



the magnificat

Vol. 18 No. 1

SPRING 2007

A PUBLICATION OF

MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE SHRINE



UPDATE

A Dream Fulfilled, Yet Promises to Keep Rising to the Challenge of a New Era in Christ

May 27th Commemoration to join Shrine friends and family in celebrating *A Dream Fulfilled*: the faith, vision and generosity that have worked to build and sustain this holy ministry for peoples from all nations.

ORLANDO -- On his return to Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine after many long years, an early friend of the ministry was heard to exclaim: *They've done it; they really have done it. They've fulfilled the dream!*

And for friends who can still recall the desolate tract of marshes, thick with overgrowth, that first greeted site visitors in the mid-1980's, it would not be hard to understand such astonishment.

Where flowering plants and greenery might have seemed impossible back then, there now stretches the Rosary Garden -- a quiet landscape of walkways set among floral beds and shaded by stately trees.

The work of noted landscape artist, Laura Llerena, who brought together elements of tall woods, stone, water, plants, even the earth itself, this beautiful garden is, in her words, "*a living rosary of faith.*" Recently dedicated to Pope John Paul II, the early patron and a longtime friend of the ministry he fondly called: *this house of pilgrimage*, the Garden has become a favorite place for meditative pilgrims and vacationing young families alike.

So, too, the uniquely-triangular, Outdoor Chapel, with its bronze statue of Mary and her young Son -- one of the first facilities to welcome visitors -- has been enhanced with a set of bells that now calls the faithful to worship. And what many friends remember as a temporary church, the site's early home for the Eucharist, with bare walls and metal, folding chairs, is today a complex that houses the Shrine Museum, the Gift Shop -- books, music and articles of faith to broaden and enrich life at every age -- and the newly-opened Shrine Center for Interactive Media, with an opening exhibit that celebrates the life and spirit of pilgrimage down through the ages.

But this "*dream*" -- an oasis of faith amid the bustle of Central Florida theme parks and tourist attractions -- would not be fully realized without a church, large enough to truly welcome all peoples. And so a call went out to Shrine friends,

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INVITATION

"A Dream Fulfilled"

May 27, 2007

see page 4



A Letter from the Rector

Easter 2007

Dear Shrine Friend and Family Member,

Most dreams will depart with the waking light of day; yet not so this dream of Mary's Shrine.

What had begun as "a hope" more than 30 years ago -- a possibility, perhaps, but a cause without funds or even a single, powerful advocate -- has nonetheless been transformed into a majestic edifice and a ministry which each year touches the life and faith of countless numbers from all across the world!

And why? Because faith transforms hope; it energizes; it builds; it brings others to the cause.

When I first awoke to the possibility of a holy shrine that would open doors to the millions of vacationers arriving in Central Florida each year, I took my dream to Lourdes.

Indeed, before I sought a single ally in this world, I asked Our Lady's blessing. And she stirred in me a passion. She emboldened me. She made me know it could be done -- it must be done!

With a go-ahead from the late revered Bishop Grady work began. And the Mother of God guided to us a generation of faithful who would become friends, patrons and "builders" of Mary's Shrine. And there is a blessed aura about this dedication and the fervor of their commitment to the cause.

Even more, the Blessed Mother would lead us to those who might illuminate the message of God's love through their own visions of faith, their art and skilled hands.

Thus came architects, the sculptors and others who would help carve from the wilderness of a Florida marsh, this holy place... bursting with life, and love.

Yet, bricks, clay, stained glass and vibrant gardens form but a welcoming landscape. This house is God's, built of generosity and faith, and sustained by great friends like you who continue to share the dream.

And may the Resurrected Lord be with you, in your joys, your sorrows...and always, in faith.

