



October 1, 2008 - Cardinal Celebrates Mass Dedicating Opening Of Pastoral Center Chapel

Worship Site to be Named Bethany Chapel

Braintree, MA, October 1, 2008 – Stating that the “heart of the Pastoral Center is its Chapel,” Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley today celebrated the opening Mass and anointed the Altar for the Archdiocese of Boston’s new Pastoral Center place of worship. Cardinal Seán announced that it will be named the Bethany Chapel.

Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley said, “The Eucharist gives life to the Church and fills us with hope. It is my hope that in this new chapel we will continue to discover the Lord’s boundless love for us. Strengthened by that love, we will grow as his disciples and see our own ministry and outreach as an extension of the Lord’s loving service to us, his friends.”

The Very Reverend Richard M. Erikson, Ph.D., V.G., Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese said, “To all who contributed to the design, building and completion of the Bethany Chapel we give thanks. We are blessed and inspired by the work of so many who have made the dream of this Chapel as the centerpiece of our Pastoral Center a reality.”

The Cardinal chose to name the chapel after Bethany, a village less than two miles from Jerusalem. He added, “It was in Bethany that the Lord chose to spend time with his closest friends, most notably Martha and Mary, and their brother, Lazarus. Martha invites her sister, Mary, to sit and listen to the Lord, saying, “*The teacher is here, and He is calling you.*” This phrase, in Latin, is inscribed over the sanctuary of our new chapel, inviting us all to sit and listen to the words of the Teacher. We hear Him speak through the Scriptures, and we are strengthened by the Eucharist to live His commands, obedient to His teaching.”

Chapel

Fr. Erikson noted that, “A lot of planning has resulted in a beautiful Chapel to celebrate Mass each day in the Pastoral Center. Great detail went into planning from creating a place with an abundance of natural light, to the selection of the stained glass windows and the tabernacle and in making sure it is a welcoming and prayerful place that gives glory and honor to our Lord.”

The Cardinal appointed a Chapel Committee to oversee design and construction. Rev. Robert M. O’Grady chaired the Committee, which also included Father Brian Mahoney who is Co-Director of the Worship and Spiritual Life Office; Rafik Ayoub an Archdiocesan Senior Engineer; and designer Butch Razoyk of ADC Associates. The entire process including design and construction of the 3,600 square foot Chapel took one year to complete.

Father O’Grady said, “We are hoping that all of us here in the Pastoral Center see this as the reason for why we do what we do and where we are needed. We ask God to help us to start the day; to give success to our work; and, at the close of the day, we thank Him for what we’ve been able to accomplish.”

Fr. O’Grady pointed out that there are several elements to the Bethany Chapel elements. One of the most prominent features of our new chapel is the Tabernacle, or *Eucharistic Pyx*. It has come from Spain and is a replica of an ancient tabernacle used in the East. It takes its shape from the dove, a sign of the Holy Spirit, and is suspended over the Altar. This custom began in the East during the earliest centuries of the Church, and it is mentioned in the 6th century writings of St. Gregory of Tours. This tabernacle is a visible reminder of our Lord’s presence in the Church and in our midst here at the Pastoral Center.

The windows of the Bethany Chapel are from the following former parishes in the Archdiocese: Immaculate Conception Lithuanian parish in Cambridge, Sacred Heart Polish parish, Ipswich, St. Peter in Gloucester and St. Jerome, Arlington.

A new Allen Organ has been installed to grace the Chapel and contribute to the liturgical celebration. Allen Organ



Company is out of Philadelphia, PA is the worlds largest maker of organs.

Cardinal Seán added, “Allow me to extend my profound gratitude to the Flatley family, and in particular to Mr. Thomas Flatley, who was called home to the Lord this past spring. Tom made family and Church his top priorities and he inspired us to live out his vision for this new Pastoral Center.”

The Archdiocese of Boston: *The Diocese of Boston was founded on April 8, 1808 and was elevated to Archdiocese in 1875. Currently serving the needs of approximately 2 million Catholics, the Archdiocese of Boston is an ethnically diverse and spiritually enriching faith community consisting of 292 parishes, across 144 communities, educating approximately 46,000 students in its Catholic schools and 156, 000 in religious education classes each year, ministering to the needs of more than one million patients annually in Catholic hospitals and 200,000 individuals through its social service outreach. Mass is celebrated in nearly twenty different languages each week. For more information, please visit www.rcab.org*

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