CHAPTER II
THE ORDER OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

Then the Bishop addresses the people in these or similar words:

Beloved brothers and sisters, we have gathered with joy to dedicate a new church by celebrating the Lord’s Sacrifice. Let us take part in these sacred rites with loving devotion, listening to the Word of God with faith, so that our community, reborn from the one font of Baptism and nourished at the same table, may grow into a spiritual temple and, brought together at one altar, may advance in the love from on high.

When the instruction is concluded, the Bishop puts on the miter and takes the pastoral staff, and the procession to the church to be dedicated begins. No candles are used apart from those which surround the relics of the Saints. Incense is not used either in the procession or in the Mass before the rite of incensation and the lighting of the altar and the church (cf. below, nos. 66-71). The crossbearer leads the procession; the ministers follow first; then the Deacons or Priests with the relics of the Saints, with the ministers or some of the faithful accompanying them on either side with candles; after them the concelebrating Priests; then the Bishop with two Deacons slightly behind him; and lastly, the faithful.

As the procession moves forward, the following antiphon is sung with Psalm 122 (121):

Psalm 122 (121)

1. I rejoiced when they said to me, * “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
2. And now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.
3. Jerusalem is built as a city * bonded as one together.
4. It is there that the tribes go up, * the tribes of the Lord, as it is decreed for Israel, * to give thanks to the name of the Lord. R.
5. There were set the thrones for judgment, * the thrones of the house of David.
6. For the peace of Jerusalem pray, * “May they prosper, those who love you.”
7. May peace abide in your walls, * and security be in your towers. R.
8. For the sake of my family and friends, * let me say, “Peace upon you.”
9. For the sake of the house of the Lord, our God, * I will seek good things for you. R.