
✠ Contra Mundum ✠

Volume XII, Issue 12

July 2010

The Congregation of St. Athanasius

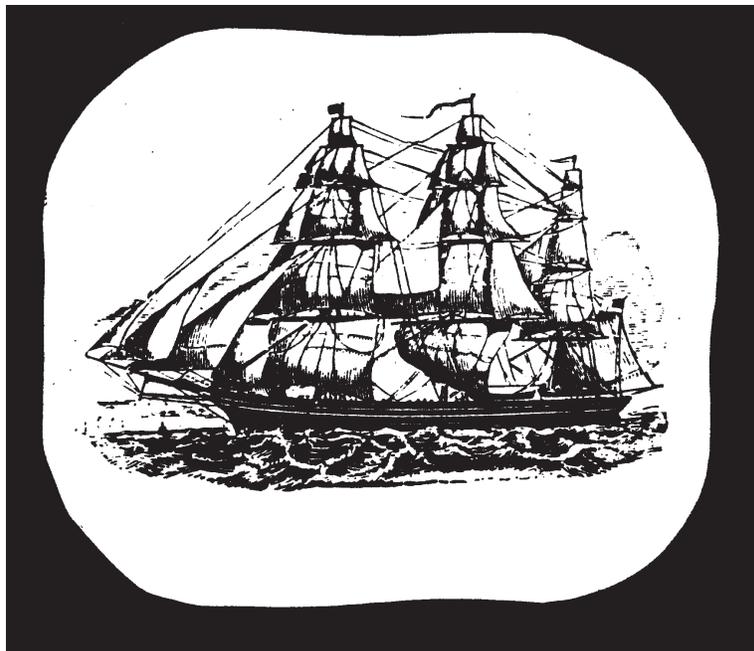
A Congregation of the Pastoral Provision of Pope John Paul II for the Anglican Usage of the Roman Rite

<http://www.locutor.net>

THOUGHTS ON DEMOCRACY

THERE is certainly more to Independence Day than hot dogs, potato salad, and not picking up the hot end of a sparkler! Some of you may know the writing of George Weigel, whose work appears in the Archdiocesan paper *The Pilot*. I think it was Weigel who once reminded us that you cannot have democracy without democrats. He wasn't referring to a political party, but describing the critical mass of men and women who have absorbed in heart and mind the essential virtues of democratic self-government.

Democracy cannot run itself, although democratic institutions can protect its citizens from the era of a weak President or ineffective Congress or Supreme Court. But the institutions cannot do it forever. In the end, democracy needs people committed to making it work. It needs to work so that the government's policies will reflect the most noble



aspirations of human flourishing. Democracy will only be a good form of government if its democrats consider their own moral worth and that of their neighbors.

But measured against what? When the Bible says "Jesus Christ is the only name under heaven by which man shall be saved" that means that it is by the grace of God in Christ that men and women turn from avarice and greed and selfishness to the higher calling of love of God, and of neighbor as thyself. Catholic Chris-

tianity affirms that each soul was placed on earth to flourish and has the right to dignity and respect. It is demonstrable that the Christian analysis of the human condition promotes attitudes towards our Creator that are essential in caring for the poor, the sick, and the very planet we all inhabit. All of which is the proper work of democracy.

It is noteworthy that democracy arose from the Christian ethos and culture, and has not been much of a success as yet in non-Christian lands. Which is another way of saying that democracy depends upon its Christian citizens to keep it from degrading into tyranny and then anarchy. Democracy needs to keep its eye on the mark, which is Jesus Christ.

So there is more to consider on this Independence Day than avoiding the hot end of a sparkler.

¶ *A sermon preached by Father Bradford on July 4, 2003.*

THE HOLY FAMILY

PARENTS begin to educate their children by their love for each other. If a child perceives that his parents have little love for each other, he feels disorientated, insecure, alone with his problems, and he starts out with a handicap on the long road of education. Pediatricians say that from the first few months, babies are furnished with very sensitive antennae for picking up their mother's psychic disturbances...

By observing his parents' mutual affection, the child knows by intuition, even without reasoning, that his home is secure, and he is more serene and open to a good education. Wise parents know this, and if their child has been a chance witness of one of their bad-tempered moments, they make sure he is present at their affectionate reconciliation, in order to cancel the unfavorable impression made on his soul! Love for the child then, they say, should have an influence on education from the days of the preengagement period.

"What kind of father will he be for my children?" the fiancée-to-be

should ask herself. And the candidate for engagement, "What kind of mother will she be?" Simone Weil said, "There is not a single thing in me that does not have its origin in the meeting between my father and my mother..."

