



the magnificat

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MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE



UPDATE

Awakening the Soul to a New Year in Christ – Mary's Shrine Church Celebrates Third Anniversary

Ministry of devotion to Mary works to fulfill a promise made long ago to the Mother of God

ORLANDO – As most friends and members of Mary's Shrine know well, the concept of a Central Florida church that would welcome travelers from all across the world began with a dream, then a promise.

The dream was shared by the Most Reverend Thomas Grady, Bishop of Orlando, and his Director of Tourist Ministries, Father F. Joseph Harte. The promise – made by Fr. Harte during a pilgrimage to Lourdes – was to Our Lady herself. There, in the Grotto, Fr. Harte asked the Mother of God's blessing on his

efforts to build a gathering place where millions of men, women and children might come to know better the pillars and promises of Catholicism. His promise: to make this new place a "house of Mary" in which Christ's Gospel would be preached and the greatness of the Lord proclaimed.

Returning from Lourdes, Father Harte found many who shared his



a "house of Mary" in which Christ's Gospel would be preached and the greatness of the Lord proclaimed.

dream. And each year brought new friends, with offerings of faith... volunteers for the ministry... blueprints, then bricks and concrete, tile and glass for the new church. Then, on January 31, 1993, an afternoon made quiet by nature and the absence of ceremony, Mary's new church was to open its doors to the world.

On August 22, 1993 – at the dedication of this new Marian Church – more than 2,000 worshippers heard the present Bishop of Orlando, the Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey, C.P., speak of the church as "the house that faith built." And faith continues to build our house.

Today, rows of stately pews have replaced the hard, folding

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A Message from the Director

Dear Friend in Christ:

In the weeks before His Holiness Pope John Paul II arrived in America last October, newspaper and television reports were describing the Church as a "house divided."

We were told of surveys showing "most" Catholics admired the Pope but too often rejected his teachings. Spokespersons for one cause or another saw His Holiness as being "out of touch."

Then came October. We witnessed the crowds reaching out to him. We felt the love enfolding him. And so many of us were renewed in ways that faith alone can make possible. Images of his pilgrimage offered a sharp contrast to the idea of a people divided. And the millions who heard his Central Park homily on October 7th could not have been unmoved when he said: "Do not be afraid. The power of the Holy Spirit is with you." Then he was gone. And, in his absence, reports of disaffection within the Church began anew.

I was reminded of this oddity just recently, as we were preparing to commemorate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

You see, it was Simeon - the Holy Spirit upon him (Luke 2:26) - who foretold that Christ would be opposed, His message both rejected and contradicted (Luke 2:34). Our Holy Father touched on this very point some years ago when he wrote that Jesus met with great opposition from those who would not open their hearts and minds to Him. "And what proved true about the life of Jesus," His Holiness made clear, "is true about the lives of his followers in all lands and in all times."

Yet, in partaking of God's universal love, we have each accepted the sense of mission that calls for us to reach out - that we might open every heart and mind to Him.

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

F. *Fernando*

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 THE

SHRINE NOVENA

HONORING

THE PRESENTATION OF THE
LORD



JANUARY 31ST - FEBRUARY 8TH
1996

a legacy of faith

Fy 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
8300 VINELAND AVENUE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32821
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Reflections on the Fourth Joyful Mystery Foreshadowng Darkness and the Coming of a New Dawn

“And when the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...”

So begins the narrative telling us of the time — forty days after the birth of Jesus — when Joseph and Mary brought their infant son to the Temple, (Luke 2:22-38). As required by Law, the mother was to be “purified” and her first-born son “redeemed.” But Luke’s account takes us beyond the wish of Joseph and Mary to fulfill a religious obligation to faith; after all, as St. Augustine was to argue later in his “Questions on the Heptateuch,” Mary had no need for cleansing, and her child, no need of redemption.

By taking us into the Temple, Luke allows us to witness the divine and human natures of God’s own Son brought together and consecrated to the Lord.

“Now in Jerusalem there was a

man named Simeon... He was an upright and devout man... It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.”

Indeed, it is Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, who takes the child Jesus into his arms and declares that this is the “anointed one of God” — the salvation not only of Israel but of all the world!

Yet Simeon’s prophecy also brings pain. He tells Mary and Joseph

that their child will be the cause of much upheaval, that he “is destined to be a sign that is rejected,” that Mary herself will experience his rejection as if a “sword” were piercing her soul. Here, laid before us is the whole Messianic journey of Christ from birth to His death upon the cross. And it is here that we learn with utter certainty that Mary will have a major role in this unfolding Messianic drama.

Indeed, it will be through her faith, fidelity and suffering that we will come to understand so much of this child, this “light of the world,” this dawn of our salvation.

The Shrine’s “Prophecy and the Incarnation” Window, with its central figure of the Boy Jesus and His Mother, includes (bottom left panel) Simeon holding the Baby Jesus high above the altar. On the altar is a cage with two turtles doves, symbolic of the offering of the poor.



”

*my eyes have
seen the salvation which
you have prepared for
all nations to see
(Luke 2:30-31)*

“... a light of revelation to the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel” (Luke 2:32).

Turning back toward the last of Advent, we hear sung “O Orient, splendor of eternal light and sun of justice, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness.” And, in something of a response, there is the heavenly light that enveloped the shepherds Christmas night.

We refer to the Epiphany as “the feast of lights” — our commemoration of Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles, in the person of the Magi. And, through the centuries, young and old have watched candles flicker, their heat melting wax into a warm, shining light. This, too, has become symbolic of God’s love: the warming of our hearts toward Him and one another.

During the Presentation Novena, participating Shrine family members will each have a candle lit for their intentions.

Candlemas – Blessing a Symbol of God’s love

February 2nd – the feast of the Presentation of the Lord – is also known in many lands as Candlemas.

