

MARY'S SHRINE

VOLUME 82, No.1

SPRING/SUMMER 2021



Woman Clothed with the Sun

Mary's Shrine

BY REVEREND MONSIGNOR WALTER R. ROSSI, J.C.L.



Bachrach

A *Century of Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* is the theme for the 100th anniversary of the placing of the Foundation Stone of the National Shrine. Since we began our centennial year on September 20, 2020, the world has continued to confront the coronavirus which has restricted our movements and as a result, prohibited any type of 100th anniversary events. However, we are hopeful that as vaccines are issued and the world begins to reopen, while we might not be able to host any special events, the possibility exists that we may have a fitting closing to our Jubilee Year.

At the request of Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the Archbishop of Washington and Chairman of the National Shrine Board of Trustees, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has granted a Plenary Indulgence to those who come on pilgrimage and visit Mary's Shrine during our Jubilee Year. Given the coronavirus gathering restrictions, I am grateful that Pope Francis has extended the Indulgence to "those impeded by some other serious reason" which the coronavirus pandemic is, by fulfilling the three usual conditions of prayer for the Intentions of the Holy Father, the reception of Holy Communion and sacramental confession, as soon as possible, and "in the presence of an image of the heavenly Patroness, spiritually offer their prayers, sorrows, and difficulties of their own life, to the merciful God through Mary."

In the face of the many challenges imposed by the pandemic, each of us has also been forced to confront what really matters and to see life in a much greater perspective. We have learned to separate what is essential from what is trivial, to do things differently, including how we work, recreate and even how we worship.

Pre-coronavirus, we were fortunate to have many of our liturgical celebrations broadcast by the Eternal Word Television Network. With the "stay-at-home" orders issued in March 2020, we embarked on a new "virtual ministry" at Mary's Shrine. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and our other benefactors, like yourself, we have been able to livestream Sunday and Holy Day Masses. This ministry

has enabled us to spiritually nourish more than 2.6 million viewers since pandemic restrictions were imposed. Although those confined to home have been unable to physically participate in Mass in their parish church and receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, they have been able to join in the prayer of the Mass, which, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, teaches "is prayer *par excellence*, the loftiest, the most sublime, and at the same time, the most concrete" (General Audience Address, November 15, 2017).

As is the case worldwide, the coronavirus pandemic has greatly inhibited our ministry at Mary's Shrine. We have been limited to the number of people we can welcome for Mass, all of our special events and pilgrimages from March 2020 through the first half of 2021 have been cancelled. As a result, our financial status has been compromised. Thankfully, our wonderful donors have responded to our requests for assistance to help "make ends meet."

During the past year, the faithful friends of Mary's Shrine have proven once again just how faithful they are and how important Mary's Shrine is to them. We have received messages of support, encouragement and expectation for the time when Mary's Shrine will welcome guests without coronavirus restrictions.

Pope Francis has stated, "it is impossible to emerge from a crisis the same as before. Either we come out better or we come out worse. And how we emerge depends on the decisions we make during the crisis" (Interview, *Il Mio Papa*, 7 October 2020). I believe that the National Shrine will emerge better from this crisis because of the decisions we made to continue to fulfill our ministry in every way possible during the pandemic. Although our Mass schedule and Confession times are reduced, we have done our best to continue to be a place of spiritual refuge, a place of light, in what appeared to be dark days in the history of our country.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020, marked the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. On this occasion, Pope

Francis declared a “Year of Saint Joseph” stating, the greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus” (*Patris Corde*, 3). The Holy Father observes, “in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’ like that of Mary.” “In our own lives,” Pope Francis writes, “acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations, and disappointments ... not with mere resignation, but with hope and courage. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find

the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel” (PC, 3-4).

Now that vaccines are being administered, I am optimistic that the world and Mary’s Shrine will embark on a bright, hope-filled, “new normal.” As we emerge from the coronavirus, I pray that this will be a time of rebirth for each of us. I encourage that in every situation, with Mary and Joseph, we daily utter our own “fiat” saying “yes” to whatever God asks, trusting that God will always do what is best for us, as he did for Saint Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary. 🌹

The Year of Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church

On December 8, 2020, the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a special Year of Saint Joseph that will be observed through the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2021.

In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, “With a Father’s Heart”, the Holy Father noted that the COVID-19 pandemic increased his desire to declare this special year dedicated to Saint Joseph.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet, hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” said Pope Francis.

Pope Francis spoke of the “Saint Josephs” of today, the “ordinary” men and women – parents, grandparents, caregivers, frontline medical staff, teachers, storekeepers, supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, transportation workers, and other essential and public safety workers – who are sustaining humanity in oftentimes overlooked yet extraordinary ways during the pandemic.

