

# THE MAGNIFICAT

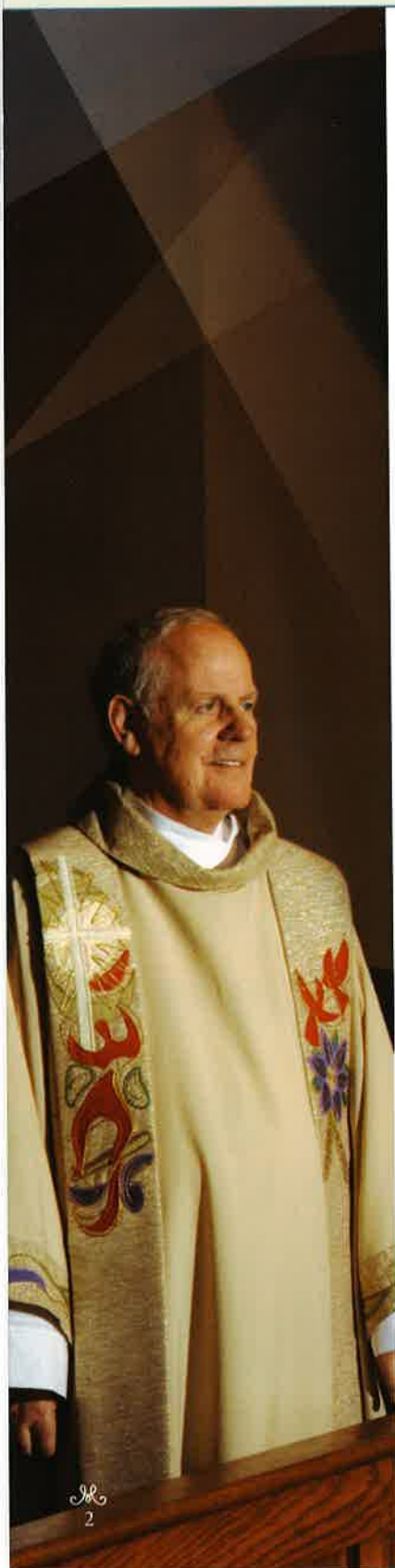
Fall/Winter 2017 | Volume XXVIII, Issue 2

*Dona Nobis Pacem*  
*Grant us Peace*

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



## A Message of Special Welcome



*Dear Friend In Christ,*

Peace be with you.

I am very happy to send to you our latest edition of *The Magnificat*. This issue reflects on a word which Jesus gave at His first Resurrection appearance: "Peace."

I want to welcome you to this place where so many find solace... and where so many are touched both by The Divine presence and the embrace of His Blessed Mother.

These are unsettling days if you glance at the headlines from around the world... and then there are the personal family concerns that weigh upon us.

A couple approached me this week communicating a sense of urgency, "Would you please pray with us Father and please remember us?" Their need for the support and love of Christ, of Mary, of trusted saints, of the community, of fellow travelers was evident.

I found myself offering the reassurance of God, of Jesus: "*Do not be afraid, for I am with you*"... and the beautiful Magnificat prayer of Mary who prayed in thanksgiving, "*He who is Mighty has done great things for me and holy is His name.*"

Their love for Mary's Shrine was obvious. We talked about how it was designed and created in art, architecture, beautiful liturgy and music to emphasize the presence of our Incarnate God. His presence is here in every quiet niche of His house and in every corner of His world.

The readings a few weeks ago spoke about God coming, in a tiny whispering sound, to the aid of Elijah in his moment of danger, as he was fleeing for his life. On that day, the Gospel image was of Jesus coming to the disciples in a storm.

We as pilgrims in search of God need to come aside...to escape the madding crowds, the noise of our world. He is the God who says to us "Peace Be With You!"

As the couple said to me, they couldn't imagine coming to Orlando without making time to visit this peaceful place dedicated to Mary... for the good of their souls.

I pray you feel the peace of Christ, and the loving encouragement of Mary, the Queen of Peace.

Welcome to Mary's Shrine.

