

ACOUSTIC PANELS BEING PUT IN THE DOME

Workers at the Cathedral are completing structural work on the interior dome, which has to be rebuilt because the original interior was dismantled in 1932 and replaced with the false dome we have been familiar with since then.

Shown in the picture are the acoustic panels that are being put on the dome interior—112 of them in all. They are made of aluminum and are padded at the back with a special acoustic fabric. When this structural work is complete



ACOUSTIC PANELS

EverGreene Studios will do the painting and artwork, including a series of 16 roundels – one for each panel in the dome. The roundels will portray different biblical scenes on the Eucharist from the Old Testament and New Testament.

The artwork is done in EverGreene Studios in New York and shipped to the Cathedral where it is applied to the walls and dome much as wallpaper would be.

THE OCTAVE OF EASTER—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

St. Augustine has called the days after Easter the “days of mercy and pardon,” and the octave day “the compendium of the days of mercy” and “the most privileged octave day.”

What is the Octave of Easter? It is the eighth day after Easter. Easter Sunday is the first day of salvation and the eighth day is now known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The octave is liturgically one day with Easter and the intervening days. In effect, Divine Mercy Sunday is the one week anniversary of Jesus’ resurrection and our salvation.

Octave days have been celebrated in the early Church and in the Jewish Old Testament traditions. Special religious feasts like Passover, Hanukah, Christmas, and Easter are “too big” to be limited to one day of observance. These feasts have celebrations lasting seven days with the eighth day being a solemn

observance of what has occurred in the previous days.

The passion and resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week and Easter has set the spiritual stage for the absolution and forgiveness of mankind of its sin. Jesus presents this gift of reconciliation to us now as reflected in the readings of Divine Mercy Sunday. His body broken and blood spilled spell forgiveness of sin with new and everlasting life with God. The flood gates of God’s mercy are open to us if we avail ourselves of it.

Please join us for the annual Diocesan Divine Mercy Mass today at Sacred Heart Parish, 39th & J Streets. Mass begins a 3:00 pm followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image and Saint Faustina’s relic.

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

WHY ARE WE HERE?*Reverend Lawrence E. Mick*

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has declared the period from this October until next October as the Year of the Eucharist. In his Apostolic Letter inaugurating the Year, *Mane Nobiscum Domine (Stay with us, Lord)*, the Pope refers to "that mystagogical catechesis so dear to the Fathers of the Church, by which the faithful are helped to understand the meaning of the Liturgy's words and actions, to pass from its signs to the mystery which they contain, and to enter into that mystery in every aspect of their lives." In that spirit these articles are offered to provide helpful materials for brief reflections on the Eucharist at Sunday Masses during this year. These materials are designed to take less than three minutes, so they won't delay us long from other things on our schedules. We'll be using them periodically throughout this year. We hope they give you a bit of information about the Mass and a bit of inspiration that will help you live the Eucharist all week long.

We begin today with a basic question for all of us: Why are we here? Why do we gather week after week for this liturgy we call the Mass?

There are probably a lot of answers to that question. Some of us come because it's a habit. Others come out of obligation. Some come because their parents insist on it. Some come for a time of relative peace and quiet. Others come to seek the Lord. Some come because they are burdened with problems. Others come because they are grateful for God's gifts. And many of us come for several of those reasons combined.

More basic than all of those reasons, however, we all come because God has called us here. It was God who chose us to be members of the Church. It was God who called us to share God's own life through baptism. It was God who called us to carry on the mission of Christ in the world today. We come in response to God's call.

And we come for Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word for thanksgiving. We gather here each week to give God thanks and praise. Sometimes we may forget that. It's easy to focus on what we hope to get out of coming to church rather than on giving thanks for what God has already given us.

The most important thing we find when we gather here is the presence of Christ himself. Christ reveals his presence to us in various ways. He is present in our very gathering, living in each of us who are his tabernacles. He is present as the leader of our worship. He speaks directly to us when God's word is proclaimed in our midst. He offers us his own body and blood as our food and drink so that we will be more closely united with him and with one another.

We come because Christ is here and because he calls us. Through baptism we all became members of his body, and we come here to remember who we are. Here we are reunited with one another and with him who is our head. And when we leave here, we go forth carrying Christ with us, taking him to our world that is in such need of his presence and his love. He teaches us and feeds us here to strengthen us to be Christ-bearers all week. Let us go forth from this place to love and serve the Lord.

MASSES FOR EASTER WEEK**MON 4/4/2005** **Annunciation of the Lord**

7:00 am: Michaela Silvestri +

12:00 noon: All Souls

TUES 4/5/2005 **St. Vincent Ferrer**

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

WED 4/6/2005 **Easter Weekday**

7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +

12:00 Noon: John Maitland, S.I.

THURS 4/7/2005 **St. John Baptist de la Salle**

7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +

12:00 noon: Teresa Diaz +

FRI 4/8/2005 **Easter Weekday**

7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +

12:00 Noon: Teresa Diaz +

THANK YOU TO RCIA TEAM

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish sincerely wishes to thank the following RCIA Team Members who



guided, nurtured, and formed the 21 Catechumens and Candidates for Reception into the Catholic Church who received the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil this year by Bishop Richard Garcia: Brenda Adams, Ken Bennett, Erika Burnham, David Clements, Frank Garcia, Dick Jones, Matthew and Adriana Mlakar, Jessica Morrow, Marianna and Steve Rose, Luz Stumbo, Cathy and Jorge Usi, and Greg Vitaich.