



the magnificent

Souvenir Edition – May 27, 2007

A PUBLICATION OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE

To Build The Dream

Amid a landscape of neon signs and flourishing theme parks, the people of God here in Orlando wanted to make their own statement – creating a holy shrine that would illuminate the promise of life everlasting: a Catholic presence, a spiritual oasis that might enrich the faith of all who gather within.

“A Dream Fulfilled”



A Beacon of Light along I-4 – Fulfilled!

A Church to serve the spiritual needs of tourists – Fulfilled!

A place like no other, with a Garden of Reflection, a space for contemplation with Stations of the Cross and encouragement for prayer, especially the Rosary – Fulfilled!

Outdoor Chapel surmounted by Bells with a unique statuary of Mary and the Divine Child – Fulfilled!

Reflective Pools with fountains to create a serene entrance – Fulfilled!

Within the Shrine Church - glistening stained glass windows and distinctive statuary created by renowned artists – Fulfilled!*

***The Artists** – Jerzy Kenar, Jill Burkee, Giancarlo Biaggi, Bruno Lucchesi, Loura Dobbs, Walter Judson (RIP), Ken vonRoenn, Massimiliano Del Monte, Brian Hanlon. Rosary Garden designed and gifted by Laura Llerena. Trees gifted by Marian Gardens.

An Evangelization Center consisting of (1) a **Museum**

of Religious Artifacts with historical significance and (2) An **Interactive Media Center** reflecting the history of Christianity and the innate desire for God of the followers of Jesus and (3) A **Religious Gifts Store** providing opportunity for visitors to purchase artifacts that are reminders of God’s presence in their lives – to be placed in their homes or worn on their person. – **Fulfilled!**

The Bishops



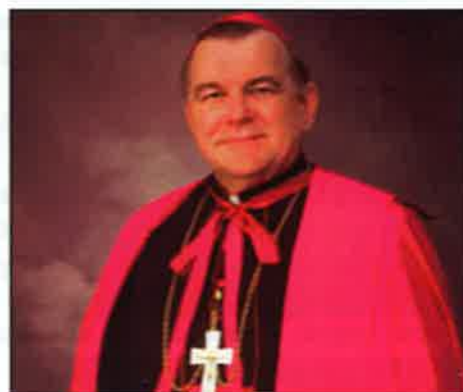
Bishop Thomas L. Grady (RIP) approved the original concept for the Shrine and presided over the ground-breaking (December 8, 1984), the first Mass in the original building (now the Gift Shop) on April 7, 1986 and the Dedication of Phase One on November 20, 1986.

Bishop Norbert Dorsey C.P.



Bishop Dorsey approved the start of work for the present Shrine Church and concelebrated the first Mass (January 31, 1993) and the memorable Dedication (August 22, 1993.)

Bishop Thomas Wenski



Bishop Wenski, presently Bishop of Orlando, was instrumental in having the Shrine raised to National status by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, March 2007.

The Dreamers

“Dreams,” as the poet Wordsworth once wrote “feast upon the inward eye.” Great dreams are born from majestic, innate desires. Where once there was a wilderness, there now stands a renowned place of worship, a pathway to Christ, a place where His Mother is Queen. All of this – because a small group of faith-filled natives of S.W. Orlando joined together to help bring Christ and the Eucharist to visiting Catholics in hotel ballrooms and other places of assembly. They knew they could do better. They believed in their God-given opportunity to provide a fitting place of Catholic worship – and so they began to “dream.”

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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Friend of Mary's Shrine,

I remember it well ... a small banquet room in a local hotel, 200 people or so, a somewhat "hesitant" priest for mass with five or six industrious helpers.

It was early times! My Bishop had given me carte blanche to have masses for tourists in any location I could find. In my mind there were questions aplenty ... could we make this infant Tourist Ministry survive? How might we get the word out? ... Would visitors come to the hotels for masses? How many masses? Where to find further help? Yes, and what to do when the customary hotel where we offered mass called off the arrangement because there was no room in the inn? And would there be sufficient monetary help to

keep going?

I began the mass by welcoming the people as I always did ... perhaps a comment here and there on the success (or failure, perish the thought!) of Notre Dame or some other noted football university! Then one Saturday I made a mistake a funds raiser must never make! I apologized that I had to ask for generosity in the offerings.

Then I heard a woman's voice. "Father, I want to say something." She was sitting in the fourth row of chairs and her interruption temporarily frightened me. But reassurance came quickly. "Father," she said, "you don't have to apologize for anything. We know the need and we are glad you are here." "Aren't we glad?" she continued, turning to the others. And the response came in a burst of applause.

