

New Catholic Cathedral Dedicated



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The sun glinted through the purple Jerusalem cross which is beveled into the rear wall, a theme that is also picked up in the altar of repose.

The cathedral is situated with its main aisle running east and west so that the morning sun and the afternoon sun give light to dramatize the liturgical services.

The sound was equally glorious. The expanded Cathedral choir presented a half-hour program of sacred music as the cathedral filled and then sang the sacred liturgy with superb tone and precision.

Outside, the bell from the old cathedral, high on a 60-foot bell tower, also joined in the sound at 12:30 p.m. as the faithful emerged from the two-hour ceremony.

From the moment the choir opened, the ceremony moved swiftly but with dignity.

Not only Catholic clergy attended the ceremony. Bishop Robert S. Kerr of the Episcopal diocese of Vermont; his predecessor, the Rt.

Rev. Harvey Butterfield; and the Very Rev. Donald Boyer, dean of St. Paul's, were among the clergy in procession.

Rabbi Max Wall, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington, represented the Jewish community.

Also participating in the ceremonies were Sister Rose Rowan, president of the Sisters of Mercy, and Sister Elizabeth Marie Morrissey, president of the Rutland-based Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Very Rev. Francis X. Gokey, superior general of the Society of St. Edmund, and Abbot Leo Rudloff of the Benedictines at Weston were among the leaders of religious orders taking part in the procession.

"This is a day of rejoicing," Bishop Marshall declared.

For the bishop himself, it was a special day for rejoicing. The cathedral is the seat for the bishop, from the Latin "cathedra." Hardly two months after his own consecration, the old Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, completed in 1867, was wiped out by fire.

Bishop Marshall blessed the baptismal water which he then

sprinkled on the congregation. "It is a sign of our repentance, a reminder of our baptism and a symbol of the cleansing of these walls and this altar."

Following Bishop Flanagan's homily, the solemn rite of dedication began. After a short prayer by Archbishop Jadot, the congregation sang the ancient Litany of the Saints.

Among the saints invoked were two contemporary saints whose relics were placed later under the tiles before the main altar: Sister Elizabeth Seton, and Saint John Neumann. Sister Elizabeth was the first American woman to be declared a saint.

After the litany, the archbishop prayed "that this building which we are about to dedicate to your name be a house of salvation and grace, where Christians, gathered in fellowship, may worship you in spirit and truth, and grow together in love."

After the altar was anointed, the concelebrants went to four corners of the church to anoint the walls. The anointing symbolizes that the

church is given over entirely and perpetually to Christian worship.

The Church consecrates a church building only when it is free of debt. The diocese and the parish decided to use only the \$1.6 million which was returned in insurance, so that parishioners of the Cathedral will not have to worry about that debt.

After Communion, the archbishop's blessing from the pope was given in Latin and everyone marched out to the Vaughan Williams setting of "Old One Hundred."

Tonight at 8, James Chapman and the UVM Choral Union will present a concert of sacred music that will include the Mozart "Twelfth Mass" which was sung at the consecration of the old cathedral.

The Rector's Mass in honor of the Rev. Msgr. Robert Powers will be Sunday at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, delegates from the more than 11,100 parishes will go to the cathedral at 4:30 p.m.

The civic day and ecumenical celebration is scheduled for 8 p.m. Monday.