

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

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ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE • 4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Epiphany is the greatest feast of Christmastide, which itself is one long celebration which lasts a full forty days until Candlemas. St. Leo says that Our Lord, born of the Virgin at Christmas and recognized only by a few, is acknowledged as God by all the world at Epiphany. Would it were so! May this Epiphany season see an increase of faith in our cold dark world.

Some 70 souls (another biblical number) braved the bitter cold for our Twelfth Night celebration, consisting of the blessing of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and chalk; Solemn High Mass; and the parish Christmas party, saluting and thanking our many volunteers and faithful workers at St. Gertrude the Great.

Earlier at Christmas the customary ceremonies of the Midnight Matins and Pontifical Mass, the Masses of the Day and of the Octave (and our Novena of Masses for your intentions) were all devoutly carried out in our beautifully decorated church. Our Christmas weather was mild and even sunny. We felt we were a protected pocket in the good God's coat.

I experienced a little unexpected summer weather in early December, as I was called upon to replace Bishop Morello, now quite ill, for 100 Confirmations at Cordoba, Argentina. All went well for this long, Magi-like journey, as well as for my shorter trip to New Mexico to visit the faithful of our Morada of St. Gertrude for New Year, as well as the great shrines of America's Holy Land.

All of the Fathers are lined up for "an exciting new season" of Restoration Radio for the new year. Be sure to tune in yourself (www.blogtalkradio.com/restorationradio) as well as to our frequently webcast Masses and sermons. Take a moment to check out Fr. Cekada's regular offerings at fathercekada.com, a good way to keep up as Bergoglio continues his efforts to tear down what is left of Catholicism in the new religion.

I wish to thank all of you for your interest in and support of our apostolate at St. Gertrude the Great. We are centered just north of Cincinnati, Ohio, but our work extends throughout the Church, through all the world. Thank you for helping us help you!

I wish especially to welcome our recent Internet benefactors who have purchased a calendar, or participated in the Christmas Novena or flower offering, as well as for the donations for the sanctuary lamp and for Masses, both individual and Gregorian. They are all received with great gratitude by



His Excellency places the image of the Infant Jesus in the crib at St. Gertrude the Great Church prior to the beginning of Midnight Mass on Christmas.

the priests.

Fr. Bede Nkamuke asks me to thank all of you who helped him go home to Nigeria for Christmas, giving the faithful there Christ's Mass for the first time in two years.

With a blessing in Our Newborn God and King,

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



A young Catholic boy (one of one hundred Catholics) is confirmed by Bishop Dolan on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Cordoba, Argentina. Assisting His Excellency are Fathers Pio and Julian Espina and Father Ariel Damin of Mendoza.

FROM FR. NKAMUKE'S MISSION REPORT

I arrived in Ghana around 11:00 AM Saturday, December 14th, after a smooth flight from New York. I was welcomed by Paul Mensah (the only traditional Catholic in Ghana), William, Kenneth and Comfort, and taken to a hotel. I said Mass for them on the same day. There was a question and answer session, where I summarized the origin and history of the traditional Catholic movement. The next day, Sunday, I said Mass. This time Paul brought a new person. After Mass (and thanksgiving), I was asked a few questions, especially by the new person. He wanted to know how one can become a traditional Catholic. I responded that all it takes is to be baptized and reject the false doctrines of the modernist religion (and yes, I explained what I meant by "modernist"). I promised to keep in touch. On Monday I said an early morning Mass with only Paul in attendance, the others having to go to school.

I must tell you with a heavy heart that the ciborium which you gave me was stolen from my bag. I did not realize this until I arrived at the hotel. I am really sorry for this loss. I also lost my Kindle tablet and a CD player, but all that is nothing compared to the ciborium.

Quite a Christmas

My stay in Lagos from the 16th-22nd went well. Due to the fact that the faithful live so far apart, I can only say Mass in Lagos at 8:00 PM. Usually there are questions and answers, Rosary, and the Mass. I sang a high Mass on Sunday the 22nd and went to Port Harcourt and said Mass the same day and the next, then went to Owerri and said Mass the night I arrived (the 23rd) and also on the morning of the 24th. I could not say Mass in Port Harcourt on Christmas Eve as planned because I was late for my flight.

I flew to Lagos on the 24th and offered the midnight Mass at about 12:30 AM, and went back to Port Harcourt for the second Mass of Dawn. I was on my way to Owerri for the third Mass, driven by a member, when the tire burst while we were on the highway. The car veered off into the bushes on the roadside. Our Lady was in charge and we were unhurt, and with the help of some good samaritans we got the spare tire on and continued the journey, only for the back tire to get spoiled again. We had to buy a used tire from some people. We continued our journey, but got to Owerri so late that I couldn't possibly say the Mass. However, the next day (the 26th) we had a sung Mass at my house in Mgbidi. Today (the 27th) I said a Mass in Owerri, and will be doing the same daily through the first of January.

I now keep the chalice in my carry on bag. I've been told by the airport officials that I should put it in my checked bag, but I'm paying no mind to them.

Finishing Up

Since the last time I wrote, I have been in the South and Southeast of Nigeria. I say Mass twice daily in those two places (about 90 minutes apart). The people appreciate it and do their best to attend. They also help provide money for my transport fare. On January 1st, I supplied ceremony for Philomena, the daughter of William, and I also baptized Silvester (13 years old and well informed about traditional Catholicism). It was quite an experience for me. I have one more baptism this Sunday before I go to Lagos (the Southwest).

The rest of my program is as follows: I fly to Lagos on Sunday the 5th, then to Abuja to speak to some Feeneyites on the 6th. I return on an early flight on the 8th, then fly to Ghana and onward to the U.S. the same day.

Except for one or two hitches, everything has worked according to plan. Already I am being asked when I will return.



(Above) Father Nkamuke is surrounded by some of the patient and loyal faithful of his native Nigeria. (Below) Father Nkamuke offers Holy Mass in a humble home chapel for the faithful at Christmas. The faithful were even organized enough to allow our new missionary to sing a high Mass with incense. No small feat considering the long stretches these souls must endure without a priest to administer the sacraments or offer the Holy Sacrifice!

