



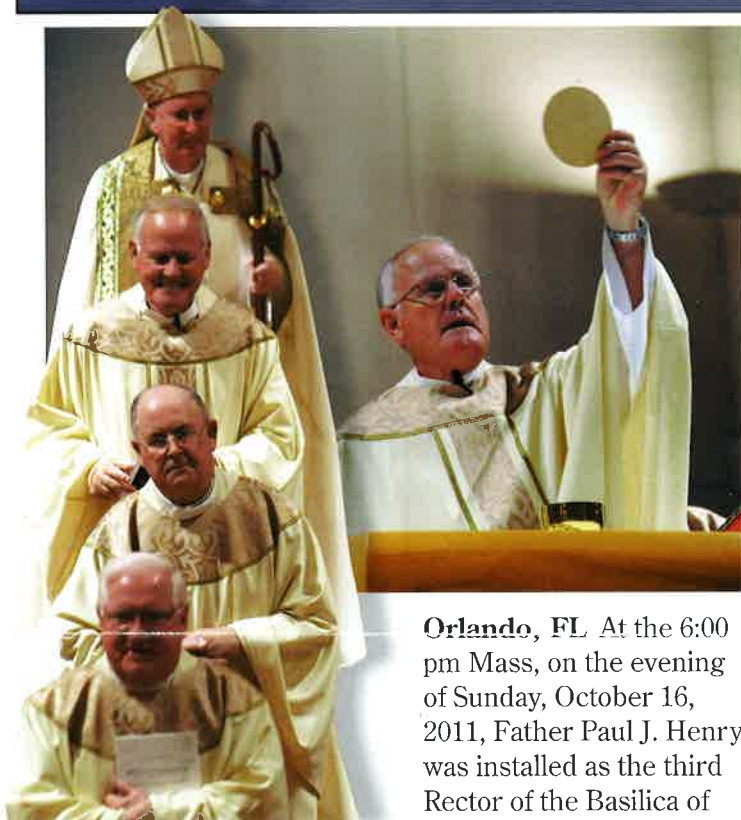
THE MAGNIFICAT

Vol. 22, No. 1 Winter 2012

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



BASILICA'S 3RD RECTOR STRESSES SIGNIFICANCE OF RENEWED AWARENESS TO RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES: MARY LEADS ALL TO HER DIVINE SON



Orlando, FL At the 6:00 pm Mass, on the evening of Sunday, October 16, 2011, Father Paul J. Henry was installed as the third Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of

Mary, Queen of the Universe. His Excellency, the Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando, presided before a congregation filled with family, friends, Shrine volunteers and supporters, and faithful pilgrims from around the world.

Surrounded by dozens of his brother priests from around the Diocese of Orlando, including his own twin brother Father Peter Henry, Father Paul accepted the responsibility of leading the tourist ministry as Rector of the Basilica. He renewed his Promises of Ordination before Bishop John Noonan.

In so doing, Father Paul promised to live up to his responsibility of shepherding the flock of the Lord under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; to celebrate the mysteries of Christ devoutly and faithfully in accord with the tradition of the Church.

Following the renewal of these promises, the Presentation of the Keys and Seating of the new Rector took place with these words from Bishop Noonan: "Father Paul Henry, I present these keys to you as a symbol of your pastoral leadership of the Basilica. May God bless you, the pilgrims, and the Shrine family of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe as you begin your new ministry together. Congratulations!"

Following the profession of faith, Father Paul accepted the appointment with these words: "I, Father Paul J. Henry, with firm faith, believe and profess all those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, the sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff."



A Letter From the Rector



January 2012

Dear Friends in Faith,

All of us are travelers.

Whether or not we actually leave the security of our own kitchen table, we are on a journey.

I think that you, and many thousands of others, found a beautiful and sacred way station here at Our Lady's Shrine when you were travelling. Like the disciples "on the road" we too believe

that something sacred may happen for us ... perhaps something life changing, perhaps something miraculous.

It is God who is our guide ... and God also sends Holy Messengers, the angels, to be our companions, to protect us.

