



the magnificat

Vol. 4 No. 2

SUMMER 2004

A PUBLICATION OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE

From every State and from across the world – Crowds are welcomed at Mary's Shrine



ORLANDO: Young and not so young, God's children – citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Croatia, Finland, Slovakia, Taiwan, Kenya, Malaysia, Brazil, Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Ireland, Norway, Spain, England, France, Peru, Guatemala, Italy, Hong Kong, Germany, the Philippines, Uruguay, Hungary, Poland, Greenland – a few of the homelands written

in the Shrine Visitors' Book – continue to stream into Mary's Shrine to give praise and worship to God and to honor Mary, the mother of God. On Easter Sunday, Christmas Day, all of the Sundays throughout the year, major feast-days of the Church, Lenten services, Marian Novena for Peace – many thousands of visitors to Orlando pack the Shrine. (On Easter Sunday, additional masses

have to be celebrated in a large tent erected beside the Shrine Church. The Shrine "Evangelization outreach" also provided two Easter Sunday masses at the Convention Center in DisneyWorld where some 7,000 people were in attendance.) Week after week, the crowds continue to show their faith and commitment to the Lord.



A Message from the Rector

July 2004

Dear Shrine Friend and Family Member:

Each of our lives adds a line to history.

But joined in Christ, we contribute chapter after chapter to the long, unfolding story of humankind.

Such is the power of our faith.

One such chapter began half a century ago, in 1954. It was a time of all-out war in Korea, the nuclear arms race, and a world seemingly on the brink of Armageddon.

Truly it was a time for faith to act, a time to steer nations from confrontation towards common ground. And in Rome, Pope Pius XII knew where to find a "guiding star".

It was Mary, Mother of God, Virgin most Powerful!

If people would turn to God's holy mother for help, all might realize how much they held in common.

And thus, one hundred years after the Church declared the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Pius XII would institute a new feast for Mary, titled *The Queenship of Mary*.

In so doing he gave new hope to a fearful world, as he encouraged peoples to consecrate their lives to Mary, dedicate themselves to the work of Christ – and pray always for the conversion of nations.

Across Eastern Europe, captive believers were emboldened to reject the Soviet "doctrine", and instead reignite the faith of their fathers. And those same flames could also be seen burning in Asia and across the Americas.

Over time, the salvific mission of Mary's Queenship, first undertaken by the Church amid a period of global terror, has become our mission, yours and mine. Indeed, here at Mary's Shrine, thousands find peace. Each passing month sees the Shrine grow as a place of pilgrimage. With your prayerful involvement we welcome visitors from every country, culture and faith – inviting all to experience God's love... and God's peace.

And this new chapter in the pageant of human life, opened by Papal declaration just 50 years ago, and enriched these past years at Mary's Shrine, continues to be written even now – here in Orlando, and wherever you and the other faithful members of our wonderful family call home.

Your friend in Jesus and Mary,

F. Joseph Harte

Monsignor F. Joseph Harte

NOVENA

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
MARY AS OUR QUEEN
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FEAST OF THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY
AUGUST 21ST - AUGUST 29TH

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 8:00 AM
- 12:05 PM

• 7:00 PM (MONDAY)

*Mass and
Perpetual
Novena
of the
Miraculous
Medal*



SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

- 6:00 PM

SUNDAY & HOLY DAYS

- 7:30 AM
- 9:30 AM
- 11:30 AM
- 6:00 PM

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.

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ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE
FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF

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

Editor: Fr. John E. McMullan

The Immaculate Conception – 150th Anniversary



The Grotto at Lourdes, France

December 8, 2004 will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. On March 25, 1885, at the Grotto of Massabielle, Lourdes, Bernadette asked Mary her name four times before Our Lady answered in the local dialect, "*Que soy era Immaculada Conception.*" In this we see the confirmation of the doctrine proclaimed four years earlier in 1854 by Pope Pius IX that Mary was conceived without sin.

Long before it was made a doctrine, the Immaculate Conception was already rooted in popular faith. Theologians developed the doctrine

of the Immaculate Conception over several centuries. Pope Pius IX eventually proclaimed it a doctrine at the heart of our faith. But the early Christians had believed in it from the very beginning.

To welcome the Son of God, Mary could not have any trace of reticence or refusal in her heart. The Almighty needed the gift of his love to meet a perfectly pure faith, a soul without sin. Only grace could have prepared her for this, with which she was filled. Like a fruit anticipated from Jesus' sacrifice, Mary (who was conceived normally, through the union of her father and mother) is immaculate, free from all sin, and shielded from separation from God through original sin which has marked us from the beginning of our existence.