In gratitude to them, the Holy Father said, “Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Concluding his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis implored the faithful to join him in the following prayer:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen. 🌹*



MISSION STATEMENT

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic church dedicated to the patroness of our nation, is a place of worship, pilgrimage, evangelization and reconciliation. It offers visitors the occasion for a deepening conversion, a step forward in the journey to God, with Mary as the model for that journey. This monumental church, raised by Catholics of the United States because of their devotion to Mary the Mother of God, gives visibility to their faith and Catholic heritage. Mary’s Shrine invites people from across the country and beyond into the saving moment of faith, hope and charity, so that they may be reconciled and transformed into living symbols of Christ’s presence in the world. It is here that the faithful gather to worship God, give honor to Mary, and are sent to spread God’s word wherever they go. 🌹

Virtual Vigil for Life 2021

The 42nd Annual National Prayer Vigil for Life was held January 28 - 29, 2021, in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's Vigil was primarily a virtual event, livestreamed on the Basilica's website, YouTube Channel and Facebook Page, and broadcast on EWTN, Catholic TV, Catholic Faith Network, New Evangelization Television, and We Are One Body Radio.

At the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and principal celebrant and homilist, said, "Though the Basilica has the maximum crowd permitted by DC COVID protocols, it is miniscule to the usual crowd," but he noted, "I am attempting to visualize the hundreds of thousands participating virtually."

In a very powerful and personal homily, Archbishop Naumann asked all participating in the Vigil to join him in a "renewed effort of prayer and action...working together to seek God's assistance to end abortion and all attacks



Women religious attend the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life amid the coronavirus pandemic.



Archbishop Joseph Naumann delivers a powerful homily during the Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil.

on human life and the sacred dignity of the human person."

After the Opening Mass, a Holy Hour for Life followed with a Reflection by Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA. Holy Hours were then hosted virtually throughout the night and into the morning from various dioceses around the country. The National Prayer Vigil concluded where it began, in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica, with the Closing Mass celebrated by Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, who will serve as the next Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, greeted all the faithful gathered for the National Prayer Vigil—those physically present and those attending virtually. He said, "As we join in this Prayer Vigil during the Year of Saint Joseph, may Saint Joseph who protected the Child Jesus and Our Lady, pray with us for the protection of all life and for the defense of the most vulnerable among us."

To view the 2021 National Prayer Vigil for Life, please visit [YouTube.com/MarysShrine](https://www.youtube.com/MarysShrine). 🙏

UPCOMING BASILICA BROADCASTS ON EWTN *(all times Eastern)*

ALSO LIVESTREAMED AT [NATIONALSHRINE.ORG/MASS](https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass)

March 28	Palm Sunday	12 noon
April 1	Holy Thursday: Choral Meditations/Mass of the Lord's Supper	5:30 pm
April 2	Good Friday: Choral Meditations/Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	2:30 pm
April 3	The Solemn Easter Vigil	8 pm
April 4	Easter Sunday Mass	12 noon
April 4	Spanish Easter Sunday Mass	2:30 pm
May 23	Pentecost Sunday	12 noon
May 31	Archdiocese for the Military Services Memorial Mass	12 noon
August 14	Solemn Pontifical High Mass	1 pm
August 15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	12 noon
September 2	CUA Mass of the Holy Spirit	12:10 pm
September 7	Father Vincent Capodanno Memorial Mass	6:30 pm
September 12	Closing Mass of the Jubilee Year of the Placing of the Foundation Stone	12 noon

Centennial Celebration Continues

A Jubilee Year to commemorate the centennial of the placing of National Shrine's foundation stone began with the celebration of Mass in the Basilica's Great Upper Church on September 20, 2020, the Sunday before the actual 100th anniversary.

The Chairman of the National Shrine's Board of Trustees, then Archbishop, now Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington, was the principal celebrant of the Mass that marked the beginning of the year-long celebration that will continue through September 23, 2021. In his homily, he spoke of how, "Countless prayers and contributions sustained and advanced the building of this great Basilica that venerates the Mother of God.... "But above all," he acknowledged, "it is the grace of God that has made such a beautiful tribute to the Blessed Mother possible."

Monsignor Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, offered the Mass "in thanksgiving for all of our friends, past and present," saying, "Mary's Shrine would not be here today without their faithful support over the past 100 years." He added, "With your continued support, we look forward to the next 100 years of service to God's people in devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Announcing that Pope Francis granted a Plenary Indulgence for the duration of the Jubilee Year, Monsignor Rossi thanked the Holy Father for extending it to those who are



Minko Owarra/Catholic Standard

Monsignor Rossi and Cardinal Gregory offer Mass for the Jubilee Year.

unable to visit the Basilica physically but do so virtually, provided they fulfill the three usual conditions as soon as possible, and "in the presence of an image of the heavenly Patroness, offer their prayers, sorrows, and difficulties to the merciful God through Mary."

Due to COVID-19, many are unable to visit onsite. However, online visits, made possible through the livestreamed broadcast of Sunday and Holy Day Masses and other devotions, allow the faithful from near and far the opportunity to derive continued spiritual benefit from Mary's Shrine.

