



***Dedication of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Labrador City NL  
September 23, 2007***

You are the light of the world. *Luceat lux vestra!* Que votre lumière brille! Let your light shine!

My dear friends, this celebration, this honour that sees this beautiful building which has served as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Labrador City-Schefferville for the past 20 years raised to the dignity of a Basilica, is all about you!

A Basilica is a “royal court”, a worthy dwelling place for the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords – Jesus Christ our Saviour. And a worthy place it is – beautiful, strong, noble – a sign and symbol of the people / the community of faith that gathers here regularly to praise and thank God, to worship God, to seek God’s merciful forgiveness, to request God’s intercession in times of personal, family and community need. Oui, cette Basilique est une signe de la communauté de foi que se réunisse ici. J’adore cette edifice dès la première fois que je l’ai vu.

I have loved this building from the first time I saw it in 1975! I love coming here. Whenever I visit, I enjoy walking around it and seeing just how lovely it is –clean and well kept – a sure sign that I am not the only one who loves it. (Father Laurie and I used to wash the floors every Sunday night after Sunday Masses. And I can tell those who have cleaned and polished the floors for today’s celebration, we NEVER had them looking this shiny and clean!)

I love praying here, not only celebrating Mass, but praying the prayer of the Church (the breviary), and just praying quietly – nurturing my relationship with the Lord. There is a strong feeling of prayer here. It is heartening to see others drop in for a quiet moment of prayer and reflection. That is why this building is here, open to welcome anyone in Labrador West who wants to “connect” with the sacred, with the Lord Jesus, with God. Alors, nous venons ici pour prier, pour sentir la presence et l’amour de notre Dieu.

Today we do not only celebrate a building – we also celebrate the people who built it, who maintain it, who support it, who make sure it is here when it is needed most. Nous célébrons l’évêque oblat, Monseigneur Lionel Scheffer, Vicar Apostolique de Labrador de 1946-1966, qui a assuré qu’une telle lieu remarquable a été construit; et le Père Theodore Roussel, o.m.i., qui a été le premier curé, et le Frère Jules Auclair, o.m.i., qui a été le chef de la construction. We celebrate Archbishop Peter Sutton, OMI, who had the Church named a Co-Cathedral, and who honours us today by his presence here. We celebrate Father Laurie Conlon, OMI, former Pastor, representing all former pastors, who keeps an eye on us all, and who wanted to be with us for this historic event. We celebrate Father Tony O’Dell, former Rector of the Cathedral and first Rector of the Basilica (as he likes

to remind us!), who like Father Laurie will always have a special place in his heart for this place. And we celebrate Father Jarek Pachocki, OMI, Father Neil Haight, OMI, Father Hanh van Tran, OMI, and all the members of the pastoral team who will be formally installed today.

And we celebrate parishioners who take care of this place by dint of hard work, creative décor, and generous contributions. We celebrate you – living stones – who “are” this building now – a people of faith who come here to worship, to listen to God’s word, to give thanks, to be renewed, and to go out from here to witness to God’s love by what you say and do. Vous êtes les pierres vivantes de cette basilique, des paroissiens qui viennent ici prier et qui sortent pour servir comme le Christ. You are the light of the world. *Luceat lux vestra!* Que votre lumière brille! Let your light shine.

How many parents have carried children up this aisle to be baptized, beginning a relationship with Jesus Christ that is nourished at Eucharist and Confirmation, and restored at Reconciliation – hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of children and parents processing forward, well prepared by priests, Sisters and catechists who love them enough to assure they know the Lord! And couples making their way up the aisle to stand before the community and profess love and commitment to a spouse, assuring the future of the world and a life lived in faith, hope and love. And finally, carried in a casket up the aisle for a final farewell and a celebration of the resurrection! Tout les evenements importantes de la vie sont célébré ici dans ce lieu de prière. All the important events in our lives are celebrated in this holy place.

May today's celebration be an encouragement to renew and deepen your faith, so that this community will be a blessed place to live, to work, to raise children, and to "go about doing good"! That is your mission. Votre mission c'est d'être une bénédiction pour la communauté dans laquelle vous demeurez – de faire des actes de bonté et de générosité – d'être la lumière du Christ.

Come here often to pray for God's blessing for yourself and your families. The side door is open all day long and into the evening. This royal court, this holy place, this sacred space, the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is here to help you draw closer to the Lord and when you go from here do what the new motto proclaims: *Luceat lux vestra!* Que votre lumière brille. Let your light shine!

+ *Douglas Crosby, OMI*