



the magnificat

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NATIONAL SHRINE OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE



UPDATE

Across a Landscape of Faith, a Legacy Abides; Passing the Torch to a New Generation in Christ

**Monsignor F. Joseph Harte,
founding director of the
National Shrine of Mary, Queen
of the Universe,
to step down in October.**

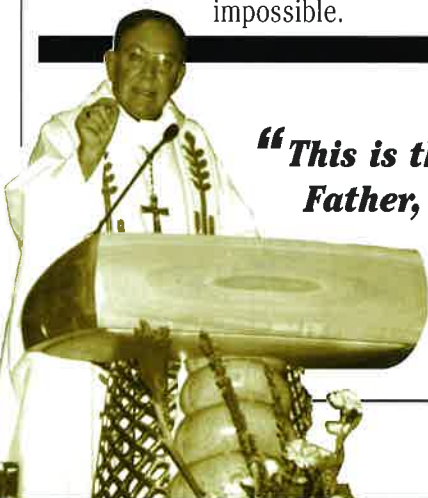
ORLANDO -- When Monsignor F. Joseph Harte steps down as rector of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe on October 31, 2007, it will mark the end of an extraordinary era for this emerging oasis of faith -- "this place of pilgrimage," as Pope John Paul II enthusiastically called the Marian shrine bathed each day in warm, Florida sunshine. For Msgr. Harte was not only the founding director of Mary's Shrine, he has been the apostolate's only helmsman since first entrusted by The Most Reverend Thomas J. Grady, Bishop of Orlando, with responsibility for ministering to the diocese's fast-growing tourist

population in 1975. And what a course Msgr. Harte has steered for the Shrine over these past three decades!

By now, of course, the marvelous story of Mary's Shrine is widely known: the world's compelling need for Christ; an enormous opportunity for the Church to reach out, bringing the message of God's love to millions of visitors from all nations; and the special people who answered the call, became volunteers, donors and lasting friends, all helping to make real a dream once thought impossible.

Indeed, on that memorable feast of Mary's Queenship, August 22, 1993, when a lengthy procession of Cardinals, Bishops, priests and delegations representing the worldwide People of God, all came to help dedicate the newly-completed church at Mary's Shrine, chief celebrant, the Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey, C. P., told an overflowing crowd of worshippers: "This is the Church that faith built." And then, turning to Father Harte, the Orlando Bishop added, "Father, you have achieved a miracle!"

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***"This is the Church that faith built
Father, you have achieved a miracle!"***

The Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey, C.P.
Dedication of the Church at Mary's Shrine



A Letter from the Rector

September 2007

Dear Shrine Family Member,

With the end of day on Wednesday, October 31st, I will step down as Rector of Mary's Shrine, this ministry you have helped me to build and sustain.

Indeed, the time is right, and the hour is near.

Together, we have transformed a wilderness of marshes and tangled undergrowth into a place of pilgrimage for all the world -- a place where faith, hope and peace might forever dwell in the human heart.

And the world is coming, not by the thousands, but in hundreds of thousands. Welcomed by the magnificent bronze doors of our Shrine Church, the faithful commune with their Creator, partake of Eucharist, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and draw nearer to Christ.

So, too, The Rosary Garden of Pope John Paul II invites all to come inside, walking with Mary in the Lord's own path. While in the Museum and interactive center Shrine visitors gain a new understanding of their faith, and an enriched sense of their Christian heritage.

Yet, even as the "dream" continues to unfold here, this Shrine -- our shared legacy to God and His Church -- calls us anew. For there is still work to be done.

Truly, at the Shrine, God's work is never done: For where else in all the world can travelers, pilgrims and vacationing families find such an "oasis of the spirit"?

But even as I now take my leave, I believe the future of Mary's Shrine is secure.

After all, these past three decades have witnessed Shrine Associates and good friends build strong traditions of caring, generosity and involvement in this holy ministry. Together, as well, we've developed a spirit that will last, independent of changing times or leaders.

