

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

“I saw a great multitude which no man could number,” the Church sings on All Saints, “of all nations and tribes, and peoples and tongues.” So saw St. John in his mystic vision of Patmos, so saw we this month in “mustard seed” in a new seminary church, with nine priests, nine seminarians, and two bishops “standing before the throne, and in sight of the Lamb,” with angels and ancients bearing witness. A deacon from the far off *tribe* of the Ibo of Nigeria was ordained a priest forever, and their first priest in 45 years.

This apocalyptic multitude of priests and people grows slowly, it is true, almost imperceptibly, but steadily withal, until the promise of the vision be accomplished and Christ come back to restore all in all.

Rejoice with us, dear faithful, in the restoration worked still today in this wicked world of ours. Rejoice at the ever-increasing number of true Catholic priests, of good Holy Masses, of valid sacraments, of sound doctrine preached “in season, out of season.”

You may feel yourself an isolated individual, 50 years and many miles separating you from anything like a multitude of Catholics. And yet today more and more “nations and tribes and peoples and tongues” are finding their way back, one soul, one prayer, one priest, one Mass at a time. Deo Gratias!

You are not alone. There are priests eager to serve you, working with the faithful, confirmed Soldiers of Christ, and using every modern means of communication to bring you Catholic light and encouragement, instruction and assistance.

Rejoice with us then, support us, work with us to spread Catholic truth in the face of a worldwide and false antichurch. Remember that prayer, solid doctrine, and the practice of virtue are the weapons and means of survival for every beleaguered member of the Mystical Body of Christ today. In this, too, let us be united.

In a few days November's rejoicing will yield to Advent's penitential preparation for Christ's coming. This is not a fond hope or a nostalgic wish, but rather an



On Wednesday, November 6th, during the Octave of All Saints, His Excellency Bishop Daniel Dolan ordained Nigerian Bede Nkamuke, to the Holy Priesthood in the spacious chapel of Most Holy Trinity Seminary which is located in Brooksville, Florida. This was the first ordination to be held publicly in this recently completed and impressive structure.

ever-increasing reality. “Return to us in the person of thy priests,” we pray. After almost 50 years of mostly invalid ordinations of non-priests, this prayer is again being heard.

Work and pray and sacrifice with us! Thy Kingdom come.

Yours in Jesus, Eternal High Priest,

– **Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan**

An Advent Prayer for Priests

Divine Redeemer of souls, behold how great is the multitude of those who still sleep in the darkness of error; reckon up the number of those unfaithful sheep who stray to the edge of the precipice; consider the throngs of the poor, the hungry, the ignorant and the feeble who groan in their abandoned condition.

Return to us in the person of Thy priests; truly live again in them; act through them and pass once more through the world, teaching, forgiving, comforting, sacrificing and renewing the sacred bonds of love between the Heart of God and the heart of man. Amen.



(Above) Our annual All Saints' party coincided with the Feast of Christ the King this year. Many of the "saints" who took part in the festivities are seen surrounding Bishop Dolan following their presentation on the life of the saint each represented.



Father James Thielen accompanied our schoolchildren on their annual cemetery visit in early November. (Above) Father recites the rosary as he processes with servers, schoolchildren, teachers, and parents. (Below) Father blessed the graves of the priests who labored long and hard to establish the Catholic Church in our corner of Butler County, Ohio. "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Maccabees 12:46)



Our annual observance of the Forty Hours' Devotion from November 15th through November 17th provided the opportunity for us to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us here at St. Gertrude the Great Church. The pictures below reflect some of those blessings – those of the priesthood. (Middle) Both Fathers McGuire and Lehtoranta (giving and receiving the Kiss of Peace) observed the anniversary of their priestly ordination at November 16th's observance of the Feast of St. Gertrude the Great. On the following day newly ordained Father Nkamuke sang the beautiful solemn high Mass of Reposition, in addition to preaching a timely sermon on the Holy Eucharist. A reception was held in our Helfta Hall in honor of Father Nkamuke where he can be seen cutting the cake in the picture at the bottom right.

