



# THE *Magnificat*

A publication of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe

Winter 2021

## Inside

- 02 *Basilica's New Rector*
- 03 *Virtual Tour*
- 04 *COVID Pandemic and the Basilica*
- 04 *Lent and Holy Week*
- 05 *Portraits of Mary*
- 06 *Remembering Msgr. Harte*
- 08 *Mary's Dwelling*
- 08 *Prayer to Mary*
- 09 *Rosary Garden Bricks*
- 10 *Leaving a Legacy*
- 11 *Year of St. Joseph*



*How lovely is your  
dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts.*

PSALM 84

**THE BASILICA'S 4TH RECTOR**  
*Installed August 15, 2020*





## VISIT THE BASILICA FROM HOME

While we have missed welcoming thousands of tourists to the sacred grounds of the Basilica each week, we worked diligently to provide access to Mary, Queen of the Universe to pilgrims as a virtual basilica. People from all over the world are able to join together for Sunday and Holy Day Masses and can take a virtual tour of the property and sacred space via our new website and social media channels. We have created beautiful videos about the sacred art you will find in the sanctuary and on these sacred grounds.

Learn more about the history behind the Magnificat Windows, Bronze and Marble Statues, Narthex, Confessionals and Tabernacle at: [maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/virtualtour](http://maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/virtualtour).

## BASILICA WELCOMES 4TH RECTOR



The Basilica welcomed our 4th Rector, Very Reverend Robert E. Webster. Father Bob Webster was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1986, in St. James Cathedral, Orlando, by Bishop Thomas Grady.

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Saint Paul Church in Daytona Beach. In 1989 he became the priest secretary and Master of Ceremonies to Bishop Grady and assisted at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Winter Park. Upon Bishop Norbert Dorsey's appointment as Bishop of Orlando, Father Bob continued as priest secretary and Master of Ceremonies to the Bishop. He was also appointed as the Secretary for Worship and the Director of Liturgy for the Diocese of Orlando.

Having served as diocesan Director of Liturgy for

23 years under four bishops, Father Bob oversaw many liturgical changes, including implementing the revised Roman Missal in 2011.

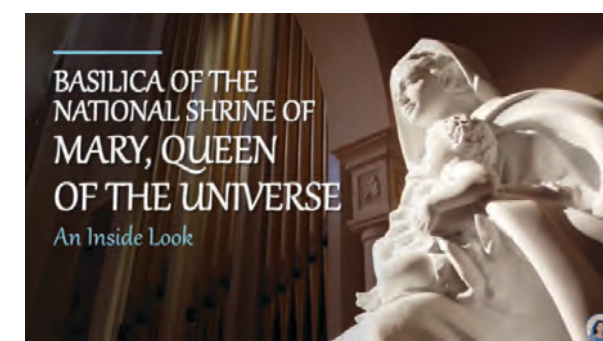
In 1994, while continuing with his diocesan roles, he was appointed pastor of the Basilica of Saint Paul in Daytona Beach, one of the oldest parishes and churches in Florida. He oversaw the renovation and restoration of Saint Paul's, which culminated in its dedication on January 25, 1996. In 2006, Saint Paul was designated a minor Basilica making Fr. Bob its Proto-Rector.

Following a sabbatical in Rome, he returned full time to the diocese as Director of Liturgy until he was appointed pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish Clermont in 2008.

Fr. Bob has an indelible mark on the Diocese of Orlando with the role he played in establishing the Diocese's two minor basilicas — Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe and the Basilica of St. Paul in Daytona Beach, where he previously served as proto-rector.

"The liturgy should be celebrated with great care and great dignity," explained Father Bob. "When we come together to pray, it should be a vision of the eternal banquet to come. Through my ministry in the Church in Orlando, I hope that I helped people to pray well and better together."

Father Bob looks forward to welcoming back the friends of the Basilica and the many pilgrims to the Central Florida community.







## The COVID Pandemic and the Basilica

On March 19, 2020, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the last public Masses were celebrated in the Diocese of Orlando and throughout much of the United States.

Little did we know that this quarantine would take us through the remaining weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and throughout the entirety of the Easter Season. We returned to public Masses with a Congregation present on the Vigil of Pentecost.