In Europe, especially, there is a tradition that calls for candles to be blessed before this feastday mass. Some of the newly-blessed candles are designated for use at mass throughout the year ahead. Others are taken home by parishioners and lit as reminders of the light of Christ that should permeate every family.

As the light by which the Gospels were written, translated and read through much of these last two millennia, candles have come to be seen as representing Christ himself, “light of the world.” So, too, we light candles when we call upon Mary and

the saints to intercede for us.

To the newly-baptized, we give candles as emblems of their new life. Indeed, the candle of baptism is a motif for the Christian life, and the candles of our Easter vigil denote the light of the risen Christ.

As we commemorate this feast of Mary’s Purification and her Son’s Presentation at the Temple, we recall the words of Simeon, who took the child Jesus into his arms, blessed God and hailed the Infant Savior as

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chairs of that first afternoon mass. Magnificent illuminations have brought color to once bare windows, carved depictions of Christ crucified and resurrected now carry upwards the visitor's gaze and help stir the pilgrim heart.

Most gratifying, though, has been the coming and going of peoples from the Americas, Europe and beyond. Arriving in numbers great and small throughout the year, they have taken home their experience of Mary's new shrine. And they have adopted this ministry as their own, joining together in countless ways to help spread the Good News; encourage devotion and enrich the lives and faith of all who come here.

This past August, Shrine family members contributed their own design ideas for what will be the signature artwork within the new church: the statue of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

October brought Pope John Paul II to New York's Central Park where he celebrated a Rosary Sunday Mass



*This is the house
that faith built...*

-Norbert M. Dorsey, C.P.
Bishop of Orlando

— exhorting the more than 125,000 worshippers gathered in a light rain: “Christ wants to go many places in the world, and to enter many hearts,

through you.”

A thousand miles to the south, a gathering of the faithful listened as Fr. Harte echoed the words of His Holiness, telling congregants of their importance to God: “By doing His Will, you are making the Lord present for others.”

Earlier in his Rosary Sunday message, Fr. Harte had spoken of the marvelous, intercessory power that was generated by Shrine family members joined in prayer. Citing two letters received just days before — each from a Shrine visitor who had asked prayers for a loved one afflicted with cancer — Fr. Harte was able to report that both of these cancer sufferers were now well.

November turned the prayers of Shrine family members towards those beloved already called home to God. Indeed, this month of the Holy Souls was filled with prayerful remembrance and the certain knowledge that Mary, the Mother of Mercy, continues to intercede on behalf of our loved ones in Purgatory.

SHRINE COMPLEX

Electronic “Stars in Mary’s Crown” commemorates those shaping character of new Millennium

ORLANDO — Christmas 1995 brought the dedication of “Stars in Mary’s Crown” — the unique electronic archive which honors those who have helped open this Marian Shrine to the peoples of all nations.

Yet this is more than an honor roll inscribed with names of Shrine donors over the years; it is an enduring record of men, women and families who have welcomed the call of His Holiness, John Paul II to “help

*Mary, Queen
of the Universe*

Select the letters on the keypad below to enter your mailing address. Select **DONE** when correct.

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SPACE									

Guest Registry

the Holy Spirit” in shaping the social, moral and spiritual character of the new millennium!

Shrine friends and visitors will find “Stars in Mary’s Crown” within the new Hall of Benefactors. Entering the electronic “Stars” by simply a touch of the computer screen, visitors can trace their own family’s faith-filled generosity in building Mary’s Shrine — yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Computerized programs not only identify donors and their gifts, but even provide locations where such commemoratives as named pew seats, trees and memorial windows can be readily found within the church and its surrounding facilities.

To be a part of this marvelous apostolate here in Orlando is truly to be a “Star” in Mary’s Crown — and a friend to all the faithful!



*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Immanuel.* **Is. 7:14**

With Advent, Shrine volunteers and friends set up a special tableau of the Creche in the Universe Chapel — a wonderfully warm Christmas display that would make all the Shrine's December visitors feel at home.

Looking ahead to the spring of 1996 and beyond, those joined to the

"It is an excellent and fruitful custom of Holy Church that we should sing Mary's hymn (the Magnificat) at the time of evening prayer. By meditating on the Incarnation, our devotion is kindled, and by remembering the example of God's mother, we are encouraged to lead a life of virtue."

— St. Bede the Venerable

SACRED SPACES

To Capture the Holy in Form, in Texture and Nobility

ORLANDO — As the Shrine Church prepares for its sculptural cornerstone — the figure that will depict Mary, Queen of the Universe — many voices are being heard.

To assure the theological authenticity of the statue, eminent Marian scholar, Eamon Carroll, O. Carm., has accepted an invitation to provide counsel and direction as the Shrine Committee moves forward with the project.

At the same time, the Shrine Committee has sought and received prayerful guidance from friends of this Marian apostolate nationwide. Many urge that Mary be presented traditionally, in accordance with the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy's suggestion that such works should



clearly define, with all care and exactitude, that the venerable and holy icons are set up in just the same way as the figure of the precious and life-giving cross... The more continually these are observed by means of such representations, so much the more will the beholders be aroused to recollect the originals.

— Definition of the Second Council of Nicaea 787 A.D.

turn our thoughts to "God and to the cause of His honor and glory" (No. 122).

Other Shrine Associates favor a more contemporary image, one which evokes Mary as our own Blessed Mother, the Cause of Our Joy. They look for a welcoming, open-armed image of Mary that will encourage visitors of every age to draw nearer to her — and, through her, to God.

This remarkable effort to complement the Shrine's own, God-centered, artistic dimension has the blessing of Orlando Bishop, the Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey, C.P., who will be personally involved in the Committee's deliberations leading to the sculpture's completion.

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.