
✠Contra Mundum✠

Volume XII, Issue 1

August 2009

The Congregation of St. Athanasius

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

<http://www.locutor.net>

NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I WILL NOT REFUSE YOU

IN the palace intrigue following the death of King David and the enthronement of his youngest son Solomon, one of David's elder sons, Adonijah, came to the Queen Mother, Bathsheba, confident in his request. "Pray ask King Solomon; he will not refuse you." And so in the second chapter of the First Book of the Kings, we read that Bathsheba did indeed go to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her, and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a seat brought for the king's mother; and she sat on his right. Then the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother; for I will not refuse you."

You can read about that episode, about Adonijah's power move, and the request which cost him his life, in 1 Kings, chapter 2. But Holy Church appropriates such Old Testament moments as foreshadowings of what was to come in the fulness of time.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary teaches us a great many things. And among those truths is that the Assumption is the feast of Saint Mary's intercession. She is and always will be our most



powerful intercessor. If Christians are bidden to pray for other souls, *and we are*, and if Our Lady is a Christian, *and she is*, then she is our most powerful intercessor. That is because Our Blessed Lady is still the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God. Christ our Lord did not become the Son of God. He always was. But He became the Son of God Incarnate and was made man. That had a beginning. *But not an end.* Christ took human nature from the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her motherhood, like all motherhood, is eternal.

And her relation to the Son of God is for ever greater, closer,

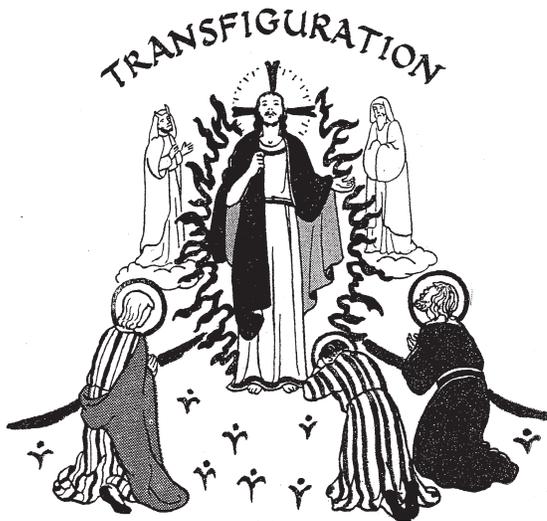
higher, than that of any other of the glorious saints. They are Christ's friends. She is His friend *and His mother*. And so her prayers are most powerful with Him.

This is something the Church has universally believed. Indeed before the early Christians learned to pray to God the Holy Ghost, they learned to ask for the Virgin Mary's prayers. They became accustomed to saying, "May Holy Mary pray for us" *before* they began to say, "Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire."

And so King Solomon's reverence for his mother Bathsheba is a prediction of things to come. Our Blessed Lady is far greater than Bathsheba because *a greater than Solomon is here*. And the King Who is Lord of Heaven and earth says, "Ask on, My mother; for I will not refuse you."

Blessed Mary, bodily assumed into Heaven, where she is forever close to her Divine Son, is our most powerful intercessor. Which is why we ask so often, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death."

*A sermon preached by
Father Bradford on the
Solemnity of the Assumption
August 15, 2008*



SHORT NOTES

✠ Many thanks to Father James J. O'Driscoll for being celebrant and preacher at Sunday Mass on June 28th. Father was also officiant and preacher at Evensong & Benediction that same afternoon, assisted by Deacon Michael J. Connolly. The Congregation and Father Bradford are grateful for kind and good friends.

✠ There is a Low Mass on Saturdays, in the convent chapel, at 9 A.M. when Father Bradford is in Boston. There is, however, no supply priest when Father is out of town. Check

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday, August 15, 2009
Solemn Mass & Sermon
convent chapel
9:00 A.M.

The Assumption is not of obligation when it falls on a Saturday. The faithful will nevertheless wish to observe the day by attendance at Mass.

the weekly bulletin or call, just to be sure.

✠ Confessions are heard every Saturday in the chapel of St. Theresa of Avila Church from 3–4 P.M. Confessors are the parish clergy. There is also Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday in the chapel from the time of the 6:45 A.M. Mass until 3:30, when Benediction is given and the Blessed Sacrament reposed.

✠ Confessions are also heard on Thursday prior to First Fridays, after the 4:00 P.M. daily Mass. Father Bradford is usually the confessor on these days.

✠ In September the Congregation will observe the 12th anniversary of its founding with Solemn Mass on the Feast of Saint Michael & All Angels, Tuesday, September 29th in the chapel of St. Theresa of Avila Church. Mass time is 7:30 P.M. A reception will follow the Mass.