God works in His own good ways! He had sent me a message; asking to further His work was worthy, and His good people's love for the Eucharist was away and beyond any earthly values.

And so a rejuvenated priest began to make stronger and more effective appeals. From every state in the land people came on board to help ... more and more helping volunteers joined in the ministry ... the ministry did not only survive -- it thrived! Volunteers spread the word to hotels, we found more priests to help with extra masses at more venues! And the Lord sent us wonderful benefactors -- like you -- to further His cause in this tourist area.

Remember Saint Peter! (His statue is under construction and will soon stand within our Church.) His enthusiasm for Jesus was always expressed in the high moments of his life with the words "It is the Lord." Like him we profess that it is the Lord who is the energizer. Thank you for helping to light His path!

Like Mary, to whose gentle hands we have committed this ministry, let us always "Do what he tells you." With Mary we know the Shrine will continue to be a beacon of light in Orlando for visitors and residents alike.

I never did get the name of the lady who spoke up at that mass. To this day she remains anonymous. But she is in my heart and I pray for her frequently. Her simple act benefited not only my life but the lives of countless thousands. And your encouragement and sacrificial gifts achieve the same result.

Your friend in Jesus and Mary,

F. Joseph Harte
Monsignor F. Joseph Harte

"Anytime I come to Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, I am amazed. This is a beautiful Shrine. It is the work of providence and the work of men."

Pio Cardinal Laghi

"The Shrine is a witness around the world to the strength of our Catholic faith."

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

the
magnificat

ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE FRIENDS
AND BENEFACTORS OF

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

Editor: Fr. John E. McMullan

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They dreamed of a place "like no other." They knew it could be done because "nothing is impossible **with God.**" (Luke 1:37)

In Orlando, a gathering place

for millions of tourists – a place with a theme park whose signature tune was known in every continent – "It's a small, small world" – those enthusiastic S.W. Orlando residents would create a more significant kind of music. The song they would sing would be "Jesus Christ!"

As the number of visiting tourists grew, so also did the number of "dreamers." The enthusiasm spread. "Volunteers" dreamed with

each other and the visitors whom they served. From approximately 8 to 10 volunteers at the start, the numbers grew to upwards of 300 dedicated, loving, Christ-centered people. And with the increasing influx of tourists came those who shared the "Dream" and realized not only the need for a Catholic place of worship serving visitors to the major theme parks, but also a special place of Catholic witness in the capital of the tourist world.

Honorees

At this banquet we honor our entire Shrine family – our volunteers who come to serve, our visitors who come to be served, and a "Community of Faith" known as the Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine Family that as a result has developed throughout the United States and in regions far beyond.

Years ago Pope John Paul II met with the then Father Harte and promised to remember in prayer all who would share in the development of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine. (A bust of Pope John Paul II is in the Shrine's Rosary Garden.)



"I offer my blessing upon this holy work. I will include you and all Shrine benefactors in my daily prayers."
Pope John Paul II.

During his time as Papal Delegate to the United States, Archbishop Pio Laghi has visited Orlando on a number of occasions and became a wonderful friend and promoter of the work. On November 16, 2004, Pio Cardinal Laghi came to the Shrine and announced a special honor from Pope John Paul II for the Shrine family of volunteers and benefactors, by appointing the Rector of the Shrine a Monsignor.

Today, as we celebrate a "Dream

Fulfilled" we pay tribute to the special "team" who guided Monsignor Harte every step of the way – the members of the Shrine Building Committee. These are people to whom gratitude cannot be expressed in words. They surely have a special place in the heart of the Lord for their constant availability, their knowledgeable and prudent advice, and a fervor for the success of the project – and for countless hours of meetings. (One meeting at the beginning of the project lasted from 7:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m.)

A shrine Church is a place of special devotion where people come to renew their faith. The special devotion at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine is related to the Blessed Eucharist. Indeed the Shrine, standing at the outer limits of the theme park area, represents everything that is Catholic.

In addition to Eucharist, it emphasizes devotion to the Blessed Mother as one of the God-given gifts, enabling us to reach that salvation for which Christ gave His life on the Cross.



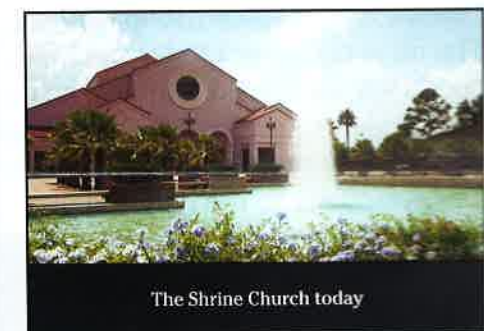
1980 - A "sign" of what was to come



1984 - Fr. Harte, Fr. Pfab and Fr. McMullan concelebrating the very first Mass on the Shrine grounds. Some 50 people attended in a small tent.



