

***De dedicatione aut benedictione ecclesiae in honorem alicuius Beati\****

(Notitiae 34 [1998] 664)

In order to promote the spiritual good of the faithful, especially in places where there is a shortage of churches, several diocesan Bishops have been asking the Apostolic See for some time now to be able to dedicate a new church in honour of a Blessed who has had a particular relationship with the diocese.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, having carefully examined the matter, and meeting the requests of the ordinaries who are responsible for the moderation of the sacred liturgy in their jurisdiction, establishes and makes known the following in connection with the dedication of a church in honour of one of the Blessed:

1. Since the liturgical cult of the Blessed is only granted in specific places and in specific ways, as appears from the formula of beatification itself, it is the responsibility of the diocesan Bishop, for his diocese, to ask the Apostolic See to inscribe in its proper calendar a specific Blessed who was born, resided for a prolonged period of time, performed active apostolic service, died or was buried in the same diocese.
2. In these dioceses, where the celebration of a particular Blessed is legitimately inscribed in the proper calendar, the diocesan bishop has the power, without the permission of the Apostolic See, to dedicate to God or to bless a church, built or to be built, in honour of the same Blessed within the boundaries of his diocese.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 29 November 1998.

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\* Working translation in English.