✠ The next Evensong is on the eve of Holy Cross Day, Sunday, September 13th, at 5:00 P.M. in the St. Theresa Chapel.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

Thursday, August 6, 2009
Solemn Mass & Sermon
7:30 P.M.

A LOOK AHEAD

ON Sunday, September 27th, our Congregation will again join with Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Brockton, in a service of Evensong with sermon in the Chapel of Mary at Stonehill College, Easton. The service time is 3:00 P.M.

Father Hile's parish is having the dedication of a new parish hall that same weekend and has invited many Anglican dignitaries, including the Archbishop of Rwanda, to be present. He has asked for a Catholic presence at a Saturday clergy conference and so I have asked Fr. Peter Stravinskis to visit us for the weekend, not only as a panelist on Saturday, but to preach at our Sunday Mass, and be preacher at the afternoon evensong. Fr. Stravinskis is well known to our members from his many visits to us over the years as preacher, quiet day leader and retreat conductor. More details in the September parish paper, but save the date now.

Father Bradford



A YEAR FOR PRIESTS

June 19, 2009 – June 11, 2010

IN honor of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Cure d' Ars, St. John Mary Vianney, the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has inaugurated a Year for Priests (which began on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, June 19, 2009 and will end on the same feast in 2010). The purpose is "to promote and to coordinate the various spiritual and pastoral initiatives that seem useful for making the importance of the priest's role and mission in the Church and in contemporary society ever more clearly perceived."

Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, has written that his hope is that "this coming year will be an occasion for intense appreciation of the priestly identity, increased encouragement of vocation and supporting the mission of priests within the Church and in society."



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Luke AFB is west of Phoenix and is rapidly being surrounded by civilization that complains about the noise from the base and its planes, forgetting that it was there long before they were. A certain lieutenant colonel at Luke AFB deserves a big pat on the back. Apparently, an individual who lives somewhere near Luke AFB wrote the local paper complaining about a group of F-16s that disturbed his/her day at the mall. When that individual read the response from a Luke AFB officer, it must have stung a bit.

The complaint: 'Question of the day for Luke Air Force Base:'

Whom do we thank for the morning air show? Last Wednesday, at precisely 9:11 A.M., a tight formation of four F-16 jets made a low pass over Arrowhead Mall, continuing west over Bell Road at approximately 500 feet. Imagine our good fortune! Do the Tom Cruise-wannabes feel we need this wake-up call, or were they trying to impress the cashiers at Mervyn's early bird special? Any response would be appreciated.

The response:

Regarding 'A wake-up call from Luke Air Force Base': On June 15, at precisely 9:12 A.M., a perfectly timed four-ship fly by of F16s from the 63rd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base flew over the grave of Capt. Jeremy Fresques. Capt. Fresques was an Air Force officer who was previously stationed at Luke Air Force

Base and was killed in Iraq on May 30, Memorial Day. At 9 A.M. on June 15, his family and friends gathered at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City to mourn the loss of a husband, son and friend. Based on the letter writer's recount of the fly by, and because of the jet noise, I'm sure you didn't hear the 21-gun salute, the playing of taps, or my words to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques as I gave them their son's flag on behalf of the President of the United States and all those veterans and servicemen and women who understand the sacrifices they have endured. A four-ship fly by is a display of respect the Air Force gives to those who give their lives in defense of freedom. We are professional aviators and take our jobs seriously, and on June 15 what the letter writer witnessed was four officers lining up to pay their ultimate respects.

The letter writer asks, 'Whom do we thank for the morning airshow?' The 56th Fighter Wing will make the call for you, and forward your thanks to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques, and thank them for you, for it was in their honor that my pilots flew the most honorable formation of their lives.

Only 2 defining forces have ever offered to die for you... Jesus Christ and the American Soldier. One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.