The Very Reverend Fr. Paul J. Henry, Rector



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COVER PHOTO - Adoration Chapel at Mary's Shrine  
ON THIS PAGE: *Mary, Holding the Divine Infant* (Utrecht, Holland)  
Location: Rosary Garden





# DONA NOBIS PACEM GRANT US PEACE *A Meditation*

BY DANIEL FREEDMAN

## Peace

From the first odd stirrings of life and community, it has been the most universal of man's hopes: peace within our hearts; peace within our families; peace among friends, neighbors and countrymen; peace across national borders; peace throughout the world!

As the most elusive of hopes, peace contends with human nature. Oftentimes, we cannot escape thoughts that plague our minds and betray our actions. These thoughts, filled with the anger, distrust, envy and fear, too often kindle resentment, sow discord and stoke the fires of violence and terrorism that drive out hope and tear apart the harmony of our lives.

It was no doubt fear, real and imagined, that first caused men to seek a shared sense of identity. Collectively, they sought protection from the unknown by creating deities seen and unseen. They offered prayers and sacrifices to first placate and then please these new gods. Over the centuries, both humankind and their gods evolved. As man learned more about the world around him, frightful phenomena such as lightning and thunder became less so; even mountains, trees, and streams surrendered their deities and returned to the pastoral realm of nature, where beauty and tranquility could be found in abundance. But while knowledge brought man greater control over the surrounding environment, his unmet longing for peace turned inward: How to bring our inner lives into balance. We cry out, *Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace.*

Yet, what is this *peace* we seek? And what, specifically, does it mean within the framework of a Christian life?

For the Hebrews, the word was *Shalom*. For the Romans of old, it was *Pax*. According to students of the ancient languages, the word's origin derived from the Greek and speaks of, as Biblical scholars tell us, a temperament of inner tranquility which emanates from our relationship with God – our trusting, even joyous acceptance of His central place in our hearts, both in our thoughts and daily lives. In Jesus we are born. In Jesus we find purpose. Through Jesus we seek redemption. In Jesus we are fulfilled. People of faith cannot miss the Bible's focus on peace. From Isaiah, which foretold the Messiah being called *The Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6); to the angels who announced in Luke that the coming of Jesus Christ would bring forth the promise of peace on earth. Throughout the New Testament, we read of Jesus proclaimed *The Lord of Peace* (Thessalonians 3:16); that, "*peace will keep our hearts and minds secure*" (Philippians 4:7); and in Colossians 3:15, "*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*"

For the child of faith, each sunrise brings the promise of

*Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace. Romans 8:6 says, "To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."*

a new day in Christ, a new chance to grow in fellowship with Him, to reflect His grace, serve according to His will and thus begin to experience a relaxation of mind and spirit: His perfect peace. Trust in the Lord, we are

TOP: *Creation Window*, Rosary Window Series, Judson Studios  
Universe Window, Ken von Roenn, Location: Day Chapel

told, stay your mind on Him, and know the blessings of inner happiness He alone can provide. For truly, Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace. Romans 8:6 says, "*To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*" So, too, "*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness*" (Galatians 5:22). And it is hardly possible to preach the Gospel of peace to others without first finding ourselves at peace.

What is true for the individual, though, is equally true for the Church. Before it can even begin to evangelize others, the Church must be secure in the knowledge each time it speaks out in Christ's name with the words "peace be unto you," that its message is a reassurance of Christ's own peace – peace of conscience through His death that banishes sin... peace of mind through His resurrection that banishes all doubt. For in faith is our strength and our strength is our faith.

In a world, fraught with constant conflict, where consumerism has become culture and a feel-good-spirituality has replaced piety, generosity and sacrifice; a world of constant conflict, distrust between nations and weaponry which itself portends an Armageddon of human suffering, where then can we find the peace of heart and mind that can kindle within us the dreams of lasting peace to which Christ calls us?

For only when His peace rules in our hearts, can we share that peace with others; only then can we become *publishers of peace* (Isaiah 52:7) and *ministers of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:18).

The Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe is such a place, a way station on life's journey that invites seekers from every nation to come, cross over the Shrine's Bridge of Peace and here trod upon ground made holy by the faith and sacrifices of earlier generations. Longing for a refuge from the world of day-to-day cares, a haven in which to draw ever closer to Our Lord, His Blessed Mother and the Communion of Saints, those many thousands worked to build and sustain what the Shrine's patron, Pope John Paul II, since canonized, had come to anoint as "this place of pilgrimage."