Our faith encourages us to have a heart like Mary, wrapped in wonder so that we will rejoice in all that we meet ... and in the miracle of each new day.

When packing for a journey we should pack a 'mystical map' by which we find invisible meanings in the events of our journey.

We need to be alert to the Divine Presence so that we may see in all that happens to us, His sacred compassion and love for us.



One of the special gifts you find here at the Shrine is the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is available every day, morning and afternoon. It is God's way of offering us healing, and a restored friendship.

We are renovating the sacred space for Reconciliation at the Shrine.

When this beautiful place of pilgrimage was conceived, one of the foundations of our mission of faith was to provide the Sacrament of Penance. This wonderful sacrament provides us with such peace of soul as nothing else on earth can give - a miraculous peace.

Recognizing the need for a reverent space devoted to this most intimate sacrament, plans are in development at the Basilica to remodel the existing spiritual counseling office to a more appropriate confessional.

In addition to converting this sacred space, we are also planning to commission an inspirational image of St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, patron saint of all priests and legendary confessor. How fitting to honor this saint who was tireless in his devotion to the preservation of the ministry of Reconciliation, often spending sixteen to eighteen hours a day in the confessional.

With our lives being so busy, we are often preoccupied with ourselves. It is the desire of the Basilica to be a spiritual oasis, where one can feel refreshed and renewed on the journey.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome,
and I will refresh you.*

Matthew 11:28

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Paul Henry
Very Reverend Paul J. Henry

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. vigil

Sunday and Holy Days

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,

11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

LOURDES 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 the Novena
honoring*

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11 - February 19th 2012

LEGACY OF FAITH

*By means of a bequest,
naming the Basilica of the
National Shrine of Mary,
Queen of the Universe
in your will, you can bequeath
to a new generation a legacy
of faith - and gain for yourself
an immeasurable blessing
and the 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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shrine@maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

"Mary's Song" Music at the Basilica

Dr. William Picher, Director of Music Ministries

"Some of the most beautiful music I have ever experienced in the Catholic Church."

A recent visitor to Mary's Shrine, from a blog review

Our pastoral musicians at the Basilica enjoy hearing that our many visitors appreciate the music here. But even more rewarding is when people tell us that they feel as if they are brought closer to God through our music. We embrace the Church's mission of sacred music and prayerfully do our best to allow ourselves to be transparent so that God can work through us.

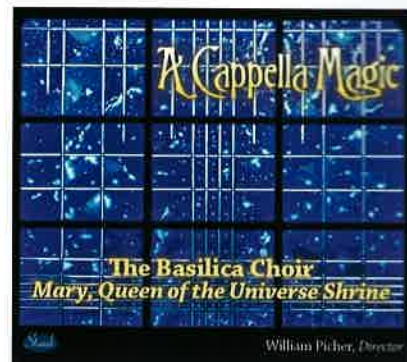
We have long recognized that God uses many avenues to bring the faithful to Himself. Our concert series was established in order to bring many people into the Basilica from a variety of denominations and religious backgrounds. In addition to performances here, our own Basilica Choir regularly performs concerts at other churches in the Central Florida area.

Our most recent outreach has been in the form of CD recordings. Released just this fall has been the Basilica Choir's newest recording entitled "A Cappella Magic". A complete program of unaccompanied music by Renaissance masters Palestrina, Byrd, Hassler and others, the recording also includes several pieces, which were written especially for the Basilica Choir.

Derric Johnson, renowned choral composer and arranger for Walt Disney World, contributes a lovely setting of *Hail Holy Queen* for this recording. Wm. Glenn Osborne, who wrote music for the Papal visits of 2008, wrote a lovely and very contemporary setting of *Salve Regina*. William Picher wrote a setting of the beloved *Hail Mary*, and talented Basilica Choir member Marshall Webb wrote two pieces for the choir, the Christmas classic *I Saw Three Ships* and a version of *Ave Maria* for the men of the choir.

