



THE MAGNIFICAT

Vol. 20, No. 1 WINTER 2010 A PUBLICATION OF THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

25 years since groundbreaking

A House of Dreams Unfolds



1984



2010

Among those coming to the Orlando attractions each year were many Catholics. In seeking to provide for their spiritual needs, the Diocese of Orlando arranged for Masses at an area hotel. As the number of visitors grew, additional hotel Masses were scheduled. To direct this unique “tourist ministry,” Bishop Thomas Grady named, in 1975, Father F. Joseph Harte, the pastor of Orlando’s Holy Family Parish.

With some 300 of his parishioners volunteering as lectors, ushers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, the new apostolate was soon thriving. Looking at projections that forecast as many as 30 million annual visitors to the Orlando area, Father Harte realized that makeshift hotel facilities would no longer be sufficient.

Far more compelling, Bishop Grady and Father Harte saw before them an extraordinary opportunity to reach greater numbers of men, women and children — embracing them with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Echoing the newly inaugurated Pope John Paul II’s call to “open wide the doors to Christ,” Father Harte envisioned a permanent facility — a spiritual oasis where the faithful could share in the holy Mass, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and meditate amidst

the prayerful serenity of God’s preserve.

On December 8, 1984 — the feast of the Immaculate Conception — ground was broken for the first construction phase. Within two years the initial facility was completed. Long-term, this was to be the Evangelization Center. But



Father F. Joseph Harte, 1984

with 600 folding chairs and a blessing from His Holiness conveyed by the papal nuncio, Archbishop Pio Laghi, the facility became, in late 1985, the Shrine’s temporary, on-site church.

Across the courtyard, an outdoor chapel was being constructed and anchored by an 80-foot bell tower. Within the chapel walls was installed an inspiring 12-foot bronze work titled “Mother and

Child.” This was the first of several important pieces to be commissioned from noted sculptor Jerzy Kenar.

August 22, 1993, the feast of Mary’s Queenship, saw the groundbreaking for the new main church. “We want this Shrine to be a temple,” offered Bishop Norbert Dorsey (then the new Bishop of Orlando) at the ceremony, “a sacred place to give glory to God and honor our Mother.” There was to be a principal space for worship, offset by subareas and structural elements that would add human scale. The interplay of natural and artificial light was developed through a series of Magnificat windows. These 14 scriptural interpretations, richly detailed in stained glass, would be crafted by the prominent Judson Studios so as to illuminate the Gospel teachings and the grace of the Blessed Virgin. Above, clerestory windows would depict Creation and the mysteries of the holy rosary.



On December 8, 1984, ground was broken for the first construction phase.

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A Letter From the Rector



It is the evening of Tuesday, December 8 — the feast of the Immaculate Conception. As many of you may recall, it was on this day 25 years ago that Bishop Thomas Grady, the second bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, along with Msgr. F. Joseph Harte and others, broke ground for the Shrine. For 25 years, many of you have seen the Shrine grow from a small tent to the beautiful Shrine complex we have today. This ministry to tourists would be nonexistent if it were not for your prayers and support. From a parcel of land filled with pine trees and palmetto bushes to the beautiful Basilica Church, it has been a faithful journey in which many of us have been privileged to be participants.

As I write this note, we are in the Advent season. God not only prepared Mary to receive her Son, He also prepares us to do the same. In fact, this entire Shrine project and ministries are living signs of how well God wants to take care of His people. Every brick, every tree, every piece of stone, marble, wood and glass demonstrate to all how wonderfully God has and continues to prepare a place for His people to celebrate their Catholic faith, to worship the Father with Christ in the Eucharist, to receive the great sacrament of reconciliation, to express and increase their devotion to Mary.

Bishop Grady once wrote this:

“The beauty of Mary is that she was totally open to the beautiful God. There is a marvelous simplicity and clarity about her beauty. She knows who she is and what she is. ... Mary, the woman of faith had said, ‘I am the servant of the Lord.’ ... Mary leaves each of us a challenge: be a person of faith” (“The First Disciple: Reflections on Mary of Nazareth,” Orlando, Diocese of Orlando, 1987, pp. 17, 25).

All who have helped bring this dream of 25 years ago into a reality are “persons of faith.”

