



## SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



### Homily - Dedication of Cathedral 2006

October 12, 2006

Fr. Laurence Kriegshauser, O.S.B.

Jesus uses the word “church” only twice in the Gospels, both in the Gospel of Matthew. He builds his church on a rock. For Saint Peter, too, those who believe in Christ are a spiritual house made of living stones. Stones are not normally alive—they are the least alive things in nature, so the metaphor is complex. To say that the church is made of stones fitted together into dwelling for God is to say that we must be united, each supported by and supporting the other as stones in a temple, each occupying its unique place. But to say the stones are living means that their unity is organic and growing: we are growing into a unity by acts of charity and selflessness and mutual service. And finally, we are living stones whose task is to praise the God who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Our lives make a continuous liturgy. Christ’s purpose in redeeming us from sin and death was that we might exult together in what the Lord has done for us.

The feast of the dedication of our cathedral encourages us to pray for the unity and growth of our local Church and especially for its bishops and priests, even as we exercise our own royal priesthood by offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.