

Jan 31, 2016

Greenfield parish church rededicated

REGIONAL



Story and photos by Dave Martin

GREENFIELD- Celebrating their past, and looking forward to their future, close to 500 parishioners at Holy Trinity Parish on Main Street in Greenfield gathered for a special re-dedication Mass here, Jan. 31 at 10:30 a.m. The Knights of Columbus Council 133 led the procession into what's known as the mother church of Franklin County, founded in 1868. Springfield Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski was the principal celebrant. He was joined by Bishop Emeritus Timothy A. McDonnell, and Holy Trinity Pastor Monsignor Ronald G. Yargeau. The celebration marked the end of a 6-month renovation project at the 147 year-old church.

it has been restored and renovated, Bishop Rozanski told lobserve.

“I am happy for them that they can celebrate today and continue to have for decades to come, a place of worship and to show their praise to God here when they gather.”

Bishop Rozanski asked the Lord to bless the holy water created by his hand as a reminder of their baptism and a symbol of cleansing the walls of the church. Bishop Rozanski then moved around the church blessing those present with the holy water, while the choir sang “All Are Welcome.”

Holy Trinity Deacon Channing L.

Bete said he was humbled by Bishop Rozanski's presence. Deacon Bete said he was on the



committee when the church celebrated its 100th anniversary. He said the deciding factor to make the present renovations was the upcoming 150th anniversary.

“We wanted to present ourselves with a new look and a fresh face as we are getting ready to celebrate in three years, our birthday,” said Deacon Bete.

Parishioners raised \$500,000 for the renovations, which included installing insulation, updating the sprinkler system and cosmetic work to the interior of the church. Parishioner Pierre A. Belhumeur, the architect, also oversaw the last renovation project at Holy Trinity 30 years ago.

“I have renovated a number of churches and I pray a lot about the projects that I am involved in,” said Belhumeur.

“My only responsibility is to use what I have been given by God and so that is what I do and that is how it works out and everybody is happy, so I am happy,” he added.

Following Mass, a reception was held in the church basement, which was renovated 18 months ago.

For a video version of this story, tune into an upcoming edition of “Real to Reel” the Diocese of Springfield’s weekly television newsmagazine that airs Saturday evenings at 7 on WWLP-22NEWS.

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