

# Parish erected in Cabot on feast of St. John the Baptist

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Thomas Sonnier, 15, is confirmed by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor June 24 at St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot. Sonnier's sponsor was his brother, Louis Sonnier. There were 10

youth from the parish confirmed on the same day the church was named an official parish. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Bishop Taylor confirms Rachel Yakoubian, 14, while her sister, Erica, 16, serves as her sponsor. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Confirmation candidates stand as Bishop Anthony B. Taylor prays June 24. The young men pictured are (from left) Anthony Sonnier, 14, of Batesville; Kevin McCann, 14, Max McCann, 15, and James McCann, 15, all of Batesville; Thomas Sonnier, 15, of Batesville; and Phillip Car, 15, of Benton. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Bishop Taylor offers a blessing during confirmation on June 24 at St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Bishop Taylor explains to parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot the policies and rules for being an official church in the Diocese of Little Rock June 24. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Bishop Taylor officially names St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot as a parish of the Diocese of Little Rock and describes related policies to a packed church June 24. (Aprille Hanson photo)



For 23 years, the Latin Mass community has saved to purchase a church building to call home. On June 24, Bishop Taylor erected the parish while parishioners filled the church, observed by Fathers William Define (left), pastor at Most Precious Blood Parish in Tulsa, Okla.; Joseph Orłowski, pastor of the new parish; and Edward Brodsky, an associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in El Paso, Texas. All three are priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St.

Peter. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Confirmation candidates listen as Bishop Taylor talks about what it means to be an official parish. The young women on the front row are (from left) Stephanie Gregory, 15, of Hardy; Catherine Yakoubian, 14, and Rachel Yakoubian, 14, both of Little Rock; and Maria Sulzen, 14, of West Fork. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Bishop Anthony B. Taylor offers a blessing to Fathers Edward Brodsky (left, kneeling), Joseph Orłowski and William Define after the High Mass June 24. The bishop officially erected St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot on the feast day of St. John the Baptist. (Aprille Hanson photo)



Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot celebrate in their new parish hall after being officially named a parish of the Diocese of Little Rock June 24. (Aprille Hanson photo)

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CABOT — As Latin prayers lifted up in song filled the sanctuary of St. John the Baptist, tears streamed down Kathy Nauman's face. Kathy and her husband Tom joined the Latin Mass community a year after it was formed in 1994 and have since prayed for the day when the community would have a parish to call their own.

On June 24, Bishop Anthony B. Taylor erected St. John the Baptist Church in Cabot as an official parish in the Diocese of Little Rock.

"It has been a long time coming," Nauman said. "It is a joyful day."

Bishop Taylor also confirmed 10 teens of the parish and Father Joseph Orłowski, FSSP, pastor at St. John, celebrated High Mass. A reception was held after Mass in the parish hall.

"It's a happy day," a day of rejoicing, Bishop Taylor said during the High Mass when he officially declared the parish. "I must tell you that I'm very impressed with all that I've seen that you have done in the very short amount of time to get these facilities in a good shape to be able to celebrate Mass here. So all my best to you and I share in your joy this day."

Since the community began 23 years ago, members have donated to the community in hopes of one day buying or building a church. The community has never had a formal church but has used other spaces, including St. John Center in Little Rock and most recently St. Patrick Church in North Little Rock, to hold Tridentine Masses. The roughly 180 members who attend weekend Masses travel from Batesville, Conway, Benton and Little Rock for traditional worship.

The church, at 106 Pin Oak Drive, was purchased for \$215,000 cash May 15. The 7,000-square-foot facility seats about 150 people in the sanctuary.

On June 24, Ron McCann told Arkansas Catholic before his three sons were confirmed, that the church now serves as “an anchor.”

“It’s nice to have an anchor basically because we are a regional parish,” he said, whose wife Michele and 10 children, ranging from 2 to 22, travel from Batesville. “From my standpoint, it makes it easier to be a community. What will be nice here is having a Catholic presence in Cabot and maybe getting folks who haven’t been to Mass in a while back to the faith.”

McCann’s son James, 15, said “it’s nice having a church to be able to do our own things.”

Erica Yakoubian, 16, of Little Rock, served as a confirmation sponsor for her sister Rachel, 14, whose twin sister Catherine was also confirmed.

“It’s really nice to be able to have our own place,” Erica Yakoubian said, adding she enjoys the Latin Mass for the “traditions, it’s very reverent.”

Bishop Taylor spoke to the confirmation class about fear of the Lord and how Satan often manipulates people to fear one another.

“The fear of the Lord that you receive as a gift today is the opposite of that. It serves to keep us from being blinded by Satan,” Bishop Taylor said. “To keep us from being blinded by these sorts of irrational fears and serves to draw us to one another, with special concern for the weak and vulnerable.”

After confirmation, Father Orłowski as well as Father William Define, a former chaplain for the North Little Rock community and pastor at Most Precious Blood Parish in Tulsa, Okla., and Father Edward Brodsky celebrated High Mass. Father Orłowski is leaving for a new assignment in July and Father Paul Jared McCambridge, FSSP, has been named pastor of the parish.

Father Brodsky, FSSP, an associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in El Paso, Texas, was a member of the Latin Mass community for 10 years, starting when he was just 8 years old. He said it was a special day for a community where he grew up altar serving and responding to God’s call to the priesthood.

“It gives it a sense of permanence. I hope it serves as a means of growth for the community,” with God guiding the way, Father Brodsky said.