In the love of Jesus and Mary,

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 MASSES OF
EASTERTIDE

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

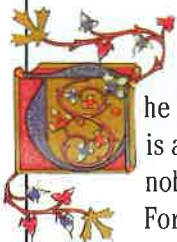
ISSUED PERIODICALLY FOR THE
FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS OF

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

The Spirit of Pilgrimage: a Quest for the Holy; Where Heaven and Earth Seem Entwined

Pilgrimages: Footsteps of Faith -- the opening exhibit in the new Interactive Theatre at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine -- has been welcoming the faithful for just a few months, but the new exhibit continues to draw enthusiastic reviews, and growing numbers of visitors.

Through an interweaving of text, art, video and motion graphics, exhibit-goers find themselves traveling through times past and present, and across lands both near and far. And those who journey into this virtual world may well emerge with a new, and deeper understanding of the pilgrimage experience, and a broader appreciation for the history and traditions of their faith.



he spirit of pilgrimage is among the oldest, most noble of human traditions. For here is seen the universal stirring to draw closer to God through a journey to places imbued with the very signs and symbols of His presence, places where heaven and earth seem entwined.

While the pilgrimage experience is especially rich in our Judean-Christian history, such travels have been reported as far back as 2600 B. C. -- a time when the great Mesopotamian hero, Gilgamesh, reportedly sought immortality through just such a spiritual journey.

The ancient Greeks traveled great distances to consult the famed Oracle at Delphi. Hindus and others climbed Tibet's Mount Kailas, the point reputedly most near the center of "their universe."

Even centuries before Christ, ancients were traveling to the birthplace of Buddha in Nepal -- believing that devout pilgrims who died enroute might be reborn into a "heavenly world."

Yet it was the religious feasts of the Israelites -- prominent among them, Passover, and the Hebrew Pentecost -- which inspired the tradition of Christian pilgrimage that was to follow.



The Interactive Theatre at Mary's Shrine

Indeed, it has been said that Jesus was himself "the Pilgrim par excellence." As the Gospels tell, Mary and Joseph would take their son up to Jerusalem for the annual feast of Passover. Years later, in beginning his public ministry, Jesus left behind the idea of home and traveled widely, preaching in towns and across the hills of ancient Galilee. The spirit of pilgrimage led him as well into the desert, and on his final journey to the Holy City of Jerusalem.

So, too, as he gathered his disciples, Jesus bade them leave behind family and possessions, and take up the pilgrim life. Wandering poor and homeless, freed of worldly concerns and material constraint, the disciples were to rely solely on God -- serving as an example to all others.

But the Christian pilgrimage must have purpose, direction and a destination. And for the early pilgrims, journey's end was most often Jerusalem, the Holy City, which was both a center and crossroads for the holy land itself.

As Martin Robinson explains in his book, *Sacred Places, Pilgrim Paths*, a visit to Jerusalem would allow pilgrims an opportunity to walk the path of Jesus, reenact events in his life, and draw near "to the place where the physical presence of Christ was laid."

Over time, saintly lives and events inspired by faith worked to imbue other places with mystical import, and pilgrims soon found new points of destination -- especially, sites of martyrdom.

As many early followers of Christ were martyred for their beliefs, they were

honored by the Christian community and, as Robinson tells, the site of their burial became a place the faithful would gather.

Martyrs, like all Christians who died, were still thought part of the community, but their heroic deaths meant the prayers of these martyrs were especially strong. They came to be seen as "intercessors" between the faith community and God, and their tombs were thought to be places where heaven and earth would intersect.

For the devout, pilgrimages to sites viewed as holy would connect them with the unseen events commemorated there. It became a way for the faithful to obtain benefits, a sense of renewal and, perhaps, even personal holiness.

And to this day, Christ's faithful set out on voyages of discovery to Jerusalem and countless other sites seen as holy -- including Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine here in Orlando -- each seeking wisdom, health, renewal and, above all, the presence of God.

