

Pathways

to Our Lady of Consolation

Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing

BLESSINGS

by Fr. John Raphael Hadnagy, O.F.M. Conv.



When I was in the first grade, we had a huge blizzard which covered Washington, D.C. and all of its suburbs in over two feet of snow. The evening after the snow ended, my parents trudged through the snow to our next-door neighbor's house to watch the only color television in the neighborhood, while my siblings and I stayed home with a babysitter. My parents told the babysitter, who lived with us, to go on to bed if she wanted, since they would be late.

Meanwhile, our dog pushed her bed underneath a small opening at the base of the furnace and ignited her blankets on the pilot light. Thanks be to God, there was very little fire. There was, however, a great deal of smoke. So much so that when my parents walked in and turned on the lights, my father thought that the light bulb had burned out, as it was so dark.

My mom and dad took one breath and

went into rescue mode. They first checked on our babysitter and us; then my dad went to look for the source of the fire. He found a few flames on the beams in the utility room, and our poor dog was petrified (but unharmed). My father scooped up the dog's bed in a snow shovel and threw it outside, doused the smoldering beams, and the fire was out. The fire company was unable to come due to the depth of the snow.

About ten years later, my dad mentioned to me that when our house was built, a bird had built her nest in the eaves of the garage. He said that in the Slovak tradition (our family is part Slovak), a bird's nest built in or on a part of your house is good luck. As a typical teenager, I said, "Good luck! We have had two fires in this house. How can that be good luck?" (Our renters had had another similar fire.) My father replied, "Well, nobody was killed or even hurt in either of the fires. The house was not damaged at all in either fire. I think that was

pretty good luck.”

The point of this story is that true blessings come in many different forms. Many times, they even seem to be disguised as something else until we receive a certain grace, which enables us to unravel the mystery of the blessing right in front of us. So many times, blessings are a matter of perspective and trust. God blesses us and then waits for us to trust Him enough to recognize His gift. Whether that blessing is physical, spiritual, mental or emotional, it does not claim its full place in our lives until we recognize it for what it truly is and give thanks to God for it.

This year, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, we are focusing on the many blessings God gives to us every day of our lives. It is my great hope that each of us will open our hearts to God’s grace, to realize that His blessings each day of our lives are manifold, and to be able to give thanks to Him for these wonderful gifts.

A Special Message From Brother Jeffrey...

In my article later in this issue, I recount how the Friars and staff here at the Basilica and National Shrine are often blessed by our pilgrims sharing their stories of how Our Lady of Consolation has helped them through her great intercession. Given the scarcity of time, we are often unable to write down their stories, and so we ask the pilgrims to write them down and send them to us. I am in the process of writing a new book from the Shrine, which will be titled *Favors Granted Through the Prayers of Our Lady of Consolation*.

If you have any such stories, or if you have heard any from your family or friends, I ask you to please write them down and send them to me here at the Shrine. So many of us are truly inspired by the faith and blessings received by those who turn to Our Lady of Consolation in prayer. In this world of ours, which is so often filled with unhappy news, it is a singular blessing for everyone to be able to read of the wonders and favors granted through Our Lady of Consolation.

In the meantime, let us remember one another in our prayers. Let us ask our loving Lord to assist and to strengthen us in our effort to live our lives patterned after the holy Gospel and the blessed example we have in His Holy Mother, Mary, Our Lady of Consolation.

You may send your stories to me at: **Brother Jeffrey, O.F.M. Conv., 315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio 43316**, or send them via e-mail to: jefmpls@udata.com.

FATHER JUDE L. WINKLER TO PREACH DURING OUR 2010 ASSUMPTION NOVENA

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation is very happy to announce the plans for this year's Pilgrimage Season.

The Preacher for the Solemn Novena before the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady (August 6 – 14) will be **Father Jude Winkler**, Conventual Franciscan from the Province of Saint Anthony in the United States.

Father entered the Franciscan Order in 1971 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1981. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby, Massachusetts; a Baccalaureate in Theology from the faculty of St. Bonaventure in Rome, Italy; and a Licentiate in Exegesis from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He has taught, and currently teaches, courses in Sacred Scripture at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has been a regular and adjunct faculty member at various schools of theology



in the United States, Romania, and England.

Father Jude has written over 300 articles on various scriptural themes for magazines in the U.S.A., Italy, and England, as well as for "The Word Among Us" and the "Catholic Truth Society." He has written various books on scripture study for adults, including an annual lector's handbook on the Sunday readings, and has also written over 40 children's books, including an "Illustrated Children's Bible." He has three new books coming out this year.

Father Jude travels throughout Canada, England, Ghana, Ireland, Jamaica and the United States giving parish missions, parish retreats, workshops, days of recollection, and adult education courses for laity, seminarians, priests, deacons, and religious communities.

He currently resides at St. Joseph of Cupertino Friary in Ellicott City, Maryland.

FROM THE PILGRIMAGE DIRECTOR

By Brother Jeffrey Hines, O.F.M. Conv.

The pilgrimage year actually began in January of this year with a group of pilgrims from Tiffin, Ohio. Throughout February and March, several pilgrimage groups of young people visited the Shrine. It is always a special pleasure for the Friars to welcome these students, many of whom are here for their first visit. All of us are most grateful to those who teach these young people, both for their lovely vocational calling as teachers, and also for helping these students learn more about the Mother of Jesus and her Shrine here in Carey.