At the end of the fifteenth century after the apparitions at the Rue de Bac concerning the Miraculous Medal (1830) and the requests of numerous bishops, Pope Pius IX decided that the time was ripe for the Catholic Church to make a strong and official proclamation of faith in the Immaculate Conception. After having consulted numerous experts and all the bishops, Pius IX proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception by papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus* in 1854. His decision

was not scripturally based but belonged to the "universal faith of the Church," in other words, our faith and that of our ancestors.

By Mary's example, we are shown that God can only enter our lives if each one of us says "yes" when he knocks on the door of our heart and when he "announces" himself in our lives like he "announced" himself in Mary's. This is the key to the secret of Mary's holiness, the subsequent holiness of all the saints and every baptized Christian. Baptism gives us the grace to say "yes." The sacrament of reconciliation restores this grace if our life as a Christian breaks down. The Eucharist strengthens this grace.

So we have everything we need in our daily lives to be able to give God our response of faith and love like the Virgin Mary. We also understand that when Mary revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception she was calling us to live out our baptism in accordance with the gospel symbolized by the rosary she was holding in her hands. This is what Bernadette understood and lived throughout her life. It is good to remember that Bernadette was canonized not for her visions but for her humble simplicity and her religious trustworthiness.

The United States of America is dedicated to Mary under the title Immaculate Conception. In 1846, the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore petitioned the Holy See to proclaim Mary as the patroness of the United States.

Be it carefully noted that the particular phrasing itself of Mary's title by the assembled American Prelates must obviously lead to the conclusion that it was taken by them, literally and directly, from the petition inscribed on the Miraculous Medal: "*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.*" So, then, it was that the Immaculate Conception, "Mary conceived without sin," Mary Immaculate, became officially the great Patroness of the vast union of States that had sprung up in the new world.

Another eight years elapsed, and there followed at Rome, on December 8, 1854, the solemn declaration, by Pope Pius IX, of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

"We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of mankind, was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, has been revealed by God, and therefore should firmly and constantly be believed by all the Faithful."

“To Jesus through Mary” – Devotion to the Blessed Mother

When Pope John Paul II began the 25th year of his papacy, he publicly entrusted himself and the Church to the Virgin Mary, again displaying a lifelong personal devotion that he sees as fundamental to his ministry.

“I place everything into her hands so that with the love of a mother she will present it to her Son,” he said in St. Peter’s Square in October 2002. *“I also entrust my future to her.”*

He underscored his message by releasing an apostolic letter on the Marian devotion of the Rosary, calling it his *“favorite prayer.”* The letter proposed the addition of new contemplative themes to the centuries-old prayer and announced a *“Year of the Rosary”* to help Catholics rediscover its spiritual richness.

Throughout his pontificate, the Pope has shown a devotion to Mary that seamlessly integrates popular piety, theological scholarship and the expression of a personal, human relationship with the mother of God.

As a young boy in Poland, the future pontiff – whose mother died when he was nine – prayed daily to Mary in his parish church. As a teenager, he dedicated his life to her during a visit to the Marian Shrine at Jasna Gora in Czestochowa, Poland.

As a theologian, he wrote about Mary as a mother who could unite all people. As a bishop and later as Pope, he chose as his motto *Totus Tuus*, Latin for “completely yours”,



“To Jesus through Mary” – the Mosaic-tiled ceiling in the Basilica of the Rosary at Lourdes, France.

and addressed it to Mary. When elected Pope in 1978, he spoke of Mary in his first speech, saying that he accepted the office of papacy in a spirit of *humility to Christ and in “complete trust in his most holy mother, the Madonna.”*

As Pope, he dedicated the world to Mary during a specially proclaimed Marian Year, traveled to Marian shrines around the world, and wrote an encyclical exalting Mary’s place in the church. He began leading the Rosary on the first Saturday of each month at the Vatican. During a jubilee year ceremony in 2000 with bishops from around the globe, he renewed his entrustment of the

world to Mary’s care. The Pope had called Marian shrines worldwide a *“geography of faith”* and he has made an effort to visit them in each of his travels.

Rarely does a day of public activity go by in which the Pope does not mention Mary or her role in the Church. The Pope’s personal devotion to Mary has helped spark a church-wide revival of classical devotions that fell out of favor after the Second Vatican Council. John Paul II lends his authority as a Pope, but also as a human being, to the value and importance of these devotional practices.