And I pray you'll support my successor with the warmth and generosity you have always shown me.

Dear friend, may your goodness be ever blessed; and may you and yours abide forever within the hearts of Our Lord and His most holy mother.

Your friend in Jesus and Mary,

F. Joseph Harte

Msgr. F. Joseph Harte

NOVENA

FRIENDS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY,
QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE FAMILY
ARE INVITED TO SHARE
IN THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
OF A NOVENA OF MASSES
HONORING
OUR LADY
OF THE
MOST HOLY ROSARY

OCTOBER 7TH - 15TH

2007

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

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

A Source of Power and Renewal, A Prayer for the Ages; Honoring Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary



cross southern Europe, the early Twelfth Century was marked by political division, suffering and religious strife. "The Albigensian heresy" -- a doctrine that spoke of the devil as "the god of evil," with all material things under his control -- was fast-gaining new converts and adherents. The movement was largely set in the South of France, a region known even today as "Cathar country."

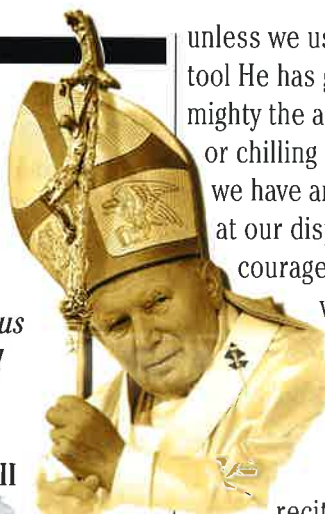
Among the Catharists, or Puritans, women were viewed as somehow bad: for it was womanhood which gave flesh to the pure soul. Understandably, this belief often led to the abuse of women. So, too, Catharists jeered the birth of Christ, and claimed Mary could not be the Mother of God.

Into this troubling conflict came Saint Dominic, whose own, powerful preaching challenged the Cathars and their heresy. But their opposition was fierce. And so it was, tradition tells us, that Our Lady appeared to Dominic in the forests near Toulouse, and said: "Wonder not, that until now, your labors have had such little fruit. You have spent them on barren soil. When God willed to renew the face of the earth, He began by sending down the fertilizing dew of the Angelic Salutation. Go, preach my Rosary and you will attain an abundant harvest." Dominic did as the Lady asked of him, and his preaching soon triumphed.

In the centuries that followed, the Rosary would come to occupy an honored place in Church history and in the lives of Christ's faithful. In times

"The Rosary is my favorite prayer ... it has accompanied me in moments of joy and moments of difficulty. The Rosary is marvelous in its simplicity and in its depth."

— Pope John Paul II



of difficulty and struggle, most of all, Church members turned to the Rosary and found, in its recitation, a source of great power and renewal.

Here, after all, is a prayer for the ages: simple, and yet, complete -- a prayer that Pope Pius XII was to call "a compendium of the entire Gospel." We say one "Our Father" at the start of each decade because the "Our Father" is the foundation on which our Christian Faith rests; it is the foundation on which we build. The use of "Beads" -- an aid to prayer long found among the people of many different faiths -- helps keep distractions away as we strive to center our thoughts on God. And in reciting the mysteries of the Rosary, we begin to experience the central mysteries of the Gospel itself.

It is this guiding hand we all need, especially today, in a world often beset by fear, enflamed by ignorance and hatred, and lost in pain. Let the Rosary be our compass, our shield. For with the future in our hands, we cannot truly call ourselves "followers of Christ"

unless we use this simple yet powerful tool He has given us. No matter how mighty the armies lined up against us, or chilling the force of their words, we have an even more powerful army at our disposal, if we have the courage and will to use it. Indeed, we may look as puny as David in front of Goliath, but it was David who won that battle!

