



the magnificat

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A PUBLICATION OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE



UPDATE

To be made Joyful in this House of Prayer – Easter Draws Upwards of 20,000 for Shrine Masses

Major Florida newspaper headlines Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine as a “theme park for the soul”

ORLANDO – With an April 7th focus on Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, leading Florida news daily, *The Orlando Sentinel*, reported that upwards of 20,000 men, women and children were expected to join in the Easter Masses and hotel outreach services scheduled by Mary’s Shrine.

Calling the Shrine’s unique, ecumenical ministry a “*theme park for the soul*,” *Sentinel* newswriters added that the basilica-style Marian church had already drawn an estimated 1.5 million visitors since its August 1993 dedication – an average of more

than 47,000 people each month!

Yet Easter ‘96 was especially gratifying – the Shrine’s busiest day. Welcoming a pewfilled assembly, with crowds of others standing inside and outside the church, Father F. Joseph Harte began the day’s first Mass of the Resurrection by asking the faithful to genuinely recall Christ Jesus – “*who gave the last drop of His blood for us.*” Reflect



... and make them joyful in my house of prayer,

IS. 56:7

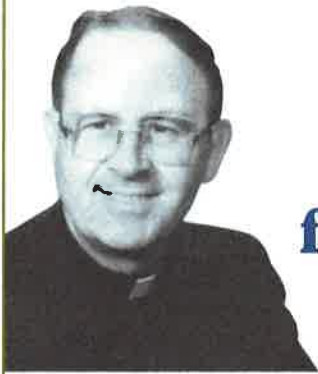
on His goodness, Fr. Harte told the congregation, offer up intentions and invite God’s holy mother to help focus your mind on her Divine Son.

Continuing, Fr. Harte spoke of the Resurrection. Here, he offered, was both the proclamation of Christ’s Divinity and the driving force which was to propel His Disciples as they went out “*to baptize all nations.*”

Then, pointing to the Christ Candle, symbolic of that light which illuminates all the world, Fr. Harte called on the gathered prayerful to be “*luminaries*,” each going forth as a candle into their communities.

Months earlier, the theme of Christ as “*light of the world*” was equally prominent at Mary’s Shrine. A February novena celebrating the

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A Message from the Director

Dear Friend in Christ:

In sharing with you news of Mary's Shrine over the years, I've often used the term "family" to describe this ministry's worldwide network of spiritual friends.

Yet what is it that makes us family?

True, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. In Mary, we share a mother most loving, a gracious advocate and model for our lives. So, too, our spiritual genealogy includes the communion of saints. And, while our front doors might open upon a city street, suburban lawn or a thousand differing landscapes, we each share a "home away from home" whose postmark is Mary's Shrine.

What most binds us, though, is perhaps best expressed in the word "fidelity."

From the Latin "Fides" - ancient Rome's characterization for the spirit of good faith - fidelity speaks to us of loyalty, its observance and obligations.

It is about keeping promises; and, in our work together here, you and I have found common cause of the highest order: the ministry of Christ's Gospel. Not surprising then that our "family" include such luminaries as Rome's Pio Cardinal Laghi, Prefect of the Apostolic Congregation for Education.

Indeed, this issue of *The Magnificat* begins a series of brief profiles on our friends. And, in our selecting the scholar-priest, Fr. John Farren, for the first profile, I know you will gain an even greater sense of joy in your shared kinship with him... and with us.

May the month ahead turn your thoughts to Jesus, His Sacred Heart, and the greatness of His love for all who are gathered in His name.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Father F. Joseph Harte
Director



FRIENDS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE
SHRINE FAMILY
ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN
THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
OF A NOVENA
AND DEDICATED FRIDAY MASSES
HONORING
THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



JUNE 14TH - JUNE 22ND
AND EACH FRIDAY
JUNE 28TH - JULY 26TH
1996

a legacy of faith

By means of a bequest,
naming Mary, Queen of the
Universe Shrine in your will,
you can bequeath to a
new generation a legacy of faith
and gain for yourself
the immeasurable blessing
and deep personal satisfaction
of knowing that your gift
will help, in perpetuity,
to further the work of
Our Lord Jesus Christ.

the
magnificat

IS ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE
FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE

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UPDATE

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feast of the Presentation of the Lord saw Shrine priests offer masses and light individual candles for all those participating in the novena.

The Shrine's Lenten program also drew a great many participants from across the world. Thousands of friends contributed their heartfelt petitions and offerings; and each was remembered throughout the season's forty days of penitential love, sacrifice and charity.

In other news, restoration work on the Murillo-influenced "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin," an important 17th century painting, highlights the Shrine's ambitious program to create an inspirational home for spiritual art within the walls of its still-to-be completed Evangelization Center.

The months ahead will witness further artistic developments within the Shrine church as well. Scheduled for installation are several newly completed works in the series of 14 Magnificat Windows, and progress continues in the design phase for the statue of Mary, Queen of the Universe.



