

Ordination joins two dioceses



2,600 Catholics get seat to watch Arkansas history

By Malea Hargett
EDITOR

The Mississippi River was no longer a barrier as the dioceses in Little Rock and Memphis rejoiced Monday, March 6 in the ordination of Bishop J. Peter Sartain.

Archbishop Eusebius Beltran of Oklahoma City ordained Bishop Sartain the sixth bishop of Little Rock, asking the 2,600 Catholics in attendance at Robinson Auditorium to "respect him as an apostle of Christ."

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page 7-11**

"Pray with him and pray for him," the archbishop said.

Bishop Sartain responded in his address at the conclusion of the three-hour

Mass, saying, "My prayer has been that I will give myself generously, wholeheartedly and without reserve each day to our Heavenly Father, in imitation of Jesus Christ the Priest, strengthened by the grace of the Holy Spirit poured out today in the sacrament of holy orders."

The ordination Mass was a melding of the two neighboring dioceses. Bishop Sartain chose two close friends,

Bob Ocken

Bishop J. Peter Sartain blesses the congregation following his ordination at Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock.

See **Ordination** page 9