Today's visitors are drawn to the Holy Doors of this Basilica, portals which are richly inscribed with Biblical scenes and personages. And through those doors, the faithful are met by Saint Peter and Saint Paul, artfully imagined, and led into the presence of Mary holding out her Infant Son. Whether sharing in the Eucharist, listening to a homily, enjoying the magnificent voices of the Shrine's celebrated choir or alone in the stillness of time, the heart's longing for peace cannot help but find embrace.



Beyond the Basilica walls, pilgrims may find themselves called by the tranquil resonance of the Shrine's triangular prayer space, the Mother Child Chapel. There, under blue Florida skies, they are brought into communion with the Holy Mother and young Jesus. It often seems a place where time stands still and contemplation is uninterrupted.

Visitors also find a meditative peace in the quiet landscape of the Shrine's unique Pope John Paul II Rosary Garden. Here, a winding path traces the outline of a rosary and gently encourages the pilgrim heart to pause at each Station of the Cross to 'live' out the mysteries and contemplate how each can inspire and inform their own search for meaning. Indeed, most every resource within this holy landscape, from our Museum to the Evangelization Center, music programs, art installations and gift shop is a loving outreach of those who built Mary's Shrine. Much like the countless donors and volunteers who are today working to sustain this ministry to the world, theirs is a message of welcome and "*Peace be unto you.*"

TOP: Pope Francis and Two Children Releasing Doves at the Vatican  
BOTTOM LEFT: Pope Francis with Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayeb in Cairo, Egypt at Peace Conference  
BOTTOM RIGHT: 2017 Conference for Peace in the Middle East, Paris, France



# MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE, PRAY FOR US!

## *A Personal Account of Mary's Peace*

BY FR. JULIAN BEDNARZ, SDS



*The most recent priest to join the Basilica ministry is Father Julian Bednarz, SDS.*

*Fr. Julian, a Salvatorian priest, has been in ministry for over 50 years. His decades serving as a priest have brought him to the far corners of the globe where he has counseled and pastored thousands of the faithful who have been on their quest for spiritual peace.*

*Fr. Julian shares his personal story of faith with you, the readers of The Magnificat, in this edition. From his days as a child in eastern Poland during the Second World War right through to his present appointment as a parochial vicar at this Basilica, his journey guided by the intercessions of Mary, Queen of Peace is compelling and inspirational.*

On September 1st, the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the memorial of Our Lady of Peace is celebrated in Poland. Her famous painting is venerated in the Sanctuary of Queen of Peace in Stoczek Warmiński, near the Russian border. The image placed in the main altar is a copy of the original image from the Basilica of Our Lady the Greater (Santa Maria Maggiore) in Rome venerated as Salus Populi Romani, or Salvation of the Roman People. The shrine in Stoczek was built as a gift of gratitude for peace with Sweden in 1635. The image was brought there from Italy in 1640. The image was adorned with papal crowns by Pope John Paul II in 1983. Copies of the crowned image are currently found in over 80 churches in Poland and Europe.

I was born in a small village in the southern part of Poland, inhabited 60 years ago by 65 families. Nearly every family lost someone during World War I or World

War II. Both of my grandfathers served in the Austrian army, and fought on the Russian front. They both survived but not before each of them spent several years in Siberia as prisoners of war. Many more of my relatives also fought on the Italian front or in Bosnia.

During the winter evening their stories were interwoven with the stories of my father, who was a forced laborer in Germany from November 1939. He survived the bombardments of Hamburg in July 1943 and was liberated in May 1945 by the British army near Lübeck in northern Germany. Owing to his own father's illness, he returned to Poland in January 1948.

My grandfather died in December of the same year. My mother was also taken from her family home during the days of the war for forced labor in Germany where she was as a house servant to a German family settled by occupation authorities near Krakow until her return home in January 1945.



The Red Army liberated Poland between 1944 - 1945 from Nazi Germany. But instead of the desired peace, a civil war broke out against the new state administration who attempted to introduce a socialist system based on Soviet models. I remember witnessing as a little boy the special forces marching in the direction of surrounding forests to fight counterrevolutionaries that became an all too often occurrence. The imposed night curfew was put in place upon the start of the so-called "liberation" and would not be lifted until 1956. It was a dark time.