In our prayerful recitation of the Rosary, and in our faithfulness to its Gospel telling, may we become ever more committed to the call of the Gospel. From the first "Yes" of the Annunciation, to the joy of Cana's wedding feast, from the Visitation, to the Assumption, and from the Finding in the Temple, to the Gift of Eucharist, may we know that Mary journeys with each of us, pointing us toward the Lord with the gentle yet powerful reminder: "Do whatever He tells you."

May you be richly blessed in both your personal and family prayer and may others know the blessings they receive through your faithfulness to prayer and your ongoing praying of the Rosary.

Please join with us prayerfully for nine days of Novena Masses honoring Our Lady, beginning on Sunday, October 7th, the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary.

For You – Gifts of Faith



"L'Innocence" A Portrait of Mary

A special gift for Novena donors of from \$25 to \$59, "L'Innocence" offers a marvelous image of Mary, with the Infant Jesus. Laminated on wood, this 4" by 6" portrait speaks to us with quiet dignity, and nests into a round, dark-wood base.

The Shrine's "Joseph" A Work of Original Art



Contributors of \$60 or more will receive a gift of original art: a small-form statue of the Shrine's own beloved sculpture: "Joseph," which depicts Joseph working at his carpentry table with young Jesus.

Friends who remain close to our holy ministry will find this sculpture a marvelous way to bring home the love and warmth of Mary's Shrine.

A Fellow Priest Writes About His Longtime Friend,

Monsignor Harte was baptized Fachtna Joseph Harte in the parish church of Kilfinan, in County Mayo, Ireland. His father, Timothy, was an ardent Corkman who had arrived in Mayo, thanks to the Irish War of Independence. With another brother, Patrick, he had fought, side-by-side, with the Irish revolutionary and leader, Michael Collins, then sought refuge from a British manhunt by accepting a post as Principal teacher on the island of Inniskee, off the Mayo coast. He never returned to Cork, such was his love for the West of Ireland.

Timothy's son, who would become the founding director of Mary's Shrine, remembers well his father's love for national symbols, perhaps most of all, the symbolism embodied in the Killala Round Tower -- a replica from other times that illustrated the Irish love of their faith and their inspired resistance to invading marauders, from as far back as ancient times.

Joseph's childhood, stories from which he enjoys sharing with friends even today, was an exciting time for an Ireland at last free from wrenching centuries of often harsh, British rule. And that new spirit of independence was not lost on the Kilfinian schoolboy, Joseph Harte. His mother, too, was a schoolteacher, and a love of learning was instilled in all the Harte children. And while his mother is even today remembered by many for her musical abilities and for encouraging in her pupils a love of Irish patriotic songs, she was, for all of the Harte children, an exemplar of the faith she sought to instill in them.

In the late 1940's and early '50's, (then) Fr. Harte taught with the Marist Brothers in Sligo. Being a "true" Mayo man, he is a devotee of Gaelic games, especially, Irish football. He recalls with pride his role as a member of the Crobh Rua (Sligo Town) teams that won county championships in '48, '53 and '54. To this day, he follows avidly the fortunes of County Mayo's Senior football team and greatly looks forward to the day his team will win, at last, an All Ireland Championship.

In the minor seminary at Mount Melleray in County Wexford, run by the Trappist Monks, where I first met Joseph Harte, I noticed he had a great devotion to praying the rosary. In his place in the Chapel, I checked out the little booklet he frequently used: *"Scriptural Recitation of the Rosary."* In time, I bought a copy of my own.

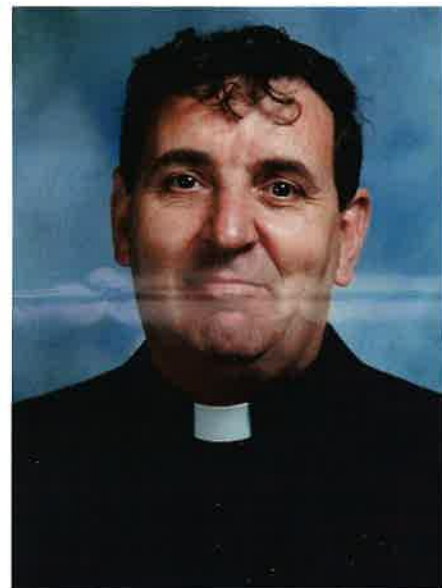
To this day, Monsignor Harte promotes the Rosary just like his famous predecessor, also from Mayo, Fr. Patrick Peyton, whose worldwide Rosary Crusades featured the motto: *"The family that prays together, stays together."*

