



the magnificat

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MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE



UPDATE

At Mary's Shrine, a New Generation in Christ Finds Spiritual Growth, Enrichment and Renewal

A home for the pilgrim heart, Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine welcomes increasing numbers of those seeking God's Truth -- His love, strength and peace.

ORLANDO -- For the world, the Church and even the family and friends of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, Orlando, this year has been a time of challenge. And yet, for Mary's Shrine, these often difficult times are stirring with a new spirit of hope and possibilities.

It is a spirit that rises at the Shrine each day as volunteers, staff and clergy resound with Pope John Paul II's call -- "open wide the doors to Christ."

Echoing, too, across the corridors and throughout today's Shrine ministry, is the quiet voice of Pope Benedict XVI, urging that John Paul II's teachings be "put into practice."

Indeed, at Mary's Shrine, the doors to Christ never opened more widely than

they did during this past year. Hundreds of thousands more among God's faithful came to the Shrine: old friends and new; families, pilgrims and community groups, visiting clergy, religious scholars, tourists and others. They traveled many different paths; and yet, most all came seeking that one path, narrow but lighted, that leads us to Christ and His truth; for in God's truth are found peace, strength and love.

It is that truth spoken to us by Jesus, inscribed by Gospel writers and lived by the saints. It is that truth long taught us by the Church, preached by evangelists and carried by missionaries worldwide.

And that one truth is today sustained by Christ's faithful through apostolates of outreach -- ministries that speak to us in a clear and certain voice.

Gratifyingly, those many "faithful" and that one clear "voice" are both found together, here at Mary's Shrine. And this past April brought many of these friends

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"The Church is alive! -- because Christ is alive..!"

– Pope Benedict XVI

Mass for the Inauguration of the Pontificate
April 24, 2005



A letter from the Rector

September, 2005

Dear Shrine Friend and Family Member,

The life of a priest has joys, sorrows -- and many, many wonderful moments to remember.

Some of these moments are born within us: times when Christ felt most close; times when our path seemed clear and well-lit; times when the Blessed Mother called us, softly, as if the voice rose from our own heart.

Yet, a priest's catalogue of times to be cherished likely has page after page of friends, remembered always; friends who have shared his dreams, embraced his ministry and enriched his life.

And here, I am blessed: for the times of my ministry I hope never to forget seem endless; and images of friends made and friends kept, almost beyond count.

Indeed, I walk these holy grounds, often in solitude, yet never alone. Every step here at the Shrine has a name, some etched in brick, tile or concrete, but all inscribed within my heart. Here are old friends who had shared with me the dream of this pilgrim church.

Here, too, are the many friends who have embraced this holy apostolate -- sacrificing again and again so that our Church might rise, and God's people be uplifted.

And here, always held close, are friends who continue to enrich my life. They have made my 75 years seem young; they've given me cause yet to dream.

God bless you all.

Know that you are with me, from my prayers of hope in the morning, to my prayers of thanksgiving every night. And so shall you be, praise God, forever.

In the love of 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
A NOVENA OF MASSES
HONORING
OUR LADY
OF THE
MOST HOLY ROSARY
OCTOBER 7 - 15, 2005

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 8:00 AM
- 12:05 PM

• 7:00 PM
(MONDAY)

*Mass and
Perpetual
Novena
in honor 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.

the
magnificat

ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE
FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF

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

New Bells at Mary's Shrine Ring Out in Praise of God – Welcoming Christ's Faithful, Proclaiming Our Joy

With the installation of church bells in the tower erected for that purpose, yet another hope of Christ's faithful has been realized at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine.

Cast by Italy's Capanni Foundry, the bells reflect the Capanni family's 440 years of experience fusing innovation and tradition to produce the Foundry's long famous richness of sound and timbre. The casting is still done by traditional methods, in wooden furnaces, using techniques that date back to 1565 -- the late-renaissance period in which the foundry was established near Bologna, in the rich heartland of Italy.