"A Cappella Magic" is now available at the Basilica Gift Shop or by calling (407-239-4010). Samples of the music can be heard online at: cdbaby.com/cd/maryqueenoftheuniverse

We hope you will take the opportunity to bring a bit of the music of Mary's Shrine into your home and car!



For more information on the Basilica's music ministry, call 407-239-6600 x317 or email: music@maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

2011-2012 Basilica Concert Series

Friday, March 16, 2012, 7:30pm
LENT CHORAL CONCERT

The Basilica Choir and Ensemble under the direction of William Picher will perform John Rutter's gorgeous "Requiem" as well as other music appropriate for the Lenten season.

Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 7:00pm CHORAL MASS
in Honor of the Installation of Pope Benedict XVI
In the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Basilica Choir and Orchestra will perform the ordinaries of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Coronation Mass in C Major" along with Gregorian chant and other works of Mozart.

For more information, call 407-239-6600, x317 or email music@maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

What's in Store...

Valerie Runci, Retail Director

It's hard to believe but another year has passed and Spring is right around the corner. Here in the Basilica's gift shop we are already preparing for the new season by clearing out the old and bringing in many new and exciting products for our visitors to discover.

Along with Spring comes the First Communion season.

Receiving one's First Communion is a memory that lasts a lifetime. The Basilica's Gift Shop welcomes the opportunity to provide the perfect gift to commemorate this very special occasion. From socks, gloves, purses and communion ties to music boxes, missal sets and communion dolls, we have it all and everything in between. Framed prints and wooden boxes that can be personalized with the communicant's name and date are always popular in the shop. These gifts can be customized and delivered to your door in a week.

One of our most unique gifts is a customized sterling silver and Swarovski crystal heirloom rosary. Made to order, you select the color of crystal and provide the recipient's name (names must be limited to ten letters or less.) The finished rosary contains one decade of the rosary that spells out the name of the honoree in sterling letter blocks. These rosaries will be cherished for years to come and also make beautiful Baptism, RCIA, Wedding and Memorial gifts.

Our wonderful gift shop volunteers and staff would be happy to assist you with further information on these and other gifts available from the Basilica's store. The shop can be reached by phone at 407-239-4010, by e-mail at giftshop@maryqueenoftheuniverse.org or on our website www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org

MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

Catherine Davies – Museum Director

How does an artwork evoke the sense of compassion, the intelligence, and the love that Jesus gives to us

Interestingly enough, this can be captured by a single moment or a single expression. It is through the artwork of Fr. Waldemar Maciag, featured in the upcoming exhibition at the Shrine Museum entitled *Sacred Face – Christ, the Master of Nonverbal Communication*, that we see how Maciag ambitiously takes the complex and interprets different emotions so simply.

When asked about what inspired him to create these pieces of art, Maciag speaks about of the "Shroud of Turin." He passionately explains how this sacred image was painted with His precious blood – *that admiration of such a "raw" piece of art inspired me to transform my art into a "modern shroud", an image of Jesus contented within threads of raw linen attached to canvas. Each image of Christ is presented in two versions: inverted and converted. In both of those versions I find something new, interesting, spiritual and powerful.*

Fr. Waldemar invites the observer of his art to stand in front of Jesus, to take a look at His sacred face and allow Him to communicate with you. It has been said that Fra Angelico wept each time he painted the Passion- this was true for Maciag as well. The fervent love for Jesus is apparent in these creative works of art, this artist and priest challenges us to feel and asks of us to bring our emotions before God to let Him do His work in our hearts.

Sacred Face – Christ, the Master of Nonverbal Communication, will be on view at the Basilica Museum April 25 – May 29, 2012. Fr. Waldemar Maciag or otherwise known to his congregation as Fr. V, administers to the parish of St. Paul Catholic Church in Leesburg, Florida. This exhibition is free and open to all to visit.



Installation ... continued from page 1

Pilgrims, family and friends gathered for the installation of the third Rector of Mary's Shrine



Following the Installation Mass, friends and family gathered in the Basilica courtyard where they were greeted by the newly-installed Rector, Very Reverend Paul J. Henry, and Most Reverend John Noonan, Bishop of Orlando.