Prayerful as he was, and gifted academically, my friend Joseph Harte also had a gift for having fun. (But let me do no more than hint at the antics he got up to in those seminary years, or even tell of the "terror" he was on the football field, lest he might return the compliment and reveal something of my own, youthful shenanigans.) It is enough to say that the Seminary Deans never managed to catch him, lucky for him.



Seminarian Joseph Harte starring as King Claudius in "Hamlet"

Many years ago, while visiting his family in Ireland, Fr. Harte shared his "Dream" of a Marian Shrine with a priest friend, named Father Dooley. Fr. Dooley asked: *"How much money do you have to begin the project?"* When Fr. Harte said, *"I have nothing,"* his friend replied, *"Joe Harte, you are crazy!"*



Father John McMullan

But what the Blessed Mother wants, she gets; and together with her Divine Son, the Blessed Mother called Fr. Harte to create a *"Spiritual Oasis"* amid the theme parks and tourist attractions newly burgeoning in and around Orlando. And from that call, it would become his job, his ministry and privilege, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the hundreds and thousands of tourists visiting each year from around the world.

In 1984, I had the privilege of concelebrating with Fr. Harte the first Mass on the grounds of what would become Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine. At the time, the site offered visitors nothing more than a small tent; and we were joined that historic day by, at most, 50 people.

Yet, today, those same grounds are home to a magnificent, 2000-seat church that is based on drawings of the first church of Constantine, built in Rome in the Fourth Century. The new church is illuminated by 14 stained-glass windows, the Shrine's now famed, Magnificat Windows, and 16 clerestory Rosary windows. On the interior walls are the Stations of the Cross, 14 beautiful oils painted by Flemish master, Franz Anseele more than a century ago.

Msgr. F. Joseph Harte, and the Shrine Ministry

Father John McMullan and Monsignor F. Joseph Harte have been friends for more than half a century. They went through the Seminary together as classmates and, after ordination, both followed a path to Washington State, to begin their ministries; Fr. Harte in Yakima and Fr. McMullan in Seattle.

We are grateful to Fr. John for generously sharing with us all his thoughts and reflections on Msgr. Harte, helping us to know a bit better this man, this priest, who has touched so many lives.

Throughout the Shrine as well are numerous statues created by renowned sculptors, bringing to mind the words of Pope John Paul II: *"The Church needs art to communicate the message entrusted to her by Jesus Christ. Beauty is a key to the mystery and a call to transcendence."*



Annunciation Rosary Window

The entrance portals feature a trio of arched doorways with mosaics of the Prophet, Abraham, on the left, and Mary, the Mother of God, right, pointing inward to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, above the center portal. Sculptured, bronze-relief door panels and roundels depict major events and personages from the Bible.

The 80-foot-high Bell Tower at the outdoor Mother & Child Chapel is surmounted by three, Capanni Bells. The marvelous Pope John Paul II Rosary Garden includes walkways of multi-hued bricks and concrete paving stones forming the cross, centerpiece and beads of a rosary, and helps lead visitors through a landscape rich in greenery, stately oaks and tall pines, pools of gathered water, colorful flower beds and comfortable, crafted-stone benches. Adding a further dimension, outdoor, bronze Stations of the Cross. And at the Garden's entrance, a bust of Pope John Paul II welcomes visitors, inviting all to experience his favorite prayer, the Rosary, as never before.