1992 - Bishop Dorsey and Fr. Harte during construction of the main Shrine Church



The Shrine Church today

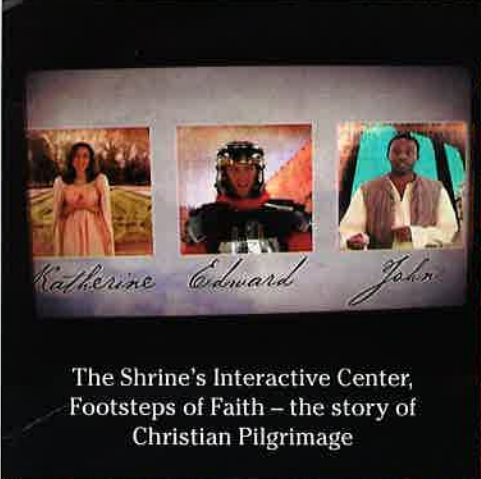


We welcome Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican Observer at the United Nations and a longtime friend of the Shrine. Many years ago he took part in the Shrine ministry by celebrating masses at theme park hotels. He will give the Keynote Address at the celebration banquet.

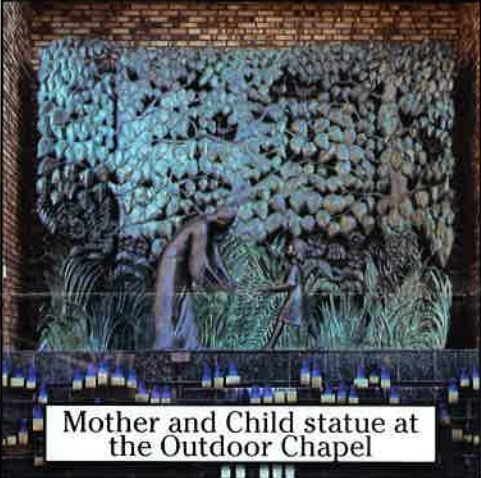


“Marian shrines are like the house of the Mother, refreshment and rest points on the long road that leads to Christ. They are forges, where, through the simple and humble faith of the ‘poor in spirit,’ one comes in contact again with the great wealth that Christ has entrusted and granted to the Church.”

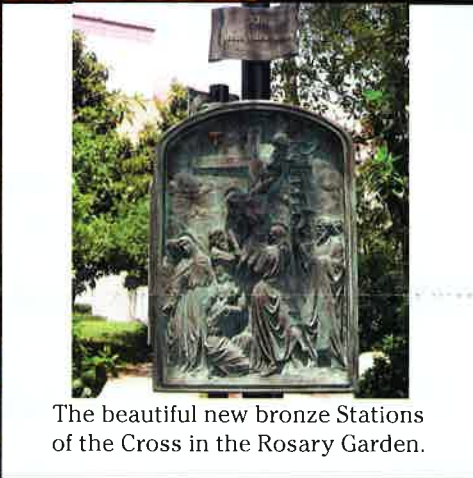
Pope John Paul II



The Shrine's Interactive Center, Footsteps of Faith – the story of Christian Pilgrimage



Mother and Child statue at the Outdoor Chapel



The beautiful new bronze Stations of the Cross in the Rosary Garden.



Memorial names in the Rosary Garden

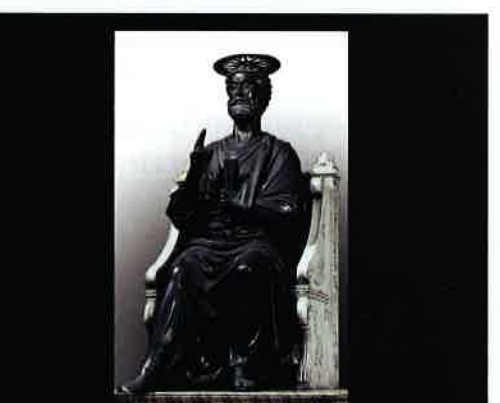
Shrine volunteer Morris Bodoia: *“The reason I am still involved with the Shrine after so many years is because it is such a dynamic ministry. We have a Shrine which is a tremendous monument to the Holy Mother. I am ready to help where I am needed.”* **Shrine volunteer Joan Rossi:** *“I enjoy coming to the Shrine to help out. Everyone is so friendly here. There is a great self satisfaction in this type of work and it is a privilege to start the day off with mass at the Shrine. I’ve made a lot of wonderful friends among the volunteers.”* **Shrine volunteer Dick Kelley:** *“The Shrine is a wonderful benefit and serves as a huge beacon not only for tourists but for the local Catholic community as well. It is a place where people arrive expecting a quick mass, and instead get a beautiful liturgy and they leave feeling that they have a church home in Florida. This is a seat of evangelization and a great way of bringing out church.”* **Shrine staff member Sharon Mayer:** *“It has been a privilege to have worked at the Shrine for more than seventeen years ... an involvement that began in the mid-eighties as a volunteer. The expressions of faith here day after day fill the heart to overflowing. And I have been blessed to have met such incredible people so willing to help ... volunteers who I will never forget who have made my job here so rewarding – visitors with their own special experiences ... co-workers so dedicated and content to be involved here.”*