In this issue of the Magnificat, you will see pictures of the past as well as the present. The journey from pine trees and palmetto bushes to the honor of being the 63rd church in America to be declared by the Holy Father a basilica continues. What about the future? I hope and pray we all will continue to be part of it. Let me end this introduction by again quoting Bishop Grady, the “builder” of the superstructure of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the fifth director of that Shrine, then-Msgr. Grady. He was commenting on the National Shrine in Washington, but his words are especially appropriate for us. The quote was found in the “Jubilee 2009 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception”:

“As time passes ... the meaning of the Shrine will become more profoundly true. As decades pass, the Shrine will age gracefully as a building ... when children, their children, and their children’s children shall have prayed in the Shrine, then the Shrine will be a repository of memories — memories of ceremonies, of events, of countless visits — it will be history standing out of the past sheltering the present (and) awaiting new days. It will be, caught up into stone, an expression of ... love and trust” (The American Ecclesiastical Review, October 1959: pp. 218, 231).

The dream of Msgr. Harte and countless supporters has, and continues to become a reality. I thank Msgr. Harte and all of the priests who have served at the Shrine. I thank all the staff and volunteers. I thank all of you who by your prayers and support made this possible. Finally, I thank God for giving us His Son, and His Son for giving us such a wonderful Mother.

I hope that Christmas and the Christmas season was a time of peace and joy and love for both you and all of your loved ones.

Mary, Queen of the Universe, pray for us.

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Edward J. McCarthy

Very Reverend Edward J. McCarthy, S.T.L., D.Min.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of The Magnificat was intended to be issued in January. Thus you will note that the Letter From The Rector reflects Father Ed's Christmas message.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday:

8 a.m., 12:05 p.m.

7 p.m. (Monday)

Mass and Perpetual Novena in honor of the Miraculous Medal

Saturday Masses:

8 a.m., 6 p.m.

Sunday and Holy Days:

7:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

6 p.m.

LENT 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 Lent 2010

LEGACY OF FAITH

By means of a bequest, naming Mary, Queen of the Universe 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

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

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MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

*Eastern icons travel to Shrine***CATHERINE DAVIES***Director of Museums*

To celebrate the Shrine becoming a Basilica, the Museum hosted the inaugural exhibition of the national traveling tour of *"Orientale Lumen — Traditions of the East."* Inspiration for this exhibit came from the apostolic letter of Pope John Paul II, "the light of the East has illumined the universal Church. ... The Virgin Mary ... is an icon of the Church, the symbol and anticipation of humanity transfigured by grace."

Master iconographer and premier Byzantine artist, Elias Damianakis, has made it his personal mission to perpetuate the spiritual consciousness of Christianity through his iconography. This painter, sculptor and muralist painted many of the icons that were featured in this extraordinary show.



Damianakis' style and use of color allows the icons to burst with life — it is as though the artist is passing on the written word of God through imagery.

Recognizing the power of art to communicate to the mind and spirit, the Basilica Museum continues on its mission to enrich our visitors' personal



Master iconographer and premier Byzantine artist, Elias Damianakis, has made it his personal mission to perpetuate the spiritual consciousness of Christianity through his iconography

pilgrimage. It is with great eagerness that we help support the arts, which in turn helps enlighten our journey of faith.

*WHAT'S IN STORE***VALERIE RUNCI***Retail Director*

On December 4th, the Gift Shop, in conjunction with the Basilica's Museum, held its second Christmas Open House. While the weather outside that night was unusually rainy and cool, the mood inside was warm and festive. Guests enjoyed Christmas punch and tempting cookies, cakes, candies and many other delectable treats while shopping. Shoppers were thrilled to discover special sale items, available only during open house. At the registers, the gift shop volunteers revealed another open house surprise. Each shopper got to pick a secret discount that applied to their purchases, with one lucky guest selecting the largest discount, half off their entire purchase!

In between shopping and enjoying the Museum's Christmas Traditions exhibit, guests had the opportunity to register to win one of the eight Open House raffle gifts. The drawing was held



immediately after the intermission of the Basilica Choir's Christmas Concert, which was also going on that evening. Every year, Open House is scheduled to coincide with this wonderful musical event to create a full evening's entertainment. Between the music, the art, shopping and eating, there was something for everyone to enjoy! We hope that you can join us for Open House 2010 if you are in the Orlando area next December.