On March 27, 2020, our Holy Father Pope Francis lead an extraordinary Urbi et Orbi -- a most solemn and seldom-used blessing of the City and the World -- in a rain-soaked and empty Saint Peter's Square. His slow walk to the Sagrado of the Basilica is etched in our minds and hearts as he led us in prayer for the healing of the world and an end to the pandemic. Much of the world began a mandatory quarantine long before it occurred in the US.

Here at Mary, Queen of the Universe, much has changed since March 19. The Basilica doors were closed until August 15, the Solemnity of the

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The wonderful pilgrims from all over the world were no longer present due to travel restrictions. The theme parks and hotels were all closed, many of which are still hampered by the virus's continued effects. Slowly, however, in minimal numbers, the faithful are beginning to return!

Due to a lack of income, the staff of the Basilica has been reduced from 25 to 7. This has also meant a reorganization of the Mass and Confession schedules. The Basilica is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am until 5:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am until 7:00pm, and Sunday 7:00am until 2:00pm. Also, the Basilica's professional choir is only able to be with us for special liturgies and music at Mass is led by a cantor. The changes have enabled us to use wisely the few resources which we have.

After making some necessary repairs, the Diocese also relocated the Gift Store to the former Sacristy off the narthex to the Basilica. This move has enabled us to keep safe the Basilica with fewer staff members. The Gift Store is open five days each week, Wednesday through Sunday.

The installation of a new broadcast system has enabled us to live stream the 10:00 am Mass every Sunday morning. We have also live streamed Mass on Holy Days, Solemnities, and Feasts. We were honored to provide live streams of the only Novenas leading up to both the Election and the Inauguration. All of these videos are still available on our Facebook page! Gifts of offertory made online at [mqus.org/donate](http://mqus.org/donate) assist us in continuing our ministry.

We ask your continued prayers and support as the Basilica also recovers from this horrific virus which has claimed the lives of so many throughout the United States and abroad. May the prayers of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, her Spouse, bring healing to the world, our nation, and all those who suffer illness.

**LENT**  
AT THE  
*Basilica*

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17

**10AM**

Liturgy of the Word

**12PM**

Mass

**5PM**

Liturgy of the Word

### HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 1

**6PM**

Mass of the  
Lord's Supper

### GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 2

**12PM**

Stations of the Cross

**3PM**

Good Friday Service

## PORTRAITS OF MARY

Original works of art celebrating the many faces of Mary as she appears to the faithful in distant villages and great cities. The Images of Mary project is an ambitious tribute in furthering our shared reverence for the Mother of God, giving a voice to all of the pilgrims who visit Mary's Shrine.

The "Portraits of Mary" series will be composed of 54 bronze plaques, each measuring 17" x 23". The artists begin the creative process with a detailed sketch of your Marian vision, and then cast the plaque upon your approval of the final image.



Our Lady of the Holy Family



Our Lady of Perpetual Help



Our Lady of The Way



The interior facing of the entrance doors contain bronze panels where donor family names are honored and perpetuated. These Portals of Faith are an evolving work of art with a tapestry of names, pictorial symbols of the Catholic Faith and Marian images.

Donors may also elect to have a second casting of the plaque signed by the artist to display in their own home.

The Bronze Portals of Faith is a unique giving opportunity to support Sacred Art at Mary's Shrine, and create a legacy for each patron's family that will be enjoyed for generations to come. 15 panels of the 54 panel project are still available.

For additional information on how you can become a part of the Shrine's legacy through the Portals of Faith sacred art or other personal tributes, contact our Development Coordinator Gessie at (407) 239-6600 or [glopez@mqus.org](mailto:glopez@mqus.org).





## Remembering MONSIGNOR F. JOSEPH HARTE

Hundreds of faithful from all over the Diocese of Orlando came to pay homage to Monsignor Fachtna Joseph Harte, June 27, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe for 25 years. Msgr. Harte died May 30 after a long illness.

Father Robert Kurber, on monsignor's 90th birthday in February 2020, wrote, "I marvel at what God has accomplished through you—the conception, the development and fulfillment of a totally new and exciting ministry. Only God knows how many people have been served and touched by your vision – thousands every week."

Monsignor Harte arrived in the Diocese of Orlando in 1970. Over the years, he served as parochial vicar of Blessed Trinity Parish, Orlando, Epiphany Parish, Port Orange and St. Joseph Parish, Winter Haven. He also taught at Bishop Moore Catholic High School and Father Lopez Catholic High School. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Orlando on June 6, 1973.