Lt. Col. Grant L. Rosensteel, Jr.,
USAF

The Parish Priest

A good man there was of religioun,
 That was a povre PARSON of a town:
 But rich he was of holy thought and work.
 He was also a learned man, a clerk,
 That Christes gospel truly woulde preach.
 His parishfolk devoutly would he teach.
 Benign he was, and wonder diligent,
 And in adversity full patient;
 And such he was y-proved often times.
 Full loth were him to cursen for his thythes,
 But rather would he give, out of doubt,
 Un-to his povre parishfolk about,
 Of his offering, and eke of his substance.
 He could in little thing have suffisance.
 Wide was his parish, and houses far a-sunder,
 But he neglected not, for rain nor thunder,
 In sickness and in mischief, to visit
 The farthest in his parish, great and little,
 Upon his feet, and in his hand a staff.
 This noble ensample to his sheep he gave,
 That first he wrought, and afterward he taught.
 Out of the gospel he these wordes caught,
 And this figure he added eke there-to,
 That if gold ruste, what shall iron do?
 For if a priest be foul, on whom we trust,
 No wonder is a lewed man to rust:
 And shame it is, if a priest take keep,
 A dirty shepherd and a cleane sheep:
 Well ought a priest example for to give,
 By his cleanness, how that his sheep should live.
 He did not set his benefice to hire,
 Nor left his sheep eucumbered in the mire,
 And ran to London, un-to Sainte Paul's,
 To seeken him a chantery for souls,
 Or with a brotherhed to be enrolled;
 But dwelt at home, and kepte well his fold,
 So that the wolf might make it not miscarry.
 He was a shepherd, and no mercenary.
 And though he holy were, and virtuous,
 He was to sinful men not despitous
 Nor of his speeche dangerous nor digne
 But in his teaching discreet and benign.
 To draw his fold to heaven by fairness,
 By good example, was his business:
 But if were any person obstinate,
 What-so he were, of high or low estate,
 Him would be snibben sharply for the nonce.
 A better priest, I trow that nowhere none is.
 He waited for no pomp and reverence,
 Nor maked him a spiced conscience,
 But Christes lore, and his apostles' twelve,
 He taught, and first he followed it himself.

Geoffrey Chaucer
Canterbury Tales

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW


 SAINT Theodore, abbot and
 S eminent doctor, says, among
 other things, about this apostle:
 “Bartholomew, the blessed apostle
 of God, first preached n Lycaonia,
 later in India, and lastly in Albana,
 a city of greater Armenia, where
 he was flayed alive and beheaded,
 then buried there. When he was
 being sent to preach, he had heard
 this, I think, from the Lord: ‘Go,
 my disciple, go and preach, go out and fight, you are fit to face dangers!
 I accomplished my Father’s works. I was the first witness. Now you
 fill up what is still needed, imitate your Master, emulate your Lord,
 put your blood with his blood, give flesh for flesh! What I have suffer-
 ed and borne for you, suffer! Your weapons are good will in toil,
 gentleness toward those who wrong you, patience amidst the things
 that pass.’ The apostle did not refuse. As a faithful servant consenting
 to his master’s command he went forward rejoicing, as the light of the
 world to dispel the darkness, as the salt of the earth to preserve the
 insipid pagans, as a tiller of the earth to bring to fruition a spiritual
 crop. The apostle Peter does great prodigies: Bartholomew performs
 mighty miracles. Peter is crucified head downward; Bartholomew, after
 being flayed alive, had his head cut off. As clearly as Peter grasps the
 meaning of the mysteries, so deeply is Bartholomew able to penetrate
 them. They both make the Church fruitful... All the apostles, dividing
 the world among themselves, were constituted shepherds of the King
 of kings. Armenia, from Eiulath to Gabaoth, was Bartholomew’s lot
 and portion. See him using his tongue as a plow to cultivate spiri-
 tual soil, hiding the word of faith in the depth of hearts, planting the
 gardens and vineyards of the Lord, grafting on healing remedies for
 the sufferings of men, weeding out harmful thorns. He cuts down the
 forests of impiety, he builds fences of sound doctrine.”

Blessed Jacobus de Voragine
The Golden Legend

¶Blessed Jacobus de Voragine was a
 Dominican and Archbishop of Genoa. He
 went to God in 1298. Saint Bartholomew’s
 Day is August 24th.

¶GEOFFREY CHAUCER (c. 1340–
 1400) is one of the most important
 figures in English literature. A poet,
 he was also a diplomat, and finished
 his government career as clerk of
 the king’s works. Chaucer perfected
 the seven-line stanza which was
 later called “rhyme royal”, but his
 technique was not fully appreciated
 because of a change in the English
 language after 1400. He is buried in
 Westminster Abbey.

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 WILLIAM HORNE
Religious and Martyr (†1540)

WILLIAM Horne, a Carthusian monk, was one of ten religious of the order's London monastery, the Charterhouse, who on May 18, 1537, refused to join twenty of their fellow Carthusians in taking King Henry VIII's anti-papal oath of supremacy. Eleven days later, the ten were brought to a London prison, where they were chained in a standing position with their hands bound behind their backs, left thus to starve to death. Over a four-month period from June through September 1537, the Carthusians died one by one. Following the death of (Blessed) Thomas Johnson on September 20, William Horned remained the sole survivor of this "starvation bunker." Evidently the decision was made to keep him alive, for he spent nearly three more years in prison. Ultimately he was condemned to death by drawing and quartering for having refused to take the oath of supremacy. At his execution in London on August 4, 1540, William wore his Carthusian habit, having refused to lay it aside.