In anticipation of the closing of the Jubilee Year, Cardinal Gregory and Monsignor Rossi will celebrate a special Mass on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 12 noon. For those unable attend the Mass in person, we invite you to join us at www.nationshrine.org/mass. 🙏

Support Our New Livestream Ministry

Since Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has offered the faithful the livestream broadcast of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days on our website at www.nationalshrine.org/mass.



Matthew Barrick

Day Masses and other devotions, including Vespers during Lent and Advent.

It is our hope to continue to provide the livestream broadcast of the Mass in perpetuity, but to do so we need your help. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to support the

continuation of this vital ministry by clicking the "Give Now" button on our livestream page, www.nationalshrine.org/mass.

For those who may be interested in sponsoring an entire livestreamed Mass in honor of a loved one, living or deceased, please contact Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, by calling 202-526-8300.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping Mary's Shrine fulfill its mission by gathering the faithful in this new way "to worship God, give honor to Mary, and spread God's word wherever they go." 🙏

Through this livestream ministry we have been able to reach more than 2.6 million people from across the country and around the world, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with great solemnity, sacred music, and the opportunity for spiritual communion.

Each week, the 12 noon ET Solemn Mass and the 2:30 pm ET Mass in Spanish reach thousands of the faithful, not only in real time but at any time as the Masses remain online and on-demand after they are livestreamed. The same is true for the livestreams of Holy

A COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Geraldine M. Rohling, Ph.D., M.A.Ed.
Archivist-Curator

It was late winter, March, to be exact. The Alps were still crusted in snow and the sun was sparking the hoarfrost. It was beautiful—and cold! I arrived late in the afternoon at the train station in Salzburg with yet another hour's journey ahead of me. Monsignor Alois Furtner (+ 9 Sept 2020), the Administrator of the Holy Chapel in Altötting, met me and we drove by car to the “Heart of Bavaria.” Monsignor Furtner was excited. He



Pope Benedict XVI, Oratory of Altötting, BNSIC, 2008

had arranged for the donation of one of the five hand-carved exact copies of the Bavarian Madonna to the National Shrine in Washington. This was the first time one of these statues would leave Bavaria.

By the time we arrived in Altötting it was dark, and the Holy Chapel was closed. But this was my first trip to Altötting and Monsignor Furtner felt it was important that I be allowed to “greet” the Madonna upon my arrival. We walked up the gravel path to the Holy Chapel, the actual center of the city, and entered the sacristy. The sexton and staff had kindly remained on duty. Introductions were made and pleasantries exchanged. Then, I was given a privilege known

to very few: to enter the Holy Chapel and to “greet” the Madonna of Altötting—alone.

The electric lights in the chapel were off for the night. My first encounter with the Madonna of Altötting would be by candlelight: an extraordinary old-world experience. I walked from the sacristy through the outer chapel guided by

the flickering devotional candles and tapers. As I touched the holy water, frozen in the font, I felt the stones beneath my feet, dimpled by the footsteps of pilgrims who had brought their petitions to this chapel, every day, for more than 1,350 years. As I entered the original part of the chapel, the oldest Marian shrine in Germany (A.D. 660), I was greeted by the sweet soft scent of bee's wax rising from the numerous burning candles that framed the reredos. Standing in her niche above the tabernacle was *Unsere Liebe Frau von Altötting*, literally, “our dear Lady of Altötting.” Hand carved of soft Linden wood (c.1330) and clothed in elegant hand-embroidered baroque garments, she dominated the chapel in spite of her small stature (25 inches). On the left, kneeling near the communion rail was a silver statue of the beloved “door keeper” of Altötting, Saint Conrad of Parzham, the Capuchin friar who was known for his spiritual wisdom and holiness. On the opposite wall, the hearts of the Bavarian kings reposed in silver vessels in perpetual devotion. The outer walls of the chapel swelled with votive offerings for prayers answered. It seemed as though I was surrounded by centuries of faithful pilgrims still whispering their prayers and chanting their rosaries. Without a doubt, there was a communion of holy men and women, a communion of saints, both living and dead, in whose midst I was welcomed.

A Communion of Saints

The sanctification of a church or a shrine is more than a rite and ritual, more than a relic or a miraculous image. The sanctification of a church or shrine is the people of God, the Church, acting in the grace of God. Long before the process of canonization, Saint Paul referred to these people as “holy ones,” as “saints.” (Rom 1:7; Phil 1:1).

Even in its “youth” of one hundred years (1920-2020), the people of God have been living and active within this National Shrine. They, too, have left their marks of dimpled stones and steps, worn wooden pews and kneelers, votive offerings and tablets. They have filled this house with a diversity of devotions to Mary, all of their own giving: prayer upon prayer, sacrifice upon sacrifice, and mite upon mite, from saint and sinner alike.

On 23 September 1920, thousands gathered in northeast Washington for the ceremonial placing of the first stone of the National Shrine. In addition to the required dignitaries and celebrities who attended the event were the faithful,



Chapel of Our Lady of Altötting, Bavaria.