ORLANDO -- From the ancients of Babylonia, Egypt, Greece, Rome and lands far to the East, the ringing of bells had a place of note in most all nations of antiquity. But rudely-crafted, the early bells produced tones that were uneven and imperfect.

But it was the Christian Era which was to give prominence to the bells in religious practice. Their introduction is ascribed to the Italian, Paulinus, bishop of Nola, a town of Campania. And use of the bells is said to have spread rapidly, for calling the faithful to services and for sounding the alarm when danger threatened the community.



Workers ready new bells for hoisting by crane into the Shrine bell tower.



Shrine bell tower with new bells set in place

Prayer of Blessing of Bells

*We praise you, Lord, Father all holy.
To a world wounded and divided by sin,
you sent your only Son. He gave His life
for His sheep, to gather them into one
fold and to guide and feed them as
their one shepherd.*

*May your people hasten to your church
when they hear the call of this bell.*

*May they persevere in the teaching
of the apostles, in steadfast fellowship,
in unceasing prayer, and in the breaking
of the bread. May they remain ever
one in mind and heart to the glory of
your name.*

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In 604, Pope Sabinian gave the first sanction to the use of bells in the church. Yet, it was only with the Eighth Century that bells came to occupy a central place in church life. A report by New Advent, cites a *Liber Pontificalis* mention of Pope Stephen II erecting a belfry at St. Peter's Basilica during the mid-Eighth Century -- a time when towers, specifically built for housing large bells, began to rise across the west of Europe. These bells, ringing in unison, would reinforce each other, amplifying both the volume and richness of sound.

The next century would introduce bells to the Eastern church, where some of the world's largest could be found in the great cathedrals of Old Russia.

Many of these old bells can be seen even today in European museums as well as in the ancient Celtic abbeys of Ireland. Sometimes square in shape, they're made

of bronze or iron sheets riveted together; thus, sound would have been discordant and far less powerful than modern bells.

Among the most important uses for church bells even today is the ringing of the Angelus, a short practice of devotion honoring the Incarnation of Our Lord. It is recited morning, noon and evening, and consists of the *Hail Mary*, versicles, responses and a prayer, and derives from the opening of the Latin form, "*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae*" (the Angel of the Lord said unto Mary). And at Mary's Shrine, church bells will peal much as they have for centuries across the world, calling pilgrim hearts to prayer and raising the human spirit, enriching both life and faith.

Companion of Popes; Guide for all Generations – Reflections on the Rosary and an Invitation to Prayer.

Little did I realize it at the time!

Yet the memory echoes within me to this day... those nightly declarations of my mother: "Time to say the Rosary." Father would put down his newspaper, and we children would scramble in near the hearth, finding our favorite positions for prayer -- that powerful prayer which was to influence our lives so greatly.

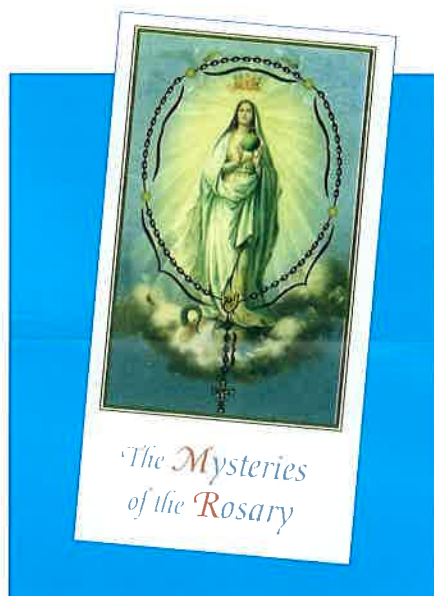
With the death of our beloved friend, Pope John Paul II, just a few months ago, I returned to his writings for guidance and, perhaps, some comfort. And I was once more strengthened by his encyclical on the Rosary. He began with a personal reflection on the impact this marvelous prayer had on his life -- a realization that arose within him when he first returned, as Pope, to his native Poland, writing: *"The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort.... The Rosary is my favorite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth."*

Reading further into the encyclical, we encounter more wonderful thoughts as the late Pope reflects on the prayer itself. He writes about "contemplating the face of Christ with Mary" each time we recite the Rosary. And he then quotes Saint Luke on how Mary embraced the Divine Child in her heart.

