

## Cathedrals (1011 words)

When the Eparchy was created, the Pope designated the residence (city) of the Bishop. For example, the Eparchy of Saint Nicholas is in Chicago. The Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ is in Kyiv. The Hierarch's residence is technically at his Church, St. Nicholas. This Church is designated in the document creating the diocese. It can be seen in older Latin dioceses too. Cardinal Dolan lives in a building that is on the property of St. Patrick's in New York. This is done because, in the middle ages, bishops would not live in their diocese or far away. The reform was to assign bishops to a Church so they would not be absent from their diocese.

A Bishop's residence Church is where he teaches, presides, and in a sense, governs. This is the seat of his authority. This is not in terms of a particular chair but can be as simple as an eagle carpet or as ornate as a chair set in the center of the Church. His seat is the Church itself, but there is a designated spot when speaking or acting as a bishop. For example, when a bishop does ordinations, a small circular carpet with an eagle is placed on the floor to show that he is a bishop of that place. If a bishop does an ordination in another church, that carpet is taken to designate his authority.

The reason these churches are called Cathedrals is that a *Cathedra* is an ancient term meaning seat. Still, even long before the coming of Jesus, it was used. There were temples to the ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses that were designated as their seat or cathedra. In Judaism, the Pharisees sat on Moses's cathedra (Matthew 23:2), which was their authority source. It came into Christianity from the Fathers of the Church. They used the Greek term to designate two churches, Churches where St Peter presided: Antioch and Rome.

The building itself has nothing to do with its selection. So a building can be as grand as St. Nicholas in Chicago because of its architecture or St Josaphat in Parma because of its modern representation of Ukrainian architectural traditions, or as simple as a parish church like St. Vladimir's in Stamford, CT. It can begin as a former Episcopal Church to be replaced by an architectural wonder. The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia is such an example. Its creation uses as a model Hagia Sophia for a Byzantine revival.

In the West before the Schism, two terms were used to designate a Church of a Bishop: Cathedral Church and Bishop's Church. Following from this then there were Metropolitan Church or Cathedral and Patriarchal Church or Cathedral. They were the Church of the Hierarch or Cathedral (seat of the Hierarch). Other church buildings received other names to show their dignity, such as the *primatial* Church (In the US, the Cathedral of Baltimore since it is they see or seat of the first Latin Bishop of the United States, John Carroll).

*Mother* Church is a title given to a Church that was continually divided into more and more parishes. St. Nicholas is a mother Church as well. The American-born children of some of the original St. Nicholas parishioners began to settle in northwest Chicago. In 1956, St. Joseph's parish was organized on Cumberland Ave. in northwest Chicago. A

few years later, a group of newly arrived immigrants (third wavers) settled in the northwestern Chicago suburb of Palatine, Illinois. These two parishes are the children of St. Nicholas.

A *Basilica* gets its name from official public buildings in the Roman Empire, which had colonnades as a prominent feature. Through the gift of Constantine of Basilicas for Christians' use, the term designated an influential Christian Church. In Catholic practice, the Roman Pontiff can establish Churches as Major or Minor Basilicas; for example, Pope St John Paul II named the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (which hosts a Byzantine Chapel) a minor basilica on October 12, 1990. Technically, when the Pope visits an area, he is supposed to celebrate in a Basilica.

Believe it or not, there is a ranking of Churches system. A Cathedral or a co-cathedral rank above every other church in the diocese, even if it is a papally established minor basilica. A *Co-Cathedral* is where a Bishop has two churches that are functioning as his Church. Once again, Baltimore has two, the Cathedral of Mary our Queen and the Basilica of the Assumption. Sometimes the reason is that the diocese may have outgrown its original Cathedral and needed a larger space, but still required their original Cathedral. Another example of two is the Melkite Church in the US, which has one Cathedral in Boston, MA (Rosindale) and the other in North Hollywood, CA. Sometimes, a Cathedral can become a *Former* Cathedral, such as the Cathedral of St. Mary (Ruthenian) Van Nuys, CA, because the Eparchy moved to Phoenix. As in this case, we can see the transfer of a Cathedral. Transference can happen when a bishop changes residence within his Eparchy or when a new Cathedral is built in the same city, such as the Latins in Los Angeles.

While the term, Cathedral was not as commonly used in the East. Churches were designated as Cathedrals before the Schism, and some speculate even before the conversion of Ukraine. The earliest Ukrainian Church to be designated as a Cathedral was the Church of the Tithes, a church established and funded by Volodymyr the Great, who gave a tithe of his income for its construction and maintenance, hence the name. Buried or reburied in the Church were his grandmother, Princess Olga, Volodymyr, and his wife, Anna.

As we look at the erection of St. Nicholas' Eparchy, it is essential to see that the center of the Eparchy is the Bishop presiding at the Cathedral. The Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and the heart of the Eparchy. This is why all faithful of the Eparchy should support the Campaign to restore OUR Cathedral.