The Shrine Museum is home to a growing number of art treasures, including a magnificent oil painting, completed in 1640, *"The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin,"* the work of Bartolome Murillo. While at the new, multimedia center visitors can enjoy a virtual pilgrimage by using the interactive exhibit: *"Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith."*

The Gift Shop's book department houses many titles, from classics to modern writers. Also available is an extensive selection of statues, rosaries, crucifixes, jewelry, music and videos. Wherever possible, staff members and volunteers seek to place helpful works and images of faith into the hands and homes of Shrine visitors.

Indeed, as Msgr. Harte has stated so often, the success of Mary's Shrine owes much to the love that volunteers and supporters have for the Eucharist and the Mother of God. For while the Shrine exists under the auspices of the Orlando Diocese -- providing pastoral care and services for countless numbers of visiting faithful each year -- it is not a parish, with its own, internal source of funding.

Instead, Msgr. Harte and his clergy have looked to those whom the Shrine has been privileged to call friends; and it has been the collaborative effort of these special people who continue to contribute their gifts, their treasures

and their prayers, that works to open these doors each day.

Under the patronage of the Blessed Mother, and with the blessing of her Divine Son, the Shrine's mission continues to grow by leaps and bounds dispensing Eucharistic food and life to the many thousands of worshippers visiting each year from many lands.

Further, Shrine priests dispense Christ's healing peace through the sacrament of reconciliation, which is available daily. Each day, too, finds visitors praying in the Adoration Chapel, and outdoors, in the Rosary Garden or Mother & Child Chapel.

Visitors find spiritual enrichment as well at the Museum, in the Shrine's multimedia experience, or simply by spending quiet time among the natural splendor of the site itself. And many include a visit to the Shrine Gift Shop, where they can browse aisles stocked with books, music and religious items that can inspire and inform.

Yet, most all visitors are motivated interiorly by desire for greater intimacy with God. And on leaving, refreshed in spirit, many are inspired to carry out spiritual and corporal works of mercy such as caring for the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and, indeed, all of God's children who are in need.

Orlando's Bishop Wenski readily acknowledges Msgr. Harte as the man who had *"dreamt the dream"* and, led by the Holy Spirit, was the one whose hard work and dedication translated that vision into reality.

And it sure seems to me, in spite of Father Dooley's doubting remark those years ago, that Father Harte's *"Dream"* of a Marian Shrine was not so crazy after all.

***"The Shrine is
the real theme park –
our theme song is
Jesus Christ."***

UPDATE

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Opening doors to the Shrine's 2,000-seat church was but a further step forward for those friends who had answered the call. Having helped purchase the land, clear the site, build a first, temporary church and welcome growing numbers of Christ's faithful, these friends of Mary's Shrine shared Fr. Harte's vision of a gathering place that would illuminate the Gospels -- causing both heart and mind to soar.

It would be a gathering place where the ennobling life and history of Christian culture might unfold amid tableaux of sacred art and architecture, and through sacred music, the deep harmonic of organ pipes set against glorious choral voices. Here, too, they envisioned a place of meditation,



The Museum at Mary's Shrine

then opened, with both a permanent collection and timely exhibits.

Recognizing that music's role in Catholic worship was diminishing, possibly denying generations ahead the resonant pulse, texture and sheer vitality which music brings to the mass, the response of Mary's Shrine has been to restore music to an integral role within the ministry's cultural and liturgical programs. Dr. William Picher, a distinguished musical director, was appointed Director of Music Ministries. And he has accepted the challenge to create a cultural program that can help reinvigorate music's wonderful role in Christian life.

So, too, in seeking to harness technology's power to enrich teaching and learning, architects of the Shrine's vision developed a multimedia space that would be capable of introducing new, technology-centered educational formats. And the first such program -- Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith -- is even now inviting visitors to step back through the annals of time and experience the life of pilgrimage itself:

that voyage of self-discovery which, for nearly 2,000 years, has called the faithful to journey forth in search of God's presence and, in the process, both spreading and strengthening their faith.