Bust of Pope John Paul II in the Rosary Garden



A historic statue from war torn Europe around which villagers gathered to pray for peace.



Statue of St. Peter presently being sculpted

Shrine Committee Members

Monsignor F. J. Harte, Richard J. Kelley (Chairman), James J. Nagy A.I.A., Marcia Ann Pietrzak, Jane Quinn, John E. Larkin, Wade Hargadon (R.I.P.), Clarence Geis, William Kramer A.I.A.



The Mosaic of Abraham above the Old Testament Portal



The Mosaic of The Good Shepherd above the New Testament Portal



The Mosaic of the Blessed Mother above the Mary Portal

Ministry's success attributed to the laity

From the beginning, Father Harte believed that God's work needed the faithful hands of the laity.

"It is the people, the laity, that have made this a successful ministry. Jesus gave the bread to his followers to distribute, he didn't distribute them himself. Our bodies are his body. We are very much a part of the mystery of the Body of Christ and we work with Him and through Him. Our volunteers understand that and that is the reason our ministry has been so successful." (Excerpts from the Florida Catholic newspaper, August 13, 1993)

Father Harte and a handful of volunteers began to minister to the multitudes of tourists at Disney World after its opening in 1971. Attendance of worshippers grew from a handful at the Twin Towers Hotel to many thousands. The ministry moved to larger hotels – from the Sheraton to the Travelodge, to the Royal Plaza Hotel, the Hilton, the Palace Hotel, and eventually to the Polynesian on Disney property.

After the completion of Holy Family Parish where he was the founding pastor, Father Harte went from house to house recruiting Catholics for Holy Family parish and also to recruit volunteers to help with the ministry at the hotels.

God blessed the ministry and now the Diocese of Orlando has a magnificent church, a seat

of evangelization, a beacon of faith to the world, a monument to honor Mary, the Mother of God, and a spiritual oasis where hundreds of thousands of worshippers from all over the world receive Eucharistic food and life. In addition, the Shrine dispenses Christ's healing peace to thousands of visitors through the sacrament of reconciliation which is available every day.

With us tonight are members of the Shrine "family" from Florida itself and from Michigan, Colorado, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ireland, New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, California, and places equally distant. These wonderful people love the Shrine because they love the Blessed Mother and they love the Shrine's evangelization.



The Rising Christ

Suspended at the rear of the nave of the Shrine Church is a 14 foot high lindenwood statue of the *Rising Christ*. Here is Jesus – seeming to emerge from a burial shroud with "one hand reaching down to us and the other, raising upward to the Father." The image invites us to come through Him to the Father. When you leave the Shrine Church, you do so with a sense of optimism as you notice the *Rising Christ*.

You, the members of the "Shrine family" are invited by the Lord to continue to help bring others, with yourself, to the Father, with the help of the Blessed Mother.

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 \$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.



FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

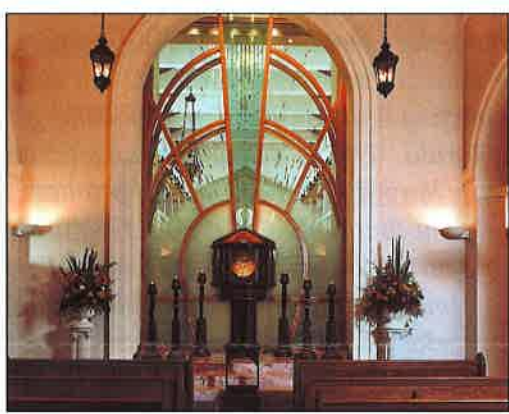
\$ 300

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 at the Theatre entrance.

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.