Péguy wrote, "Every cradle is the meeting place of the Magi." Their child's cradle too. The husband and wife themselves are Magi, who deposit their gifts at the foot of that cradle every day: privations, anxieties, nightlong vigils, detachment. They receive other gifts in return, new impulses, to live and become holy, a joy purified by sacrifice, the renewal of their mutual affection, and a fuller communion of souls.

Pope John Paul I

¶ *Pope John Paul I was elected in 1978 and reigned for thirty-three days. This excerpt is from a book about him, The Smiling Pope (2004).*

LOYALTY

IN the lesson at the First Evensong of the Feast of S. Thomas are some very gallant words. David had come upon an evil time; his own son had revolted against him, his own people had cast him out. He urges a faithful old warrior, Ittai the Gittite, to leave him, but Ittai makes reply: 'As the Lord liveth, and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be.'

When our Lord in His time of great popularity passed through villages and towns that welcomed His com-

ing, and greeted Him as a leader and healer, it was not hard in those days to walk as His friend. But when the clouds gathered, and it was clear that there was an organized attack on Him brewing in Jerusalem, to say then, 'Let us also go, that we may die with Him,' was an act of real faith and loyalty. This doubting Thomas is a type of many a loving soul that follows Christ without seeing clearly Who Christ is. Thomas, like Ittai, had the love that could persevere in following love even to the death, but he had not faith in the divinity of his Master. Then there came a day when Love stood before him, still wounded, but transfigured in the glory of the Resurrection.

The wounds of humanity are the wounds of Christ. There is a meaning behind our pain. As we bring our love for the healing of those wounds, there will develop in us more and more that faith which shall be rewarded by the vision of God. We, like S. Thomas, in this world shall see His wounds. God grant that in the next world, like S. Thomas, we shall see His glory.

Father Andrew, S.D.C.

Meditations for Every Day

¶ The Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle is Saturday, July 3rd. Anglican Use Mass in Saint Lawrence Church is at 9:00 A.M.



Pope John Paul I

SHORT NOTES

✠ You are invited to provide Sunday altar flowers during the summer season. We need two identical and rather substantial arrangements for the high altar but smaller ones may be brought for the Marian altar. A sign up list is available at the Sunday coffee hour and further details provided. We will all appreciate the wonderful colors adorning the sanctuary during the growing season.

✠ Approximately one hundred people attended the annual conference of the Anglican Use So-

ciety, held this year in Newark, New Jersey at the invitation of Archbishop John J. Myers, Ecclesiastical Delegate for the Pastoral Provision. The Congregation was represented by David Burt, Steve Cavanaugh, and Fr Bradford. Our good friend Fr James O’Driscoll also attended. Photos of the conference can be viewed at the web site of Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church. The URL is: www.walsingham-church.org/wc/Photos/Pages/AU_Conference.html.

✠ Anglican Use Low Mass is offered many Saturdays in the St Theresa Convent Chapel at 9 A.M. This month an exception is July 3rd, when Mass is being offered in St Lawrence Church. Since Fr Bradford is not always available, it is best to check with him in advance.

✠ Holy Cross Family Ministries is sponsoring a Family Rosary Conference on July 17th, from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. to be held at the Father Peyton Center at Stonehill College in North Easton, MA. Full day of activities, workshops and lunch is included. Special keynote talk by Dr. Greg Popcak, a nationally

known expert in Catholic pastoral counseling. Event includes Eucharistic Adoration, Mission Rosary and Vigil Mass. Cost: \$10 Individual / \$50 maximum for a Family. For more information or to register: Call 508-283-4095 or 800-299-7729 or www.FamilyRosary.org/conference.

✠ During August Solemn Mass will be offered on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Friday, August 6th at 7:30 P.M. Solemn Evensong & Benediction will be offered on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sunday, August 15th at 5:00 P.M. Services are in Saint Lawrence Church, Chestnut Hill.

✠ Father Bradford was the speaker at the monthly *Nooners Luncheon* held in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Jamaica Plain on Friday, June 18th.



**EVENSONG
and
BENEDICTION
OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Sunday, July 25, 2010
5:00 P.M.

Saint Lawrence Church
Chestnut Hill

∴ THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN ∴



Christ in telling the parable of the Good Samaritan is not exhorting us to go out on the Jericho Road and set up a travelers’ aid station! When in response to the parable it becomes clear that *the neighbor is the good samaritan*, the one who gives help, it then follows that our duty of loving our neighbor means to love the one who gives help.

