
✠Contra Mundum✠

Volume XV, Issue 10

May 2013

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>

I AM THE DOOR

IT HAS BEEN a week none of us will easily forget. Nor should we. The broadcast and print media has been chock full of moral musings, some of it simplistic and some quite profound. You are doing your own homework on these events against the backdrop of your sound Catholic convictions. As a pastor I am content with that. As a preacher I can only offer a contribution to the mix. After the Newtown massacre of children and teachers I wrote a leader for the February issue of our parish paper. It was titled *Being Violent*, and many people have been appreciative of those thoughts. There are extra copies available today, or perhaps you can access this issue on our parish website.

Human beings have three paramount needs. They are even more fundamental than food and shelter. All souls must be admitted to the state of salvation. Our Lord Jesus came to save *all* men from their sins. That is because all men need saving from their sins! Second, all persons, no matter their race, religion, or culture, need spiritual liberty. They need the *freedom* to pursue their highest end. And third, all souls need to be provided with the means to *grow* towards that end. These fundamental and paramount needs are assured to the flock of Jesus Christ. He provides for that flock His Mystical Body, the Catholic Church. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Thank God for that! Just now we



cannot be comforted by some lofty theological idea of God as pure Spirit. That, of course, is true enough. But we need God *Incarinate*, God *in the flesh*. God in the flesh assured us that He is the Good Shepherd.

Part of Christ's teaching about the Good Shepherd is His saying, "I am the door." He says, "By Me, if any man enter in, he shall be saved." That is what secures our salvation. *Entering in*. When the Lord says, "They shall go in and out," that gives us the *liberty* to pursue truth. And Jesus says of them who do so, "They shall find pasture." This refers to the *growth* all souls require. The food Our Lord provides for that growth is Himself. He is the food of eternal life.

So what happened when things go terribly wrong? There's a law both in the spiritual order and in the realm of science that something will always fill a vacuum. Indeed it is precisely because this is a law in the spiritual order that we can see the pattern reflected by natural observation. Our Lord Jesus gave us some insight on the matter. The bad news is that to hear a Mass Gospel and sermon on this teaching you have to go to Church on a Friday in the first half of October. There is no substitute for reading your Bible! Check out Luke 11:24-26.

In a colorful and memorable way, Our Lord Jesus observes that unless a soul delivered from demons is kept and held by God, that soul will relapse to its former condition *or worse*. The Lord gives us a description of the house clean and in order. It represents all the self-help treatments our secular society foists upon us. The results can be impressive. Have you noticed that after a horrendous crime the revelation of who the terrorists are surprised their neighbors? So often we are told some version of, "He chatted over the backyard fence, and mowed the grass." But without Christ, all the clean and orderly house does is provide much more for the devil to ruin. So he invites other demons to share the destruction. Empty hearts will not remain empty! They will be filled by God or by the devil. In the Lord's teaching parable the disastrous result is not an indictment upon the imperfect methods of

Jewish exorcists. The focus is on the misconduct of the one who has been exorcised. Our Lord is illustrating the case of an empty soul who makes no effort to acquire holiness.

Here is a message for all people: Christians and lapsed Christians and non-Christians alike. Each of us knows so many people in all those categories. The 21st Century will be a religious time. And it will be a religion of love and light or hate and darkness. And conduct will be driven by religious beliefs. It is as the Son of God has said. An open mind and neutral spirit are like the empty house. They are nothing but a happy hunting ground for all that is bad.

Christ Jesus gives us an immediate and comforting image of Himself as the Good Shepherd. It is an image that would be familiar right away in a 1st Century agrarian economy. Why is the sheepfold that is the Catholic Church impregnable? It is because *Christ is the Door*. There is a story of the western tourist who found it quite remarkable that a Bedouin sheepfold was so strongly built and yet had a wide entrance with no gate. "Where is the door?" asked the tourist. The shepherd replied, "I am the door." Once he had safely enclosed his flock, the shepherd stretched his own body across the opening for the night. Perhaps that is the origin of the phrase "over my dead body!"

In telling us "I am the door" Our Lord Jesus assures us that our salvation, our freedom, our means of grace, the fundamental needs of all souls, are absolutely secure in the Church because the Good Shepherd sleeplessly guards His Fold with His Life.

Fr. Bradford

¶ *A sermon preached by Father Bradford on The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2013*



"So then the Lord Jesus . . . was taken up into Heaven."

