

Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone.

EPHESIANS 2: 20

DEDICATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

The church is a visible building that stands as a special sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.

“When a church is erected as a building destined solely and permanently for assembling the people of God and for carrying out sacred functions, it is fitting that it be dedicated to God with a solemn rite, in accordance with the ancient custom of the Church.” (*Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar*, section II, 2)

II. THE RITUAL

DD 1. When a new church building or a new altar is erected in the Archdiocese, the *Rite of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* decreed by the office of the Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship (May 29, 1977) shall be followed.

DD 2. The archdiocesan Liturgy Office is charged with directing and coordinating the rituals associated with the dedication of a church or altar, and shall be consulted when the building is approved for dedication by the Archbishop.

The archdiocesan Liturgy Office will assist pastors in the preparation of the appropriate ritual texts and proper planning for the celebrations. Pastors are encouraged to contact the Liturgy Office early in the planning process. Since each parish has unique pastoral situations, the director of the office will explore, with the pastor, the pastoral options available that are in accordance with the requirements of the ritual and offer advice in the preparation of the dedication ritual.

III. ORDINARY MINISTER

DD 3. The Archbishop is the ordinary minister for a dedication. On occasion he may appoint an auxiliary bishop or a presbyter as permitted by the *Code of Canon Law* (see *CIC*, c.1206).

IV. CERTIFICATE OF DEDICATION

DD 4. Upon the dedication of a Church or Altar an attestation certificate will be prepared by the Liturgy Office in compliance with the *Code of Canon Law* (see *CIC*, c. 1208). A completed certificate shall be kept in the archdiocesan archives and two additional certificates are to be provided, one for the parish archives and one for display at the appropriate parish location.