¶ *excerpt from a sermon by Father Bradford on July 15, 2007.*

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) is the Mass Gospel for Sunday, July 11, 2010.

NEWMAN WATCH



WATCHING FOR CHRIST

WE must not only have faith in him, but must wait on him; not only must hope, but must watch for him; not only love him, but must long for him; not only obey him, but must look out, look up earnestly for our reward, which is himself. We must not only make him the object of our faith, hope, and charity, but we must make it our duty not to believe the world, not to hope in the world, not to love the world...

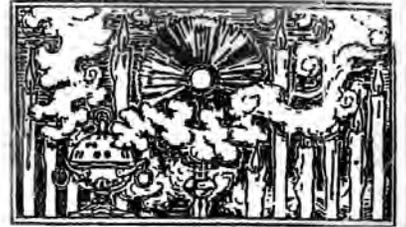
They, then, watch and wait for their Lord, who are tender and sensitive in their devotion towards him; who feed on the thought of him, hang on his words; live in his smile, and thrive and grow under his hand. They are eager for his approval, quick in catching his meaning, jealous of his honor. They see him in all things, expect him in all events, and amid all the cares, the interests, and the pursuits of this life, still would feel an awful joy, not a disappointment, did they hear that he was on the point of coming...

You know there are subtle instincts in the inferior animals, by which they apprehend the presence of things which man cannot discern, as atmospheric changes or convulsions of the earth or their natural enemies, whom yet they do not actually see; and we consider the uneasiness or the terror which they exhibit to be a proof that there is something near them which is the object of the feeling, and is the evidence of its own reality. Well, in some such way the continuous watching and waiting for Christ, which prophets, apostles, and the Church built upon them have manifested age after age, is a demonstration that the object of it is not a dream or a fancy, but really exists; in other words, that he lives still, that he has ever lived, who was once upon earth, who died, who disappeared, who said he would come again.

Venerable John Henry Newman
Prayers, Poems, Meditations (1989)

¶ Msgr Ronald Knox once said Cardinal Newman was the most important convert to Catholicism since Augustine.

¶ Pope Benedict XVI will beatify John Henry Newman during his scheduled visit to the United Kingdom on September 19, 2010. Visit <http://www.newmancause.co.uk> for continuing information on this upcoming event.



BENEDICTION

THE Blessed Sacrament should always be the primary focus of our devotional life. The abiding Presence in the monstrance continues the precious moments of the elevation at Mass and the blessing of Benediction. How often have we wished that the elevation at Mass could be longer, so that we had more time to make all our special petitions and promises. In the hours of Exposition we have that opportunity. Don't waste time counting the candles or admiring the chandeliers and flowers. They are certainly a beautiful offering to the Lord and they are indeed meant to inspire our devotion, but not to replace it. During the Solemn Exposition the whole area of the sanctuary becomes as it were the altar-throne. No bells are rung in the church during the period of Exposition. Nothing should happen which might distract our attention from the Lord, Creator and Redeemer, Who is miraculously present on His earthly throne. The brief hour we spend adoring Christ in the monstrance is a foretaste of the timeless adoration offered up to Him endlessly in heaven.

From the Provost

¶ The column "From the Provost" is a regular feature in *The Oratory Magazine*, a monthly publication of the Brompton (London) Oratory. This excerpt is taken from the March 2010 issue, Vol. 87, No. 1066.

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.

BLESSEDS JOHN SUGAR (SUKER) AND ROBERT GRISSOLD
Martyrs († 1604)

ALTHOUGH in his earlier years John Sugar, of Wombourne, England, embraced Protestantism, becoming a Protestant minister, he took exception to the Protestant monarchy's anti-papal oath of supremacy. Ultimately John became a Catholic, journeying to the continent after his conversion to study for the priesthood. Following his ordination in 1601, Father Sugar returned to his native region of west central England to begin his priestly ministry there. In July of 1603, he was captured together with a farmhand assisting him, Robert Grissold, a native of Rowington. The two were held in prison for a year before being sentenced. Father Sugar was condemned to be drawn and quartered for being a priest. Robert was condemned to be hung for refusing to attend a Protestant church service and for helping Father Sugar. Both were put to death on July 16, 1604.