Remember, you don't have to be a local to take advantage of the wonderful treasures in the Basilica's Gift Shop. Our fantastic volunteers are here seven days a week to assist you in person, on the phone or via the Internet. The store is open Monday-Friday 8:30 – 5:00 and weekends from 8:30 – 8:00. Always available on-line at www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

From our Gift Shop family to yours, we sincerely hope you have a Blessed, peaceful and healthy New Year!

Pietà bronze cast on its way

The Basilica is currently working with an art dealer in New York to display an original bronze cast of Michelangelo's "Pietà." This is a rare piece of art, one of nine casts commissioned by the Vatican in 1932; it is an exact rendition of Michelangelo's original marble sculpture on display in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. We hope to have it on display here in February.



St. Clement pilgrimage arrives



November 2009: Faithful numbering some 500 from St. Clement Catholic Community in Plant City, Florida, kept a promise made to the Blessed Mother in gratitude for prayers answered, and walked in pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, a distance of more than 50 miles. They were accompanied by Father Carlos Rojas.



Father Ed greets the pilgrims from St. Clement Catholic Community upon their arrival at Mary's Shrine.



SOLEMNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

took place August 22, 2009, with Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, as celebrant. Concelebrating with Bishop Wenski were the founding rector of Mary's Shrine, Msgr. F. Joseph Harte, and the second rector of the Basilica, Very Reverend Edward J. McCarthy. The Mass was recorded and aired on EWTN. You can receive a copy of this DVD as a gift with your donation of \$50.

Blessing of groundbreaking plaque



2009 marked the Silver Jubilee of Mary's Shrine, the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Shrine complex, and the solemnization of the National Shrine as a minor Basilica by Pope Benedict XVI.

Father Edward McCarthy, Proto-Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, is joined by members of the Regnum Christi of the Legionnaires of Christ — graduate students from Brazil — as he blesses the plaque commemorating the groundbreaking for the Shrine complex which took place on December 8, 1984.



At this spot, December 8, 1984, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, the Most Reverend Thomas J. Grady, Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, turned the first sod for this Shrine, erected for the Glory of God and the Honor of Mary, Mother of God. Within this stone are the names of those Foundation Members from many parts of the world, whose faith and sacrificial generosity have been the cornerstone by which this Shrine became possible. "Through him the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord; in him you are being built into this temple to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 3:21).

With Dr. William Picher music ministry has grown at Basilica

Eight years ago, Dr. William Picher accepted the position of Director of Music Ministries at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, and under his mantle of expertise, the music ministry at the Basilica has steadily grown.

Dr. Picher, who acknowledges that his first music teacher was his father, holds music degrees from the University of Maine, Eastman School of Music and The Catholic University of America, and has so influenced the music at the Shrine that he now has eight vocalists leading the music during two of the five Sunday Masses.

In addition to the Sunday Masses, Dr. Picher has developed a Concert Series at the Shrine. So well accepted is the series, that the Christmas concert this year was attended by nearly 1,000 people, and featured the Shrine Choir's eight voices, Dr. Picher, and two other visiting musicians. The 2010 Concert Series calendar is included here with, most notably, Handel's "Messiah" scheduled for the Easter concert. During Midnight Mass on Christmas



Dr. William Picher

Eve each year, Dr. Picher directs a small orchestra at Mary's Shrine as visitors from across the country and around the globe welcome the Christ Child.

Dr. Picher, an accomplished organist, trumpeter, composer and conductor, was born to a musical family and began studying the organ

at age 7 and the trumpet at age 13. He married Maria, a clarinet player, vocalist and teacher. They have two sons: Michael who plays trumpet and composes, and Stephen who plays trombone and piano. Often he enlists his family to perform at the Shrine as well, especially at Christmas and Easter.

Prior to joining the ministry of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Dr. Picher held similar positions at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg, Fla. (where he was awarded the St. Jude Medal by Bishop Robert Lynch, for distinguished service), as well as the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine. He has used the talent he was blessed with in positions with Walt Disney World, Florida Southern College, St. Petersburg College and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts, Maine State Music Theatre, University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine, and the U.S. Navy Band.