It is no wonder that in my childhood I often listened to memories of harrowing experiences of both world wars and the brutal treatment political prisoners experienced during the post-war years. The anniversaries of several painful war-time events brought with them prayers for

CENTER: Fr. Julian Bednarz, SDS, at Queen of the Universe Shrine  
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Queen of Peace Sanctuary, Stoczek, Poland  
OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: Father Julian celebrating Mass at a shrine to Our Lady.

peace offered up both in homes and churches, especially within Marian sanctuaries. I traveled many times around Poland with my parents to some of them, like the Shrine in Czestochowa with the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska with the image of Our Lady of Kalwaria, Ludzmiierz with the statue of Our Lady of Ludzmiierz. I was afforded many occasions to pray before the picture of Our Lady of Myslenice in Myslenice, the capital of my home county. Also in the neighboring village of Tokarnia, the image of Our Lady of the Snow is venerated. Its inspiration was drawn from the image from the Roman Basilica of Our Lady the Greater. In my home village, Więciórka, a chapel was built in 1953 and a copy of the image of Our Lady of Dawn was placed in the main altar. The original image is located in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The main holiday is celebrated on November 16th.

In each of these sanctuaries I prayed with the pilgrims for peace in my homeland and in the world. In addition, the grace of my priestly vocation was undoubtedly obtained for me by the prayers of my parents, grandmothers, and many kind-hearted people in front of the Marian images in Więciórka and Tokarnia.

During my years of ministry, I was fortunate to work in several Polish churches and an Italian church who have Mary as patroness: in Bagno, Italy - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; in Zakopane - the Queen of the World; in Mikołow - Our Lady of the Savior; in Bielsko-Biała - and the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Poland, in Warsaw - Our Lady of the Savior.

While studying for several years in Paris, I often celebrated Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. I also made pilgrimages to the Sanctuaries of Lourdes and La Salette. In those years I visited fellow confreres working in various countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia. On occasion I made pilgrimages to Mary's sanctuaries in Knock (Ireland), Fatima (Portugal), Guadalupe (Mexico), Aparecida (Brazil), Copacabana (Bolivia), Doylestown and Washington (USA) and Wufenqi (Taiwan).

During my work in Rome as general counselor for formation in the Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians), I had the opportunity to frequently visit the Basilica of Our Lady the Greater. As the superior of the motherhouse in Rome, many times I have brought and guided the guests of the generalate to the sanctuaries of Loreto, Pompeii and Syracuse.

It has been just over two years since my arrival in the United States when I began my pastoral ministry at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. I am so glad to be serving pilgrims in this beautiful place.

