THE BLESSING OF A CHURCH

Inauguration of the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament
(Chapter V, no. 26)

The English translation and chants of
The Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar
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CHAPTER II • THE ORDER OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

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79.
The inauguration of a chapel where the Most Holy Eucharist is to be reserved is carried out appropriately in this way: after Communion, the ciborium containing the Most Blessed Sacrament is left on the table of the altar. The Bishop goes to the chair, and all pray in silence for a while. Then the Bishop says the Prayer after Communion:

Let us pray.
Through these holy gifts we have received, O Lord, we pray, instill in our minds an increase of your truth, so that we may constantly adore you in your holy temple and glory in your sight with all the Saints. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

80.
After this prayer, the Bishop returns to the altar, kneels, and incenses the Most Blessed Sacrament. Then, having put on the humeral veil, he takes the ciborium into his hands, which are covered with the same veil. Then a procession is formed in which the Most Blessed Sacrament is carried through the main body of the church to the chapel of reservation. The crossbearer accompanied by acolytes carrying candlesticks with lighted candles leads, followed by the clergy, the Deacons, the concelebrating Priests, the minister holding the pastoral staff of the Bishop, two thurifers with thuribles of burning incense, the Bishop carrying the Sacrament, the two Deacons assisting him slightly behind him, then those ministers for the book and the miter. All bring wax tapers, and the candles are carried around the Sacrament. As the procession moves forward, the following antiphon is sung with Psalm 147:12-20:

Psalm 147

12 O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord! *
   O Zion, praise your God!
13 He has strengthened the bars of your gates,*
    he has blessed your children within you.
14 He established peace on your borders; *
    he gives you your fill of finest wheat. R.
15 He sends out his word to the earth,*
    and swiftly runs his command.
16 He showers down snow like wool; *
    he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. R.
17 He hurls down hailstones like crumbs; *
    before such cold, who can stand?
18 He sends forth his word and it melts them,*
    at the blowing of his breath the waters flow. R.
19 He reveals his word to Jacob; *
    to Israel, his decrees and judgments.
20 He has not dealt thus with other nations; *
    he has not taught them his judgments. R.

Or another appropriate chant may be sung.

81.
When the procession reaches the chapel of reservation, the Bishop places the ciborium on the altar or in the tabernacle, the door of which remains open. Then he puts incense in the thurible, kneels, and incenses the Most Blessed Sacrament. Finally, after an appropriate length of time during which all pray in silence, the Deacon puts the ciborium in the tabernacle or closes its door; a minister lights the lamp that will burn perpetually before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

82.
If the chapel where the Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved can be seen clearly by the faithful, the Bishop immediately imparts the blessing of the Mass (cf. below, no. 84). Otherwise, the procession returns to the sanctuary by a shorter route, and the Bishop imparts the blessing either from the altar or from the chair.

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