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday, May 9, 2013

There is no Anglican Use Mass

Ascension Day Masses
in Saint Theresa of Avila Parish
are at the following times:

Vigil Masses May 8th at 4 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.
May 9th at 6:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 P.M.

Saint Mary's, Brookline
May 9th at 7:30 A.M. and 12:10 P.M.

Saint Lawrence, Chestnut Hill
May 9th at 7:00 P.M.

These Masses are in the Ordinary Form
Ascension Day is a Holy Day of Obligation

SUMMER FLOWERS

Our sign up for summer altar flowers will begin Memorial Day weekend. A sign-up chart will be available May 26th. You may bring arrangements from your garden or a florist. We require two large arrangements for the high altar or either one or two smaller vases for the Marian altar. Be sure to sign up to avoid duplication of flowers one week and none the next. After Mass you may take your flowers home to enjoy. Many thanks.



FROM OUR PATRON SAINT

THE Word of God, incorporeal, incorruptible and immaterial, entered our world. Yet it was not as if he had been remote from it up to that time. For there is no part of the world that was ever without his presence; together with his Father, he continually filled all things and places.

Out of his loving-kindness for us he came to us, and we see this in the way he revealed himself openly to us. Taking pity on mankind's weakness, and moved by our corruption, he could not stand aside and see death have the mastery over us; he did not want creation to perish and his Father's work in fashioning man to be in vain. He therefore took to himself a body, no different from our own, for he did not wish simply to be in a body or only to be seen.

If he had wanted simply to be seen, he could indeed have taken another, and nobler, body. Instead, he took our body in its reality.

Within the Virgin he built himself a temple, that is, a body; he made it his own instrument in which to dwell and to reveal himself. In this way he received from mankind a body like our own, and, since all were subject to the corruption of death, he delivered this body over to death for all, and with supreme love offered it to the Father. He did so to destroy the law of corruption passed against all men, since all died in him. The law, which had spent its force on the body of the Lord, could no longer have any power against his fellowmen. Moreover, this was the way in which the Word was to restore mankind to immortality, after it had fallen into corruption, and summon it back from death to life. He utterly destroyed the power death had against mankind—as fire



ST. ATHANASIUS

¶ *Saint Athanasius (295-373) was Bishop of Alexandria. His writings are outstanding in their explanation and defense of the true teachings of the faith. He is one of the four Greek Doctors of the Church.*

PATRONAL FEAST DAY MAY 2nd

Thursday, May 2, 2013
Solemn Mass at 7:30 P.M.

consumes chaff—by means of the body he had taken and the grace of the resurrection.

This is the reason why the Word assumed a body that could die, so that this body, sharing in the Word who is above all, might satisfy death's requirement in place of all. Because of the Word dwelling in that body, it would remain incorruptible, and all would be freed for ever

from corruption by the grace of the resurrection.

In death the Word made a spotless sacrifice and oblation of the body he had taken. By dying for others, he immediately banished death for all mankind.

In this way the Word of God, who is above all, dedicated and offered his temple, the instrument that was his body, for us all, as he said, and so paid by his own death the debt that was owed. The immortal Son of God, united with all men by likeness of nature, thus fulfilled all justice in restoring mankind to immortality by the promise of the resurrection.

The corruption of death no longer holds any power over mankind, thanks to the Word, who has come to dwell among them through his one body.

¶ *Excerpt from the discourse Oratio de Incarnatione Verbi*

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions. He had money as well.” -Jan. 6, 1986, television interview

Margaret Thatcher

¶ *Baroness Thatcher, former Prime Minister of England, who died on April 8, 2013, was famous for her one-liners. This one was taken from a television interview on January 6, 1986.*

SHORT NOTES

✠ Our friend Ryan Amann wrote from Albany that he and his wife Clarice are planning to visit us soon. Ryan was a member of our flock when he was studying architecture in Boston. We look forward to meeting Clarice, who is a native of India.

✠ Last call for Lent Coin Folders. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities.

✠ A year's-mind Mass for parishioner Ron Jaynes was offered on Saturday, April 20th. Ron went to God in 2001.

✠ We welcomed Fr. Daniel Lloyd as concelebrant at Sunday Mass April 14th. He is a priest of the Anglican Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom. He was visiting Boston while his wife Alex was a guest lecturer at Wheelock College. They were with us several Sundays.

✠ Condolences of the parish go to David Cronin on the death of his father, James Cronin. A funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bradford in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Jamaica Plain, on April 8th. Mr Cronin was 88 years old. May he rest in peace.

✠ Anglican Use Mass is offered on Saturday in St. Theresa of Avila Church at 8:00 A.M. An exception is May 11th when there is no Mass.

✠ Fr. James O'Driscoll will be our celebrant at Sunday Mass, May 12th. He is parochial vicar in Holy Family Parish, Rockland and has been with us many times as celebrant and preacher.

✠ The Congregation received a nice note of thanks from Ian and Theresa Faley for the framed crucifix given to them for their home in Melrose. Several parishioners contributed to the gift.

✠ Dr. Anthony Polito sent greetings from a holiday in Paris enjoyed by he and his wife during an early spring break.

✠ Bishop Richard Lennon observes his anniversary as Bishop of Cleveland on May 15th. He was installed in 2006. Bishop Lennon was our first chaplain.

✠ Other traveling parishioners include Patrick Cavanaugh, who with several other Catholic University graduate students spent time in Turkey this winter. And Dr. Jessica Bradford whose travels from her medical practice in Tanzania brought her to the United States in May for visits to Boston, Houston, and Charleston.

✠ We need readers of the Acts 2:1-11 Lesson on Pentecost, Sunday, May 19th. After the reading in English we turn to as many foreign languages as we can muster. Speak to Steve Cavanaugh or the Chaplain to sign up.

✠ A year's-mind Mass for Abbot Gabriel Gibbs, OSB will be offered on Saturday, May 18th. Abbot Gabriel went to God in 2010.

✠ Our condolences go to Father Charles J. Higgins and his siblings on occasion of the death of their mother, Joyce Higgins, after a long illness. Mrs. Higgins went to God on April 13th. The funeral Mass was Thursday, April 17th in Mary Immaculate of Lourdes Parish, Newton. Father Higgins is pastor of the parish. Over the years he has been a great friend of our congregation, and has been our guest celebrant and preacher, and written for our parish paper. Mrs. Higgins may also have been known to you as she attended some of our services held in West Roxbury. She was 79 years old. May she rest in peace.

✠ In the aftermath of the Marathon Day bombings many parishioners of St. Theresa of Avila have asked for copies of Father Bradford's article *Being Violent*. It was published in the February issue of *Contra Mundum*. You may also access it on the congregation's web site or call or write for a copy.

THE MARIAN MONTH OF MAY

IT IS TOLD that one time an Abbot and certain other folk were in a ship upon the British seas, making voyage from England unto France; and when they were a great way from land, a tempest arose exceeding fierce and put them in great peril, so that they feared their ship must break in two and they be drowned. And night came upon them very dark and full of dread, for there was no moon; neither did the storm abate with the darkness, but rather grew in power. Then, because they knew not what should befall, for that they were altogether at the mercy of the wind that blew them whither it would, all that company set themselves to call upon the saints of paradise; for indeed there was nothing else that they could do...

Then said that abbot their fellow traveler, the which was a discreet and holy man: "My fair friends, I marvel much that you should make your orisons to these saints that are so little powerful, and that you forget to call first upon our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, for no other saint has so great a power to help us, and no tempest can long endure in that place where her name is heard..."

When they heard the good abbot speak thus, all, both men and women, set themselves to pray to the Mother of Mercy with great fervor of supplication, crying aloud and saying, "Most noble Lady, fair Queen of heaven, have mercy on your poor children, we beseech you! Dear Mother of our gentle Savior that did walk in safety on the waves, will you not succor us in our extremity? Verily, if you help us not,



we must be drowned; and we know that you can save us if you will.”...

And lo! When this song was partly done, all saw a great marvel, to wit, a fair candle or waxen taper, in the manner of those that are set before the altars of the saints, descending full quickly out of heaven. And this taper shone with a bright light exceeding wondrous, and it came and rested upon the mast and there did stay, lighting all the ship most sweetly, as the sun might do, and chasing away the shades of night from round it. And when that fair celestial light did shine upon the sea, lo! Of a sudden the tempest was altogether stilled, so that the waves, which had been so great that it seemed as if each one might drown the world, rose not, neither did the wind buffet them to and fro; but the ship lay full quietly upon the waters, and by that blessed taper, the which left them not till day came, it was kept and guided till it came safely to the haven where it would be.