Fr. John E. McMullan



Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine

“Marian shrines are like the house of the Mother, refreshment and rest points on the long road that leads to Christ. They are forges, where, through the simple and humble faith of the ‘poor in spirit,’ one comes in contact again with the great wealth that Christ has entrusted and granted to the Church.”

Pope John Paul II

Relighting the Stars in Mary's Crown

ORLANDO – Through all the months and years of funding construction at the site of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, perhaps no effort was more symbolic of a people's great investment in faith than was the tiling of the church roof itself.

Week after week from temporary hotel pulpits, priests spoke of their "dream" to construct a new home for the Mother of God: a holy place where vacationing families, visitors and pilgrims from all nations could come together, sharing in the Eucharist, and drawing closer to Jesus and His blessed mother.

What we need, the priests told mass attendees in those early days, is your help. Yet most vacationers who heard the appeals had no plans to return to Orlando and visit the completed Shrine; nonetheless, in thousands, they answered the call, contributing the \$50 needed to place a tile on the new roof. These tiles were to represent the "Stars in Mary's Crown"; and so it was that the Church at Mary's Shrine became widely known as "the house that faith built."

But faith, like the very roofs which shield us from cold and storm, is ever tested; and for the friends of Mary's Shrine, such a test came just recently: the main Church roof would have to be replaced. Here was the roof that was supposed to last for generations; yet within the first five years water began to seep through supposedly impenetrable spaces between the tiles. Repairs proved stopgap solutions. The seepage had begun to rot the underlying plywood and insulation. Increasingly the waters would gush in, necessitating containers placed strategically throughout the nave.

Examining the roof, an inspector determined both flashings and tiles had been installed improperly; as a result, the leaks would most certainly worsen, jeopardizing priceless, irreplaceable works of sacred art below. The consultant's judgment: remove the roof down to the bare metal sheeting, examine for rust and other damage, then rebuild. But the "highly – recommended" contractor who installed the original roof was no longer in business. As a result the cost of repair would have to fall entirely upon Mary's

Shrine – a cost as high as \$1.5 million.

Yet faith, tested and unshaken, can bring great rewards. And the many friends helping fund the new roof installation are, truly, relighting the "Stars in Mary's Crown" – making possible a roof that is not only more reflective of the original basilica design but also most cost-effective. The new tiles will be ceramic, rather than the previous concrete, long-lasting and easier to maintain. Indeed, the annual cost-savings will be considerable.

Importantly, each donor of a commemorative tile for the original roof will now be represented by a tile in the new roof. So, too, each of these donors will have a place – as ever – in the masses and prayers offered daily on their behalf.

With work's completion this autumn, the Shrine Church will have a new look; yet what will remain, as always, is the sense of people coming together, in faith, to celebrate God's gift of Eucharist and His living presence to His people.



Mary, our Queen

Christ is our King. He is the Divine Ruler of the world, of the universe, of all that is seen and unseen. Christ is King by Divine Right as the Incarnate Word of God and by His conquest of sin and death on the cross. The Blessed Virgin Mary because of her close association with her Divine Son participates in a subordinate and limited way in His royal dignity. Therefore the Church honors Mary as our Queen. Mary is Queen because she is the mother of the Lord, the Son of David. Mary is Queen because God created her "full of grace" and exalted her above every other creature.

From the earliest centuries of the Catholic Church, Christians have addressed suppliant prayers and hymns of praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They have looked upon her as Queen of the Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Queen of Martyrs, Queen of Virgins. Because of her eminence, she is indeed entitled to the highest honors that can be bestowed upon any creature.

Acknowledging Our Lady's Queenship is very ancient. Among the Fathers of the Church who refer to the Queenship of Mary we find St. Ephrem, St. Jerome, St. Peter Chrysologus and St. John Damascene. St. Gregory Nazianzen called her *Mother of the King of the entire universe, and the Virgin Mother who brought forth the king of the entire world*. In much later times, St. Alphonsus Maria di Liguori wrote, "Because the Virgin Mary was raised to such dignity as to be the mother of the King of Kings, therefore rightly and deservedly the Church has honored her with the title Queen."

The beginning of the concept that Mary is a Queen is found in the annunciation narrative. For the Angel



Christ the King crowning His Mother
(Ceiling Mosaic in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, Italy)

tells her that her Son will be a King over the house of Jacob forever. So she, His Mother, would be a Queen.

