



Saint Viator Honors Patron during Historic 50th Year

October 28, 2011



Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V. gives a final blessing to the congregation at the St. Viator Day celebration.

Fifty years after the Clerics of St. Viator opened a Saint Viator High School in the Northwest suburbs, faculty, religious and students paused last Friday to honor their patron, St. Viator.

“This is the 50th time of celebrating St. Viator Day here,” said Br. Leo Ryan, CSV, who served on the building committee with other Viatorians in planning the school and later became its first president.

He recalled that one month after the school opened in September 1961, the faculty and students celebrated St. Viator Day with an all-school Mass. Last week’s celebration mirrored the first celebration and included reflections about the saint from 4th Century France.

Saint Viator was born in the city of Lyons and served in the church as a lector, proclaiming the gospel and teaching the faith to young people. In 1831, when Fr. Louis Querbes formed his new religious congregation, he chose St. Viator as its patron.

“The feast of St. Viator takes on special meaning at churches and schools around the world where Viatorians work.” said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president. “This is what brings us together.”

That larger, international mission of the Viatorians was on display during the Mass, as photos from the 16 countries appeared on a screen behind the altar, showing Viatorians and their ministries in the provinces of Canada, Chile, Spain, the United States and the delegation of France, as well as in the foundations of Belize, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Peru and Taiwan.