“ To go in a spirit of prayer from one place to another, one city to another, in an area marked especially by God's intervention, helps us not only to live our life as a journey but also gives us a vivid sense of God who has gone before us, who himself set out on man's path, who does not look down on us from on high, but who has become our traveling companion. **”**

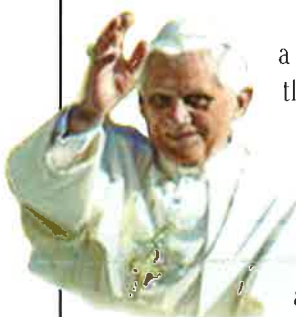
-- Pope John Paul II

“Sing, choirs of angels... rejoice, O earth!” Easter: Gift of Light; Gift of Hope

To Christians worldwide, the seasons are announced not by the rise and falling of the tides, the moon's rotation or even revolutions of the sun; for us, the seasons are announced by faith.

There is a time to sow, preparing ourselves for the life ahead; a time for us to share together the sufferings of Jesus; even a season to recognize God's love for all the world. Yet Easter is our season of joy -- that singular time of renewal as we celebrate the hopes and glories which are born of Christ's resurrection.

And with Easter, we turn our hearts towards Rome, seeking the Holy Father's blessing, and his guidance -- and finding gentle enlightenment in his words.



“Jesus is not a character from the past. He lives, and walks before us as one who is alive, he calls us to follow him... and in this way to discover for ourselves too the path of life.”

“His death was an act of love. At the Last Supper he anticipated death and transformed it into self-giving.”

“Through the sacred rites we relive the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, reawakening the desire to follow Jesus more closely. At the solemn Easter Vigil, the joyful Gloria and Easter Alleluia rise forth from the hearts of the whole Christian community, because Christ has risen and has defeated death.”

The Holy Father challenges us as well to prepare for Easter through the Sacrament of Confession.

“We know we are sinners but we trust in divine mercy. Let us be reconciled with Christ in order to enjoy more intensely the joy He communicates to us with His resurrection.”

Pope Benedict stresses that the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ, “gives us the certainty that evil does not have the last word; supported by this certain knowledge we can commit

ourselves with greater courage and enthusiasm to creating a fairer world.”

“May the Risen Lord grant that the strength of His life, peace and freedom be experienced everywhere. Today the words with which the Angel reassured the frightened hearts of the women on Easter Sunday morning are addressed to us: ‘Do not be afraid! He is not here; He is risen’ (Mt. 28:5-5). Jesus is risen and He gives us peace.

For this reason the Church repeats insistently ‘Christ is risen.’ Let the people of the third millennium not be afraid to open hearts to Him. His Gospel totally quenches the thirst for peace and happiness that is found in every human heart. Christ is now alive and He walks with us. What an intense mystery of love! Christ is risen, because God is love! Alleluia!”



“Life comes to us from being loved by him who is Life; it comes to us from living-with and loving-with him.”

“Thus we can sing full of joy, together with the Church, in the words of the Exsultet: ‘Sing, choirs of angels... rejoice, O earth!’ The Resurrection is a cosmic event, which includes heaven and earth and links them together. In the words of the Exsultet once again, we can proclaim: ‘Christ ... who came back from the dead and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.’ Amen!”

“... the great Easter Vigil is the ideal moment for Baptism. During the Vigil, the symbol of light is linked to that of water and reminds us that we are all born again of water and the Holy Spirit, in order to share in the new life revealed by Christ's Resurrection. ‘In him is life, and the life is the light of men’ (cf. Jn 1:9).”

“O vere beata nox!”

“Night truly blessed which brings Christ's light to all people. Night of limitless splendour shed the light of hope and peace on every corner of the earth! Amen.”

“... the Lord is risen and grants to those who share in his triumph over death the courage and the strength to continue to build up a new humanity by refusing every kind of violence, sectarianism and injustice.”

“Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” (Mk 16:3), the women were asking one another, when early they were going to the tomb where the Lord had been laid. To this question, asked by the people of every age, of every country, culture and continent, the Bishop of Rome replies... with the message: ‘Urbi et Orbi.’”

