

November 9th: Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome

Gospel text (*Jn 2,13-22*): As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court He found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, «Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!». His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: 'Zeal for your House devours me as a fire' (...).

Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we celebrate the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, called "mother and head of all churches in the city and the world". This Basilica was the first to be built after the edict of the Emperor Constantine (year AD 313) granting freedom of religion to Christianity. Constantine also donated the former property of the Laterani family to Pope Miltiades, and there he built the Basilica, the Baptistery and the residence of the Bishop of Rome, where Popes lived up to the Avignon period.

Pope Sylvester held the dedication of the Basilica towards the year 324 and the temple was consecrated to the Holy Savior. Later on, the names of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist were added, from which it derives its best-known name. From 1565 onwards this festivity was extended to all the churches of the Roman Rite.

—By honoring this sacred building we express love and veneration to the Roman

Church that presides in charity all the Catholic communion.