After becoming pastor of Holy Family Parish in Orlando in 1975, the parish became the center for

a tourism ministry, leading to his appointment as Director of Ministry to Tourists in 1980. Widower J. Bruce Riley, recalled the early days of Msgr. Harte's ministry. Riley wrote to then Father Harte (1979), 18 years after Riley's original visit to the area, the year after his wife died – leaving him with two young daughters, ages 8 and 9. Seeking to brighten his children's life with a positive memory, Riley took his children to Disney World and stayed at the Polynesian Hotel. The family participated in Mass, in the small "Hawaiian Luau chapel" in the pavilion of the hotel, where Monsignor Harte ministered to tourists.

Riley wrote, "I remember being impressed that you inquired as to what parts of the country and what parts of the world people travelled from, that they all worshipped our Lord in a common way. Our faith had brought us together in that make-shift chapel." He noted how he and his daughters were still in shock at the loss of a beloved wife and mother. "I wanted them to know that God was watching over us and things were going to be okay," Riley wrote. Monsignor Harte left such an impression that the family

contributed to the building and growth of the shrine from their home in Massachusetts, in gratitude for his witness of love and kindness. Riley added, "Please know that you had an influence in strengthening my faith many years ago."

It was with that fondness that friend, fellow seminarian and priest, Father John McMullan remembered the monsignor. From their days as Trappist monks, when they joined the Bag Pipe Band in the hopes of getting extra food, to the many miracles they believed were granted by Our Lady to those who came to the Shrine, the two shared a lifetime of memories over their 65 year friendship.

Father McMullan chuckled as he recounted when Harte told mutual friend, Father Tom Dooley, his idea of building a large church to serve tourists, shortly after his appointment to the tourist ministry. Father Dooley told the monsignor, "Joe Harte, you are absolutely crazy!" Father McMullan continued, "Well, as we look around this magnificent church built to honor God's Mother and her Divine Son, and knowing the story of thousands of visitors

from all around the world who came here to worship God, and receive Holy Communion, and the thousands of people who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation here, I would say that Joe Harte was not so crazy after all."

Under the direction of Bishop Thomas Grady, Monsignor Harte established a church in the theme park area, which became the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. Eventually the diocesan shrine achieved the designations of National Shrine and then Minor Basilica. Monsignor Harte was appointed its first rector in 1992, until his retirement in 2007.

That same year, Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Celestino Migliore visited with Monsignor Harte and later wrote, "I must say I was very much impressed and edified by your abiding pastoral zeal, and the ambiance of spirituality that permeates the Shrine." He later addressed benefactors of the Shrine at an event thanking them for their support. He told them, "In spite of the passage of time, however, one thing that – I'm delighted to say – has not changed is Msgr.



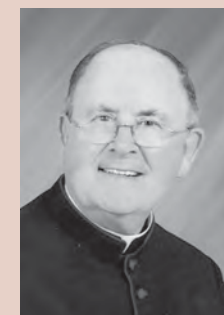
Bishop Noonan and Diocesan Priests celebrate the Funeral Mass for Msgr. Harte June 27, 2020.

Harte's serene, fatherly regard for his people, his indefatigable and farsighted zeal..."

True to those words, Father McMullan noted how Monsignor Harte "tripled and even quadrupled his prayer life" toward the end of his life. The two celebrated Mass the evening before his passing. Father McMullan shared that a few years ago, Monsignor Harte simply asked him to tell everyone at his funeral, "I love God. I love the Blessed Mother and I love all the people I have known. That's ALL!"

Speaking about his Uncle Fachtna, nephew James Fitzgerald shared fond memories and closed with his uncle's familiar prayer after Mass. "May the best day of your past, be the worst day of your future. Until we meet again, may God keep you all in the palm of His hand, and may His Blessed Mother watch over you."

*By Glenda Meekins of the Florida Catholic*



The **Monsignor Harte Memorial Care of the Basilica Endowment** is being established in his memory to ensure that this center of worship is stewarded and maintained for years to come. Donations to build the Monsignor Harte Memorial Care of the Basilica Endowment can be made at:

[www.cfocf.org/monsignorharte](http://www.cfocf.org/monsignorharte)

If you would like to make a gift via check, stock, IRA or Donor Advised Fund, please contact:

Madelyn Weed  
(407) 246-7188.