Novena in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11, 2012 – February 19, 2012

In 1858, in the grotto of Massabielle, near Lourdes in southern France, Our Lady appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, a young peasant girl.

She revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, asked that a chapel be built on the site of the vision, and told the girl to drink from a fountain in the grotto.

No fountain was to be seen, but when Bernadette dug at a spot designated by the apparition, a spring began to flow. The water from this still flowing spring has shown remarkable healing power, though it contains no curative property that science can identify.

St. Bernadette describes the First Apparition with these words: "Without thinking of what I was doing I took my rosary in my hands and went on my knees. The Lady made with her head a sign of approval and herself took into her hands a rosary which hung on her right arm. When I attempted to begin the rosary and tried to lift my hand to my forehead, my arm remained paralyzed, and it was only after the Lady had signed herself that I could do the same. The Lady left me to pray all alone; She passed the beads of her Rosary between her fingers but she said nothing; only at the end of each decade did she say the Gloria with me." Bernadette prayed the rosary before each vision.

During the Basilica's Novena in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, beginning February 11, 2012, the anniversary of Bernadette's first apparition, you are encouraged to pray the rosary often and to send your own personal and heartfelt intentions to us so that we may pray with you daily during the Novena. And in the spring of the year, the tradition of the Rector of Mary's Shrine carrying those petitions to the Grotto of Lourdes will be continued as Father Paul visits Massabielle, offers Mass, and prays for your intentions.

Be careful what you pray for.

Blog by Denise Morency Gannon, *(used with permission)*

My husband and I left New England and what turned out to be a record breaking weather beauty of a Columbus Day Weekend to spend a couple of days in our time share in Orlando, FL. We arrived yesterday to what can best be described as a monsoon. You know those big tropical storms that just seem to hang over a location and never move? Welcome to the Sunshine State, Noah. Build us an ark, please.

"Work with me here, please?" I appealed to God this morning as I returned from an early morning workout. God's sense of humor continues to play with me; I returned to my apartment drenched and threw my clothes and sneakers into the dryer. Currently, a patch of blue sky continues to mock me as it peeks through the grey and black storm system; I'm writing on a table by the pool and keeping one eye on the sky. If this blog stops in the middle of a sentence, you'll know that God's raining down a little more love on me.

Two friends joined us late in the day yesterday and with them, the four of us set off for Mary, Queen of the Universe Basilica in the center of Orlando. Pat and I began to worship here when we first visited Orlando with our children in the nineties and just several years after the erection and dedication of the basilica. We always find the experience a feast of worldwide Catholicity as we get a tiny glimpse of the reign of God. "Where are you from?" the presider asks after the greeting. "Chile." "Argentina." "Ireland and Scotland." (The presider suspected that they brought the rain with them.) "Honduras." "New York." "China." "Maryland." "Venezuela." "Massachusetts." "New Zealand." "Kansas." "Japan." "Puerto Rico." From every corner of the earth you gather people to yourself, O Lord. Even on a bad weather day, when people might be tempted to sleep late or curl up with another cup of coffee and the morning paper, the faithful worker continues to respond to God's invitation to gather and celebrate in the feast of God's word, God's table and God's community – the church. The volunteers who serve as greeters, extraordinary ministers of communion, readers, collector of the tithe, as well as deacon and acolytes welcome everyone with warmth, interest in the people who came to worship and helpful with any information regarding the shrine particulars within the basilica. If Disney ran your parish, this would be the way they would operate.

