

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

November 9, 2008

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

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

Their fruit shall serve for food and their leaves for medicine

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and our strength an ever-present help in distress.

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9C-11, 16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you?

GOSPEL: JOHN 2:13-22

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my house a marketplace."

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Have you ever stepped out of church and felt like you were in a flea market? Second collections, people selling raffle tickets, magazines, candy bars, arts and crafts, bake sales, carnivals and who knows what else? I have belonged to parishes like that. Parishes do what they have to when to people do not give in the offertory. That's the way it was at the Temple. People knew all about tithing; but they didn't do it. The Chief Priests, Scribes and the rest were doing what they had to do to pay the bills. Today's Gospel tells us what Jesus thought about it.

This is a "Stewardship" parish. There are no second collections or flea markets here! The people of Queen of Peace are not afraid to make commitments of time, talent and tithes. Everyone is not at 10%, some have just begun to step up, others are further along, and we are grateful to them all. We are all we are because of all we do together.

The video you are about to see is testimony to how a Stewardship parish lives our faith. God blesses so abundantly!