In 1902 the First International Marian Congress was held in Freiburg, Switzerland. Pope Leo XIII had a statue of Our Lady crowned as Queen of the Universe. In 1916 Pope Pius XII sent Cardinal Masella to Fatima to crown the statue of Our Lady of Fatima as Queen of the World. On November 1st, 1954, Pope Pius XII, at the conclusion of the Marian Year, solemnly proclaimed in his encyclical "Ad Coeli Reginam" the Queenship of Mary and instituted the feast of Our Lady's Queenship on May 31st. (Now the Feast is celebrated on August 22nd.) In the opening of the encyclical the Holy Father recalls the veneration of our Lady as Queen of Heaven since the earliest times of the Church. Only four years before (in 1950) he had proclaimed the doctrine of the Assumption. Pope Pius XII reminds us of what Pope Pius IX had said of Mary: "Constituted by the Lord as Queen of Heaven and earth, and exalted above all the choirs of Angels and the ranks of the Saints in heaven,

standing at the right hand of her only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, she petitions most powerfully with her maternal prayers, and obtains what she seeks."

Pius XII continued: "We have not wished to propose a new truth for the Christian people to believe, since actually the title and the arrangements on which Mary's royal dignity is based have at all times been clearly expressed and are already contained as handed down long ago in the documents of the Church and in the books of the sacred liturgy."

Since Mary is our Queen, then we, as her subjects, must obey her. What will our Queen will us to do? "Whatever He tells you to." The words at Cana reecho through the ages. "Obey my Son," Our Lady and our Queen tells us. Obey His Gospel, His Church, His Laws – for he is your King. Because we are forgetful, our Queen visits us by apparitions and teaches us to be good subjects of her Son, Christ the King.

Hail Holy Queen!

To honor Mary, our Queen, and to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22nd, 2004 – join us in Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine's novena, August 21st through August 29th.



Your petitions (on the enclosed petition slip) will remain at the altar from August 21 through August 29.

Donors of \$30 or more will receive a crystal representation of Our Lady of Grace to be mailed in a cushioned box. The medallions are 1 3/4 inches tall and 1 1/2 inches wide.

Made of the finest German Schott Optical Crystal, this handcrafted representation of *Our Lady of Grace* is designed with comprehensive detail to cutting, faceting and polishing – resulting in an exceptional luminous reflection, clarity and brilliance.

Florida's Marian Shrines – Alpha and Omega

Around the year 1620, the early Spanish settlers, as a sign of their love for the *Nursing Mother of Christ*, established the first Shrine ever to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in what is now the United States.

They did so on the very spot where the first parish Mass had been offered on September 8, 1565 by Father Lopez de Mendoza Grajales at the *Mission of Nombre de Dios*. The Spaniards landed on that date to establish St. Augustine. The original chapel and several built after it were destroyed by gunfire during the early colonial days, and later by hurricanes. The present small chapel was renovated in 1915 and enshrines a replica of the original statue of the *Nursing Mother of the Child Jesus*. The original shrine and statue in the Church of San Luis in Madrid were destroyed by fire by the Communists on March 13, 1936, during the Spanish Civil War.

Many women visit the Shrine every year to ask for the blessings of motherhood, beseeching the intercession of *Our Lady of La Leche* that God will grant them a safe and happy delivery, and healthy, holy children.



Mission Nombre de Dios



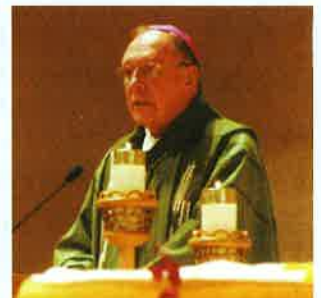
Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine

The internationally popular Shrine of *Mary, Queen of the Universe* in Orlando is the newest Shrine in Florida dedicated to the Blessed Mother. This Marian Shrine was built to welcome the hundreds of thousands of tourists who arrive from all over the world to visit the area's theme parks. The main church has accommodation for almost 3,000 worshippers. In addition to daily and weekend Masses, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available every day. Thousands of visitors stroll around the grounds of the Shrine, praying in the beautiful Rosary Garden or meditating in the outdoor Mother and Child Chapel,

praying in the Adoration Chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, visiting the Shrine Museum and the Religious Gift Shop. The Shrine is a treasure house of sacred art. Beautiful stained glass windows and original works of religious art in marble and bronze throughout the Church help visitors to raise their minds and hearts to God and to our Blessed Mother. A peaceful oasis in the midst of a busy, commercial world – *Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine!* The Presence of God is felt here, as is the comforting maternal influence of Mary, mother of God and of us all. A visit is a spiritual experience not to be forgotten.