With the Shrine's rapid growth has come recognition: both national and international. At a special mass of thanksgiving in November 2003, Italy's Pio Cardinal Laghi -- a long-time friend and promoter of Mary's Shrine -- surprised and delighted attendees when he read out a letter from Pope John Paul II bestowing on Father Harte the title of "*Prelate of Honor of His Holiness*" and presented the director with the ceremonial sash of a Monsignor.

An even more gratifying honor would come in March 2007, when the United States Conference of Bishops conferred upon the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe the title of "*National Shrine*."

For the good friends and members of the Shrine family, though, there is a far greater recognition of their shared sacrifices and generosity: It is found in the increasing number of families, vacationers and pilgrims arriving here each year... in hope of finding peace, solace, enrichment, knowledge and a communion of faith that might draw them nearer to Jesus and Mary.

And today, with the announced retirement of Msgr. F. Joseph Harte at age 77, the torch passes to a new generation; for this holy ministry, well begun, must continue to light pathways for Christ's faithful for all the years to come.



Mary's Shrine

where tranquil gardens might invite the faithful to walk in the path of Jesus and Mary, even as these Shrine visitors journeyed on their own life's path.

Success attracted large numbers of Christians each month, brought new friends to the ministry and fueled even greater ambitions. A unique Rosary Garden was carved from surrounding marshland. A museum of Christian art was planned, developed, funded and



The Shrine's New Multimedia Center

The Dream Fulfilled -- An Evening of Celebration; National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe

ORLANDO -- On the evening of May 27, 2007, friends and members Mary's Shrine joined with the Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, D. D., Bishop of Orlando; Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer

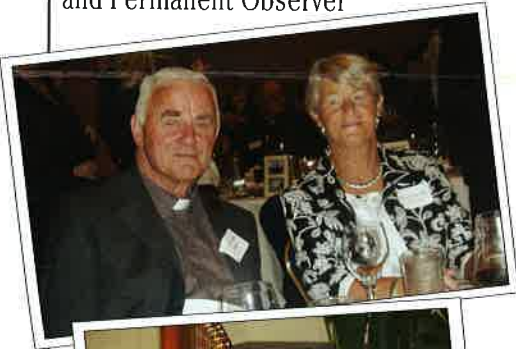


of the Holy See to the United Nations; the Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey, C. P., Bishop Emeritus of Orlando and Monsignor F. Joseph Harte, Shrine Director to honor and celebrate the new National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

The Dream Fulfilled

***"We are grateful to all.
We glory in the success that
has been achieved because,
in the words of St. Paul,
'The love of Christ impels us,
that they who live might live
no longer for themselves,
but for Christ who died
and was raised.' "***

— Msgr F. Joseph Harte



**The Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
send our fraternal greetings and blessings
to the Faithful, Religious and Clergy of the Diocese of Orlando,
and to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando.**

**After receiving His Excellencies most heartfelt request
and recognizing the Ministry of Tourism present in the Diocese of Orlando
physically and spiritually represented by the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe,**

**Let it be it known, that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
is most happy to confer upon Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe the title of**

National Shrine.

**In granting this title, we also commend and congratulate
the Reverend Monsignor Joseph Harte,
the staff, ministers and volunteers of the
National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe
for their long, loving and dedicated service.**

Given in Washington, March, 2007.

**Most Reverend William Skylstad
Bishop of Spokane
President**

**Francis Cardinal George
Archbishop of Chicago
Vice President**

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.



SHRINE TREE

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.

\$ 800

BRONZE DOOR COMMEMORATIVE

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.

\$ 500



\$ 300

FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

Footsteps of Faith donors are opening doors to the new Interactive Theatre -- a place where millions of visitors will explore Christianity's storied history and traditions. Each of these generous patrons is honored with a handsome certificate and their names are listed on a special plaque inside the Theatre entrance.

SHRINE CHURCH HYMNAL

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."

\$ 250



ROSARY GARDEN BRICK

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.

\$ 200

ROOF TILE MEMORIAL

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.

\$ 50