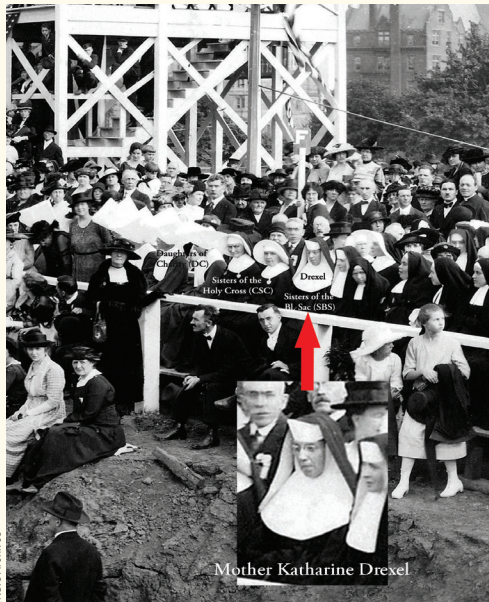


Father Thomas A. Judge

the members of the Church of whom Father Thomas A. Judge, CM, once wrote, "In the ordinary providence of your everyday lives, you are the Church and you have the grace. ... where you are, there is the Church." Father Judge, the pioneer of the lay apostolate and the founder of two missionary congregations, had been in town for a meeting with the Apostolic Delegate regarding the canonical status of his communities. Father Judge later wrote that while he was at Trinity College visiting one of

his sisters, "*God favored me in an opportunity of being present at the most impressive ceremonies of the laying of the [foundation] stone of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. My time was spent adoring and thanking the most adorable Trinity for the graces given to our Blessed Mother and for this event*" (Letter, 23 Sept 1920). Many years later, Father Judge and his labors in the Church in America were honored in stained-glass in the upper sacristy. In 1963, the cause for the canonization of Thomas A. Judge was initiated by Most Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, D.C.

The city of Philadelphia was well represented at the Foundation Stone ceremony. Three of the five members of the building committee were Philadelphians: Archbishop (later Cardinal)



Mother Drexel at Foundation Stone Ceremony

Dennis Dougherty, chairman; James J. Ryan; and Walter George Smith, the brother-in-law of Mother Katharine Drexel. Although there is no written record of Mother Drexel at the ceremony, her participation was recently confirmed in a panorama photograph of that day. Mother Drexel stood elbow to elbow with other vowed religious women at the railing along the eastern rise of the grand basin near the pulpit.



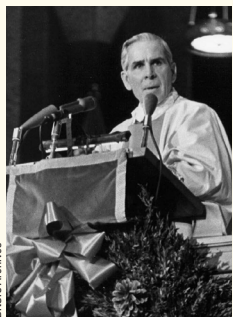
Saint Katharine Drexel

The step-mother of Katharine Drexel, Emma Mary Bouvier Drexel, the sister of the great grandfather of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, raised the Drexel girls as her own and was one of the most influential persons in their lives. By her example, Katharine learned from an early age to use her wealth for the benefit of others. In 1891, prompted by her concern for the Native Americans and at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, Katherine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 2000, Pope (Saint) John Paul II, himself a pilgrim to the National Shrine in 1969, 1976, and 1979, canonized Mother Drexel. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Black and Indian Mission Office, and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament donated a life-size statue of their sainted daughter to the National Shrine. It stands in the Hall of American Saints. Mother Drexel is also depicted in a stained-glass window in the

A COMMUNION OF SAINTS

lower sacristy (1998) and on the west side of *The Trinity* dome mosaic (2017) in the Great Upper Church.

In addition to Father Judge and Mother Drexel, the following names, in chronological order according to their first visit, are those known persons who have been present among us at the National Shrine and who have prayed privately and corporately with us.



BNSIC Archives

Bishop Sheen, Christmas 1964

1920, Reverend (later Archbishop) Fulton J. Sheen, from 16 May 1920, when a newly ordained Father Sheen served at the Mass for the blessing of the land of the National Shrine, until his death in 1979, Fulton J. Sheen was an active promoter and contributor to the life of

the National Shrine, particularly through his preaching — both from the pulpit and on television broadcasts from the Crypt Church. He was the first recipient of the Patronal Medal in 1974. His cause was opened in 2004.



Library of Congress

Dorothy Day, 1934

1932, Dorothy Day, suffragist, and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. In her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness* (1952), Dorothy wrote, “*When the demonstration was over and I had finished writing my story*

[for America and Commonweal magazines], I went to the National Shrine ... on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. There I offered up a special prayer, a prayer which came with tears and with anguish, that some way would open up for me to use what talents I possessed for my fellow workers, for the poor. And when I returned to New York, I found Peter Maurin ...” Years later, Dorothy said God answered her prayers and that “[the Shrine is] really where it all started.” Her cause was opened in 2005.

1936, Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State, and the future Pope Pius XII, visited the National Shrine and offered a private prayer at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the Crypt Church. In 1950, invoking papal



BNSIC Archives

The Assumption Mosaic (Titian)

infallibility, Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption of Mary. The gift of *The Assumption* mosaic was initiated by Pius XII. His cause was opened in 1990.