2010 CONCERT SEASON

- Friday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.
Handel's "MESSIAH"
The immortal oratorio performed by an expanded Shrine Choir and Orchestra, directed by Dr. William Picher. Tickets: \$15.
- Thursday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.
THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CHOIRS. Directed by Dr. David L. Bruner. Talented students from the UCF Music Department perform antiphonal works for multiple choirs and instrumentalists. Free admission; offering to be taken for UCF Scholarship Fund.
- Sunday, May 30, 3 p.m.
A SALUTE TO THE FALLEN: A CELEBRATION OF MEMORIAL DAY. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Join the Shrine Choir, and organist Dr. William Picher, as we pay tribute to those beloved who have gone before us. Tickets: \$10
For further information, contact the music department at the National Shrine: 407-239-6600, ext. 317; or music@maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

The Consecration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe: A Celebration of Community

JOSEPH BURANOSKY

Director of Operations

What a great honor for this Shrine to be consecrated as a Basilica! As I reflect on the events of August 22, 2009, and all of the effort that went into the celebration of that day, one word comes to mind immediately — community. It truly was a celebration of that community which the Gospel describes to us as the Body of Christ. What we all witnessed that day was the community of believers coming together at Mary's Shrine to witness the fruits of 25 years of devotion, prayer and generous support that made the "Basilica" a reality. The event itself was the manifestation of community in the larger sense, but when I think about just that one day and how it came together. I am struck by the richness of faith in the vibrant community of believers who worked so tirelessly to bring it to fruition.

I vividly recall the morning when Father Ed called us into his office to give us advance warning that this honor was going to be bestowed on the Shrine — we had barely six weeks to pull it all together and prepare for a fitting solemnization event to mark the occasion on the feast of the Queenship of Mary. There was to be a special liturgy followed by an appropriate social gathering to celebrate the honor. The planning, coordination and logistics involved folks from the Chancery, from other parishes in the Diocese, and the staff and volunteers



The community of believers gather at Mary's Shrine to witness the fruits of 25 years of devotion, prayer and generous support that made the "Basilica" a reality.

of the Shrine; it was a monumental effort.

There was a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time. After coming up with a general plan for the special day, we set about putting together the layouts for all of the printed materials that would be necessary, such as the invitations, tickets, and worship aides for the liturgy. Many contributed their ideas and their talent to this effort, but I think it is important to recognize Carol Brinati, the Secretary for Evangelization and Director of Communications for the Diocese, who was instrumental in the design of these materials.

Other administrative and logistics

concerns included the set up for broadcasting the Mass via radio, set up for videotaping the liturgy, and ensuring the sound system was tuned to accommodate the special liturgy. Security is always an issue, and our team worked closely with both our private security contractor as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Office to ensure all physical security and traffic-control issues were covered.

The liturgy was the focal point of the day, and it was imperative to make sure that everything was ready to celebrate the significance of the event. The principal celebrant was Bishop Thomas Wenski, but the Mass was concelebrated by Father McCarthy,

See COMMUNITY, next page



The principal celebrant of the Mass was Bishop Thomas Wenski, but the Mass was concelebrated by Father McCarthy, Msgr. F. Joseph Harte and the other priests of the Shrine.

Banquet Remarks from August 22, 2009

FATHER EDWARD McCARTHY

Rector

In his general audience of August 5, Pope Benedict XVI said this:

"Contemporary relativism mortifies reason, because in fact, it arrives at the point of affirming that the human being knows nothing with certainty beyond the field of positive science. Thus man becomes a beggar for meaning and fulfillment in constant search for comprehensive answers to questions of substance that he ceaselessly poses to himself."

This would describe many in our culture who would like us to believe that right and wrong are outdated concepts. Absolute truth, or the arduous and time-consuming questioning for it, has been replaced by the cult of immediacy: iPods, cell phones, text-messaging, service at fast-food drive-thrus within five seconds. The search for truth has been placed on the altar of unbridled technological advances and has been sacrificed there. For many, the theme song for all of this advancement has been me, me, me, me, me. The common good, love and service to neighbor have been often replaced by what's good for me, what's in it for me? The question, "Who is my neighbor?" has been continuously asked, so much



so that the service to neighbor has been delayed or denied.