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BLESSED WILLIAM GUNTER
Priest and Martyr (†1588)

WILLIAM Gunter, of Raglan, Wales, journeyed to Reims, France, to study for the priesthood. Following his ordination in March of 1587, he returned to Britain in July of the same year. He was soon arrested and imprisoned by the Elizabethan authorities. When questioned as to whether he had persuaded anyone to return to the Catholic faith, Father Gunter openly declared that he had, adding that he would do so again if he could. This "confession" was considered sufficient evidence for condemning him, and he was sentenced to death without a jury trial. When on August 28, 1588, Father Gunter was led out to be executed, he learned upon arriving at the gallows that Queen Elizabeth I had commuted his sentence from death by drawing and quartering to death by hanging. In response to this news, he observed, "It is fit it should be so; for I am not worthy to suffer so much as my brethren." Father Gunter was one of eight martyrs to suffer on the same day.

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CORRECTION

Many thanks to Fr. Allan Hawkins who wrote that there was an error in the article "Receiving Communion" in the July issue of the parish paper. Communion in the hand was received in the *right* hand placed over the left. And in his letter, Fr. Hawkins provided a quote from St. Cyril on the subject: "Approaching therefore, come not with thy wrists extended...but make they left hand as it were a throne for thy right...and having hollowed thy palm receive the Body of Christ..."

Fr. Hawkins is Pastor of St. Mary the Virgin Catholic Church in Arlington, Texas.

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,
Chaplain

Saint Theresa Convent
Chapel

10 St. Theresa Ave.
West Roxbury, Mass.
(*Enter through the side door.*)

Sundays 10:30 A.M.

Sung Mass

Fellowship and Coffee in the
Lounge after Mass

Rectory:

767 West Roxbury Pkwy.
Boston, MA 02132-2121
Tel/Fax: (617) 325-5232
<http://www.locutor.net>

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.

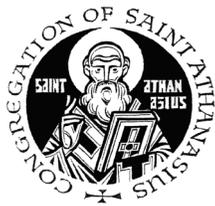
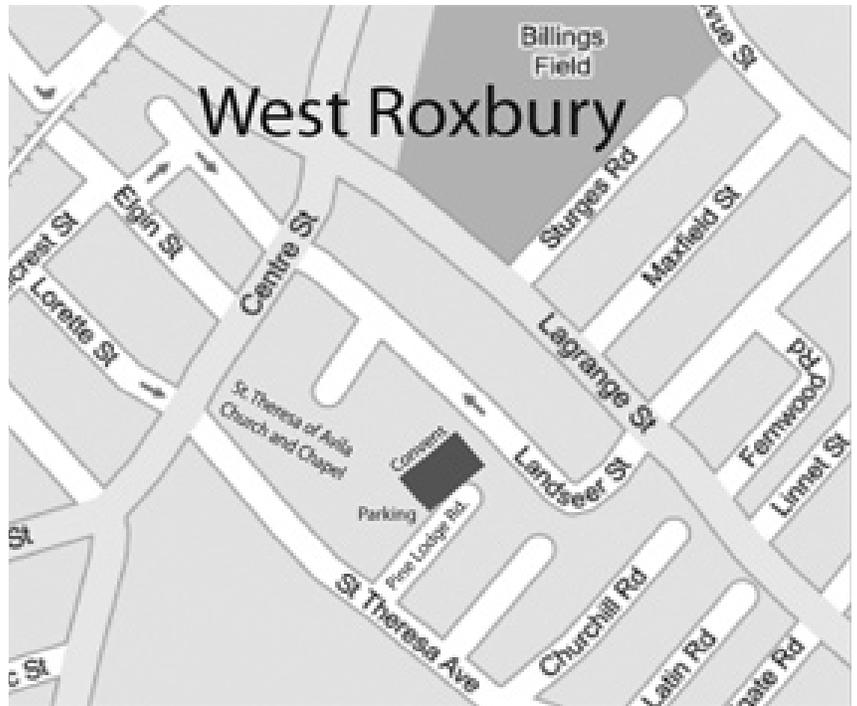
Directions by Car: From the North: Route 128 to Route 109, which becomes Spring Street in West Roxbury. Spring Street ends at a traffic light at Centre Street in sight of the church. At this light bear left onto Centre St. and immediately turn right at the next light onto St. Theresa Ave.

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.



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