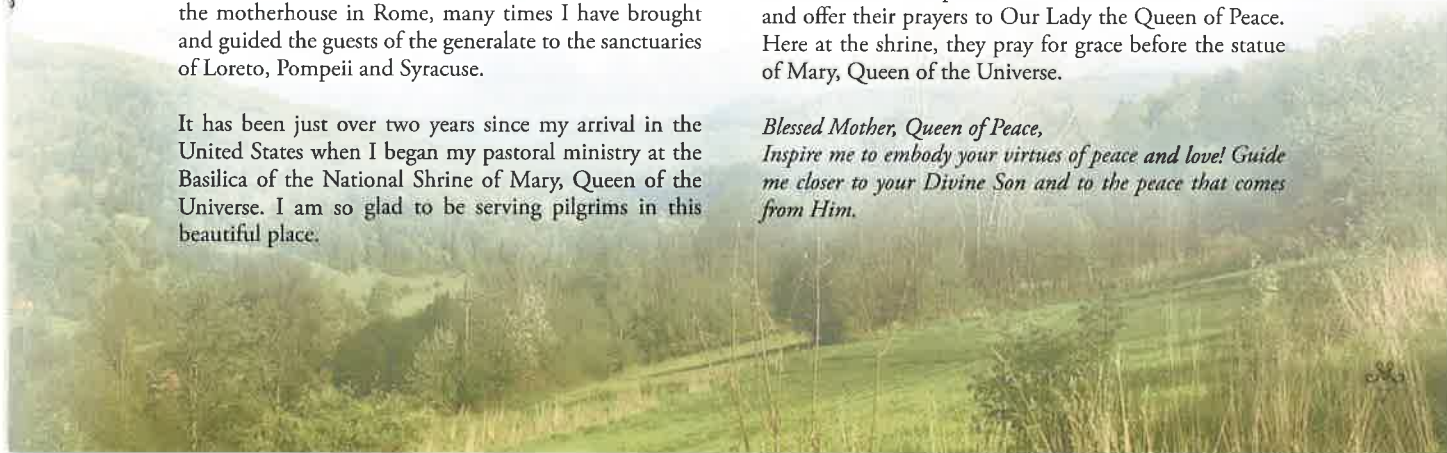


People will often ask me to pray for their intentions. Such requests I fulfill with gladness, because in so many places on different continents around the globe, I have witnessed with my own eyes the suffering that blocks both peace and social justice and have encountered a global community of a humanity still longing for true peace.

So many pilgrims travel to Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine from distant northern states in this vast country, with a significant number also coming from Latin America, Canada and Europe. They often share memories of their ancestors coming from Europe, The Americas, Asia and the Middle East. Oftentimes people notice "SDS" (*Society of the Divine Savior*) next to my name. Many are themselves members of Salvatorian parishes around the world. Some have come from Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Fortaleza, Bogota, Vancouver and Ottawa. Pilgrims will often gladly make a Confession and receive this Sacrament in their own native language.

How often they bring their difficult problems related to the lack of true peace in their homelands or families and offer their prayers to Our Lady the Queen of Peace. Here at the shrine, they pray for grace before the statue of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

*Blessed Mother, Queen of Peace,  
Inspire me to embody your virtues of peace and love! Guide  
me closer to your Divine Son and to the peace that comes  
from Him.*





# THE CAMPAIGN FOR SACRED MUSIC

## *An Interview with Thrasher Sound Design*

*Bill Thrasher founded Thrasher Design Group, originally Thrasher & Company, in 1989. Mr. Thrasher's list of expertise includes sound design consulting, engineering, designing and acting as a mentor for the up and comers in his industry. A former Walt Disney World Audio Professional and Principal Sound Designer for The Halftime Show of Super Bowl XVII, Mr. Thrasher focuses his business in servicing churches and other faith-based organizations. He has collaborated with several entertainment companies and faith based organizations, with The Gaithers, Pat Boone and Reverend Billy Graham, to name a few. We recently sat down with Mr. Thrasher to get his take on the much-anticipated design and replacement of the Basilica's audiovisual system. Here is what he had to say.*

**MQUS:** Bill, thank you so much for sitting down with us today. As you know, our readers are so excited about the new pipe organ and the sound system upgrade that is a part of that overall project. How do you envision the sound system enhancing or complementing the pipe organ once it's installed?

**BT:** It is my pleasure. The needs of a church congregation are fairly simple when you think about it. People come to worship... the readings, music, homily, the Eucharistic Celebration at each Mass and all Liturgical components need to be heard clearly from anywhere in the sanctuary and the nave. My job is to make that happen. The balancing of the two – the pipe organ and sound system – will be orchestrated by the Music Director in order to best serve the congregation at large for each Mass, concert and special Liturgies.

**MQUS:** What are the goals/mission of Thrasher Sound Design and how do you strive to meet them?

**BT:** At Thrasher our main focus is on the needs of our clients. Here at the Basilica, the main need is to have a sound system which keeps the universality of the audio during a Liturgy. It is my job as the creator of sound systems to ensure each person, regardless of where they are located within the main church, is able to participate in Liturgy without audible hindrances of any kind.

**MQUS:** What is the biggest challenge when designing an audio system for the Basilica?

**BT:** Definitely it's working with an existing building. Working with a brand new building, you have a clean slate

to work and wire from... but with pre-existing spaces, it can be a bit of a hunt to find the original blueprints and specs of the building and the sound system. This part of the design process varies in length of time, depending on how accessible or complete historical documentation is on a building. A lot of other structural components, like the noise level coming from the motors of fans or reverberations around the room - as is the case with the Basilica church - also come into play when working on getting the sound system to its optimal level while working around elements that were already in place.

