



# REBUILD *this* TEMPLE

My brothers and sisters,

I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the arrival of Lent. This sacred season offers us an incomparable opportunity for renewal and spiritual growth. It is a time to deepen our relationship with God and align our lives more closely with His will. I am also thrilled to share that on May 3, 2025, we will be consecrating a new altar in our newly renovated church. This is a significant event in the life of our parish. But you might wonder, why do we consecrate an altar?

In our Catholic tradition, the consecration of an altar is an act of setting it apart for the exclusive purpose of worshipping God. The altar becomes a sacred space where the mystery of the Eucharist is celebrated and the presence of Christ is profoundly manifest. This act of consecration reflects biblical teachings wherein the practice of setting something apart for God alone is a recurrent theme. In the Scriptures, consecration signifies a deep commitment to God, a turning away from the mundane and profane towards the sacred and divine.

Likewise, this special occasion is an invitation for each of us to consecrate not just the physical altar, but also the altar of our hearts to God. The Lord ardently calls us to set our hearts apart for Him, to make our hearts places where His spirit can dwell deeply. By consecrating our hearts, we dedicate ourselves to His purpose, to live in a manner that reflects His love and grace.

But why should we desire to consecrate our hearts? Beyond mere ritual, consecrating our hearts signifies our commitment to God and our willingness to allow His grace to transform us from within. When we dedicate ourselves in such a way, we open the doors to experience God's boundless love more fully, enabling it to flow into every aspect of our lives.

To consecrate our hearts means we must first look inward. It requires us to sincerely examine our lives, identifying areas where we fall short of God's commandments and expectations. This holy introspection is essential. We cannot genuinely consecrate anything to God if it remains cluttered with sin and distractions. Thus, Lent offers the perfect opportunity as it encourages us to pause, reflect, and engage in honest self-examination.

The process of cleansing our hearts of sin begins with the resource entitled *Rebuild This Temple*. It is my hope that the reflections serve as a powerful tool that allows us to lay bare our souls, seek God's forgiveness, and receive His healing grace. Through this journey, we remove the barriers that sin erects between us and God, paving the way for a pure and consecrated heart.

Dear friends, as we look forward to the consecration of our new altar, let us also prepare the altar of our hearts. May we enter this period of Lent with renewed enthusiasm and genuine intent, striving to consecrate our lives wholly to God.

In the peace of Christ,