¶ *This medieval legend was translated by Evelyn Underhill for a 1906 volume titled The Miracles of Our Lady.*

BRITISH MARTYRS & CONFESSORS

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 THOMAS WATKINSON

Martyr († 1591)

A NATIVE of Yorkshire, England, Thomas Watkinson was a devout Catholic widower who became a cleric (evidently receiving only minor orders, not the diaconate or the priesthood). He lived in solitude, but took an active role in assisting and sheltering the priests who secretly served the country's Catholics persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. On the eve of Palm Sunday in 1591, a hostile neighbor of Watkinson spotted the widower's servants procuring palms. This "incriminating evidence" was reported to a magistrate three miles away. Very early on Palm Sunday morning, the magistrate raided Watkinson's home, arresting the widower and (Blessed) Father Robert Thorpe, the priest who had come to celebrate Mass. They were sent to London, where they were tortured by the murderous government agent Richard Topcliffe. After being returned to York, Father Thorpe was sentenced to drawing and quartering for his priesthood, and Watkinson was sentenced to hanging for having sheltered priests. Watkinson was offered his life if he agreed to attend Protestant church services, but he refused. On May 31, 1591, both men suffered death with great courage.

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ORDINATION

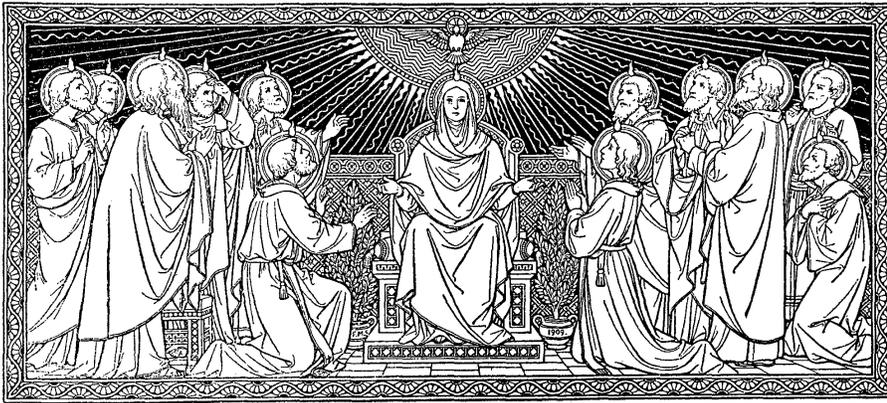


Archbishop Sean Cardinal O'Malley lays hands on Jurgen Liias, ordaining him a Catholic priest

The Revd. Jurgen Liias was ordained a Catholic priest on Saturday, April 20th in St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Beverly. Cardinal O'Malley ordained Fr. Liias on behalf of the Anglican Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, with which Fr Liias is affiliated. Blessings and congratulations!



¶ Diocesan ordinations to the priesthood take place Saturday, May 25th in Holy Cross Cathedral.



SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

or Whitsunday
Sunday, May 19, 2013

Procession, Solemn Mass
and Sermon

11:30 A.M.

Acts 2:1-11 Lesson read in foreign languages

Wear RED on Pentecost

Solemn Evensong & Benediction
5:00 P.M.

A reception will follow this service

TONGUES AND FIRE

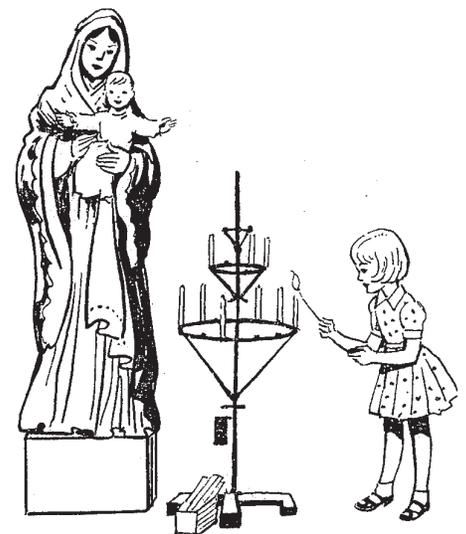
CONSIDER secondly, that the Holy Ghost came down upon the Apostles, in the shape of *tongues*, to signify that he came to make them fit preachers of his word; and to endow them with the gift of *tongues*, accompanied with heavenly wisdom, and understanding, of the mysteries of God, and all the gospel truths; to the end that they might be enabled to teach and publish, throughout the whole world, the faith and law of Christ. And these *tongues* were of *fire*, to signify how this divine Spirit sets those souls on