The rosary, he continues, is a prayer which calls us to remember "with" Mary. No one, in his words, ever contemplated the face of Christ as did Mary. And her own memory served as a rosary which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her life and now in Heaven.

It is by imitating Mary that we begin to experience her contemplative gaze and enter into direct contact with those same extraordinary memories.

And those memories give us strength, for we are caused to know that Mary and her Divine Son are here with us, always and forever. Indeed, the feast of the Most Holy Rosary was itself instituted to honor Our Lady's miraculous intervention on behalf of Christ's faithful.



So it has been through the centuries; so it will be, most of all, in troubled times such as these. Inescapably, our thoughts turn to news from places faraway where violence rises with the morning and does not settle, even with the night. We pray for the defenders of our freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and here at home -- for terrorism, by its very nature, allows neither borders nor respite.

But the valor and great sacrifices of families and communities across America call to us, asking that we add our voices, our strength; and so we turn now to Mary, through the Rosary, that she might invoke the Prince of Peace.

Here at Mary's Shrine, our Novena will begin Friday, October 7th, the feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. On October 9th, Rosary Sunday, Shrine family, friends and pilgrim visitors will join here in prayers for peace. Together, we'll recite the rosary, listen to a homily on this marvelous prayer, and conclude with the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

As always, we invite you to join us here or, in spirit, through your intentions, as we pray for your needs, other friends, the Church and the world. So please take the few moments needed to complete the enclosed petition form, then return it to me so it can be placed at the altar for the duration of the novena.

Please know that all Shrine family who join with us through their petitions, will each receive our gift: The Mysteries of the Rosary, a compact, accordion-style, holy card edition of the prayer, which includes the new Luminous Mysteries, pictorial images and popular prayers.

Something else! A few weeks ago I came across a most unusual key chain: a compact, Silver-Ox Plate, Rosary Box that encases a full set of Czech-Faceted Glass rosary beads. With a Miraculous Medal sculpted on the lid, this uniquely-crafted Rosary Box is perfect for travel, especially when you're driving, as well as in your daily life. Indeed, what a comfort to have such a rosary, always at your side. And so I've arranged for these sculpted Rosary Box key chain and rosaries to be made available as a special gift of thanks for donors of \$50 and above.



Please know, too, that I've revised my own Rosary reflections and recorded them on two compact discs, enhanced by the beautiful voices of our Shrine choir. This newly-issued set of meditations will be my gift to generous friends and family who share in the Rosary Novena with an offering of from \$35 to \$50.

It is support we very much need as we work to extend our Shrine ministry to ever-growing numbers of the faithful who are arriving here from across today's troubled world. And for your prayerful generosity -- helping to lead so many to the Prince of Peace -- may our Queen of the Most Holy Rosary be with you always on the path to her Divine Son!

— Msgr. F. Joseph Harte

"Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith" of New Media Center at Mary,

ORLANDO -- Now in the final stages of planning and design, the Media Center at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine is expected to open with an exhibit that both explores the history and illuminates the meaning of Christian pilgrimage.

