

Daily Homily

Dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica, Rome

Feast

32 Week, Ordinary Time, Wednesday

9 November 2022

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The Church throughout the centuries has always held the feminine with a great deal of dignity, honor, and respect. So much so, that even the structures where we worship, our churches, are considered female. This is the reality with the feast that we have today – the Dedication of St. John Lateran.

The Mother Church of the Diocese of Cleveland is the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. This is where our bishop has his chair. This is where he sits. Cathedral means just that, chair. The Mother Church of the Catholic world is St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. This is where the Bishop of Rome, who is also the Pope, has his chair.

Many would think, well, what about St. Peter Basilica? That's the church where all the events happen. That's the church where the Pope actually lives. Believe it or not, St. Peter's is secondary to St. John Lateran. St. John Lateran has a rather tumultuous history that includes almost near destruction from fire, earthquakes, war, plunderers and what not. What we have now was restored in the 1600s. St. Peter Basilica is utilized so much because it has the capacity to house such big events that involve the Pope.

A lot of talk today about buildings. This is why the Word of God today is very architectural in tone. Lots of references to buildings and stones, houses and temples. In a sense we are architectural designed by God. We are built by Him. St. Paul even says this, "You are God's building." And Jesus, he was "speaking about the temple of his Body."

Each of us a temple? Each of us a church? Each of a stone in the overall structure of our Mother, the Church? That is our reality. As Christ has made a home in this church building and as he comes to make a home in our body as a living church building in this Eucharist, may His presence increase our zeal.