At the same time, Rome's famed Domus Dei, one of the foremost design firms in the field of spiritual art and restoration, has been commissioned to develop the central mosaic for the Shrine's Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel.

Working much as artisans and sculptors did centuries ago, Domus Dei artists will create an indirect mosaic. Attaching thousands of tiles, piece-by-piece, to a specially treated, gummed sheet, each tile front side

down, the artists then set the completed work in place. The protective guide sheet is carefully removed, revealing the fresh colors and surfaces of a mosaic tableau both timeless and inspiring.

More rewarding still, months ahead promise many new visitors to Mary's Shrine – and, with each, a new opportunity to bring the Gospel Message into the lives of faith's children throughout the world.

SHRINE FAMILY PROFILES

Promoting the Quality of Religious Life Worldwide



FATHER JOHN A. FARREN, O.P.

ROME – The world of Father John Farren, O.P., has been far-reaching in both distance and time. Over the past 30 years, Christ's call has carried him to the teeming slums of Peru, then Rome.

He has studied at the Yale Divinity School, worked three years with the New York-based Society for the Propagation of the Faith and, with a doctoral degree in Theology, he has directed the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. In 1993 he was called once more to Rome.

But it was his preaching appeals on behalf of the Dominican overseas missions that first brought Fr. John Farren to Orlando some 15 years ago.

There he met with Fr. Harte's warmth and hospitality: "We drove to a thickly wooded site, then made our way through the mire and underbrush. Pointing to a small stake, resting atop a sand pile, Fr. Harte said 'This is where our church is

going to be.' And I knew he would be successful."

More than just an early believer in the promise of Mary's Shrine, Fr. Farren has become a great friend of the Shrine's ministry. Today, as an official of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, he works to assure the quality of religious life for more than 1.2 million clerics throughout the world. A daunting responsibility, Fr. Farren's task is made even more challenging as the Church reaches out to embrace peoples whose cultural traditions vary widely.

While Vatican II has encouraged new expressions of faith, Fr. Farren explains that this thinking must be in harmony with the Holy See and its teachings. In Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, Fr. Farren sees a gathering place for people of most every culture – yet all sharing the bond that is Christ.

Experiencing the Basilica of San Clemente A Descent Into Yesterday; The Endurance of Faith

ROME – The future, we are told, is built upon foundations laid long ago. And through the years, archeologists have worked hard to unwrap the many treasures of yesterday’s world: the life of communities; the hopes and faith of their peoples.

Yet opening these ‘tombs’ of long buried cultures can bring us not only greater understanding but, sometimes, surprising delights – a thought which itself brings us to a quiet Roman street and the doorways of St. Clement’s Basilica.

Here, within the shadow of history and just a few hundred yards above ancient Rome’s most dramatic monument, the Coliseum, is the church named for Pope St. Clement – third successor to St. Peter – who died circa 100 A.D.

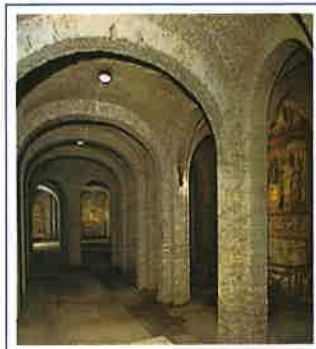
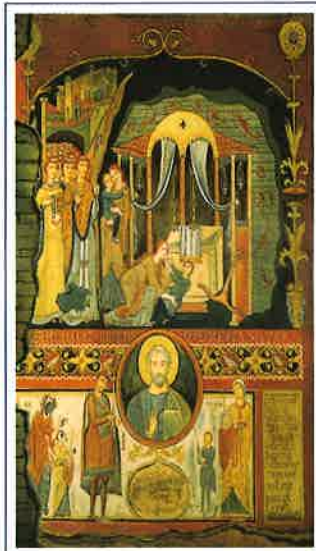
While we know little about the life of St. Clement, he was thought to be a contemporary of Peter and Paul. What remains for us is Pope Clement’s letter calling for repentance among the Corinthians – an epistle giving witness to the Church of Rome’s early, first century authority.

But it was not until Christianity’s acceptance three centuries later, that we learn of a “titulus” – a Roman house church opened by a small group of Christians and dedicated to this first century pope.

Today’s basilica was long thought to be this same titulus, embroidered with marble screens, columns and other remnants of Empire. Excavation work, begun in the mid – 1850’s, however, revealed not only the earlier fourth century church but, still lower, what remained of a gathering place from the time of Pope Clement himself.

This gathering place was among a number of lower-level houses built in the first century. Another of these same small houses brought an even greater astonishment; Here were the remains of a pagan temple that was dedicated to the god Mithras!

In a sense, each of these layers – from the first century pagan temple



THE PRAYER OF ST CLEMENT

O God Almighty,
Father of our Lord,
Jesus Christ,
we pray thee

to be grounded and
settled in thy truth
by the coming down
of the Holy Spirit
into our hearts.