## MARY'S DWELLING



The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe is a house of pilgrimage and prayer to inspire in the faithful an ever-deeper devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Mary's Dwelling Gift Store, now located directly off the Narthex, is filled with religious articles that support pilgrims on their journey of deepening faith and offering uplifting, inspirational gifts to share with others. Additionally, Mary's Dwelling will provide visitor services with site maps, event information, and membership sales.

Proceeds support the ministries of the Basilica. We look forward to serving pilgrims around the world virtually when our online store opens this Spring.

## Mass at the BASILICA

We miss our visitors who aren't able to travel and can't be with us to celebrate Mass. Did you know you can still join us from the safety of your home?

Sunday Mass is available via livestream every Sunday at 10:00 AM online and on our facebook page. Visit [maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/live-stream](https://maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/live-stream) or [facebook.com/maryqueenshrine](https://facebook.com/maryqueenshrine) to join us.

*The Basilica operates on the support of its visitors as it is not a parish but a ministry to pilgrims to the Orlando area. To offer your support, use the QR code to the right or visit: <https://maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/donate/>*



Let Mary be our guide this Lent.

Lent is a perfect time to renew our devotion to Mary as our spiritual mother who cares for us in the midst of challenges and difficulties. One of the oldest known prayers to Mary is called the Sub Tuum Praesidium ("Under Thy Protection"), which goes back to the third or fourth century.

One translation of it reads:

*We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God;  
Despise not our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen*

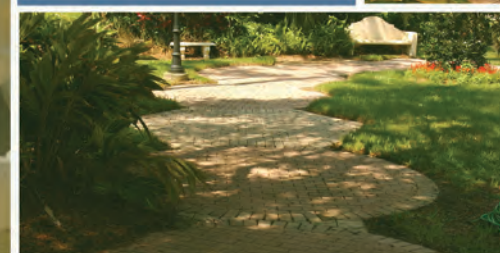
## A Prayer to

# Mary



## Rosary Garden Bricks

Order now for Easter!



The paving stones in the Basilica Rosary Garden offer the faithful the opportunity to honor the name of a loved one.

The garden's walkway of multi-hued bricks and concrete paving stones forms the cross, centerpiece and beads of a rosary, and leads visitors through a landscape rich in greenery, stately oaks and tall pines, pools of gathered water, colorful flower beds and comfortably crafted stone benches.

In addition to the engraved brick that will be placed in one of the beads of this outdoor walking Rosary, a personalized certificate in a special folder frame will also be sent to the person of your choosing.

Visit [maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/rosarygardenbrick](https://maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/rosarygardenbrick) or call (407) 239-6600.

## THE Magnificat



issued periodically for  
the friends and benefactors of

**The Basilica of the National Shrine of  
Mary, Queen of the Universe**  
8300 Vineland Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32821  
(407) 239-6600 | [mqus.org](https://mqus.org)



# LEAVING A Legacy

When Brent and Lisa Centlivre began their estate planning, they knew that they would want to leave a legacy gift in their will to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, to honor this sacred space that has meant so much to their family.

For Brent, the journey to that decision started more than a quarter-century ago. As he was embarking on his career with Disney, where he recently celebrated his 25th anniversary, he began to attend Mass at the Shrine.

Brent's parents are devout Catholics, and he has fond memories of the Shrine when his parents would come to visit him when he moved to Orlando, and they would attend Mass together. It holds such pleasant memories for him. He describes it almost as a yardstick measuring the time in his journey of life. He warmly remembers each January his Dad asking him to mail him a Basilica pocket calendar so he could easily remember all the holy days.

"The Basilica is a special place for me. As I walk in, it reminds me of all the breathtaking Cathedrals up north. Plus, as someone in the travel industry, I am grateful there is such a magnificent place for tourists to celebrate Mass on their vacation." Brent reflected further as he considered its significance to the area. "And the Shrine has been such an important part of my life's journey. I first attended Mass there when I was a young, single man and continued to attend with my wife when I got married, and now enjoy Mass there with my two daughters. Christmas Mass there is beautiful, especially this year during the pandemic because of the large size of the space and the ability to socially distance."

