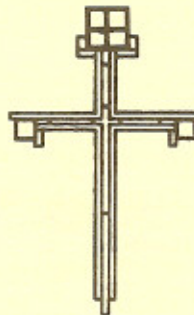


His Holiness  
Pope John Paul II  
Bishop of Rome



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

No.204343

VATICAN CITY

October 2, 1987

Dear Bishop Gossman,

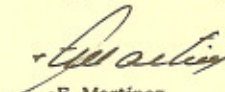
The Holy Father was pleased to be informed that on November 1, 1987 you will consecrate the new Parish Church of Saint Raphael the Archangel in Raleigh.

His Holiness is confident that this celebration will be for the members of the parish family an occasion for a renewed consciousness of their Christian dignity and mission. He wishes to remind them, in the words of the Apostle Peter, that as baptized and confirmed members of the Church they are "living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2:5). Thus they are called to worship the Father in spirit and truth (cf. Jn 4:23) as well as to permeate and perfect the temporal sphere with the Gospel of Christ.

The Holy Father gives the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all those taking part in the dedication ceremonies, and he prays that they will find fresh joy and strength in the Holy Eucharist, which in the expression of the Second Vatican Council remains "the source and summit of all Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium*, 11). Commending them to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of the Angels and of the Saints, he imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing.

Please accept my own prayerful good wishes for the celebration.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
+E. Martinez  
Substitute

The Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman  
Bishop of Raleigh  
300 Cardinal Gibbons Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606-2198