In this type of relativistic environment, I suggest it is sometimes good for us to inquire, "What distinguishes us from others who claim to follow God and live within Christian tradition?" I don't wish to make judgment about better or worse, but to help us grow as a Catholic people in our own unique identity.

A week or so ago, Cardinal Francis George, the Archbishop of Chicago and President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote this:

"Catholicism is, first of all, not a set of ideas or a collection of causes. It is a way of life, a way of following Jesus. It teaches us what Christ expects of us. It is a way of following Jesus."

What distinguishes the Catholic way of following Jesus from, let us say, the great Russian Orthodox tradition or the Southern Baptist tradition?

I would like to suggest that one of the ways that distinguishes us from the Russian Orthodox tradition is that we who are Roman Catholic believe what the Church teaches us about the Holy Father, that is, the successor of St. Peter. The Petrine Ministry exists for the benefit of the Universal Church. With regard to faith and morals there is truth, and the Petrine Ministry of service to the Universal Church is a safe guide to those truths. Those who follow the Russian Orthodox tradition do not share this dogma of the Catholic Church.

What separates us from those who follow the Baptist tradition? Some of the issues that distinguish us from those who follow Jesus in the Southern Baptist tradition are that we Catholics believe what the Church teaches about the sacraments, especially concerning the mystery of the Eucharist and the mystery of the sacrament of reconciliation. We also believe what the Church teaches us about Mary, the Mother of God. The one who was immaculately conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, gave

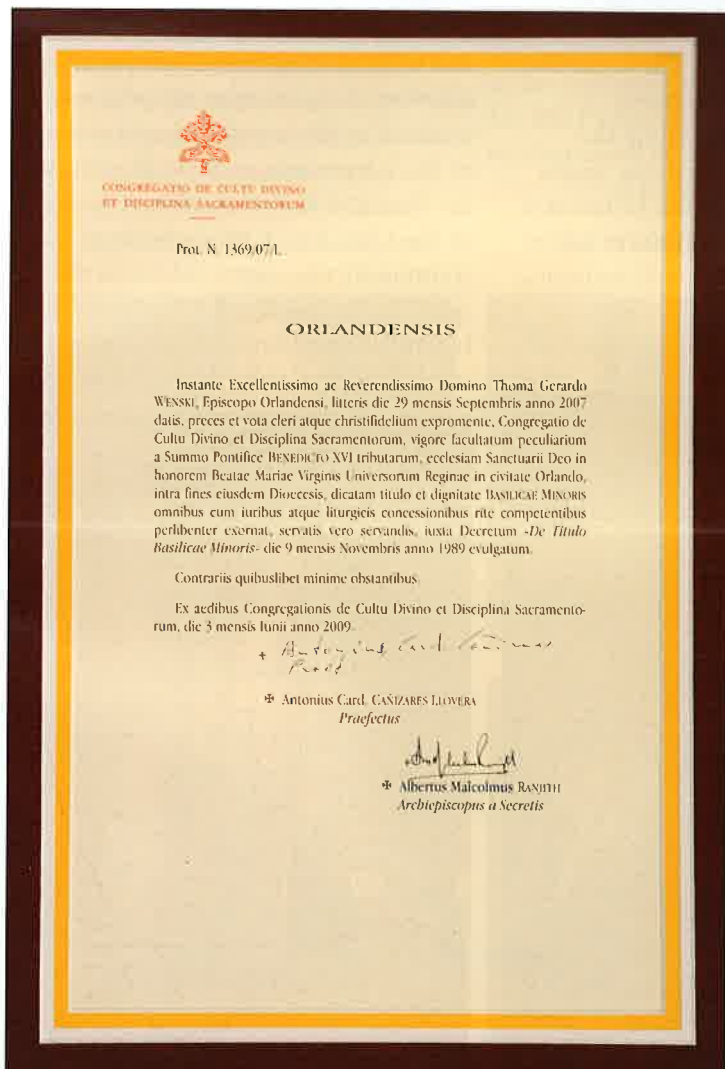
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Translation of Papal Decree

At the request of Most Reverend Thomas Gerard Wenski, Bishop of Orlando, pursuant to the prayers and wishes of the Clergy and faithful of the Diocese conveyed by letter on September 29, 2007, the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, by virtue of the special faculties bestowed on it by the Supreme Pontiff, Benedict XVI, willingly confers on the church in the city of Orlando, within the confines of the same diocese, which is a sanctuary dedicated to God in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Universe, the honorific title and dignity of a Minor Basilica, with all the rights and pertinent liturgical privileges — with due observance of the terms and conditions obtaining in accordance with the decree "De Titulo Basilicae Minoris" of November 9, 1989.