That which we know not,
do thou reveal;

that which is wanting in us,
do thou fill up;
That which we know,
do thou confirm;
and keep us blameless
in thy service,
through the same Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Clement of Rome
(c. 100 A.D.)

and its neighbor, what would have been a secret meeting house for Christians, to the larger, more elaborate structures above – had become a foundation on which the Roman community continued to build its hopes and faith.

Pictured above: (top left) Lower church fresco depicting a miracle in the life of St. Clement; (top right) 12th century basilica apse; (bottom left) Portion of excavated lower church; (bottom right) Temple of Mithras preservation.

To Focus Our Lives on Christ's Sacred Heart – The Source of All Love, The Fountain of All Blessings

“My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with mankind that it can no longer withhold the flames of that burning love; it must let them spread it abroad by means of you, and reveal itself to enrich them with its profound treasures which hold the graces they need to be saved from eternal loss.”

The date, tradition holds, was December 27, 1673; the place, a convent at Paray-le-Monial, France. And the words were those of Jesus, revealing Himself to the young Visitation sister, Margaret Mary Alacoque. From this encounter and her subsequent visions of Christ, St. Margaret Mary would give rise to a new expression of faith: Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

True, this new devotion was slow to spread. Not until 1794 did it gain full approval within the Church. And another century would pass before Pope Leo XIII was to establish, in 1898, the Litany of the Sacred Heart. Yet our own times have witnessed a growing, ever more fervent devotion to the Heart of Christ.

Pope Pius XI declared it to be “the synthesis of all religion.” Pope Pius XII observed it is “*a perfect way*” to express our faith. And Pope John XXIII wrote: “*It is the Heart of Jesus that I look to for the solution to all my troubles.*” Certainly, this is a devotion for our times, and all times.

Indeed, the realization of Christ's self-offering, to us and for us, has roots as far into the past as Calvary... and as near to us as the Blessed Eucharist which awaits us each day. We are reminded by St. Paul that nothing can stand between Christ's love and us. That love is the very source of our convictions. It is the sureness for our strength. It is the kindling for our hopes and the lamp for our journey.

We remember, too, the words of St. Augustine: “*O Lord, thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts shall find no rest until they rest in thee.*”

By focusing on the very image of Christ's Heart, pierced by mankind's fear and ignorance, we come to a far greater understanding of His sacrifice, His call to us, His love for us.



The essence of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is adoring and making reparation to Christ Jesus especially in the most sacred mystery of the Eucharist.

— Pope Paul VI

Such reflections cannot help but encourage us to open ourselves to the suffering of others. We grow in compassion. Our thoughts become more charitable, our actions more fundamentally in harmony with the person of Christ. And we are ever

more grateful for the gifts which each day flow from His Heart into our own.

So it was that Pope John Paul II was moved to exhort the faithful:

“Always keep your eyes on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, King and Center of all hearts.

From Him you will learn the lesson of love, of goodness, of sacrifice, of piety so necessary for every family.

From Him you will obtain strength, serenity, and authentic and profound happiness...

You will draw down His blessings if the image of His Heart – besides being impressed on your mind – is always exposed and honored on the wall of your home.”

We invite friends and members of Mary's Shrine to receive our special holy card, depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is available upon request. And additional copies are yours to share with family and others in your life.

THE TWELVE PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.

I will establish peace in their homes.

I will comfort them in all their afflictions.

I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.

I will bestow abundant blessing upon all their undertakings.

Sinners will find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.

Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.

Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.

I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.

I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.

Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.

I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



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

One of the 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 availability 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.

Described here are some of the Shrine's most popular giving opportunities.



— Commemoratives —

MOTHER & CHILD PLAQUE

\$1,000

Perhaps the most beautiful way to honor the 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 plaques, engraved with the name of a dear one, will be on permanent display at the Chapel — a testament of a lasting familial love.

COMMEMORATIVE PEW SEAT

\$900

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 which will be permanently installed in the pew.

COMMEMORATIVE SANCTUARY STONE

\$400

Those who donate a marble Sanctuary Stone will have helped to lay the foundations for the Shrine Altar — the heart of the Church. On the Altar, Christ is offered to the Father and comes present to His people. These generous contributors are recognized with a handsomely framed Certificate of Recognition.

COMMEMORATIVE HYMNAL

\$250

To dedicate a Shrine Hymnal is to inscribe your name or the name of a loved one, in perpetuity, among the songs of praise and thanksgiving through which God is glorified.

COMMEMORATIVE COURTYARD BRICK

\$100

The courtyard connecting the Shrine Church, Evangelization Center and Mother & Child Outdoor Chapel is 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 contribution of a Courtyard Brick.

ROOF TILE MEMORIAL

\$50

To provide a roof for Mary's Church is the most affordable of the Shrine's named gift opportunities. Roof Tile donors receive a special, framed certificate which attests to their personal role in building this major new center for worship.