

Dedication of St. John Lateran

I have some sad news I must share with you all today. [www.309benton.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Statement_KC_Province_Goode.pdf]

Here at St. Anthony's, all of us on our staff are shocked and saddened to hear this news. Father Mike has worked for us with a spirit of professionalism, charity, and enthusiasm. He has been our minister and our friend.

Father Mike wants you to know about his sorrow and the gratitude he has for all of you. We all regret he has to leave under these circumstances.

Here at St. Anthony's we follow the diocesan guidelines of Protecting God's Children. We offer classes every year. Contact information for the diocesan ombudsman and victims' advocate is on the cover of our parish bulletin every week. We encourage calls to the state hotline and to local law enforcement. The entire Catholic community is committed to providing a safe environment for children.

By its nature, a church should be a safe place, a holy place. Before a catholic church building is open to the public, there is a formal ceremony to dedicate it. When we gather inside, the very building reminds us that we too must be holy in all our actions.

Today we recall the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome, and the mother church of the world. It is a place of great beauty and of nearly constant prayer.

When Jesus walked into the Temple of Jerusalem at the beginning of his career in John's gospel, he called the building his Father's house. It was a place set aside for divine worship. So is the cathedral of Rome, so is our cathedral, and so is this church. Let us pray that God will fill each heart with all we need to make our lives worthy of the church we call home.