“Men and women of the Third Millennium, the Easter gift of light that scatters the darkness of fear and sadness is meant for everyone; all are offered the gift of the peace of the Risen Christ, who breaks the chains of violence and hatred. Rediscover today with joy and wonder that the world is no longer a slave to the inevitable. This world of ours can change: peace is possible even where for too long there has been fighting and death...”

“Men and women of every continent, draw from his tomb, empty now for ever, the strength needed to defeat the powers of evil and death, and to place all research and all technical and social progress at the service of a better future for all.”



UPDATE

continued from page 1

old and new alike; and they responded with donations of every size. Their gifts helped tile the roof, complete the flooring and pews, enhance the church's interior with magnificent stained glass windows, statuary and so much more.

Completed in 1993, the 2000-seat church overflowed with dignitaries and friends for the dedication ceremonies on August 22nd, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. And in the years that followed, uncommon generosity would commission a beautiful *Rose Window*, together with the signature statue of *Mary, Queen of the Universe*, and a bronze of St. Joseph at work with the young Jesus.



Rose Window

Additional generosity made possible a brilliant-colored mosaic of *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, which would be installed in the Day Chapel, and a marble statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the narthex. Gracing this large entrance area as well are bronze plaques honoring St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Jude, St. Therese, and the Archangel Raphael, together with the Shrine's *Pieta*, a unique depiction of the Blessed Mother holding the lifeless body of her Son, Jesus. And *The Stations of the Cross*, 14 paintings by Franz Anseele, a 19th century Flemish master, adorn the Church walls.



Jesus and Joseph



Bronze Door (from model to reality)

The Shrine's commitment to honor and renew a marvelous tradition of sacral architecture's bronze-clad doors is today helping realize the "dream." These three, visual landmarks, each with double doors represent, thematically, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Mary, the Mother of God. Sculpted in bronze, with scenes that depict Biblical events and personages, these new Portals of the Faith, help to proclaim the Gospel even when the doors are closed. While in the archway space above, large-scale, vividly-crafted mosaics complete the Shrine's welcome to visitors from every land.

A "dream" almost completed, and yet, the greater challenge of this holy ministry will come in reaching out to the millions of pilgrims, vacationing young families and tourists who arrive in Orlando each year, drawn by theme parks and attractions, but with hearts,

perhaps unknowingly, seeking something more -- something greater. It is to these seekers that Mary's Shrine holds out the promise of a new day, and an ever closer relationship with God.



INVITATION

For the Shrine Family, A Day to Celebrate

ORLANDO -- On Sunday, May 27th, the friends and family of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine will join with The Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, and honored guests from The Vatican and Washington, DC, to celebrate "A Dream Fulfilled."

With a special Mass at 11:30 A. M., followed by dedication ceremonies for the Shrine Church's magnificent bronze entry doors, together with other newly-completed elements at this house of faith, the celebration of a dream long-

thought impossible yet now largely fulfilled here at Mary's Shrine will conclude with a joyous Banquet at the nearby Renaissance Hotel.

To receive your formal invitation to this landmark commemoration here at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, plus program, schedule and, if needed, information on hotels with special-rates for celebration attendees, simply check the box for May 27th information on the enclosed Intention Form.

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

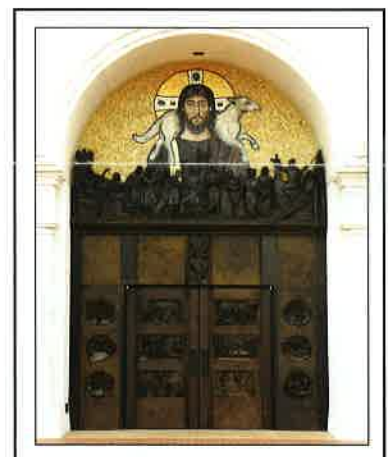
\$ 800

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.