**MQUS:** How will the Basilica's sound system be equipped for future updates/upgrades and advancements in technology?

**BT:** There will be a new degree of automation... so how do we/I do this? Technology today now allows us to use sensory pads to control and predict the volume levels and various balances for components like choir microphones, for example. When the pipe organ opens up and is at full volume, the choir mics will have the capability to auto adjust so the singers can be heard sufficiently while they are accompanied by a 5,000 pipe instrument. It will also be programmed so when the pipe organ is on by itself the mics will not automatically turn on and that will prevent an overamplification of sound. Preventative maintenance, which I will personally come down and perform on the sound system bi-annually, will be a time to assess the various parts for any software or mechanical upgrades that may be available as time and technology progress.

**MQUS:** As you continue to work on this project and have made several trips now to Mary's Shrine, is there anything that you have found to be unique to this particular ministry?

**BT:** Oh yes. I was particularly struck when during the beginning of Mass the rector, Fr. Paul Henry welcomed everyone and asked people where they were from.... And what struck me was the global group of other Christians I was sitting with! There were people from all around the world, and I thought to myself: "How memorable of an experience this is to worship here! I will likely never have this level of world representation in another house of worship. It's a really special place.

**MQUS:** Thank you Bill. | **BT:** My pleasure. Thank you.







## BRONZE PORTALS OF FAITH

### LIMITED EDITION BRONZE NARRATIVE PANELS

World-renowned artists Jill Burkee and Giancarlo Biagi have designed a limited collection of *Bronze Narrative Panels* to be interwoven into the exquisite pre-existing Bronze Tapestry of Names which currently adorn each portal's interior facade. Each panel will be a unique work of art and will include an image symbolic of our Catholic faith while affording space for your family's name to be forever inscribed upon the holy doors.

Panel sizes for the *Bronze Narrative Panels* range from approximately 6in. x 6in. up to approximately 10in. x 8in. Donation Levels begin at \$2,500.

The first three inaugural panels will be on display this Fall/Winter in the Narthex.

*Your selection of a Narrative Panel Memorial preserves the sacred art you see here at Mary's Shrine and brings the symbols of our Catholic faith to life for the enjoyment generations to come.*



- 1 REFLECTION AREA
- 2 CONFESSIONAL ROOMS
- 1 YEAR

## CONFESSIONAL EXPANSION UPDATE

As our Pontiff Pope Francis urges the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Penance, it is most fitting that the design of this new space will encourage an examination of conscience and aid our pilgrims to "confess well." It is through forgiveness that we can be healed and freed.

As the Basilica continues to grow in our mission of providing the gift of Reconciliation daily, we are finalizing the detailed construction plans for the expansion of our confessional space.

This expansion will not only help us accommodate more visitors by adding an additional Confessional room and

more seating, but it will more importantly provide a reverent, contemplative space that is conducive to prayerful reflection.

Your continued support will ensure this very important project's success, allowing countless others the opportunity to discover grace through this blessed Sacrament. **Please contact our Campaign Manager for further information at (407) 239-6600 or [development@mqs.org](mailto:development@mqs.org).**

BOTTOM: Fr. Paul Henry with artist Jill Burkee, Sculptor of St John Vianney Triptych in Pietra Santa, Italy





## THE PILGRIM'S PATH TO PEACE

### *Pursuing Peace at Mary's Shrine*



“

Actually I find it to be one of the most *peaceful* places I have ever been. I'm there almost every day, starting my day in prayer, praise and worship. - Barry G., Kissimmee, Florida

It is so peaceful there in the chapel. A really **BLESSED PLACE**. The Rosary Garden is awesome!!! Can't imagine a visit to Orlando without visiting Mary Queen. It was our 5th visit and we hope to visit this place in the future. Blessings. - Ella R., Curacao

Beautiful church! Being 1,200 miles away from home, it's nice to visit a place like this and find peace and

tranquility

- Carlos V., McAllen, Texas

Lugar maravilhoso, de  
**MUITA PAZ**,  
extremamente bem cuidado!

