



The Diocese of Rochester
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, New York

Office of the Bishop

Feast of the Epiphany 1940

Reverend and dear Father:

In accordance with Canon 916 of the Code of Canon Law, I wish to designate your Main Altar as a Privileged Altar, daily and "in perpetuum". This concession is made unless your church already possesses a Privileged Altar. If you have more than one church under your jurisdiction the same concession applies to the Main Altar in each of them.

MEANING

The Privileged Altar is richly gifted by the Church. Every Mass celebrated thereupon will be enriched with a Plenary Indulgence applicable to the soul of the deceased person for whom the Mass is offered. Please remark that this Indulgence is for the deceased, and applicable to one soul, so that, if the Mass is offered for many persons, the Celebrant must determine the one for whom the Indulgence is sought.

THE MASS

Every Mass is thus privileged. If possible, the Mass of Requiem is to be preferred although not obligatory. No special intention is required on the part of the priest for the gaining of this Indulgence. Then too, this Indulgence does not prevent the celebrant from gaining another Plenary Indulgence on the same day.

THE ALTAR

This Indulgence is attached to the altar edifice: not to the altar stone; the latter may be replaced or transferred without any effect upon this concession. The altar may be moved within the same church, but if it is transferred to another church, this concession is no longer valid. Any other altar in your church has this same privilege on November 2, and during the Forty Hours' Devotion. (C. 917)

The altar may be made of any material. It should be stationary and not too easily moved. It must have a consecrated altar stone of ordinary dimensions. The size of the altar stone being used in this diocese is 13" x 13" x 7/8".

THE INSCRIPTION

An inscription may be placed on the altar reading: "Privileged Altar".

This letter of concession should be kept as a record. It might be advisable to frame this letter and place it in the sacristy with the documents of other concessions to your church.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ *James E. Kearney*

Bishop of Rochester