We entered the primary worship space just as Dr. William Picher began to prepare us for worship with a magnificent organ prelude. A very gifted musician and a really nice guy, Bill conducts a small ensemble of eight extraordinarily gifted young professional singers that serve as the principal choir for the basilica. Their music for a Sunday in Ordinary Time resembles what others serve up for large feasts. Bill's dexterity in combining different styles to contain the eclectic assembly of Catholics who come to worship at the Basilica. His fluid accompaniments complement the music sung by the assembly and choir ensemble as he balances organ with midi-instruments. "I try not to get in the way of the music," Bill told me. "I want to sustain what's happening in the music, not overwhelm it. This is a great city to create beautiful music," he added. "Orlando is full of singers, many of them who work for Disney. A full orchestra plays for major feasts and accompanies the assembly and choir." When I asked about the composer of this morning's *Angus Dei*, Bill told me that his son Michael, a nineteen year old musician "who enjoys writing music" created a beautiful setting of the Latin litany. How satisfying as a parent and as a musician to perform a worthy liturgical work that your son composed, hear the piece accompany a rite of Mass and hear the composition sung by an elegant professional vocal ensemble. Feasting within God's ways.

An old man worshipped alongside me this morning. As I customarily do, I remained standing as everyone processed to receive Eucharist, to stand in solidarity with the assembly in sung prayer until all were fed. I usually stand until the presider places the reserved Eucharist into the tabernacle before I sit down to pray silently before the concluding prayers. Usually, I stand alone. Today, the old man kept me company. As we sat down, he pressed his thumb to his lips as a profession of his love for the Eucharist, which obviously sustains him. We never spoke except to greet each other with Christ's peace within the liturgy. I'll probably never see him again; we'll worship God and feast at the table together in the next life, in the new reign of God.

Did I say 'reign' or 'rain'? Thanks for raining down your love on me today, O Lord, in all of your people, in music, in full-bodied worship and in needed down time. I cannot thank you enough for all of your goodness shown to me. Now – a little sunshine..... please?

How Can I Help Mary's Shrine?

By Frank Gurley, Operations Director

The Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe opened in 1993 to accommodate the Tourist Ministry in Orlando and offer prayer, devotion and supplication to our Blessed Mother. Many who visited became Shrine Family members and contributed to make this beautiful place of worship a reality. We know, through visits and testimony, that prayers have been answered. In 2009 Mary's Shrine, was recognized by Rome as a national place of worship and received the title and status of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

Memorial contributions, commemorative gifts, legacy bequests, pledges and anonymous gifts have all made this beacon of hope in Orlando a reality. Together a ministry was begun and an edifice erected that will serve our children, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren. We stand on the shoulders of the generations before us who built our Catholic churches, and together we have carried on their spirit of faith and commitment.

As we pass the torch to the next generation, we will all want to be assured that the sacredness of Mary's Shrine continues to be enhanced by the beauty of its setting; the magnificence of the Basilica edifice; and a staff and volunteers who will continue to reach out to our visitors and serve their needs. We must continue to plan, to grow, and to seek assistance in preserving this House of God and the ministry that was begun in 1975.

With this in mind, we have begun planning and developing new ways for our benefactors to assure that what they experienced here will be available for their own families in years to come. We are excited about the prospect of developing planned giving opportunities that will not only assist the Basilica, but you as well.

Soon we will offer information on the intricacies and benefits of programs such as Gift Annuities, Legacy Programs, Bequests and Estate Planning in general, which will aid both the Shrine Ministry and yourselves. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you to benefit those who follow us.

O Brilliant Star of Purity, Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Lourdes, glorious in your assumption, triumphant in your coronation, show unto us the mercy of the Mother of God, Virgin Mary, Queen and Mother, be our comfort, hope, strength, and consolation. Amen.

St. John Vianney:

May 8, 1786 – August 4, 1859

Reconciliation: The Sacrament of New Life

Very Reverend Paul J. Henry

A unique and special feature of the Shrine ministry is the fact that Reconciliation/Confession, in contrast to a normal parish, is offered every day. Each day, virtually from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., the opportunity is provided for forgiveness and healing.

It is the sacrament of God's compassionate love.

It is a reminder to us all that the sin does not exist which God can't forgive. If we come with a sincere heart, all is forgiven.

