

## Korean Catholics in North America: Celebrating 50 Years!

By Jihoon Kang

On May 12, 2016, the Korean Catholic community of North America celebrated the 50th jubilee anniversary at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, NJ. About 2,500 community members including priests, deacons, monks, nuns, and the laity from various parts of the US, Canada, and South Korea attended this special Mass concelebrated by the Most Reverend John Baptist Hee Jong Moon (President of Committee for the Pastoral Care of Mission Abroad) with members of the Korean American Priests Association (KAPA).



Since it was first founded in San Francisco, CA on April 27, 1966 when St. Michael Korean Catholic Church was established, the Korean American Catholic community has grown rapidly. Fr. Augustine Baek who organized the entire celebration said, “Our jubilee celebration of Korean American Catholics is the result of sacrifice and effort from our precursory priests and apostles, and this is a blessing from God. I sincerely thank many of our members from various fields that strove for this celebration. I pray to God that we may be one.”

Most of the Korean American churches’ faithful

organizations helped achieve such success by contributing their positivity and enthusiasm. Prior to the Mass, four faithful organizations, Legion of Mary, Cursillo, Charismatic Movement and Marriage Encounter, were honorably mentioned and representatives from each organization offered flags and gifts.



*Poster created by Jihoon Kang*

The poster, particularly designed for the jubilee, is composed with dandelions on two separate sets of landscapes. Dandelion seeds blown from the left side landscape with famous landmarks of Korea, represent the priests moving to North America, shown on the right side landscape of the poster. The flowers in bloom on the North American soil represent Korean American Catholic churches in bloom, that all share the same mission: to love and reach out to the neglected. Once again, this mission was reminded to all during the celebration.