BNSIC Archives

Pope Paul VI, 30 June 1963

1960, Giovanni Cardinal Montini, Archbishop of Milan and future Saint Paul VI, was en route to Washington when he spotted the great dome of the National Shrine from the air and asked if he could be brought to the National Shrine before beginning his official one-day visit.

Standing in the Great Upper Church, he remarked, “The strength of this beautiful Shrine is much more than its massive dimensions; to me it represents America’s deep faith in Christ and his Blessed Mother.” In 1968, the coronation tiara of Pope Paul VI, which he donated to the poor of the world in 1964, was permanently housed in the National Shrine and continues to beget donations for the poor. He was canonized in 2018.

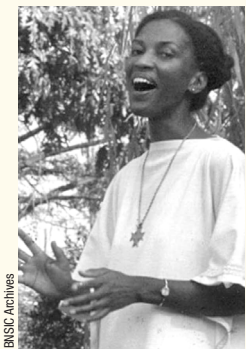


BNSIC Archives

Josyf Cardinal Slipyj

1968, Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, Patriarch in exile of Lviv, Ukraine, Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church, was imprisoned and tormented in the Siberian Gulag and Mordovia (1945-63); condemned to death 37 times in 18 years. He participated in Vatican

II; died in Rome, 1984. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, his remains were translated to the Cathedral of Saint George, Lviv (1992). He visited the National Shrine and saw the Vatican II mosaic in the East Apse of the Great Upper Church, in which he is featured. His cause was opened in 1991.



Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA

1968/9, Sister Thea (Bertha) Bowman, FSPA, like so many students and professors of English at The Catholic University, Sister Thea came to the National Shrine for the Sacraments and private prayer. A convert to Catholicism and the granddaughter of a slave, Thea was an extraordinary preacher and evangelist; an advocate for racial and social justice who emphasized diversity, coupled with the importance of love. In 1989, wheelchair-bound because of bone cancer, Sister Thea became the first African American woman to address the U.S. Bishops Conference on race and Catholicism. She died the following year. Her cause was opened in 2018.



Msgr. McDonough and Cardinal Wojtyla 1969

1969, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow and the future Saint John Paul II visited the National Shrine for the first time. In 1976, Cardinal Wojtyla celebrated Mass in the Great Upper Church; in 1979 he became the first pope to visit the National Shrine. He was canonized in 2014.

1971, Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, the "Rosary Priest" was a frequent participant at the National Rosary Pilgrimage at the National Shrine. In 1980, he received the Patronal Medal for his many efforts towards Marian devotion. His cause was opened in 2001.



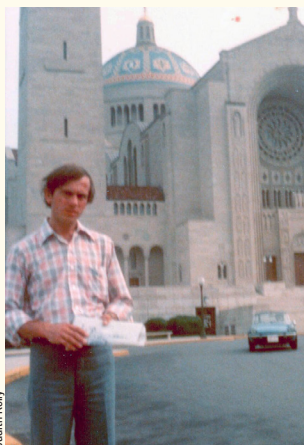
Fr. Peyton and Mother Teresa praying the rosary together.

1972, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, MC, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, a missionary community that serves the poorest of the poor worldwide. She visited the National Shrine several times as a speaker for religious conferences and for the profession of her sisters. Mother Teresa was awarded the Patronal Medal in 1979. She was canonized in 2016.



Cardinal Mindszenty, March 1974

1974, Jozef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary in exile, celebrated Mass and Confirmation in the Great Upper Church for the American-Hungarian Community and urged fidelity to the Blessed Mother, Patroness of Hungary. Mindszenty was a defender of human rights and a foe of both fascism and communism, having suffered cruelly under both regimes. His cause was opened in 2019.



Fr. Jerzy, 26 July 1976

1974, Reverend Jerzy Popieluszko, chaplain and later martyr of the Solidarity movement in Poland, visited twice and offered Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel. His assassination (1984) was mourned by Pope John Paul II. He was beatified in Warsaw in 2010.

So begins the Litany of the Saints of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. For one hundred years the National Shrine has been a place of prayer, spiritual solace and comfort, of sacramental joy and grace for generations. Undoubtedly, there are saints among us who have yet to be called forth and those whose names we will never know. In prayer and faith, let us remember all who have gone before us and who continue to pray with us and inspire us. This is our litany, our communion of saints. 🙏

A Note of Gratitude

It goes without saying that the past year has been tumultuous and unpredictable. The constants in our lives that we relied upon for stability are no longer predictable. Our lives, daily routines, and personal interactions continue to evolve on a recurring basis.

Despite the turmoil over the past twelve months, as Catholics, we are given a constant. The world may change, and our Faith may grow and transform over the years, but the infinite love and generosity that Our Lord has for us never changes. As the Bible tells us, “Though the mountains fall away and the hills be shaken, My love shall never fall away from you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you.” (Isaiah 54:10) What a consolation to know that no matter what is happening in the world around us, the love of God is unwavering.