Visitem!! - Vânia B.,  
São Paulo, Brasil

Just a quiet place to **REFLECT** when you have the need. - Bill M., Deltona, Florida

”

At Mary's Shrine, pilgrims make a journey of faith to find refuge and tranquility in the arms of Mary, our Patroness and her Divine Son, Jesus. When the faithful pass through the Bronze Portals of Faith at this Marian shrine, they are met by members of our Hospitality Ministry. When those seeking the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a blessing come or when the faithful attend Mass here, they encounter our clergy.

Mary's peaceful embrace can be felt all around. Your spiritual Home Away from Home is at the heart of our mission here at Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine.

This edition of *The Magnificat* has been created with you in mind. We pray you feel peace as your fingers brush its pages and your eyes read the words that have been penned especially for you.



# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## Fall 2017 - Winter 2018

### FALL 2017

#### OCTOBER



Oct. 22

**Basilica Concert Series - Ave Maria: A Celebration**  
Music to honor the Blessed Mother (100th Anniversary of Fatima). Featuring The Basilica Choir and Orchestra  
3:00 PM - Tickets \$25

#### DECEMBER



Dec. 1

5:30 PM - Annual Gift Shop Open House

7:30 PM Basilica Concert Series - Christmas with the Basilica Choir  
Tickets \$25



Dec. 3

**First Day of Advent**  
Basilica's Christmas Creché Opens in our Day Chapel

50th Anniversary Jubilee Year of Diocese of Orlando Begins

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve**  
6:00 PM and Midnight Mass

Dec. 25

**Christmas Day**  
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Dec. 31

**New Year's Eve Mass:**  
6:00 PM - *Feast of the Holy Family*



### WINTER 2018

#### JANUARY

Jan. 1

**New Year's Day Masses**  
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Jan. 7

**Guest Choir - Regis University (Weston, MA)**  
6:00 PM Vigil Mass

**REGIS**  
UNIVERSITY



#### FEBRUARY

Feb. 18

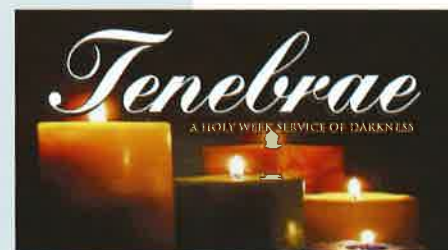
**Basilica Concert Series - From Sea to Shining Sea: A Celebration of Patriotic Music**  
3:00 PM - Tickets \$25



#### MARCH

Mar. 23

**Tenebrae**  
7:30 PM - A Holy Week Service of Darkness

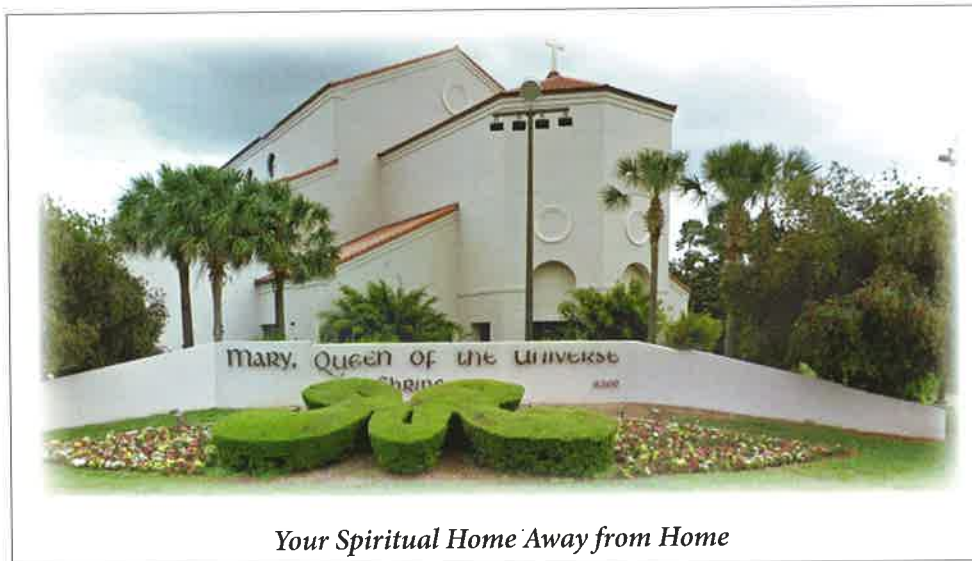


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