

## **Anniversary of the Dedication of Holy Rosary Cathedral**

Holy Rosary Cathedral

3 October 2018

Dear brother priests and deacons, and dear brothers and sisters in Our Lord Jesus Christ:

### ***Introduction***

65 years ago on this very date Archbishop Duke dedicated our beautiful Cathedral some 53 years after its construction. Today we recall that festive occasion with this Mass on the anniversary of its dedication. As in every Diocese around the world, the Cathedral is the mother church of every parish in our Archdiocese, a symbol of our unity in the apostolic faith conveyed by the *cathedra* or chair of the Bishop. That's why we call this church our "Cathedral."

### ***Reflection***

With this celebration we are recalling that the Church is embodied in time and place but it suggests a great deal more. It points to the truth that the Church is also, and even more importantly, a supernatural reality: the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the seed of the Kingdom which is to come.

So, the Church is visible and spiritual. The one element can no more be separated from the other than the humanity of Christ can be separated from his divinity. The two cannot be prized apart.

It is painfully clear to us, and certainly in these days of the revelations of clerical sexual abuse clearer than ever, that the Church is a

community made up of sinners, but it is also the home of many more saints. To see the Church only in her visible and institutional dimensions is not to see her in her fullness. It would be the same as seeing Jesus Christ only in his humanity – as a great human being – and not, at the same time, as the eternal Son of God.

By celebrating the anniversary of a building set apart for divine worship we affirm our faith that God, the Infinite, is found in the visible, sacramental realities of this world; that the Invisible is found in the visible. Indeed, the very heart of the Christian faith is the mystery of the Incarnation: that God humbled himself, becoming one of us, so that he could lift us up to himself in ways we can hear, see, taste, smell and touch. He made us to celebrate the Sacraments in churches set apart for divine worship.

Our Cathedral is truly beautiful, perhaps not like Notre Dame in Paris or St. Peter's in Rome, but with a charm all its own. In the Lower Mainland of BC, it reflects just a little of the beauty and majesty of God himself.

But what is even more beautiful is the celebration here of the Eucharist, of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, Anointing of the Sick and of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is the preaching of the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments which gives true life – the life of grace – to this Cathedral. This is a holy place because it

offers to us all the means God could possibly give us, so that we can become a holy people, prepared for the glory of heaven. The Cathedral, like every church, is a great vessel of grace.

### ***Conclusion***

My brothers and sisters: let us pray that this, our Cathedral, may always be a sign in our City of God's goodness and mercy.

May its beauty draw people to the living God, and may it continue to flourish as a place where people are consoled, strengthened, forgiven, nourished, and from which they are sent out on their mission to bring Christ to the world.

And we pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoured here as Queen of the Holy Rosary, will always remain at our side!

✦ J. Michael Miller, CSB  
Archbishop of Vancouver