken.

Both Mary Magdalene's theory about body snatching, and her assertion that she could carry a man's dead body, would never be put to the test. But the Risen Lord was waiting for something else to happen. Christ waited for Mary's personal sense of loss to go even deeper. And it did. When she first reported to Peter and John she said, "we do not know where they have laid Him." But after the experience of the ensuing hour or more, her loss has grown more deeply personal. To the angels she now says "I know not where they have laid Him." And that is the moment the Lord Jesus calls her by her name and she recognizes Him.

This is a sign that Our Lord loves

to have us seek Him deeply. But as with Mary Magdalene told not to cling to her old Master, so too we must desire not an earthly master but the Ascended Lord, Who by the power of the Holy Spirit communicates the precious presence of Christ to us in word and sacrament and in the hearts of faithful people.

¶ *a sermon preached by Father Bradford on the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene in 2002.*

Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurret—You may throw nature out with a pitchfork, but she will keep coming back.

HORACE

¶ *Horace (65BC-8BC) was one of the greatest Latin lyric poets, and had much influence on English poetry.*

### The Congregation of Saint Athanasius,

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,  
Chaplain

Sunday Mass 10:30am  
Saint Theresa Convent  
Chapel

10 St. Theresa Ave.  
West Roxbury, Mass.

Fellowship and Coffee in the  
Solarium after Mass

Rectory: 192 Foster Street,  
Brighton, MA 02135-4620  
Tel/Fax: (617) 787-0553  
Web: <http://www.locutor.net>



## EVENSONG and BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Eve of the Feast of Saint  
James the Apostle,  
Sunday, July 24, 2005,  
5:00pm

Chapel of St. Theresa of  
Ávila Church  
West Roxbury

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.

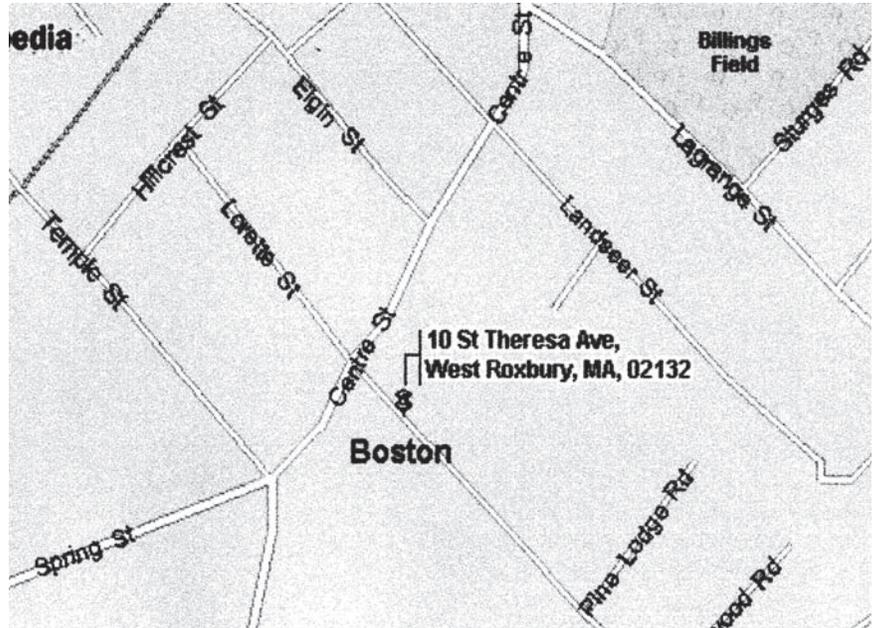
Directions by Car: From the North: Route 128 to  
Route 109, which becomes Spring Street in West  
Roxbury. Spring Street ends at a traffic light at  
Centre Street in sight of the church. At this light  
bear left onto Centre St.. and immediately turn  
right at the next light onto St.. Theresa Ave.

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 High-  
way 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 Sta-  
tion, but no Sunday service is available.



## Contra Mundum

The Congregation of St. Athanasius

10 St.. Theresa Avenue

West Roxbury, MA 02132

