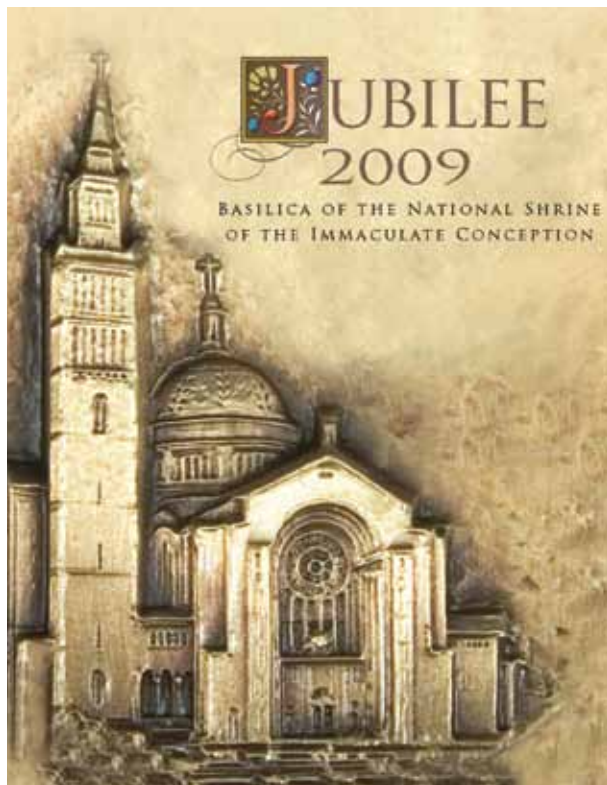


Jubilee 2009

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The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was the first work of a national character undertaken by the Catholic Church in the United States of America. The construction of this church was the embodiment of the faith and devotion of centuries of explorers and visionaries, of patriots and pioneers.

On November 20, 1959, the solemn dedication of this National Shrine marked the coming of age of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States of America, the nation it helped to found and form. Today, in this votive church of pilgrimage, an immigrant nation continues to weave its rich devotional garment, diverse in its ethnic and national identities.

This church, which is so deeply sunk in tradition and yet so distinctive, speaks of America's "Catholic heart."

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is "church," a vibrant center of worship, and it is "Church," that quiet inner place wherein God dwells. It is a repository of memories, a page in American history and that of the Church in America; it is a family album of a living and growing faith.

There could not be a more eloquent summation of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and its mission than that given by the "builder" of the superstructure and the fifth director of the Shrine, Monsignor (later Bishop) Thomas J. Grady:

"As time passes...the meaning of the Shrine will become ever 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 part of America. It will be, caught up into stone, an expression of...love and trust...It will stand older than some of the states of the Union, holding communion both with its own past and also with the people it newly embraces." (*The American Ecclesiastical Review*, October 1959: 218, 231) ♡

The above text is an excerpt from the Introduction of JUBILEE 2009—A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, a limited edition hardcover commemorative book available for purchase in both the Gift Shop and Bookstore of the Basilica. You may also order online at www.nationalshrineshops.com or via telephone by calling the National Shrine Shops toll-free at 1-800-333-4411.