

Vatican flag flies in Dalton

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By Charles Oliver
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With hands over their hearts, about 50 people watched the flags of the United States and the Vatican erected at Dalton's St. Joseph's Catholic Church Saturday.

"Those two flags represent probably the two most important things besides our families. Our country, which is probably the greatest country in the world, and our faith," said church member Mark Fidler. "Those flags are symbols, and when you look at them, think about what those symbols really mean."

Fidler explained that the Vatican's flag shows the Vatican City coat of arms, which consists of the papal tiara and gold and silver keys representing the keys to heaven. The Bible says that Jesus gave those keys to St. Peter, who is regarded as the church's first pope.

"It's probably the first time the Vatican flag has flown in Whitfield County or North Georgia," said Fidler.

The Knights of Columbus, a fraternal service organization, and the St. Joseph's Fest Committee raised money for the flags.

"The Knights of Columbus are dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We are here for the church," said Larry Cooper, one of about a dozen four-degree Knights from across Northwest Georgia who provided an honor guard for the ceremony.

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