



## Seven Dolors Church rededication

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**M**anhattan — On an overcast afternoon, Bishop Jerry Vincke stood on the steps of Seven Dolors Church in Manhattan, facing a crowd of onlookers who were eager to catch a glimpse of their newly renovated church.

As the choir sang “This is Holy Ground” and Bishop Vincke raised his hands in prayer, a ray of sunshine broke through the clouds, bathing the crowd in sunlight.

“This is perfect,” whispered Father Kerry Nymire, who stood at the bishop’s side. “Perfect.”

The Nov. 4 rededication of Seven Dolors was the culmination of about five years of hard work and big dreams.

“We have the 100 year anniversary coming up (in 2020), and we wanted to update the church and get prepared for the celebration,” said Dale Anderson.

A member of the parish his entire life, Anderson said “I was baptized there and never left.” He added his family has five generations in the parish.

The renovation was a substantial one — about \$2 million — and touched nearly every surface in the building.

“The only thing that remained was the floor



Photos by Karen Bonar / The Register

**Bishop Vincke lights the altar candles. The Paschal Candle was first presented, and the altar and dedication candles were lit from it.**

joists,” Anderson said. “Everything is new — heating, air, electrical, sound, lighting, paint and stenciling.”

Well, almost all of it is new.

Several aspects of the renovation include items original to the church that were removed during a previous renovation, but have been refurbished and returned.

“The crucifix above the tabernacle is original to the church. I carried it as an altar boy,” Anderson said of the crucifix, which was originally the processional cross.

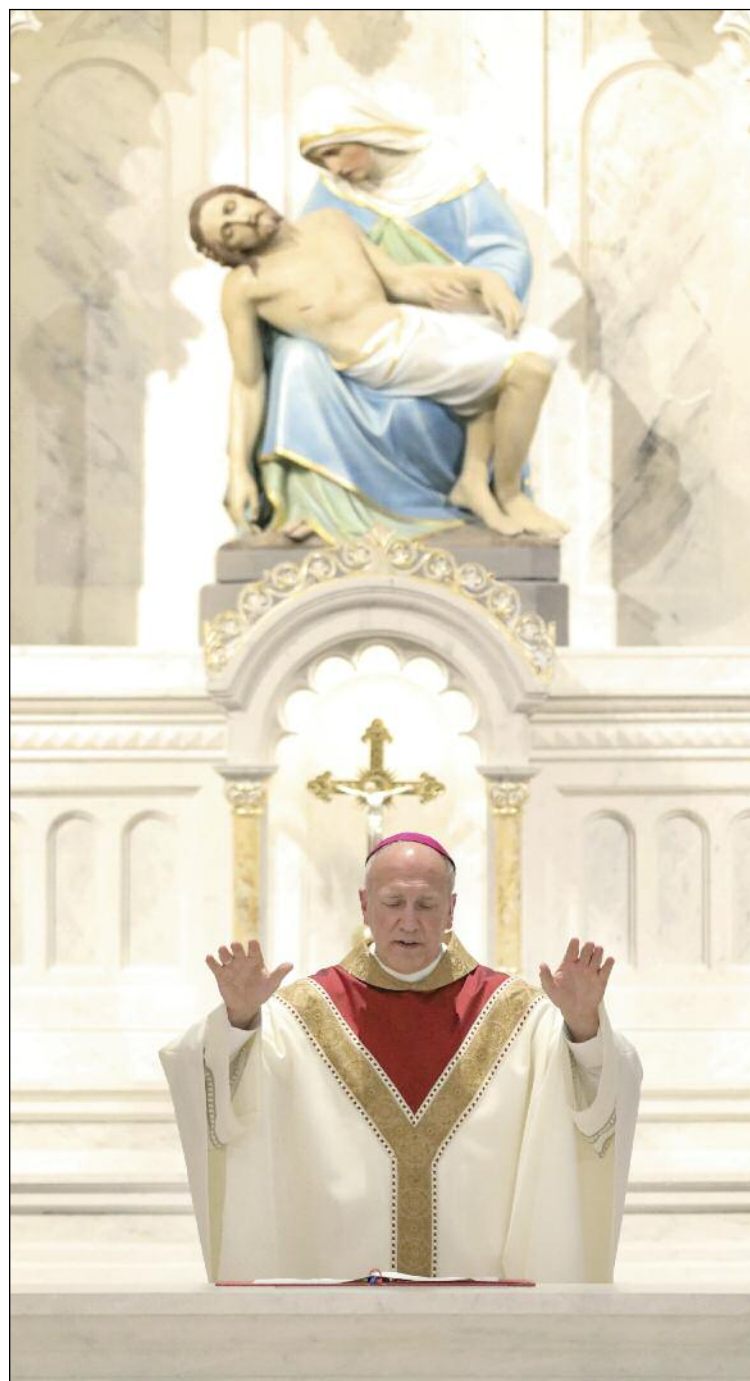
During a previous renovation, it was removed, and he acquired it, “and we had that in our house the last 50 years.”

When the renovation project began, he donated it back to the church.