All things whatsoever to the contrary are proscribed.

From the headquarters of the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, June 3, 2009.





August 22, 1993, the feast of Mary's Queenship, saw the groundbreaking for the new main church.

House continued from Page 1

Appropriate focus and emphasis on the liturgical elements within the church were to be provided by an imaginative interweaving of stained glass and sculptural art.

In Chicago, Jerzy Kenar prepared a strikingly original design for the holy water font and his 650-lb. portrayal of the Crucified Christ, which, against an architectural glass backdrop forming the cross, would hang, suspended above the



Priests and visitors gather for groundbreaking

main altar.

With the installation of these works and completion of the church interior, Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine Church was at last ready to open its doors to the world. At the Mass on January 31, 1993, before an overflow assembly of some 2,500 guests and members of the Shrine family, Bishop Dorsey proclaimed a day of great rejoicing, asking God's grace upon all who will be drawn to this holy church.

Through 1993 and up to the present

day, work has continued across the Shrine complex. The temporary church of years past was transformed into the long-awaited Evangelization Center, housing the Gift Shop, Religious Art Museum and the Pilgrimage Center.

Here, then, is our Shrine, dedicated to Mary, Queen of the Universe. Here, Mary embraces her children as she brings them to her Divine Son. Together we, their children, will serve both Mother and Son in this tourist ministry in faith and love.

National Shrine Designation

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 Excellency's 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 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



Construction progress



Remarks

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birth to Jesus, and because of Christ, was assumed into heaven.

The same Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego on December 12, 1531. St. Juan Diego, because of his uncle's request that he go and bring the priest to him for the sacrament of the sick, could not meet the Lady at the appointed time and place. His uncle, named Juan Bernardino, was dying. On his journey to find a priest he naively thought he could avoid seeing the beautiful Lady by taking a detour and going around the Hill of Tepeyac on the east side. But the Most Holy Mary went down the hill and met Juan Diego. She inquired as to where he was going. He told the Lady about his uncle's condition and once he brought the priest to his uncle he would return and fulfill the request she made of him a day or so previously. Mary said these words to Juan Diego:

"Listen, put it into your heart my youngest son that what frightens you, what afflicts you is nothing; do not let it disturb your face, your heart; do not fear this sickness or any other sickness, nor any sharp or hurtful thing. Am I not here? I who have the honor to be your Mother? Are you not in my shadow and under my protection? Am I not the source of your Joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? ... Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

So said Mary to Juan Diego. So says Mary to us.

Devotion to the holy sacrifice of the Mass, to the Eucharist, to the sacraments, to the Mother of Jesus, to the Holy Father, are some of the distinguishing aspects of the Roman Catholic faith tradition.

In this Year for Priests, how blest am I, as we priests, who have served and who serve in the ministry of the Shrine:



- To serve in the Shrine that is now a minor Basilica and thus has a special connection to the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, the Successor of Peter.

- To serve in this Basilica Church where the Word is proclaimed, the Eucharist is not only celebrated, but has the opportunity of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day.

- To serve in this Basilica Church where the opportunity for receiving the sacrament of reconciliation is more than in many of our parishes.

- To serve in the Basilica Church where devotion to Mary, the Mother of God is boldly proclaimed. How lucky we priests are.

The Shrine stands out as a beacon to all. It shines as a light to the world regarding the best in the Roman Catholic religious tradition.

What distinguishes this Basilica from all Basilicas? As far as I know, this is the only Basilica in America, and perhaps in the world, that has been created for tourists and supported by tourists; a ministry that provides the tourist a place of beauty, quiet and rest. For the Catholic tourists, it provides an opportunity to

"come away" — to be for five minutes, for one hour, or for a half a day ... a pilgrim. A place where the Catholic pilgrim, if they wish, can revisit their Catholic identity and traditions in the Pope's Church.

