



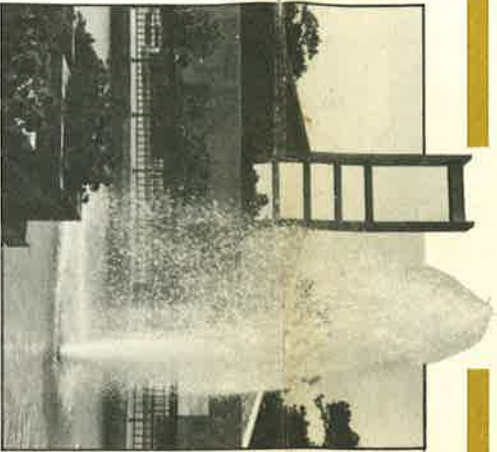
the magnificent

VOL. 3 NO. 1

SPRING 1988

A PUBLICATION OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE



UPDATE

Outdoor Vigil Highlights Second Annual Mother's Day Novena at Mary's Shrine

Gathering is a time of joy and remembrance for Shrine family

ORLANDO, FL. — Darkness had not yet begun to fall as the worshippers streamed across the bridge leading to Mary's Shrine. These visitors had come to share in a special, Sunday evening Mother's Day Mass and Rosary Vigil. And they had come in considerably large numbers.

Inside the temporary church, the Shrine's Director, Father F. Joseph Harte, celebrated Mass with five priests—including a missionary visiting from Peru. Indeed, it was a Mass that drew the faithful together from far and near—as prayers were offered not only for those in attendance but also for members of the Shrine family and their loved ones, living and deceased, from across the country and throughout the Americas.

Mothers of Shrine family members—and others whose lives have been a reflection of Mary's

own love, devotion and virtue—were the special focus of the Shrine's entire nine days of Masses and prayers. And when Father Harte moved to speak to the gathering of men, women and children, his topic for the evening was "Mary and Motherhood."

He began with a reminder that Mother's Day, appropriately enough,



comes in May, the Month of Mary; and he offered that the United States—which was the first country in the world to celebrate Mother's Day—is also the only country that has Mary as its chief patroness!

Continuing, Fr. Harte spoke of Mary's life as a "gospel of love"—a life devoted to others, and the perfect example for our own lives. God had called her, and she accepted His will without question or qualification. Similarly, she went dutifully to Bethlehem with Joseph—though, being "great with child," she could have remained comfortably at home in Nazareth. And so, too, she would leave all she had known and loved in Galilee, fleeing with Joseph to Egypt for the safety of their infant son. Through all the years of her life, Fr. Harte went on to say—in the joy of her son's ministry and through the sorrow of his death upon the cross—Mary continued to be the most blessed of all mothers.

Turning to the many mothers and fathers in the audience, Fr.

continued on page two



A Message from the Director

June 7, 1988

Dear Shrine Family Member:

Years ago in the Basilica, at Lourdes, I asked our Blessed Mother to guide my life's work—and I promised to return one day and give thanks to her for continuing to light the path on my journey of faith.

It has taken twelve years. But this April I was at last able to keep my promise—returning to that holy place which lies cradled, seemingly enshrined, by the towering mountain spires of the Pyrenees.

A late winter chill greeted my arrival. And yet, there is a welcoming presence about Lourdes that seems to warm the soul—if not the air.

It is, I believe, the gentle presence of Our Lady, still there, watching over her children—more than 150 years after she first appeared in the Grotto!

Indeed, throughout my time at Lourdes, I was filled with a sense of God's own majesty. To be there is to appreciate that life's true value is in knowing and loving Him—He, who has shared His Mother with us so she might intercede for us all the days of our lives.

And wherever I went at Lourdes, the special petitions of Shrine members like yourself were with me: at the Altar upon which I offered Mass . . . in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel . . . in the Eucharistic procession at the Candlelight Rosary . . . and also in the Grotto, where I asked Our Lady's blessing upon you and our work together.

Even today, five weeks after my return, I continue to reverence my experience at Lourdes. And my memory is still crowded with visions of those who worshipped with me at Mass, in the processions and in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

More than ever I am determined that our visitors here at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine should come away filled with this same kind of contentment—this inner peace that recognizes God's place in our lives, and that we live for Him only. And here, too, I want for our visitors to know that the surest way of reaching this goal is through the intercession of our Blessed Lady.

That is why, perhaps more than ever, I appreciate how very much you continue to mean to this holy work—and to all of us whom you have honored with your love and entrusted with your prayerful support.