We are in the process of renovating our confessional area. It will be beautiful. Its location will be enhanced by an image of St. John Vianney, Patron of Priests – a saint who was blessed with a brilliant gift ... of reconciling pilgrims who came from all over Europe seeking confession and God's forgiveness.

Some years ago I was assigned to a wonderful parish named St. John Vianney. Before taking up my position, I made a pilgrimage to Ars to seek the saint's blessing. (It was close to a part of Switzerland where my brother was working at the time.)

So I arrived on the feast day fully expecting there would be a Mass with the villagers, perhaps around mid-morning.

To my astonishment, as I arrived at 9:00 a.m., I discovered the village was empty. And the Church was empty. And then I walked around the wall of the Church – and witnessed a beautiful sight. There, in the fields, were confessional stations – priests were all around – under trees and in secluded places, hearing confessions.

I discovered a huge crypt (an underground church) and to my joy I was able to celebrate Mass at noon with many thousands of pilgrims, hundreds of priests and dozens of bishops. It was one of those unforgettable moments in my life.

St. John Vianney is honored by the Church as the Patron of priests. This man who strengthened a small, humble parish and heard confessions for many hours every day, attracted thousands from great distances.

The Church, in choosing a model of the priesthood, could have selected a holy cardinal from one of the world's great cities like Manila or Buenos Aires or Chicago, but instead, it chose this humble priest with the brilliant gift of bringing souls to Christ. His image will be one of the images in our renewed reconciliation area of Mary's Shrine.

His middle name was Mary, perhaps that explains where his inspiration came from.

St. John Vianney

Very Reverend Paul J. Henry

St. John Vianney is the Patron of all priests and legendary reconciler of travelers to God. He was the Pastor of a small village in France which, over time, became the center of pilgrimage for people in search of God, and in need of confession.

From all over Europe they came – and later from distant places, including America. They come to this day.

When St. John Vianney was assigned to Ars, his new parish, he was making his way on foot through the countryside, the lovely fields of that part of France, and he became lost. He encountered a young boy, and their conversation is memorialized in a famous statue at that very spot. He said to the boy: "Show me the way to my church, and I will show you the way to heaven."

What a magnificent way to describe the mission of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

Thank you for making this beautiful Basilica dedicated to the Mother of God, a part of your journey.

Please pray for all sojourners who come seeking God's compassionate love – seeking Jesus, the Light of our New Year, and every year.

Picture of the Statue of St. John Vianney and the boy he encountered



The Dream Continues

Monsignor F. Joseph Harte

If you are old enough you may remember the original slogan that was in vogue when the present Basilica of Mary Queen was in its gestation period. That slogan titled information seeking help *"To Build The Dream."* Now in my fifth year of retirement I recall very well the efforts that were made by so many people to bring that audacious dream to reality.

The pamphlet entitled *To Build The Dream* also promised *A Place Like No Other* where pilgrims could commune with God and take time while on vacation to refresh their souls as well as their bodies. Indeed as the song says "I remember it well," and I am always very happy when I return to the Shrine and see the continued progress.

Truth to tell, the reality has exceeded the dream. For example we wanted to provide a place where people could receive the sacrament of reconciliation at any time throughout the week. The Confessionals were placed just to the rear of the Adoration Chapel. It did not take long to discover that perhaps we had underestimated the numbers who would come seeking penitential absolution. Not infrequently the continual movement within the Adoration space led to distraction for those trying to be with the Lord in prayer, thus in a short time the Reconciliation Services were moved to the narthex where they are today. If you have been to Confession at the Shrine you may understand what I am saying, as on some occasions the numbers awaiting their turn stretch beyond the seating accommodation provided.

Reconciliation, of course, is one of the great gifts of the Lord to us. It is a wonderful sacrament of grace and growth in Christ. It has been suggested to the present rector, Father Paul Henry, that perhaps it would be advantageous to make this area more special, if not indeed more sacred. There are many artistic ways in which this goal could be achieved, and the name of St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, keeps coming up. As you may be aware this great saint spent hours and hours in his confessional, frequently skipping his regular meals because of the hopes for absolution that were being expressed by throngs of people who came from far and near to his church.

