

Dedication and Blessing of Plaque of the Scene of Saint John Berchmans' Last Holy Communion–Patron Saint of RC in Holland



On Saturday
November
26, 2016, Fr.

Jose
Montepeque,
Pastor of the
Holland
Catholic
Center, after
receiving
letter of
permission
by His Grace
Bishop

Albert LeGatt, unveiled and blessed a plaque which depicts our Patron saint as he is about to receive his Last Holy Communion received, which was well documented right after his death, in anticipation of canonization proceedings as he had lived such a holy life.

This plaque is a replica of the same plaque that was dedicated and blessed for the new High Altar Relief in the Cathedral of Saint John Berchmans in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The original plaque of the scene of the Last Holy Communion of Saint John Berchmans, (located in the Cathedral of Shreveport, Lu) was sculpted in marble from Macedonia (north of Greece), in a studio outside of Rome, and is based on the one in Saint Sulpice. Even before his reception of First Holy Communion, our patron manifested a piety which far exceeded the ordinary. He reverently served at Holy Mass early each morning, sometimes two or three Masses in a row. In all that Saint John did, he sought perfection, and he never encountered anything but the highest favor for his services, wherever he was placed. Such was the humility and profound charity and interior peace which caused the young saint to advance without ceasing of the road to heaven. He studied for three years as a Jesuit novice in Rome and gave unceasing proof of

his already perfected sanctity; nothing he did was left to chance, but entrusted to the intercession of his Heavenly Mother to whom his devotion continued to increase day by day.

He was a zealous servant of Mary and was always ardent in honoring the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. He was not content with believing it from the bottom of his heart, but wanted to write a work fit for publication, so that everyone would know of his mystery; he promised to defend the truth of it by all the means in his power. He composed a Chaplet in honour of the Immaculate Conception. It was in the following term that he made this promise, which was found in his own hand-writing amongst his papers after his death.

Saint John Berchmans is the patron Saint of the Altar Servers, so in the feast day of our patron Saint the Catholic parish of Holland, held a very special celebration with all boys Altar Servers wearing a tee-shirt with the



picture of the patron Saint in the back. There was Coffee also time for fellowship coffee and muffins with the special visit of Mr. Jeff Slusher from Texas, US who donated this special plaque, which now is shown in the Altar of the Catholic parish.