Gratefully in Jesus and Mary,

F. J. *Joseph Harte*

Father F. Joseph Harte
Director

UPDATE
continued from page one

Harte said that, as parents, they were called upon to raise their children as Mary had raised her son: with love, patience and understanding. And then addressing the children themselves, he told them: "Love your parents, for they have given you life . . . Listen to them. Obey them. And pray to Mary, Queen Mother of us all. For her love will lead you to Jesus."

Following the Mass, the children led a procession of the faithful from the church to the Mother & Child Outdoor Chapel. Together they prayed the Rosary and sang hymns led by the Holy Family Parish Choir and Shrine Singers. As part of the celebration, Mary was crowned with a wreath of flowers by one of the children. And Sister Magdalen, Coordinator of Pilgrimages at the Shrine, recited a Prayer for Mothers.

It was, as one Shrine visitor offered at evening's end, "a grand night for mothers." Yet, equally important, it was a grand night for Mary's Shrine—still rising, brick-by-brick, with each passing week. In fact, Monday morning saw the masons and bricklayers at work once again at the Outdoor Chapel, preparing the way for the Shrine's completion . . . and for a generation of the faithful yet to come.



The
magnificat

IS ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE
FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE
8300 VINELAND AVENUE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32821
(407) 239-6600



Among those gathered at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine that December evening, not many knew what to expect. The notice had read simply that Sister Briège McKenna and Father Kevin Scallon, C.M. were to conduct a Eucharistic Healing Service at the Shrine, the evening of December 8, 1987—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

As they waited, some in the audience may have had thoughts of the old, revival tent meetings. But as Sister Briège McKenna rose to the lectern, such visions were swept away.

Speaking in a soft voice, Sr. Briège told how her ministry had been born of her own experience of Jesus Christ. Seventeen years earlier she had come—crippled by arthritis, and with a “*great dryness in her spiritual life*”—to a religious retreat here in Orlando. She had come, not hoping to be cured of her physical suffering, but praying that Jesus would enter her life more fully.

A Ministry of Healing: The Miracle of Faith

In her book, *Miracles Do Happen*, Sr. Briège describes how she had prayed—“*Jesus, please help me*”—and how she then felt a hand touch her head and a power surge through her body. Opening her eyes, she saw no one. But her crippling arthritis was gone, miraculously never to return! And in its place came for Sr. Briège a new vision of the church. It was, she says, “*as if I was seeing the Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation through new glasses.*”

In the years that followed, reluctantly at first but spurred by the reawakening of Jesus in her life, Briège McKenna has brought her special insight on prayer and the healing power of the Eucharist to audiences around the world.

In fact, the healing power of the Eucharist is one of Sr. Briège’s main teachings. As she explains, it is right that we come to Jesus, boldly, with an expectant faith—not merely to touch Him, but to truly receive Him through the Eucharist.

Before her own “baptism of the Spirit” on the day she was healed, Sr. Briège said she had placed her

emphasis on *how* she would receive Jesus; what *she* was going to do. In time, however, she realized that the important aspect of the Eucharist was not what she did, but what Jesus did—and what she allowed Him to do in her. We must let the loving Jesus heal us and transform us through His body and blood, she adds, and reminds us that believing is “*a great challenge to us as Catholics.*”

Indeed, she concludes: “*What counts is not understanding in the head, but believing in the heart.*” And the hearts of those fortunate enough to be at Mary’s Shrine to hear Sr. Briège that December evening are richer for the experience.

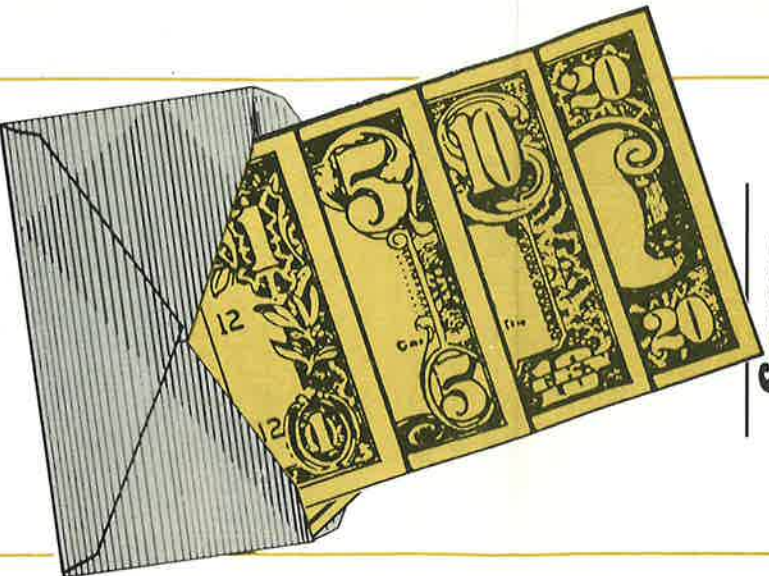


Sr. Briège McKenna, O.S.C.