Father Paul is considering ways to improve the area. Soon a plan will be devised and finalized. Like all things with this Shrine Basilica you will be invited to be involved in helping bring this about. You will be asked to help the dream continue. Some day, perhaps, as you await confession at the Basilica you may be able to gaze upon St. John Vianney. You may be able to reflect on how God made this unknown priest into a wonderful instrument of that grace... that grace that will flow into your own soul as you encounter the Lord in the absolution process. As with all art at the Shrine it will be a case of "art for the sake of grace," art that will continue to inspire minds and hearts to God. You will be helping to continue the dream making Mary's Shrine *A Place Like No Other*.

BLESS ME FATHER ...

Reverend Martin G. Gerber

With these simple words thousands of people share in the great miracle of God's forgiveness at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

The Shrine provides a marvelous gift to people from all corners of the earth. The great sacrament of Penance ... Reconciliation ... is offered daily to countless thousands of faithful coming to Mary's Shrine. When you think about it, isn't it appropriate that this great gift of mercy should be celebrated at Our Lady's Shrine? Our Lady wondrously brings souls to her Divine Son Jesus. That's what she is about. The Mother of God is our mother and cares deeply for her children. When we wander off the straight road that leads to Heaven, our Blessed Mother gently nudges us back to Jesus Our Lord.

Christ, Son of Mary and Son of God, came down from Heaven to ransom and reconcile a fallen world back to God. He did this on the cross of Calvary and through His Resurrection.

Many, today ask, *where does this sacrament come from?* Some say, "I can go directly to God ... I don't need priests. They are no better than I am." Yes, priests are human and have human faults. But they stand in apostolic succession and only a priest can say, "I absolve you from your sins."

You can't see the Savior visibly anymore. He set up a visible Church, the Catholic Church, as a continuation in time and space of His saving work.

On Easter Sunday evening the apostles were gathered together in the upper room. They were filled with fear and probably shame. Only John, the Beloved, followed the Lord to the Cross. All the others, including Peter, whom Jesus chose to be the rock upon which the Church was built, deserted the Lord.

Suddenly Jesus appeared to them. Let's permit the Gospel itself to tell us what happened:

"On the evening of the first day of the week, although the doors were shut where the disciples were, Jesus came and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' He said. They rejoiced. Jesus said to them, 'As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' He breathed upon them saying, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them. Whose sins you retain are retained.'" John 20:19-23

Jesus gave power to mortal sinful men, the apostles, to forgive sins. Why? Because we can't see Him visibly until He comes again. The apostles now forgive sins in His Name to those who confess their sins. If they didn't know the sins, how would they judge whether to forgive or retain them?

This power and gift was passed on to other men by the laying on of hands: Holy Orders. Bishops, successors to the Apostles, pass on the power given to apostles every time a man is ordained a Catholic priest. This is called apostolic succession.

So when I confess my sins honestly and with repentance to any Catholic priests, I receive total forgiveness from God when he gives the absolution. A lady recently told me that no words mean more to her than the words of absolution. "I absolve you from your sins ..." These words set a human being free from the bondage of sin and restores him to the grace of God. The priest always says "I absolve you"; not "May Christ absolve you." He stands in the place of Christ forgiving sins.

The Basilica offers this wonderful sacrament Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

When you visit Our Lady's Shrine, why not take advantage of this gift of Divine Mercy? Why not go to Reconciliation frequently in your own parishes throughout the year? What words could be more grace-filled and joyous than, "Go in peace, your sins are forgiven."

May Christ's peace always be upon you and yours.

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 Blessed 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.



COURTYARD BENCHES

\$2,500

In dedicating one of the attractive wrought-iron benches in the courtyard of the Basilica, you will be helping to shape the spiritual landscape of Mary’s Shrine by providing a place for quiet meditation or a peaceful rest in the midst of the Shrine complex, while establishing a memorial for family or friend, with an engraved plaque.

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 BRICK

\$250

With bricks 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 — 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.”