

MILESTONES

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Cardinal DiNardo blesses St. Athanasius Chapel Hall

New chapel building serves as Regina Caeli home

HOUSTON — On Saturday, Oct. 29, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo blessed St. Athanasius Chapel Hall, opening the first public building of Regina Caeli Parish.

A Houston apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP), Regina Caeli is the sole traditional rite parish in the Archdiocese and uses only the Extraordinary Form, according to the liturgical books of 1962.

Cardinal DiNardo, in procession with 18 altar servers, an escort of the Knights of Columbus, numerous priests and more than 400 faithful, aspersed the exterior and interior walls of the building, dedicating it to God and the celebration of the Divine mysteries. A Solemn High Mass celebrated by Father Charles Van Vliet, FSSP, pastor of the parish, immediately followed. Cardinal DiNardo delivered the homily and discussed three major attributes of St. Athanasius that should guide the young parish; namely, that he persevered in orthodoxy in the face of persecution, never wavered in fidelity to Rome and had an abiding charity for widows and the poor.

In a Solemn Mass, the celebrant is assisted by the deacon and subdeacon

in a rite that emphasizes, in a more visual way, the unity of the priest to the local ordinary. Fraternity priests Father Gerard Saguto, North American District Superior of the FSSP, and Father Michael Malain served as deacon and subdeacon, respectively, and Father Joshua Houck was the master of ceremonies, guiding the action at the altar. Father Malain is a Houston native and is currently assigned to the FSSP apostolate in Minneapolis. Father Houck joined Regina Caeli Parish in June of this year and serves as parochial vicar.

Also assisting at the Mass were Father Jude Ezuma, personal secretary to Cardinal DiNardo, and Father Stephen B. Reynolds, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Houston, as well as FSSP priests Father Andrzej Komorowski, assistant to the Superior General of the FSSP; Father Thomas Longua, pastor of Mater Dei Parish in Dallas; Father Joseph Terra, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker in Tyler; and Father Robert Ferguson, vice rector of Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska.

Regina Caeli Parish was erected on Aug. 15, 2013 and began operations at



PHOTO COURTESY OF REGINA CAELI PARISH

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo blessed St. Athanasius Chapel Hall, opening the first public building of Regina Caeli Parish, on Oct. 29.

its current location with the blessing of the St. Athanasius Chapel Hall on Oct. 29.

The parish is located at 8121 Breen Road on 40 acres of rural land in Northwest Houston. The chapel hall seats more than 300 for Mass and

includes office and limited meeting space for CCD and other functions. It will serve as home to the parish until additional buildings can be funded.

To learn more about the Regina Caeli Parish or donate to its building program, visit reginacaeliparish.org. †