The love of God may feel difficult to recognize or understand at times, but His love is all around us. We may, of course, experience His tremendous mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in the Sacrifice of the Mass. Yet, we may also find His love outside of the four marbled walls of church. His love is shown to us in the unexpected kindness of a stranger. We find Him in the patient support and care given to us by a loved one. We see His love in the birth of a new life, and even in the death of those who we pray will receive their eternal reward.

Here at Mary's Shrine, we see His love revealed



to us each day in the Sacraments. However, over the past year as we strove to adapt to this “new normal,” His love and generosity has been revealed to us in a way that was both unforeseen and quite astonishing.

As our offertory baskets have remained mostly empty due to the various imposed restrictions to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the financial impact has been staggering. And, as the economy began to plummet, we feared the long-term consequences could be devastating. Yet, week after week, as we anticipated mail and online donations to drop off, we noticed that so many of you instead decided to give and give again. During a time of great economic uncertainty, you sacrificed your own hard-earned savings to help ensure that Mary's Shrine could continue our ministry. There are no words to articulate our overwhelming gratitude and appreciation. Thank you.

Here, in this new normal, Mary's Shrine is truly blessed by the continued kindness and charity that the love of God in the hearts of our donors has given to us. We continue to suffer financially due to the pandemic and pray that your generosity continues, but in this troubling time, it is a consolation to know we may rely on people like you in times of need.

Thank you once again for your continued generosity. Looking at the year ahead, let us place our trust and hope in God, and take comfort in His infinite mercy and goodness. 🙏

LET US PRAY FOR YOU

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a national sanctuary of pilgrimage and prayer. Offering prayers for you and your loved ones is an important way we fulfill our mission! Each day, we pray for people from across the United States and around the world, presenting their petitions to Our Lord through the loving intercession of Our Lady. We invite you to let us pray for you, for your family and friends, for healing and conversion, for the repose of the souls of your loved ones, and for any other intentions you may have. Prayer requests may be submitted online anytime at nationalshrine.org/prayer. Held in strict confidence, your prayerful petitions will be entrusted to the Blessed Virgin Mary as they are remembered in the daily Masses and devotions here at her Shrine. 🙏

GIFTS FROM MARY'S SHRINE



HOLY MASS ROSARIES

once blessed, the Indulgences of three Popes comes with this Catechetical Crucifix

700 Black with Gold \$64.95

701 Pearl with Gold \$64.95

The THIEF WHO STOLE HEAVEN



by Raymond Arroyo

based on ancient legends, this beautifully illustrated picture book introduces readers to the largely hidden character of The Good Thief

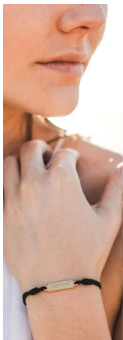
702 Book \$18.95

CHILD of GOD First Holy Communion Girl's and Boy's Mass Books



703 Girls \$14.95

704 Boys \$14.95



BLESSED BRACELET

from
My Saint
My Hero

beautiful
words of
wisdom



705 Goldtone \$29.95

706 Silvertone \$29.95

CONFIRMATION GIFTS

Keepsake Rosary &
Prayer Boxes



707 Ivory with Holy Spirit \$19.95

708 Bronzed with Holy Spirit \$16.95



SAINT MICHAEL

Pewter & Gold
STATUE

Protector and the
leader of the army
of God against the
forces of evil.

**709 Great for Confirmation,
Birthdays and Father's Day
9" \$99.95**



MIRACULOUS MEDAL

NECKLACE
&
EARRINGS

"All who wear them will
receive great graces"

~ Our Lady to
St. Catherine Labouré

710 Earrings \$29.95

711 Necklace 16"-18" \$34.95



SCAPULAR Bracelet & Necklace

Mary appeared to St. Simon in a vision, held out a scapular and said to him, 'he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire'

712 Bracelet \$21.95

713 Necklace \$29.95

BE NOT AFRAID! St John Paul II Signature Bracelet

wear as reminder that
there is nothing to fear for
God is always with us



714 Goldtone \$29.95

715 Silvertone \$29.95

All proceeds from your purchases of Mary's Shrine directly support the mission and ministry of the Basilica. Thank you for your support!