A Signpost to Jesus

Guidelines for

Charitable Giving



The highly-publicized scandals which rocked several television ministries have cast a shadow across all of religious fund-raising—and shaken public confidence in most all efforts that seek donations for religious causes.

To help members of our Shrine family continue to make prudent choices in their charitable giving, we want to share with you these principles, guidelines and suggestions which have been developed by the leadership of the American Catholic Church.

• On Stewardship

Christian stewardship is the practical realization that everything we have is a gift from God. Stewardship expresses itself as an integral force in Christian life by motivating us to share our goods with others. We are absolute owners of nothing; rather, we are stewards of all we receive and we must use such resources responsibly, in our lifelong work of building up the kingdom of God.

• On Asking for Support

Fund raising appeals should be marked by a dignity of nature, a clarity of language, and a validity

of purpose in harmony with the highest Christian principles, stressing the Love of God as the motivation for giving.

In the event items of piety—religious cards or other promotional pieces are incorporated in any appeal—they shall be in good taste, presented as gifts without obligation or constraint of payment.

Enrollments in Mass Associations and Purgatorial Societies, and the use of Spiritual Bouquet cards are in keeping with Catholic tradition. However, numerical emphasis on Masses and other spiritual benefits is to be avoided.

In addition, should you have any questions about the apostolic work, or even how you can give more effectively, the National Catholic Development Conference recommends that you write directly to the religious group you are interested in. The NCDC further suggests that you consider yourself a partner with, and take a personal interest in, those groups you support. And, finally, the NCDC reminds us that religious almsgiving is an act of faith that reflects not how much we give but the spirit in which we give.

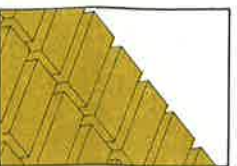
To Be Always Remembered in the Building of this Great Work of Faith

One of the true joys of this — the Campaign for Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine — is the wide range of commemorative gift opportunities the Campaign makes possible. Such gifts afford the faithful the chance to forever link their own family name with this great undertaking — or to honor and perpetuate here the name of a loved one, living or deceased.

Ranging in price from \$50 to more than \$1 million, these commemoratives provide the donor a handsomely framed, individualized certificate of recognition and, in some cases, a beautiful plaque of recognition at the Shrine itself.

If you have not as yet been able to consider a named gift for your family — or should you wish to provide a special remembrance for a loved one — Shrine commemoratives afford a lasting and most appropriate recognition for births, anniversaries and other milestone occasions, as well as enduring memorials for those dear to you who have been called home to God.

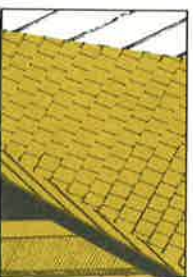
Among the most popular of our named gift opportunities are the following:



