

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

The Living Temple of God



*Fr. Rudy Coaquira-Hijale,
MCCJ, pastor*

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

A young man once shared that after years of drifting away from the Church, he found himself sitting quietly in the back pew of a parish he had not visited since childhood. The walls, windows, and sanctuary seemed strangely familiar, yet what struck him most was not the beauty of the building but the stirring in his heart. He realized that although he had spent years neglecting his faith, Christ had never abandoned him. Slowly, the young man began to see that he himself was a temple, a dwelling place for God's Spirit, in need of renewal and cleansing.

This experience reflects the Gospel we hear today from John 2:13-22, where Jesus drives the moneylenders from the temple in Jerusalem. His zeal shows that God's dwelling is not to be treated as a marketplace or reduced to empty ritual. It is holy ground, a place where heaven and earth meet. But Jesus goes further. He identifies himself as the true Temple, the dwelling of God among his people. And after his death, in three days Jesus rises, rebuilding the Temple of his Body.



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the "mother church" of all Catholic churches throughout the world. Dedicated in the year 324, the Lateran Basilica stands not only as the Pope's cathedral but as a sign of the unity of all Catholics with the See of Peter. Its walls have stood through centuries of history, a visible reminder of the endurance of Christ's Church. Yet the feast is not simply about brick and mortar; it points to a deeper reality; that we, the faithful, are "living stones" built into a spiritual temple with Christ as our cornerstone.

Pope Francis captures this mystery beautifully: "In our lives as sinners, it often happens that we distance ourselves from the Lord. We destroy the temple of God that is each one of us. . . Yet it takes the Lord three days to rebuild His temple within us." His words remind us that while sin can damage God's dwelling in us, Christ's death and resurrection have the power to restore and sanctify. Through the sacraments, particularly Reconciliation and the Eucharist, the Lord continually renews his temple within us, making us his dwelling place once more.

The Lateran Basilica, then, is more than an ancient building; it is a symbol of the living Church as the people of God are united in faith, rooted in history, and constantly renewed by the Spirit. Just as we honor and care for our parish churches, where we gather as a community, we must also honor and care for the temple of our own hearts.

As we celebrate this feast, let us reflect: **Are we allowing Christ to cleanse our lives of whatever distracts or distances us from him? Are we living as temples of his presence in the world? The Basilica in Rome stands as a visible reminder of our unity as Catholics. But the true temple Christ seeks to build is within us, a holy dwelling that radiates his love to the world.**

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Rudy

**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES**



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH**