

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran

Have you ever thought that the Catholic Church should stop wasting its money on expensive churches? That we should to sell them all and buy food for the poor? Funny thing. Jesus, who cared much for the poor, did not have this attitude. As an adolescent he yearned to spend time in Herod's sumptuous Temple, and as an adult, he defended its integrity against the moneychangers. Francis of Assisi, who gave away all his possessions, begged for money to buy materials to restore ruined churches that he rebuilt with his own hands.

Why this high regard for church buildings? Because, the liturgical worship going on inside, especially the Eucharist, is the "source and summit" of our entire Christian life. The world is a dusty, tiring place that often beats us down. The Church building is a haven, a quiet refuge, a place to encounter God. Here we drink deeply of the life-giving waters of word and sacrament that revive our drooping spirits (Psalm 23). The grace that flows from the altar bears us back into the world, changed, and able to change others, bringing healing and bearing fruit.

The Church building is a mirror that, held up before us, reminds us of who we are. The world constantly tells us that we are consumers, employees and voters. The Church building reminds us of our deepest identity. As we gather for Sunday worship, we who were scattered by diverse loyalties, professions, and life-styles, are now united as the Body of Christ and dwelling place of the Spirit.

So, what about all the expensive treasures of architecture, painting, sculpture, and stained glass? Sell them all and use the proceeds to buy food for the poor? What then would the poor have? The loss of one's home is a loss of one's dignity. Our churches belong not to the hierarchy, but to the whole family. They've been given to us by the hard work and contributions of our forebears to remind us of our dignity as sons and daughters of the living God.

Constantine donated the Lateran Basilica, whose dedication we celebrate today, to the Church, soon after he legalized Christianity in 313AD. Since then, it has been the official cathedral of the Pope, the mother church of all Christendom, the cathedral of the world.

It is there that the most powerful pope of the Middle Ages, Innocent III, had a dream of a magnificent church breaking apart, but then shored up by a poor man in a beggars robe. Soon afterwards, beggars from Assisi arrived, led by a man named Francis, asking for approval for their lifestyle and work. Prepared by his dream, he recognized the hand of God, and encouraged a movement that renewed the Church.

As we meditate on this feast, let us allow zeal for his house to consume us as it did Jesus and Francis, that we may embrace the task of purification, renewal and rebuilding.

"For we are God's co-workers"

How are you being called to build the kingdom of God as His co-worker? Consider the generous service of priesthood or consecrated life. Call Fr. Liborio Amaral (416) 968-0997, r email: vocations@vocations.ca or visits our Vocation website: www.vocationstoronto.ca

New Beginnings Weekend Retreat November 14 to 16

Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Road, Scarborough. Finding closure and starting a new chapter in life is easier if one draws strength from one's own spirituality. For more info, please call at 416-921-1163 ext. 2246.

The Knights of Columbus Grey Cup Party

November 23 5:00 PM In the Parish Hall

Watch the Grey Cup Game. Refreshments. There will be door prizes, games and good company. Bring the family! Tickets are \$10 per person (cash bar)

ShareLife Mass of Thanksgiving

ShareLife will host a special Mass of Thanksgiving in appreciation for everyone who supported the successful 2008 campaign, raising nearly \$11,755,000 in support of the 33 Catholic agencies and 10 grant recipients funded by ShareLife. More than 200,000 people within the Archdiocese of Toronto, and countless others globally, benefit from our Catholic generosity. The Mass will be held on: Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, 2 pm at St. Michael's Cathedral. Celebrant: His Excellency Bishop Hundt. A reception will follow at the St. Michael Choir School Hall located across the street (66 Bond St Toronto). Pastors, parishioners and ShareLife volunteers are all invited to attend. Please join us celebrating our blessings!

The Shepherd's Trust

Next weekend November 15/16 there will be a second collection, in support of the Shepherd's Trust. The fund provides financial assistance to help meet the needs of elderly and disabled priests, helping to sustain them in a safe, comfortable, dignified manner.

