



The church is the *house of God*; in the midst of a world filled with the powers of evil, it is a place where God reigns supreme.

The church is the *house of God's people*, a place open to all where the faithful gather for prayer.

The church is the *place of sacrifice*; the object in the church most worthy of veneration is the altar, which is the symbol of Christ.

For these reasons the church was consecrated; in this way it became in a very special way a symbol of the Church. Built up of stones, it represents the living Church which is built out of the souls of the baptized, the "holy Temple" that Saint Peter spoke of which is the mystical Body of Christ. In a way all its own every church proclaims the heavenly Jerusalem where in the future the presence of God will make itself known among [people]. It is a foretaste of heaven on earth.

From the Mass booklet for the Dedication of the Abbey Church in 1961. Cover illustration from the *Worship* journal dedication issue by Frank Kacmarcik, OblSB.



DEDICATION OF THE  
ABBAY AND UNIVERSITY CHURCH  
OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, *October 23, 2011*