New St. Joseph Catholic Church dedication planned

Over three years of dedicated community effort will culminate in the formal dedication of a new St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milton today. Father Louis Richard, pastor, says the $1.25 million structure is the result of "a beautiful and exciting process" which many considered impossible in the small rural community.

The decision to build it and the joining together of parishioners to undertake the imposing task, he says, brought the Catholic population of Milton together.

"It has been a community builder," according to Father Richard, "and will be our symbol of community here in Milton. There is a deep sense of pride among those who have worked so hard to make this a reality," he said. "It is a hard-earned and well-deserved feeling. For a town this size actually a bedroom community for Lafayette to achieve something of this magnitude is truly remarkable."

There are many features of the Church that are unique both from an aesthetic and liturgical viewpoint.

"In our design and construction," Father Richard says, "it was our intention that building symbolize who we are and what we do as a community of believers. Sitting as it does in the heart of the Milton community, greeting travelers east and west along Highway 92, it was our desire to have the entire structure present itself in a warm, welcoming, inviting manner. Aspects of Acadian architecture are present throughout, adding a certain character to the worship."

Architects for the Church were the Angelle-Guidry Partnership of Lafayette, with Glenn Angelle as lead architect. Pim Van Dijk of Holland was Liturgical Consultant.

Today's ceremony of dedication will take place within the context of the mass. Ceremonies will include consecration of the building, altar and columns by anointment with oils. There will also be a blessing of the Baptismal Font. Archbishop Harry Flynn, Administrator for the Diocese of Lafayette, will participate.

"Opening the doors and walking into a Church is a simple action, taken for granted by most," Father Richard says. "But crossing this threshold is a momentous step, signifying an internal commitment to become part of the Catholic household of God. It is our hope that this Church awakens in each of us a sense of the Sacred, reminding us of our God-given call to Christian holiness."