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BLESSED JOSEPH LAMBTON
Priest and Martyr (1569–1592)

JOSEPH LAMBTON of Malton, England, journeyed to France to study for the priesthood at the age of fifteen. Eight years later, shortly after his ordination, Father Lambton set sail for England, risking execution if he was discovered by Queen Elizabeth I's Protestant regime. Soon after arriving, Father Lambton encountered a magistrate, who, suspecting that he was a priest, arrested him. Condemned to death for his priesthood, Father Lambton was dragged on a hurdle to suffer death by drawing and quartering before dawn on a late July morning. He knelt on the first rung of the gallows ladder to make the sign of the cross and pray for several minutes before ascending. The assigned executioner was a felon who had been pardoned in exchange for agreeing to serve as Father Lambton's hangman. But a night or two earlier, this man had witnessed a vision in the priest's cell, and became so horrified at the thought of butchering the servant of God that he now refused to carry out the execution. After a long search for a substitute, a French surgeon was brought in from a neighboring village to disembowel and dismember the martyr.

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Joachim & Anna Meeting
at the Golden Gate
Albrecht Durer, dated 1504

¶ The feast of SS Joachim and Anna, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is Monday, July 26th.

The Congregation of Saint Athanasius

The Revd. Richard Sterling Bradford,
Chaplain

Saint Lawrence Church
774 Boylston Ave.
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

(Parking lot behind church.)

Sundays 11:30 A.M.
Sung Mass

Fellowship and Coffee in the
Undercroft after Mass

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

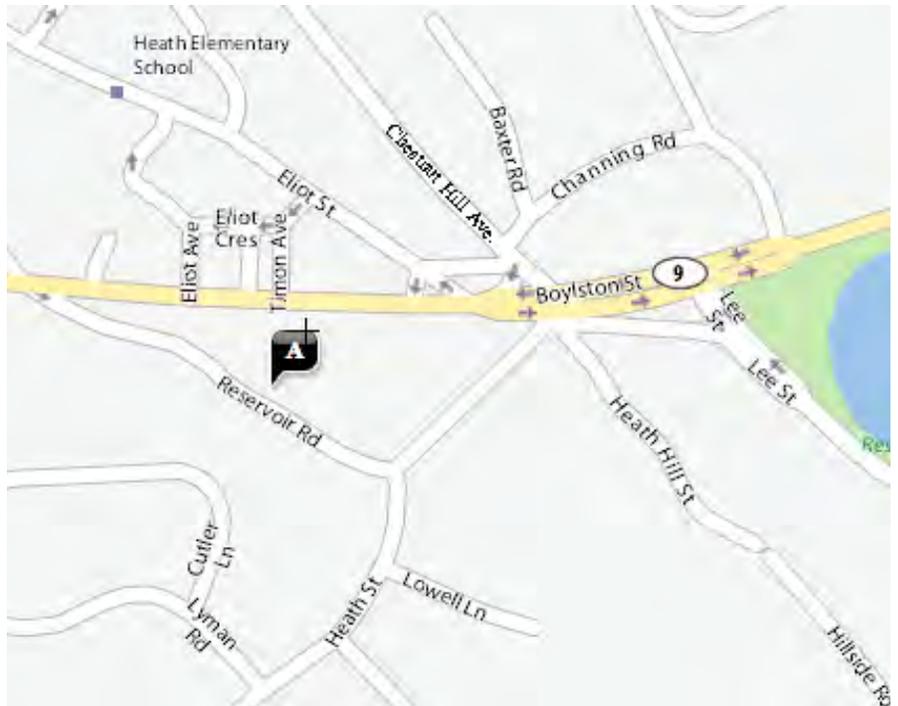
St. Lawrence Church, 774 Boylston Street (Route 9).

Park in the church parking lot behind the Church, off of Reservoir Rd.

Directions by Car: From the North or South: Route 128 to Route 9. At signal for Reservoir Road, take right; Church parking lot is a short distance on left.

From Boston: From Stuart/Kneeland St., turn left onto Park Plaza. Drive for 0.2 miles. Park Plaza becomes St James Avenue. Drive for 0.3 miles. Turn slight left onto ramp. Drive for 0.1 miles. Go straight on Route-9. Drive for 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Heath Street. Drive for 0.1 miles. Go straight on Reservoir Road. Drive for 0.1 miles. Parking lot is on your right.

Directions by Public Transportation: Green line to Kenmore Square terminal. Bus #60, has a stop in front of the Church. The Church is a 15-minute walk from the Cleveland Circle Green Line station. On weekdays and Saturdays only the #51 bus route which runs from Cleveland Circle to Forest Hills via Hancock Village is a 3-minute bus trip from Chestnut Hill/Reservoir, which stops at Lee St.



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 10 St. Theresa Avenue
 West Roxbury, MA 02132