The story is similar with other items throughout the building, from the lights to the last supper depiction on the high altar. Anderson said six of the original eight pendant lights were donated to the church by parishioners who acquired them in a similar way to how he acquired the crucifix. The light fixtures were sent off to be restored, and are now wired for LED lighting.

**BISHOP VINCKE CELEBRATED** a Dedication Mass, where he spread Sacred Chrism oil on the new altar, and also marked the walls with the oil. He also incensed the altar, people and church. Following the incense was the presentation of the Paschal Candle and the lighting of the altar

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Photos by Karen Bonar / The Register

**Bishop Jerry Vincke extends his hands in prayer over the new altar at Seven Dolors Nov. 4. In addition to blessing the altar with Sacred Chrism oil, the bishop blessed the walls of the church.**

### Adoption celebration Mass scheduled Nov. 30 in Salina

By Karen Bonar  
The Register

**SALINA** — Growing up, Father Kyle Berens always knew he was adopted.

“I consider it a true blessing,” he said. “I was fully and truly loved by my parents. I was loved and I was wanted.”

The Salina Diocese, in conjunction with Catholic



Father Kyle Berens

important to acknowledge Adoption Month (Novem-

ber) because it gives us a chance to reflect on the unique, widespread world of adoption,” said Michelle Martin, the Executive Director of Catholic Charities. “It is important to remember how much adoption impacts those around us and to honor the work we do to establish open connections and lifelong families.”

Charities of Northern Kansas, is hosting a Mass Nov. 30 at noon for all whose lives have been affected by adoption. “It is

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## Bishop Vincke begins Masses of Healing

By The Register

**SALINA** — Bishop Jerry Vincke began celebrating Masses of Healing Nov. 18 at St. Martin Church in Seguin and St. Frances Cabrini Church in Hoxie. He will continue the Masses throughout the Salina Dio-

cese during Advent. Many of the Masses will involve a question and answer time with the bishop, Eucharistic Adoration or a meal with time for questions.

The purpose of holding a Mass of Healing is for parishioners in each city

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177 project

Faithful gather for an evening of Adoration, praise, reflection.

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Bishops meet

U.S. bishops participate in annual fall meeting.

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#iGive Catholic

Advanced giving is off to a strong start.

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Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Workers move in a portion of the new high altar Sept. 14. Lifelong parishioner Dale Anderson located altars and statues from a Catholic salvage business on the east coast. The items were refurbished prior to being placed in the Seven Dolores sanctuary.

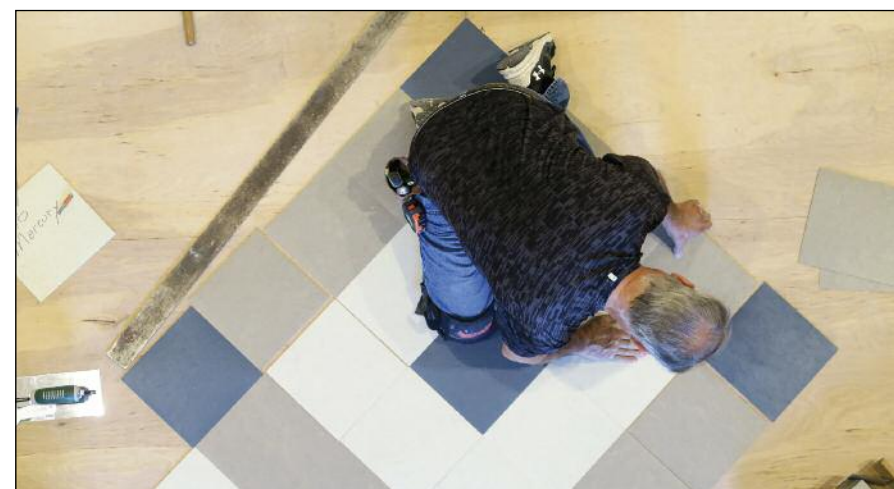


Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

ABOVE: A worker installs new flooring in the nave of Seven Dolores Sept. 16. RIGHT: Bishop Jerry Vincke blesses the water in the baptismal font Nov. 4. Upon blessing the water, the bishop blessed the congregation, walls and altar of the church (Photo by Karen Bonar).



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Knights of Columbus Vince Kramer and Michael Caron move out pews from the nave of the church April 29. Volunteers assisted with demolition of the church and basement.



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Knights of Columbus volunteers remove the pews from the church April 29. The pews were shortened, refurbished and sold to parishioners who wanted one for their homes.



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Father Kerry Ninemire (far left) walks down the steps with Moe Glende and Andy Price, who are carrying the crucifix, and Mary Todd, who is removing sacred art.



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Bill Arck, Dale Anderson and other volunteers remove the tabernacle from the sanctuary. During the renovation, Mass was held in the school's gymnasium.



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Construction workers run electrical in the basement. Improvements to the basement include bathroom remodels, kitchen improvements and a renovated gathering space.

# Church interior resembles original design

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and dedication candles.

As beautiful as the church is, Bishop Vincke said, the congregation is essential to the experience.

"The theology behind this dedication is really that the dwelling place of God is the human person — you," he said. "God lives in you. The Holy Spirit lives in you. His presence lives in you."