fire, in which he abides; enflaming them with divine love; consuming the dross of their earthly affections; putting them in a continual motion of earnest desires and endeavours, to go forward from virtue to virtue, as fire is always in motion; and carrying them upwards towards the God of gods in his heavenly Son; as the flame is always ascending upwards towards its element. O blessed fire, when shall I partake of thy sacred flames? O come and take possession of my heart; consume all these bonds that tie it to the earth; and carry it up with thee, towards the heavenly furnace, from whence thou comest. Sweet Jesus, thou hast

said (Luke 12.49): *I am come to cast fire on the earth; and what will I but that it be kindled? O cast this fire into my soul, that it may be kindled there!*

Bishop Richard Challoner

¶ Bishop Challoner (1691–1781) was Vicar Apostolic of the London district from 1741. The excerpt is taken from his *Meditations for Every Day of the Year* (1767).



VISITATION OF MARY

Friday, May 31, 2013

Masses in St Theresa of Avila Church, West Roxbury are at 6:45 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

MAY IS MARY'S MONTH. You might read a book about Our Lady during the month. A suggestion is *The Book of Mary* published by Our Sunday Visitor (and containing 29 articles by various authors including Fr. Stravinskias, Fr. Cessario, Fr. Bradford, and Dr. Donald Lacy). Until Trinity Sunday, recite the *Regina Coeli* at noon in place of the *Angelus*.

THE FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Commonly Called Trinity Sunday
Sunday, May 26, 2013

Solemn Mass & Sermon
Athanasian Creed used at Mass
11:30 A.M.



¶ Albrecht Durer's The Trinity



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27, 2013

¶ Memorial Day Masses celebrated by the parish clergy of St. Theresa Avila Church are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. in Saint Joseph's and Mt. Benedict Cemeteries in West Roxbury.

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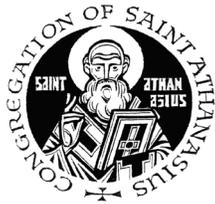
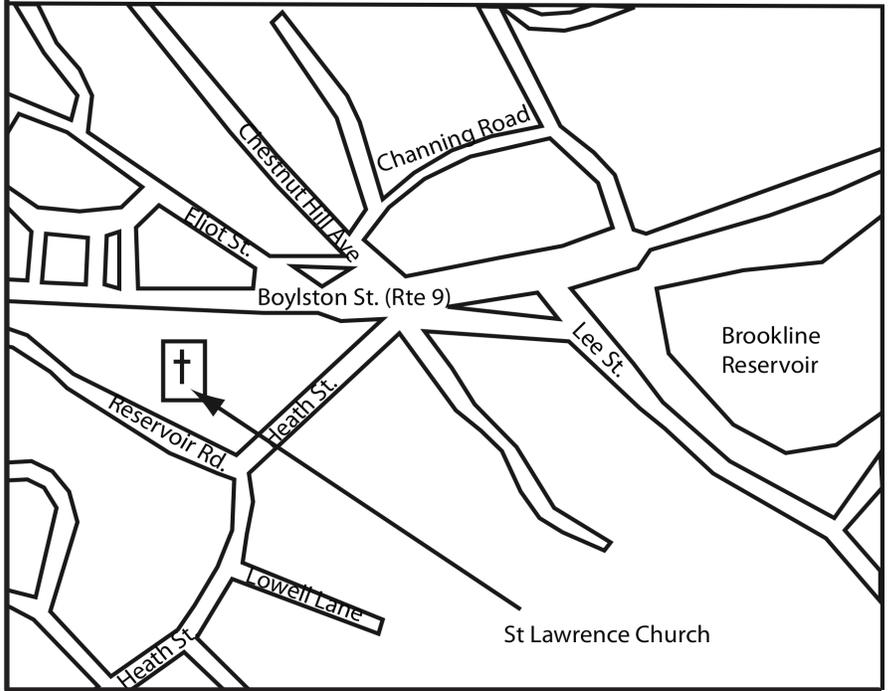
St. Lawrence Church, 774 Boylston Street (Route 9).

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: From Kenmore Square station board Bus #60, which stops in front of the Church. Alternatively, the Church is a 15-minute walk from the Cleveland Circle station on the Green Line C-branch.



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 10 St. Theresa Avenue
 West Roxbury, MA 02132