USE ATTACHED ORDER FORM OR CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-333-4411

GIFTS FROM MARY'S SHRINE



MURANO
*Glass Rosary
& Rosary
Bracelet*

Made in Italy

716 8mm Murano Rosary \$99.95

717 8mm Murano clasp Bracelet \$29.95



**Aquinas on the
Four Last Things**

718 Book \$17.95

JERUSALEM CROSS



Vatican Inspired Jewelry

719 Pearl Stretch Bracelet \$44.95

720 Cross Necklace 18" \$49.95



Golden Angel Chime Necklace

721 A gentle chime reminds you that God's angels are near **30" \$79.95**



722 Gift Boxed \$12.95



**Miraculous Medal
Necklace**

723 14kt Gold over sterling

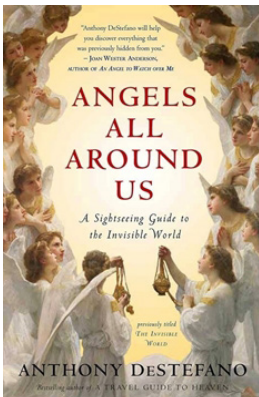
Filigree Medallion

18" chain \$69.95



**CRYSTAL
ANGEL
NECKLACE**
*perfect little
gift*

724 Sterling silver on 18" chain \$34.95



Angels All Around Us Book

725 Best Seller \$15.99



**When a Cardinal
Appears, Angels are
Near Tapestry**

726 New 13x18 \$19.95



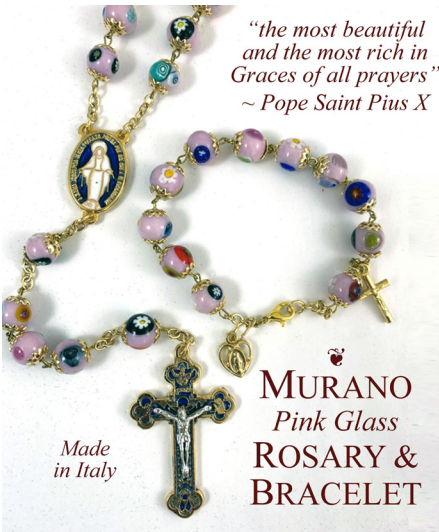
**LADYBUG
Rosary
& Bracelet**

727 Rosary \$39.95

728 Bracelet \$29.95

Please visit our website at
nationalshrineshops.com

GIFTS FROM MARY'S SHRINE



729 Rosary \$99.95

730 Bracelet 7 1/2" \$29.95



731 14kt gold plated necklace \$29.95

732 14kt gold plated Bracelet 7 1/2" \$21.95



736 Gold over Sterling Necklace 18" \$69.95

737 Gold over Sterling Bracelet 7 1/2" \$36.95

MIRACULOUS HEART
CRYSTAL CROSS
CRYSTAL DOVE
Necklaces



733 Miraculous 18" \$79.95

734 Cross with Crystal 18" \$65.95

735 Dove with Crystal 16" \$59.95



Murano Glass
Cross Necklace

**738 Each one is slightly different
and Handmade in Italy
18" chain \$59.95**



739 18" chain \$36.95



Immaculate Waters Soaps & Lotions made with Lourdes Grotto Water
Follow the words of Our Lady to St. Bernadette: "Go to the spring, drink of it and wash yourself there."

740 Lavender Bar Soap 4oz \$6.95

741 Lavender Hand and Body Lotion 8oz \$12.95

742 Lavender Liquid Soap 8oz \$12.95

743 Rose Bar Soap 4oz \$6.95

744 Rose Hand and Body Lotion 8oz \$12.95

745 Rose Liquid Soap 8oz \$12.95

746 Rose Spritzer 4oz \$9.95

747 Lavender Spritzer 4oz \$9.95



**748 Tiny Glass Holy
Water Bottle
\$5.95**

GIFTS FROM MARY'S SHRINE



Jesus & Germs Gifts

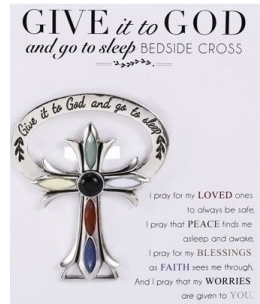
"Wash your hands & say your prayers cause Jesus & germs are Everywhere" 5"x10"

749 Cotton Towel \$9.95

750 Dispenser \$14.95



751 God Bless You Tissue Box \$19.95



752 Give it To God Small Cross \$12.95



753 Good Morning This is God Mug 15oz \$9.95



754 "State" Home Sweet Home Tea Towel. Allow 3 weeks for delivery – list your state **\$10.95**



755 God Bless our Home Plaque "State" Canvas in wood frame 11x11" Allow 4 weeks for delivery – list your state **\$39.95**



756 Miraculous Medal Key Ring \$5.95



Golf with the Saints St Anthony Golf balls



Patron Saint of Lost Items

757 Pack of 3 \$14.95

Stemless Wine Glass Gifts

*The only intervention I need is divine
Forgive me Father for I have zinned
Give us this day our daily red*



758 Divine Intervention 15oz \$14.95

759 Our Daily Red 15oz \$14.95

760 Forgive me Father 15oz \$14.95

Saintly Socks



761 St Joseph \$14.95

762 St Francis \$14.95

763 St Therese \$14.95

764 St Michael \$14.95

765 St Joan of Arc \$14.95

GIFTS FROM MARY'S SHRINE

INCENSE and BRASS CROSS BURNER

Beautiful Church Scents

Kings
Frankincense

Johannes
Tuscany Rose

Gloria



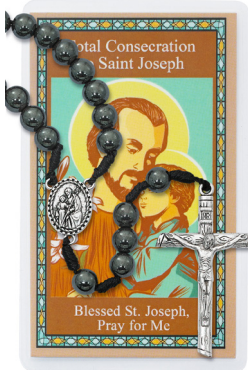
Boxed Incense 1.2 oz with charcoal and Burner

