

NOVEMBER 9, 2014



FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA



EZEKIEL 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

PSALM 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9C-11, 16-17

JOHN 2:13-22

REFLECTION

A few years ago I got a letter from a former youth group member. Now in her late twenties, Jaime was in the middle of a divorce. She was moving out of the apartment she and her soon-to-be ex-husband had shared and came across her box of youth group stuff. In the box along with journals, buttons, photographs, and nametags, she found her bag of affirmations from a retreat—small notes that name the gifts and talents and Christ-like qualities others had noticed in her. She'd written to thank me. She said, "The affirmations reminded me of the person that I had once been. If people had seen these qualities in me then, maybe I could find that person again." Our church buildings are like Jamie's box. They remind us of who we are. We might lose sight of that identity sometimes but in this "box" are all the important memories—the Baptisms, funerals, parties, and coffee hours. Valuable as it is to us though, the box is only a reminder that God is present among us.



IN DEPTH TOUR OF ST. JOHN LATERAN BASILICA

[ucatholic.tumblr.com
/post/12556626666
/virtual-tour-of-st-john
-lateran-basilica](http://ucatholic.tumblr.com/post/12556626666/virtual-tour-of-st-john-lateran-basilica)

ONE MINUTE TOUR OF ST. JOHN LATERAN BASILICA.

[www.youtube.com
/watch?v=Plkol5_Jljs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plkol5_Jljs)

ACTION

In 313 AD the Laterini family palace was given to the church as a gift from the Emperor Constantine to become the pope's cathedral. Rome's first church remains standing to this day though it has been rebuilt through the centuries after fires and earthquakes. Today it is still the pope's "home" church and on this feast day we celebrate its dedication. Find out about the history of your home church (or churches). When was it built and by whom? What important events for you have taken place there through the years?

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- The readings this weekend show the importance of the church building but also show its limits. People are sacred and each of us is the dwelling place of God, a little temple. In what ways are you a temple or dwelling place for God?
- Is it important to have church buildings? Why or why not? What would be different about the ways we pray if we prayed in different buildings or none at all?