"The primary act of dedicating this church is assembling you, the faithful for the Eucharist. If you weren't here today, it would just be a pretty church. You're the one who makes it beautiful. Thank you for being Christ's body here today."

Also joining the bishop was Father Ninemire, the pastor, Father Frank Coady, Father Carlos Ruiz-Santos and Father Merlin Kieffer, as well as Deacon Ed Souza.

Rosie Rundell, the pastoral associate who handles many aspects of sacramental preparation for those in the parish, describes the transformation as "jaw-dropping."

"It is totally changed," she said. "Dale Anderson has gone above and beyond to recreate the church he grew up in. It was a labor of love."

While many aspects of the church are new to the parish, Anderson said many items were purchased from churches that were closing. He and fellow

parishioner Mike Crubel drove to Pittsburgh and picked up the high altar, which was in 11 pieces, and hauled it back to Manhattan.

The Altar of Sacrifice was originally part of the high altar, and parishioner Ron Wells separated it. He made some adjustments, and now it serves as the main altar in the sanctuary. The ambo was special-ordered from a supply company.

The parish also procured the Pietà statue via a salvage company. The St. Joseph statue is from the original church, and the parish purchased a companion "Our Lady of Grace" statue of Mary to complement St. Joseph.

Anderson and his wife, Carolyn, purchased the 100-year-old Stations of the Cross that were the same size as the original stations in the church, had them refurbished and donated them to the church.

"It's not an exact replica of the original church," said Stacie Levendofsky finance associate at Seven Dolores, "but the renovation reclaims some of the traditional look and feel."

ONE OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY changes is the mural of Mary's Seven Dolores — her seven sorrows — which is on the dome above the altar.

"The overwhelming response when people saw that as an option was excitement to have the Seven Dolores represented in that way," Levendofsky said. "We didn't have anything like that in

the original design of the church. Even though this is a very traditional look, it's brand new."

Parishioner Sharon Davis said she is excited about the visual depiction of Mary.

"I think it will be a wonderful way to teach about the name of our parish," she said. "Most people don't know what the Seven Sorrows are. I'm eager for us to have our sanctuary be a learning moment for people."

The art of the Seven Dolores was created by an artist from Brooklyn, N.Y.

LEVENDOFSKY SAID THE multi-million dollar project received some financial support from Catholic Extension, which is based in Chicago.

"Catholic Extension partnered on a matching grant," she said. "The terms were that we needed to raise \$120,000 and they would match \$60,000."

She said the parish is on its way to meeting that goal.

"Parish staff feels so grateful to the community, parishioners and everyone who helped make this dream a reality," Levendofsky said. "It's been a dream for many in the parish for many years. Many people worked hard to conceptualize, fundraise and bring it to life."

The parish hired RDG Planning and Design from Omaha to redesign the church's interior. BHS construction in Manhattan was the general contractor for the project.

"It was beyond another project for them," said Ray Buyle, who serves on the pastoral council and was on the campaign committee. "It felt like a once in a lifetime opportunity. A number of the contractors showed up at the dedication Mass — and they weren't even Catholic. I think it was moving to see the team-building they had during that entire project."

The project, which began in May, finished right before the Nov. 4 dedication. During that time, Mass was celebrated in the school gym across the street.

"Even when we had Sunday Masses in the school gymnasium, normally you would see a dropoff in attendance," Buyle said. "It didn't drop off. We still had a packed house, I think people were really excited about the changes that were coming."

IN HIS HOMILY, BISHOP Vincke expressed the importance of gathering as a community.

"In many ways, this is what this dedication is all about. When we come to church, we're saying 'God, we love you, we give you the glory. We give you thanks. We want to be with you. We want to learn from you. We want to follow you. Most importantly, we want to go forth from this church to be your love in the world,'" the bishop said.

Buyle said the parish's ability to pull together for the renovation is inspiring. "You hear stories in bigger

cities that parishes are folding because they don't have the support they used to because people spread to the suburbs," he said. "To have the parishioners so involved, I think it makes a statement that this is a well-supported, thriving parish here in Manhattan."

THE CHURCH, SEVEN DOLORS of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was founded in 1880. The current building was dedicated on Oct. 31, 1920, and cost more than \$66,500.

The parish is named after the seven sorrows, or "dolors" of Mary. They are: The Prophecy of Simeon, The Flight Into Egypt, The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple, Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary, Jesus Dies on the Cross, Mary Receives Jesus and Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

Bishop Vincke reflected on the Prophecy of Simeon.

"He tells Mary 'A sword will pierce your heart.' But he says something beautiful," the bishop said. "When (Simeon) encounters the messiah, as soon as he sees Jesus, he says 'Lord, now I can go in peace, your word has been fulfilled. Salvation is here.' The same thing happens here today for us. In many ways, we encounter our salvation every time we're here."

More photos of the renovation are online at facebook.com/sdeatholic church/.



Photo by Tony Ridder / for The Register

Seven Dolores of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Before



Photo by Karen Bonar / The Register

Seven Dolores of the Blessed Virgin Mary, After