

New Catholic Cathedral Dedicated

By JOHN D. DONOGHUE

Special to the Free Press

New England's newest cathedral was consecrated and dedicated Thursday to replace the oldest one, destroyed by fire five years ago. Sun shone on the day.

Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate in the United States came from Washington to Vermont for the first time. He presided at the rare and colorful ceremonies in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and brought a special blessing from Pope Paul VI.

The new cathedral was packed for ceremonies which were fed by television to the state and area.

The dedication was the first in a series of public ceremonies opening the cathedral which serves the bishop as his episcopal seat and the Cathedral parish as its center of worship. The parish has been using the new building recently for weekend masses, but Thursday marked its official dedication as mother church for Vermont's 150,000 Catholics.

The Most Rev. John A. Marshall, bishop of Burlington, was the principal consecrator. His co-consecrators were his predecessor, the Most Rev. Robert F. Joyce, retired bishop of Burlington, still active at 80; the Most Rev. Louis E. Gelineau, bishop of Providence; and Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Powers, rector of the Cathedral.

The homily was given by another Vermonter, the Most Rev. Bernard J. Flanagan, bishop of Worcester. Bishop Gelineau and Bishop Flanagan each served the Burlington diocese as priests and chancellors before being raised to the dignity of bishop.

The new cathedral was radiant with color and sound. The simple white interior, complemented by grey Vermont slate floors and white oak pews, was accented by baskets of flowers, the vestments of the celebrants and the Sunday go-to-meeting-clothes of the faithful.

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Free Press Photo by STU PERRY

Religious leaders perform the consecration, dedication of new cathedral in Burlington

Cathedral Is a 'Triumph Over Tragedy'

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"The destruction of the century-old Cathedral five years ago was a tragedy in which I shared the grief of your newly-installed shepherd, Bishop Marshall, and the entire Church of Burlington. Now for these same reasons, I find it a very special pleasure to share your joy and your sense of triumph over tragedy as this new House of God is dedicated

to divine worship."

That was the theme of the homily that the Most Rev. Bernard J. Flanagan, bishop of Worcester, Mass., delivered Thursday morning at the dedication of the new Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Bishop Flanagan, who spent 10 of his priestly years at the Cathedral, said the motto that Bishop De Goesbriand placed over the old

cathedral was "strikingly prophetic." It was "Deus Providebit" or "God will Provide."

"It reminds us how much this church has to celebrate, how much to render thanks, when we compare the flourishing condition today with the grim situation which faced Bishop De Goesbriand on that November day in 1853 when he arrived to shepherd the newly created diocese," Bishop Flanagan said.

"Twenty thousand Catholics, scattered throughout Vermont, five priests and 10 churches constituted the entire personnel and patrimony of the young bishop who was to spend 46 years ministering to his people and to leave them a heritage not only of material growth, but a vibrant diocesan family numbering over 60,000 members, 65 priests and 85 churches," he continued.