"Here in this diocese from which space pioneers first launched out into the universe and the moon, we pray with the Church: Come let us worship Christ who crowned his mother as Queen of heaven and the earth. Now and in the years to come, may we meet here to proclaim with Mary: My soul magnifies the Lord; my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

**Most Reverend
Norbert M. Dorsey, C.P.
Bishop of Orlando**



The 14th Station at
Mary, Queen of the Universe
Shrine

Crucifixion

In the year 63 B.C. a Roman statesman, Marcus Tullius Cicero stood up in the Roman Forum to argue that the very idea of crucifixion was barbaric and should be banned from the minds of civilized people. He argued that the practice of crucifixion cast doubt on the Roman claim to civilization.

One hundred years later, another Roman citizen, a man we know today as Saint Paul, also expressed himself to the question of crucifixion. *"While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for*

wisdom, we are preaching a crucified Christ. God's folly is wiser than human wisdom and God's weakness is stronger than any human strength." 1 Cor. 1: 20-25.

For Cicero, the crucifixion of a Roman citizen was a sure sign of barbarity; for Paul, the crucifixion of a Palestinian Jew was the essence of his message of hope. The Cross, as a sign of hope, is a paradox. It is like the writing we can read on tombs in old graveyards. **Ave crux, unice spes** – Hail Cross, our only hope. That is a good summary of the Christian faith; in the Cross of Jesus, our hope has dawned.

COMMEMORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

*To be Forever Remembered in the Life of
this Holy Apostolate, this 'House of Pilgrimage'*

Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine provides a wide range of opportunities for Christ's faithful to be remembered, in perpetuity, within this holy apostolate designated by Pope John Paul II as: *"a house of pilgrimage."*

Through commemorative gifts, donors can forever link their name with the life and ministry of Mary's Shrine – or perpetuate the memory

of friends and loved ones within these sacred spaces.

Ranging upwards from \$50 to more than \$50,000, such gifts afford donors a certificate of recognition, individually inscribed on parchment stock, then set in a portfolio frame. Higher level gifts may be further recognized by a named hymnal, engraved brick, marble plaque or bronze inscription

– permanently mounted and prominently displayed at the Shrine.

A uniquely enriching way to honor births, marriages and similar milestone events in the life of family and friends, Shrine commemoratives can also afford a marvelous spiritual remembrance for loved ones called home to God.



SHRINE TREE

\$800

In dedicating one of the Shrine's majestic oaks, date palms, magnolias, or other stately trees, you will be helping to shape the spiritual landscape of Mary's Shrine – while establishing for family or friend, a "living memorial" that will gain identity, in perpetuity, by an inscribed bronze plaque at the tree's base.

BRONZE DOOR COMMEMORATIVE

\$500

The Shrine's bronze doors renew the great tradition of magnificently-crafted Church portals, and donors who select this richly-historical commemorative option will see their names cast in bronze, and set permanently into one of the new entrance doors at Mary's Church.



SANCTUARY STONE

\$400

Sanctuary Stone donors will have helped lay the foundations for the Shrine Altar, heart of the Church where Christ is offered to the Father, and then comes present to His people. And Sanctuary Stone donors are individually honored by a listing on the Sanctuary Stone Commemorative Plaque.

SHRINE CHURCH HYMNAL

\$250

To dedicate a Shrine Hymnal is to inscribe your name or that of a loved one, in perpetuity, among the songs of praise and thanksgiving by which God is glorified. And each hymnal opens upon a bookplate, inscribed with the name of the Shrine donor who has generously made possible this "gift of praise and thanksgiving."

ROSARY GARDEN BRICK

\$200

With brick tiles forming decades of beads, the Shrine's unique Rosary Garden walkway takes the shape of a rosary, complete with a centerpiece and cross. Donors are honored, in perpetuity – their names etched into a brick that is then set permanently into the walkway itself.

ROOF TILE MEMORIAL

\$50

To provide a roof for Mary's Church remains the most affordable of the Shrine's named gift options; and Roof Tile donors receive a special, framed certificate that attests to their own personal role in helping to complete this major, new center for Christian worship, life and culture.