Brent and Lisa decided to commemorate their marriage with a contribution to the Basilica. A bronze plate on the door to

the Basilica recognizes their commitment to the Shrine and each other.

"Growing up, my family attended Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Indiana. My great-grandfather donated a stained-glass window with his name on it. I remember seeing it and thinking, 'Wow, C. L. Centlivre has his name on a window!' When I was young, I always wondered if it would ever be possible to see my name on a window or somewhere at a church that I attend. Now, when we walk into the Basilica and see our plate on the door, it holds such significance for us."

As they were doing their estate planning, they knew they wanted to leave a charitable contribution in their will to Mary, Queen of the Universe.

"If there is an opportunity to help an institution that has helped me so much with my development from a spiritual perspective from a young man to a husband, to a father, I want to make sure that my family does what we can so that others can be helped in the same way," Brent said.

*I am grateful  
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celebrate  
Mass on their  
vacation.*

Brent Centlivre

Once Brent and Lisa made their decision, they felt it was important to notify the Basilica and The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida to let them know the special place the Basilica holds in their heart. This notification also qualifies them as members of the Vivos Christi Legacy Gift Society and ensures the intentions for their future gift would be fulfilled. They hope their story inspires others who have been touched by the sacred beauty of the Basilica to consider leaving a legacy of their own so this ministry in Orlando can continue to touch the lives of visitors for years to come.



## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

If you choose to leave a legacy gift for the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe in your estate plans, below is a sample of bequest language you can include:

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath to John Noonan, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Orlando Florida, a corporation sole, and to his successors and assigns, the following: (\$\_\_\_\_\_, description of property or \_\_\_% of my estate/remainder of my estate) for the benefit of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe to use where most needed."

Our tax ID number is 59-2328306.

Anyone can leave a legacy gift with a stipend for Mass intentions, a donation for care of this sacred space or funds to establish a named endowment to continue the mission of the Basilica for generations.

Regardless of the size of the gift, legacy donors are recognized during your lifetime with membership in the Vivos Christi Society. To notify us of your plans or if you would like additional information on how you can leave a legacy with an Endowment, Charitable Gift Annuity or other giving vehicle, please contact Madelyn Weed at mweed@cfcf.org or (407) 246-7188.

## YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH



On December 8, 2020, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Holy Father Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. He proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph," which will be observed until December 8, 2021.

In his Apostolic Letter With a Father's Heart, Pope Francis recalled Saint Joseph's unique role in salvation history, calling him a beloved, tender, obedient father who welcomed the will of God. "As a father," the Holy Father continued, "Joseph was creatively creative, valued the dignity and joy of work, and centered his life on Mary and Jesus."

The beautiful shrine to Saint Joseph within our Basilica so creatively illustrates the wonderful and loving relationship of Joseph and Jesus. We hope that all will have the ability to pray at this tender shrine during this year of Saint Joseph!

On Friday, March 19, 2021 at Noon, we will have a Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This Mass will also be live streamed for those who are not able to be physically present.

Pope Francis composed this prayer for our use:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

We invite you to partner with us during this Year of St. Joseph. Your special offering today allows us to continue our mission to serve the travelers who come from near and far in search of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Your special intentions will be offered up at the Solemn Celebration of the Eucharist on March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please consider sending in your donation and special intentions by filling out and returning the enclosed envelope or online at [www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/stjoseph](http://www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org/stjoseph). Your offering of any size is greatly appreciated.



**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF  
MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE**

8300 Vineland Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32821-6801

*The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe  
is a house of pilgrimage and prayer to inspire in the faithful  
an ever-deeper devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God and Mother of the Church.*

**BASILICA HOURS**

Monday - Friday ..... 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday ..... 10:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 7:00 am - 2:00 pm

**RECONCILIATION**

Monday - Friday ..... 10:00 am - 11:30 am  
..... 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday ..... 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**MARY'S DWELLING (GIFT STORE)**

Monday - Tuesday ..... Closed  
Wednesday - Friday ..... 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Saturday ..... 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

**ADORATION**

Monday - Saturday ..... 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**DAILY MASS**

Monday - Friday ..... 12:00 pm

**SUNDAY MASS**

Saturday (anticipatory) ..... 6:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 8:00 am  
..... \*10:00 am  
..... 12:00 pm

*\*live-streamed via webpage and Facebook*

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday ..... 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

**MQUS.ORG**