\$100 COMMEMORATIVE COURTYARD BRICK

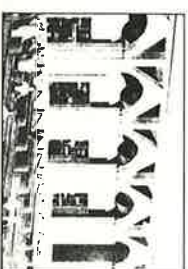
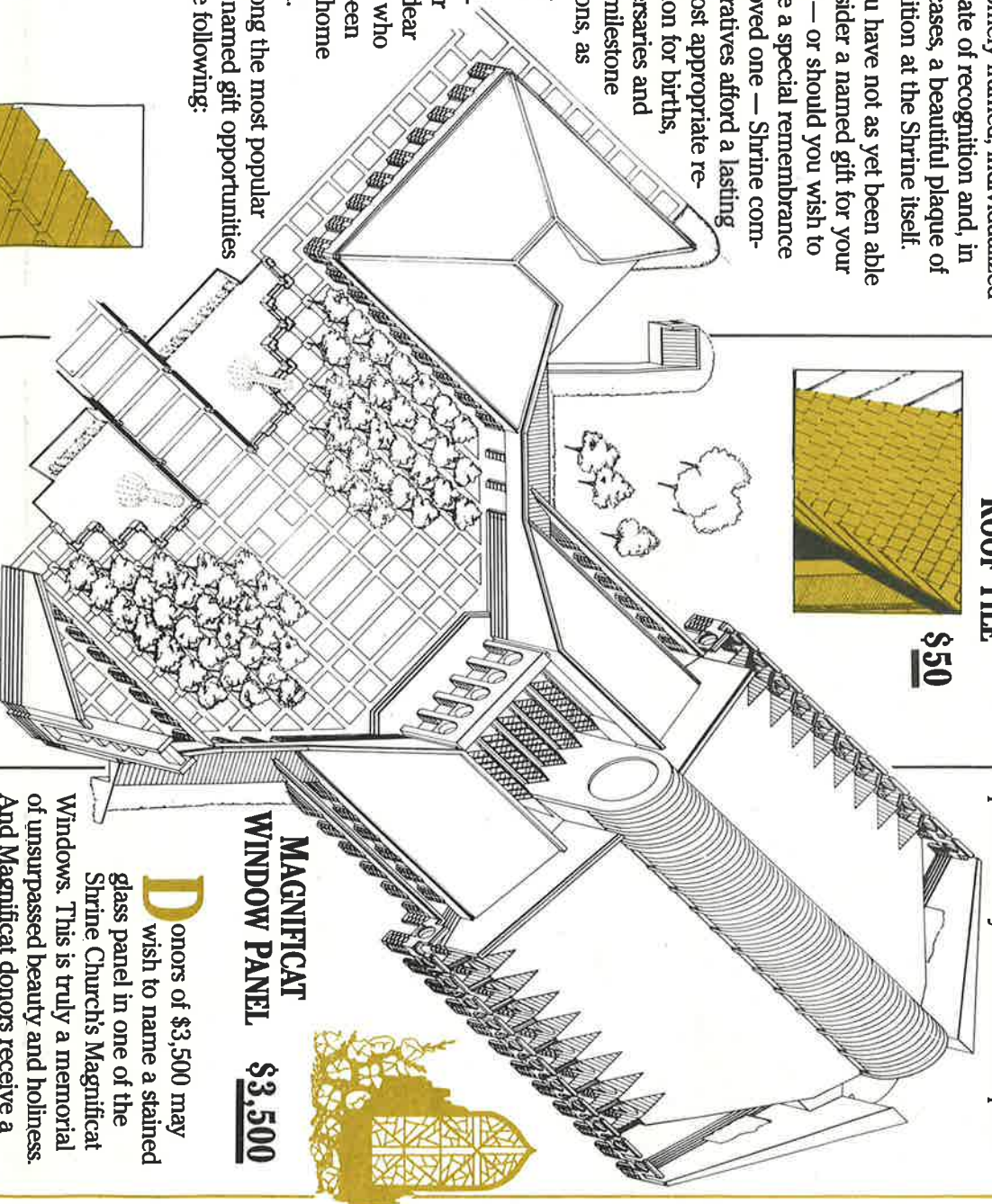
The courtyard connecting the Shrine Church, Evangelization Center and Mother & Child Outdoor Chapel will be brick-paved throughout. And donors of \$100 will receive a special certificate in their name, or in the name of a designated loved one, attesting to their commemorative contribution of a Courtyard Brick.

To provide a roof for Mary's Church — this is the most affordable of the Shrine's commemorative giving opportunities — and one of the most important tasks in the second phase of construction at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine. In addition, Roof Title donors receive a special, framed certificate which attests to their personal role in building the Shrine Church.



COMMEMORATIVE ROOF TILE

\$50



\$750 COMMEMORATIVE PEW SEAT

To be remembered within the Shrine Church is a very special honor. And donors who elect this commemorative will have their name, or the name of a designated loved one, engraved on a plaque permanently installed in the pew.



MAGNIFICAT WINDOW PANEL **\$3,500**

Donors of \$3,500 may wish to name a stained glass panel in one of the Shrine Church's Magnificat Windows. This is truly a memorial of unsurpassed beauty and holiness. And Magnificat donors receive a handsome folder together with their specially inscribed certificate.

\$350 SKYLIGHT WINDOW

A most meaningful commemorative opportunity for members of the Shrine family is the dedication of a Skylight Window—through which light will be carried into the welcoming entryway of Mary's Church.

Perhaps the most beautiful way to honor the special relationship that exists between son and mother, or mother and daughter, is through a named plaque in the Shrine's Mother & Child Outdoor Chapel. Each of these individual marble

\$1,000 MOTHER & CHILD PLAQUE

plaques, engraved with the name of a dear one, will be on permanent display at the Chapel — a testament of lasting familial love.