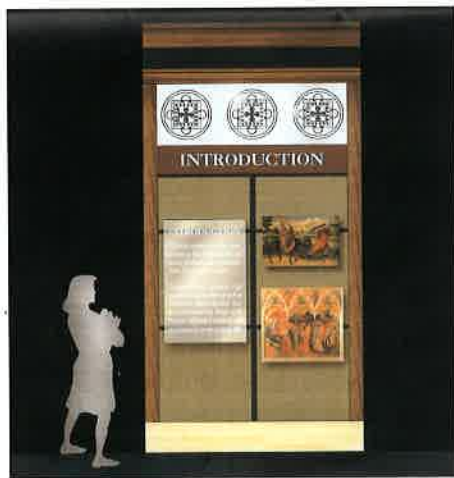
As envisioned by Shrine historians, working with teams from Sparks Exhibits and Environments and Cloud8 Designs, the Center's multimedia presentation -- "Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith" -- will unfold along a circular pathway that conveys exhibit-goers, as pilgrims of old, on a journey that spans outward across time and distance, and inward toward the heart. Indeed, the word "pilgrimage" evokes powerful images of humankind's quest to reveal life's deeper truths... an inner response to the Lord's invitation to follow Him.



Model of the exhibit wall layout

From earliest times, pilgrimages were widely seen as a unique expression of worship. And, at least since the days of Abraham, holy sites and the journeys to them have been part of spiritual life.

Journey's end might be a place hallowed by centuries -- Jerusalem, and Rome -- or, like the Via Dolorosa, a place scarred by deepest sufferings. "Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith" explores these many sites, and the spirit of the sacred that lies within.

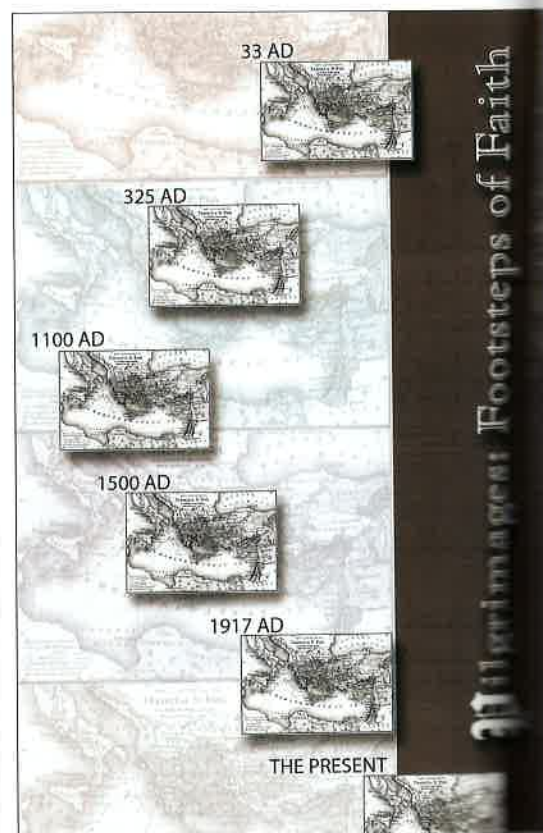


Concept sketch of typical wall panel

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The exhibit welcomes visitors with a short film, introducing the very concept of Pilgrimage. Included, too, are main themes of the exhibit and their historical significance. Continuing on the journey, visitors encounter both video and motion graphics that work to recapture the past, develop story lines, and help to invigorate the exhibit-viewing experience itself.

Beginning with the fateful journey of Jesus and Mary to Jerusalem in 33 AD, the exhibit teaches that centuries ago, Christian pilgrims would journey from far corners of the world to the sacred sites of the Holy Land. Their pilgrimage goal was a personal encounter with the Lord, as they retraced the steps to His resurrection. In Jerusalem, pilgrims walked the streets Jesus and the disciples had walked; and they felt



themselves in the company of the holy apostles as they went forth in spirit with Peter and the others. In spirit, too, they accompanied Christian missionaries to distant lands, in their own hearts sharing the mission of bringing God's Word to the unchurched.