766 Frankincense Incense \$19.95

767 Rose Incense \$19.95

768 Gloria Incense \$19.95

769 Brass Incense Burner 5" \$36.95



770 St Joseph Hematite
Rosary with Prayer
card \$16.95

SLEEPING ST JOSEPH STATUE



Celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph
2020-2021

Pope Francis places his prayers under a
Sleeping St Joseph each night

771 8" \$29.95

SAINTS DEVOTIONAL OILS

St Michael

Our Lady
of Guadalupe

St Anthony



Frankincense

Rose of Sharon

Lily of the
Valley

778 St Michael \$9.95

779 Our Lady of Guadalupe \$9.95

780 St Anthony \$9.95

SAINTS DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Our Lady
of Guadalupe



Saint
Michael

Scared
Heart



Saint
Joseph

Divine
Mercy

772 St Michael \$6.95

773 Our Lady of Guadalupe \$6.95

774 Sacred Heart \$6.95

775 St Joseph \$6.95

776 Divine Mercy \$6.95

SAINT
MICHAEL
MEDAL
NECKLACE

Pray for us



777 24" chain \$74.95

BRONZED
WALL
CRUCIFIX

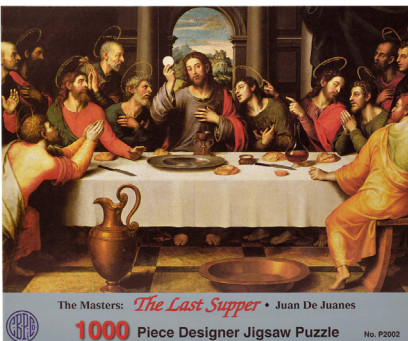
beautiful filigree detail

the powerful
reminder of His
love for us

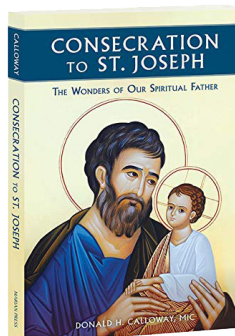


782 10" resin \$29.95

Please visit our website at
nationalshrineshops.com



781 Last Supper Puzzle 1000 pcs \$19.00



Consecration to St. Joseph Book

783 The wonders of our
Spiritual Father, by
Father Donald
Calloway \$14.95

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VISIT OUR NATIONAL SHRINE SHOPS WEBSITE AT WWW.NATIONALSHRINESHOPS.COM

LEAVING A LEGACY

REMEMBERING THE NATIONAL SHRINE

IN YOUR WILL

For many, charitable giving is an act of faith grounded in confidence in God's abundance and motivated by a desire to create additional resources for accomplishing God's work.

Leaving a legacy gift to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception offers the opportunity to pass on not only your assets but also the values that have guided your life.

Remembering the National Shrine in your estate planning is a wonderful way to put your values into action, ensuring that Mary's House is maintained for future generations as a center of worship and devotion as a personal legacy.

To remember the Basilica of the National Shrine in your will, you may contact your attorney or financial advisor for assistance in making a bequest. Or, you may simply include the following in your will:

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a body corporate of the District of Columbia, and located in Washington, D.C., (the sum of _____) or (____ % of rest residue, and remainder of my estate) or (____ shares of _____) or all my right, title and interest in the following described property _____).

Please feel free to contact the Basilica at 202-526-8300 if we can provide you with further information or assistance.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and continued support of Mary's Shrine.

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U.S. Postage
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Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
400 Michigan Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20017



Please visit our website for adjusted hours and operations due to COVID-19.



**MARY'S
SHRINE**

A publication of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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Shrine Hours
7 am - 7 pm (April - October)
7 am - 6 pm (November - March)

Sunday Masses
5:15 pm (Saturday Vigil)
7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am
12 noon (Solemn Mass with Choir)
1:30 pm (Spanish)
4:30 pm

Sunday Confessions
10 am - 12 noon
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (Spanish)
2 pm - 4 pm

Monday-Saturday Masses
7 am, 7:30 am, 8 am, 8:30 am
12:10 pm, 5:15 pm

Monday-Saturday Confessions
7:45 am - 8:15 am
10 am - 12 noon
3:30 pm - 6 pm

Holy Days
Please contact the Basilica for Holy Day Schedules.

Guided Tours
Monday - Saturday
9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm
Sunday
1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm

Gift Shop & Bookstore
Open Daily
Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5:30 pm (Year-Round)
Saturday - Sunday:
8:30 am - 7 pm (April 1- October 31)
8:30 am - 5:30 pm (November 1- March 31)