

**Bishop calls on priests to remember ordinations**  
*Priests renew vows of service at annual chrism Mass*  
**Oils blessed for use throughout the diocese**

by KATIE MOORE  
staff writer

CHARLOTTE — “We can never forget the day of our ordination,” said Bishop Peter J. Jugis to priests from around the Diocese of Charlotte at the annual chrism Mass.

During ordination, “we received a grace which changed us forever,” Bishop Jugis said during his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 7.

The bishop expressed his gratitude to the approximately 90 priests in attendance. He thanked them for their dedicated service throughout the diocese and asked them to reflect on the promises they made during their ordinations.

“Our renewal of commitment to priestly service during this Mass, takes us back not only to the day of our priesthood ordination, but it also takes us back even further — to the source of our call, to Jesus, to the one who first said to us, ‘Come, follow me,’” said Bishop Jugis.

“This Mass is a commitment to Christ Jesus,” he said.

During the chrism Mass, the priests recommit themselves to their vocational ministry.

The chrism Mass is one of the Catholic Church’s most solemn Masses, celebrated in most Catholic dioceses on Holy Thursday. If celebration of the Mass is not possible on Holy Thursday, it may be celebrated earlier in the week, as it is in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During the Mass, the bishop blesses the oils to be used in administering the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Bishop Jugis celebrated the Mass along with concelebrants Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar; Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; and other clergy of the diocese.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin was in attendance and Father Christopher Roux, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral, served as master of ceremonies.

Permanent deacons assisted and seminarians of the diocese served as altar servers.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests’ renewal of their dedication as faithful ministers of Christ.

Following the liturgy of the Eucharist, Bishop Jugis blessed the three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests return to their parishes, rededicated in spiritual union with the people of the diocese.

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