When you are here at the Shrine, be sure to visit the Lower Basilica. During the winter extensive renovation, cleaning and painting was completed. The dresses for the statue of Our Lady



Brother Jeffrey Hines, O.F.M. Conv.

of Consolation are now on permanent display, and the chapel of the Holy Relics has been refreshed and rearranged.

I sincerely hope to see all of you here at the Shrine during this year of God's grace. Whether you are a pilgrimage group leader bringing others to the Shrine, or you are making a pilgrimage to Our Blessed Mother on your own or with a part of your family, know that you are always welcome here in this holy place.

Ever since that blessed and memorable day of May 24, 1875, when the statue of Our Lady of Consolation was brought to the Shrine, this has been a most special place. Over the years, countless pilgrims—many sick and afflicted and in desperate need—have come to the Shrine and asked the prayers of Our Blessed Lady, the Mother of Jesus. As she is a true Mother for all of us, given to us by her Divine Son on the Cross, Mary really does hear our prayers. She is a most loving Mother for each and every one of us.

All of us Franciscan Friars welcome you and pray that this holy place of healing and grace may see you and your loved ones very soon.

Some Important Reminders for Our Readers

The Spiritual Theme for the Shrine this year is “A Year of Blessings.” This theme is being spoken of throughout the year.

The schedule for the month of August will be found in its entirety on page 6 of this issue of *Pathways*, including events celebrating and surrounding the Feast of the Assumption.

In the course of each year, I meet so many pilgrims who speak of special favors they have received through their prayers to Our Lady of Consolation. I always encourage pilgrims to write of those incidents and send them to me for inclusion in publications for the Shrine. I have rarely received any of these stories in written form. Please send the accounts of these wonderful happenings to me at the Shrine. Address your mail to: **Brother Jeffrey, O.F.M. Conv., 315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio 43316**, or e-mail: jefmpls@udata.com. Thank you for your help.

As an early reminder, there are two very special Mass celebrations scheduled for this fall at the Shrine:

October 12—Mass for Hope and Healing, 7:00 p.m.

October 19—Mass on the Feast of St. Gerard Majella, for expectant parents, 7:00 p.m.

Chaplet of Our Lady of Consolation

This unique Chaplet, created especially for friends of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, offers a fulfilling and convenient way to pray for the Blessed Mother's intercession at any time, any place.

The Chaplet is available in gratitude for your offering of \$12 or more in support of our ministries. The Chaplet comes with an instruction card, and is blessed by the Conventual Franciscan Friars.

- I am making a gift of \$_____ in support of the Conventual Franciscan Friars.
- My gift is \$12 or more. Please send me _____ **Our Lady of Consolation Chaplet(s)**. *(The suggested offering is \$12 for each Chaplet requested.)*



My check is enclosed. Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my:

Account Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

Name _____ (please print) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation
 Conventual Franciscan Friars
 315 Clay Street
 Carey, OH 43316-1498

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law.

PW2C-10



VIGIL LIGHT REQUEST

A Vigil Light Remembrance is a very popular and effective way to share your prayer needs with the Conventual Franciscan Friars. Request your Vigil Light today and we will place it on one of the Altars at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

Please Remember My Special Intentions with a Vigil Light Remembrance

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ in support of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. Please use my offering for:

- General donation. *(Please use my gift wherever the need is greatest.)*
- Vigil Light Remembrance. *(I understand the suggested offering is \$3 for each Vigil Light requested.)*
- My check is enclosed. Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my: Exp. Date ____ / ____

Account Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____

Name _____ (please print) Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—AUGUST 2010

Sunday, August 1

Upper Basilica: Masses
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 noon
2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)
with outdoor rosary procession

Sunday, August 8

Upper Basilica: Masses
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 noon
10:30 am to 12:00 noon—Confessions
2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)
with outdoor rosary procession

Saturday, August 14

Upper Basilica: Masses
7:00 am
11:00 am
5:00 pm (Chaldean)
7:30 pm
9:30 pm
Lower Basilica: Mass
5:30 pm
Original Shrine Church: Masses
1:00 pm
5:00 pm (Italian)
10:00 am to 7:30 pm—Confessions
2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)
9:00 pm—Candlelight procession to the
Shrine Park with Mass

Sunday, August 15

Upper Basilica: Masses
8:00 am (English)
10:00 am (English)
12:00 noon (Chaldean)
Lower Basilica: Masses
7:00 am (English)
9:00 am (Chaldean)
11:00 am (English)
12:00 noon (English)
Original Shrine Church: Mass
11:00 am (Italian)
9:00 am to 1:00 pm—Confessions
2:30 pm—Shrine Park Procession
and Devotions

Sunday, August 22

Upper Basilica: Masses
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 noon
10:30 am to 12:00 noon—Confessions
2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)
with outdoor rosary procession

Sunday, August 29

Upper Basilica: Masses
8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 noon
2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)
with outdoor rosary procession

The Shrine provides many opportunities for prayer and spiritual reflection during the Novena (August 6-14). The Novena weekday schedule includes Masses at 7 am and 11 am. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered each evening at 7 pm, excluding Sunday. Evening Novena devotions begin at 8 pm with the Novena prayer, rosary procession, homily and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At the conclusion of each Novena service, prayers with individual pilgrims will be offered.

For a complete schedule of Masses and special events for the year, please visit us online at:
<http://www.olcshrine.com/Visit/calendar-of-events.html>

For information about Retreat House events, see our web site at:
http://www.olcshrine.com/Retreat_House/retreat-house.html
or call us at (419) 396-7970. You are always welcome!



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