The Travels of St. Paul



Flight Into Egypt

"To go in a spirit of prayer to another, in an area marked to live our life as a journey but before us, who himself set out from on high, but who has been

Exhibit Will Highlight Opening Queen of the Universe Shrine

THROUGHOUT HISTORY,
MAN HAS SEARCHED
FOR PROFOUND TRUTHS,
HOPES AND REDEMPTIONS.
THE PILGRIMAGE IS
HIS FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH
TO THOSE ENDS

"Footsteps of Faith" continues with the early rise of Christianity, Constantine, Saint Helena, the restoration of ancient, untended shrines and the construction of great basilicas at the Holy Places.

WITH THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

As Christianity spread across Europe in the years from 400 AD to 1100 AD, this exhibit traces a similar expansion in the number of sites welcoming pilgrims. But, as the exhibit warns, there could be great perils in crossing untamed lands and barbarous seas.

With the Middle Ages, pilgrimages become a central part of popular religion. The exhibit explores the effects this had on life and work in the Medieval World. From building roads to constructing inns, way stations and hospitals, the pilgrimage

one place to another, from one city
by God's intervention, helps us not only
es us a vivid sense of God who has gone
s path, who does not look down on us
ome our traveling companion."

— Pope John Paul II



The legendary burial place of St. James, Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain is an important pilgrimage destination.

was often a driving force.

Then, with the Twelfth Century begins "The Golden Age of Pilgrimages," a time when pilgrims were seen trekking ever greater distances: down the rough roads to Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and England's famed Canterbury.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

THE GROWTH OF PILGRIMAGE

In centuries that follow, new sites are made holy: Guadalupe, in Mexico; Lourdes in France; the Knock Shrine on the west coast of Ireland; and Fatima, in the mountains of Portugal. And when visitors along the exhibit road arrive at Station Seven, which examines the years from 1917 to the present, a highlight is the landmark Papacy of John Paul II -- the Pilgrim Pope.

Yet, the most popular Station for Shrine friends and family will no doubt be Station Eight, the exhibit's last stop, where the focus turns to Orlando's Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine: *"the last great shrine of the Second Millennium."* Here visitors see the untamed natural wilderness that would become home for Mary's Shrine --and begin to appreciate *"the dream"* and all who have generously helped to make it real.

THE TRADITION AND THE LIFE

As Christians we may have walked in places that were significant in the life of Our Lord, and in places that represent landmarks in the history of the Church. We visit shrines to honor the Blessed Mother, and sacred sites that keep alive the memory of the saints. Exhibit-goers will have an opportunity to journey along faith's pathway -- visiting many of these same places and genuinely "reliving" their miraculous events.

Today, the pilgrimage tradition continues as a meaningful element of Christian life. It exerts an appeal as powerful as our own, internal search for the living God. Whether enlightenment, inspiration, or even pardon, is the goal, men and women of every era and locale have set out to visit those sacred places where God has walked among us.

"Making a pilgrimage," in a sense, can be seen as a metaphor for life itself. From birth unto death, the condition of each person is that of a pilgrim. Indeed, the long and storied history of the Church is the living account of a pilgrimage in process.



Pope John Paul II: "I will remember each of your donors in my daily prayers."

UPDATE

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to Orlando for a very special celebration: 30 years of Shrine outreach ministry.

The past year also brought continued growth in the numbers of religious groups finding the Shrine a marvelous backdrop for their special gatherings, among them, a three-day Marian Conference that drew more than 2,000 attendees. Here, as well, is a tribute to Shrine family members -- those helping to build, sustain and enrich this holy church, these holy grounds.

Most visible of these enrichments may well be the Shrine Church's majestic bronze, entry doors. Crafted by sculptors



Dedication of Bronze Doors

in the north of Italy, these new Portals of the Faith are the contribution of hundreds within the Shrine family. And each name will be inscribed, in perpetuity, for all to see, on these great doors themselves.

April 2005, saw the first portals, the extraordinary center doors, installed at the Shrine Church following a special Mass and ceremonial blessing by Bishop Thomas Wenski, the Bishop of Orlando. These two, bronze-clad doors, forming the Good Shepherd Portal, are fitted with six panels highlighting Gospel narratives. Six roundels provide additional images. In the archway above is a vividly-crafted, large-scale mosaic: The Good Shepherd, with bronze representations of the twelve Apostles gathered in front.