They have served the pastoral needs of thousands of parishes. Your donation will help provide, shelter, meals, and healthcare services. Please give generously, and support our retired priests, and help "*Care for those who always cared for us*"

The Shepherd's Trust

Il prossimo domenica il 16 novembre ci sarà una seconda collezione, per il Shepherd's Trust. Il fondo fornisce l'assistenza finanziaria per aiutare alle necessità de' preti anziani ed i preti stati incapati, aiuta a sostenerli in modo comoda, dignitosa. Hanno servito i bisogni pastorali di migliaia di parrocchiani. Abbiamo giovati della generosità del servizio sacerdotale. Chiamati da Dio per servire la sua Chiesa. La vostra generosità sarà apprezzata profondamente.



Quando l'imperatore romano Costantino si convertì alla religione cristiana, verso il 312, donò al papa Milziade il palazzo del Laterano, che egli aveva fatto costruire sul Celio per sua moglie Fausta. Verso il 320, vi aggiunse una chiesa, la chiesa del Laterano, la prima, per data e per dignità, di tutte le chiese d'Occidente. Essa è ritenuta madre

di tutte le chiese dell'Urbe e dell'Orbe.

Consacrata dal papa Silvestro il 9 novembre 324, col nome di basilica del Santo Salvatore, essa fu la prima chiesa in assoluto ad essere pubblicamente consacrata. Nel corso del XII secolo, per via del suo battistero, che è il più antico di Roma, fu dedicata a san Giovanni Battista; donde la sua corrente denominazione di basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano. Per più di dieci secoli, i papi ebbero la loro residenza nelle sue vicinanze e fra le sue mura si tennero duecentocinquanta concili, di cui cinque ecumenici. Semidistrutta dagli incendi, dalle guerre e dall'abbandono, venne ricostruita sotto il pontificato di Benedetto XIII e venne di nuovo consacrata nel 1726.

Basilica e cattedrale di Roma, la prima di tutte le chiese del mondo, essa è il primo segno esteriore e sensibile della vittoria della fede cristiana sul paganesimo occidentale. Durante l'era delle persecuzioni, che si estende ai primi tre secoli della storia della Chiesa, ogni manifestazione di fede si rivelava pericolosa e perciò i cristiani non potevano celebrare il loro Dio apertamente. Per tutti i cristiani reduci dalle "catacombe", la basilica del Laterano fu il luogo dove potevano finalmente adorare e celebrare pubblicamente Cristo Salvatore. Quell'edificio di pietre, costruito per onorare il Salvatore del mondo, era il simbolo della vittoria, fino ad allora nascosta, della testimonianza dei numerosi martiri. Segno tangibile del tempio spirituale che è il cuore del cristiano, esorta a rendere gloria a colui che si è fatto carne e che, morto e risorto, vive nell'eternità.

L'anniversario della sua dedicazione, celebrato originariamente solo a Roma, si commemora da tutte le comunità di rito romano.

Questa festa deve far sì che si rinnovi in noi l'amore e l'attaccamento a Cristo e alla sua Chiesa. Il mistero di Cristo, venuto "non per condannare il mondo, ma per salvare il mondo" (Gv 12,47), deve infiammare i nostri cuori, e la testimonianza delle nostre vite dedicate completamente al servizio del Signore e dei nostri fratelli potrà ricordare al mondo la forza dell'amore di Dio, meglio di quanto lo possa fare un edificio in pietra.

Pellegrinaggio

Luce di Fatima Lewiston N.Y.

Domenica 7 dicembre

L'Autobus parte alle 1:00

chiami Nunzia 416-638-1777

IMPORTANT DATES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13th 7:00 PM

Padre Pio Prayer Group

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19th 7:00 PM

Parent Reconciliation Seminar #3

SAT. NOV. 22 & SUN. NOV. 23

Coffee Sunday



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11

7:00 PM

+Piemonte & Giuseppina Giudo

+Angelo Angelotti & Angelo Toffi

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12

8:00 AM

+Antonio, Donato & Giuseppe Petosa

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13

8:00 AM

Intention Available

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

8:00 AM

Intention Available

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15

5:00 PM

Intention Available

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16

7:45 AM

+Raimond & Clorinda Fastame

+Antonio & Virginia Bisogno

+Giuseppina Corbo

+Anna & Bartolome D'Onofrio

+Maria & Pietro Di Giovanni

+Defunti Di Vizio & Nazzarena

+Emilio Beltrano

9:00 AM

+Ernesto Mattachione

+Giovanni Aimola

+Franca Iamonaco

+Onofrio Carlessimo

+Florina Fabriz

10:30 AM

+Clara Taddei

12:00 PM

Intention Available