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Contact: Ned McGrath 313-237-5943

## **Cardinal Maida Celebrates Mass of Rededication for Cathedral**

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, celebrated a Mass of Rededication for Detroit's Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25. Among those concelebrating were Cardinal Francis George, OMI, archbishop of Chicago; as well as bishops and priests from throughout the state and the nation. Over 800 invited guests were in attendance.

"Even as our nation is overshadowed by the darkness and tragedy of war, we, the Church of Detroit, gather here in our newly restored Mother Church to celebrate with hope and gratitude the mystery of God's abiding presence and love," Cardinal Maida said in his homily.

"...The rededication of our 'Mother Church' is a special moment in the history of our Church and opens a whole new chapter in our 170-year history. Today's celebration and ceremony proclaim our abiding commitment to presence and ministry within the heart of the city, near to our seminary, and right in the midst of a neighborhood."

Two significant rituals were performed as part of the Rededication Ceremony. In the *handing over of the cathedral*, representatives of those who have been involved in the renovation handed over documents relating to the cathedral to Cardinal Maida. During the *sprinkling of the cathedral*, Cardinal Maida blessed water and then sprinkled it over the people (who are the spiritual temple), then on the cathedral walls, and finally, on the cathedral altar.

Begun in September of 2001, the renovation represents a \$15 million investment in the City of Detroit and a commitment to the 1.4 million Catholic faithful of southeastern Michigan in Wayne Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Lapeer and St. Clair Counties. Over 17,000 Catholics, representing 97 per cent of archdiocesan parishes, contributed to the fund raising campaign, *Making All Things New*, which made the renovation of the cathedral possible.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral is located at 9844 Woodward Avenue, between Grand Boulevard and Davison, in Detroit's historic Boston-Edison District. It is the fifth church to serve as the cathedral for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit.

Gunnar Birkerts, renowned architect of the cathedral's renovation, had as his goal bringing diffused daylight into the cathedral. "The concept is the cathedral should open to the world outside and allow daylight in to bring awareness," he said in an interview with *The Michigan Catholic*.

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the Midwest. "I felt challenged to bring the cathedral's Gothic interior into the contemporary world," Birkerts explained.

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