Recent months have also witnessed the installation of three bells, hoisted and secured in the Shrine Bell Tower by large cranes and a lift (see story on page 7). The new bells will ring out daily at noon; at 5:55 P. M., each Saturday evening; and at 9:25 and 11:25 A.M., and again, at 5:55 P.M. on Sundays.

Gifts from Shrine family members are also helping to refurbish and enhance the Rosary Garden, so as to then dedicate this uniquely-formed place for prayer and meditation in the name of our beloved John Paul II.



Opening doors to a new welcome at Mary's Shrine

With a statue of this future saint already being sculpted -- a statue which will shortly begin to greet generations of visitors at the new Garden entrance -- together with new plantings, the Stations of the Cross and other enhancements, tomorrow's Rosary Garden can be a place to "walk with" Jesus and Mary and with John Paul the Great at your side.

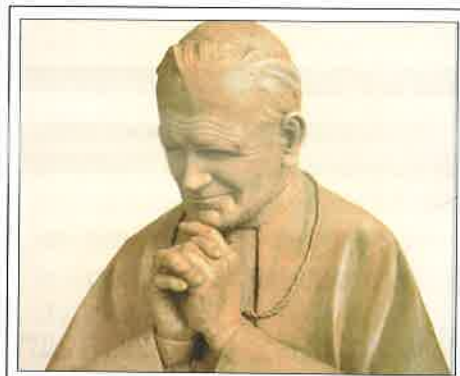
In commemoration of the Garden, Monsignor F. Joseph Harte, Director of Mary's Shrine, will be making available a specially-revised edition of his Rosary Meditations on compact disc, with new meditations and reflections -- including the Mysteries of Light. The Shrine Choir, under the direction of Dr. William Picher, further enriches this 2-CD set.

Following the highly-praised series of Shrine concerts he launched last year, Dr. Picher has announced a new calendar of Shrine musical events for 2005-2006. Growth in the Shrine's program of sacred music has been especially gratifying to all who appreciate the marvelous role music has long played in the life of the Church; and the commitment

continues to attract devotees as well as benefactors.

Looking ahead, much excitement is focused on completion of the Shrine's new Media Center, and the opening of a specially-created exhibit: *Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith* (see story, pages 4-5).

Truly, this great Shrine, carved from Florida's tangled wilderness, is becoming an ever more vital resource for Christ's faithful and their Church -- a place for spiritual enrichment, growth and renewal -- "a home for the pilgrim heart."



Original sculpture of John Paul II to welcome Rosary Garden visitors

SHRINE ART

Pentecost Window Completes Series

ORLANDO--With the recent arrival of the Pentecost Window from Rome's *Domus Dei Studio*, the Shrine's series of Rosary Windows --16 stained glass, clerestory windows set into the upper reaches of the Church -- is complete.



Illuminating Pentecost -- the coming of the Holy Spirit -- this new window includes, at the top, a dove, signature design of the series, which represents the Holy Spirit. In the background appear seven, large "tongues of fire" -- the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The central figure is the Blessed Mother, seated amid Apostles, seen gazing upward in a reverential awe. At the bottom of the window is St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian religious congregation, holding a small model of the Salesian School in Tampa, Florida.

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 \$500,000, 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.



MOTHER & CHILD PLAQUE

\$1,000

Honoring the bond that joins mother and child, family and friends, the Shrine's Mother & Child Outdoor Chapel commemoratives – each a green marble plaque hand-engraved in gold leaf – are testament to a love that endures.

COMMEMORATIVE PEW SEAT

\$ 900

To be remembered within the Shrine Church is a special tribute; and donors dedicating a pew seat will have their name, or that of a loved one, inscribed on an individual brass plate mounted on the polished wood of a Shrine pew.

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.