As a priest at the Shrine I have to say that it has been a beautiful way to follow Jesus.

The dream began so many years ago because a priest saw a need and responded to that need. Not only did he respond to a need, but he motivated hundreds of others to help. We owe a great deal to that priest, to Msgr. Joseph Harte. In his response, I would also have to say again, "What a beautiful way to follow Jesus."

To all of you, who because of your sharing of your time, talent, treasures and resources have made this ministry possible, I thank you. I hope you also could say, "What a beautiful way to follow Jesus."

Cardinal George was right. Catholicism is about following Jesus. I again thank all of you who have heard the call and responded so generously. Vivat Jesus.

IN MEMORIAM

Shrine loses two longtime employees

In November 2009, Mary's Shrine lost two of our longtime employees. We ask that you remember them prayerfully. We miss their physical presence, but rejoice that they are now with the Lord.

Elizabeth "Betty" McGill served as the receptionist at the Basilica for more than 20 years. Early on, Betty would serve as cantor at Sunday Masses and even late last year would lead the singing at the Shrine's Miraculous Medal novena each Monday night.

Betty was famous for organizing the "mailing crew" at the Shrine each month. She was 92 when she died after a long illness.

William "Bill" Richardson began his employment with the Shrine as a custodian and eventually accepted the responsibility of groundsman as well. He was instrumental in the planning of all of the gardens and his vision is still apparent around the Shrine complex. Bill was 73 when he died suddenly after health issues arose.



Elizabeth "Betty" McGill



William "Bill" Richardson



for their roles in orchestrating the liturgy and serving as masters of ceremony.

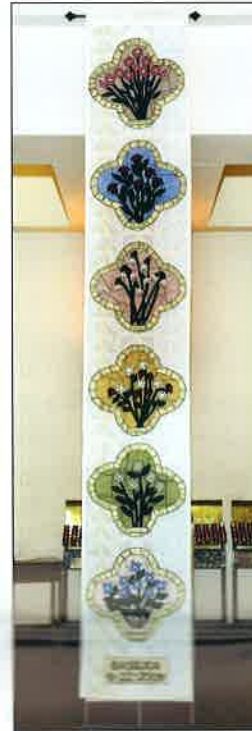
The liturgy involved many participants as well. Seminarians from the diocese served during the Mass. Seventy-two members of the Knights of Columbus fourth-degree honor guard escorted Bishop Wenski. Also in attendance were the Knights' former Florida deputy Jim Schonefeld, and current deputy Doug Murray, along with all of the state officers. Additionally, representatives of the international community, and staff and volunteers of the Shrine participated in the entrance procession. Of course Dr. Bill Picher and the Shrine Choir accompanied by an orchestra provided phenomenal music.

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The community also worked hard to prepare the environment inside and outside the Church for this celebration. Papal flags and bunting adorned the edifice above the bronze doors welcoming the larger community to the Basilica. Father McCarthy had commissioned quilted banners for the narthex to commemorate that day and the other significant milestones in the history of the Shrine. As usual, the Art and Environment Committee outdid themselves in preparing floral arrangements for the occasion. A special thanks also goes to Father Timothy Daly of the Basilica of St. Paul in Daytona Beach who allowed us to use the tintinnabulum and ombrellino from St. Paul's for the ceremony; and to Jon Trout from All Souls who got them here and did a hundred other things for the occasion.



The day was capped off by a wonderful banquet at the Renaissance Hotel near the Basilica. The committee of Shrine staff and volunteers did a superb job coordinating the accommodations, decorations, menu and entertainment. Dr Bill Picher and the Shrine Choir once again provided the community with incredible music.

It's always great when a plan comes together. So many people were

involved in planning and executing the events of the day. The Holy Spirit was truly working in each and every member of the community who was involved in this wonderful celebration of the solemnization of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. A strong sense of community was most evident on this special day. The Basilica has been building "community" for 25 years; may we always continue to do so.



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.



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 PORTAL COMMEMORATIVE

\$750

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 adjacent to one of the new entrance doors at Mary’s Church.



ROSARY GARDEN TILE

\$250

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.

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.



FOOTSTEPS OF FAITH

\$300

Footsteps of Faith donors are opening doors to the new Interactive Theatre — a place where millions of visitors 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

\$225

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.”

