

# 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,

I write this letter during the last days of our preparation for Christ's coming, detailing to you all of the many comings and goings which make up life at our church all year long. We have been honored to receive Christ in the person of a number of guests of late. Each feast and season we strive to keep devoutly, with all due solemnity. We have all worked hard to prepare our missionary's departure to his homeland, so that he may bring many souls to Christ. The same spirit inspires our work with our children here, in our parish and our school, as well as with faithful Catholics who benefit from our Internet apostolate, webcasts of the Mass and sermons, as well as the printed word.

But the greatest coming of Christ is surely upon our altars, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the center of our daily life at St. Gertrude the Great. We sometimes send you pictures of great and glorious altars, but it is the Mass that matters most of all. The Mass brings Christ down in a Eucharistic incarnation. He comes, more helpless than at Bethlehem, to be our sacrifice as well as our spiritual sustenance. We give Him, when he comes, all honor and as much glory as we can manage, for He is our God, and yet we are conscious of how little we do, and how great is our poverty. How good is the Holy Child to deign to share it!

How better to thank Him for being with us, for sharing our misery, than by sharing Him with as many souls as possible? This conviction inspires our apostolate here, our many comings and goings, our words and deeds: to bring Christ to souls. Thank you for allowing us to bring Christ to you and yours



*The Feast of St. Gertrude the Great afforded us the opportunity to honor our patroness with a pontifical high Mass – a rarity on a Sunday. A celebratory reception featuring a Mexican menu was held following the morning's ceremonies in honor of our visiting guests from Baja California.*

in so many ways, all year long. Whether it be a candle or a Mass or a novena offered for your intentions, a donation made for lonely priests struggling very far away in his missionary labors, or just the Sunday webcast with all of its blessings and occasional technical flaws, these are all the ways Christ comes in our midst, a kind of unceasing Christmas. Many of you have no, or very limited access to Christ's Mass, so the charity of Christ urges us to bridge the gap all year long. Thank you for helping us to do so.

May your Christmas be a blessed one!

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



(Above) On the Sunday within the Octave of All Saints former SSPX priest Father Arnold Trauner of Austria visited St. Gertrude the Great Church in West Chester and offered a solemn high Mass while being assisted by Fathers Lehtoranta (a native Finn) and Nkamuke (a native of Nigeria). (Below) On the Monday, the Feast of All Souls, our multi-national clergy assembled to offer the Holy Sacrifice for the souls in purgatory.



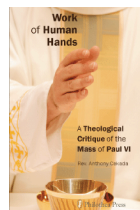
Following the solemn high Mass on the Sunday within the Octave of All Saints, clergy and laity alike adjourned to Helfia Hall for our annual All Saints party. As usual the "little saints" gave unique and interesting presentations in their saintly finery. Handsome costumes and original presentations were the order of the day. A wonderful way to introduce Father Trauner to our Halloween customs here at St. Gertrude the Great.



Father Arnold Villegas of Baja California was able to visit the clergy and faithful of St. Gertrude the Great Church just prior to the arrival of some of his flock here in West Chester. Unfortunately Father had to return to his home as he is responsible for many souls in Tijuana and has a full schedule to meet every Sunday. Happily during his stay, Father sang a Missa cantata for the school children – once again exhibiting the beauty of the Church's universality.



Father Bede Nkamuke was wished a fond farewell on Tuesday, December 2 as he departed for his native Nigeria. Clergy, faculty and students gathered in the parking lot just prior to his departure for one last good-bye. During his years as a seminarian, and this last year as a priest, Father Nkamuke has been of great service to us here at St. Gertrude the Great and in the several missions which our clergy serve. He now goes to serve his own people.



The first edition of Fr. Cekada's *Work of Human Hands* is sold out. We need backers to help print the second edition. So we decided to run a "crowd funder."

Here's how it works: You back the project by pledging a certain amount of money (it can be large or small) towards the overall target goal needed to fund the 2nd edition, \$4500. Only when we reach that overall amount is your credit card charged for the amount you pledged.

There are also incentives offered to donors for the different levels of gifts, including a tote bag/coffee mug set featuring Mark Bischel's caricatures of Fr. Chuck and Fr. Retreaux, those two liturgical opposites Fr. Cekada used to illustrate various points in his *Work of Human Hands* video series on YouTube.

For information the WHH crowd funder, including a short film, to [workofhumanhands.tilt.com](http://workofhumanhands.tilt.com).