

# Pathways

## to Our Lady of Consolation

*Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing*

### A Special Place of Grace

*by Fr. John Stowe, O.F.M. Conv.*

One Sunday evening, long after the buses of pilgrims had departed, I went for an evening walk to the Shrine Park. I was wearing a t-shirt from the Tepeyac Institute in El Paso, Texas, which is a bi-lingual theological and ministry training center for the laity where I was part of the faculty before coming to Carey.

As I passed the Basilica on my way back, a man sitting on a bench across from the church called out that he liked my t-shirt. When I indicated that I understood Spanish, he proceeded to explain to me the meaning of "Tepeyac," which is the hill in Mexico City where Our Lady appeared to the native Juan Diego in 1531. Of course, I know the story well, but was delighted to hear him tell the story and what an impact the Blessed Virgin Mary has in his life and the lives of the Mexican people.

This man, also named Juan, told me of a promise 17 years ago: that if he found work that allowed him to support his family in Toledo, he would come visit Our Lady of Consolation and give thanks every other week. The previous month marked the 17th year of visits every other Sunday evening. He comes around 9 p.m., when there aren't many people around, and gives thanks. When I met him, he was sitting outside with his dog while his wife went in to make her visit. I was deeply touched by Juan's story and the sincerity of his faith. This is just one of countless encounters with pilgrims who have had such powerful experiences of God's grace through Our Blessed Mother at this Shrine.

Just minutes before I sat down to write this, I met a family from Georgia that visits the Shrine



*Fr. John Stowe prays with a visitor on the Shrine grounds.*

each year. The man, with his four-week-old daughter in his arms, introduced me to his eight-year-old son. He too made a promise: that he would bring his son here every year to receive Our Lady's blessing, until he turns 18.

Every one of these stories is a strong testimony to faith and the power of prayer. This is truly a special place of grace. Mary touches lives very deeply, and her pilgrims look forward to coming here again.

As I complete one year here at the Shrine, I am so grateful for the brief but intense encounters with so many people who have experienced God's healing power, and those who come with great faith along with their great needs. I have been delighted to experience the celebration of the Eucharist in Albanian, Chaldean, Korean, Polish, Tagalog, Spanish, Vietnamese, Italian, and Indian dialects here, and to sense a little of the universality of our Catholic faith through the various rites and cultural expressions that are all at home in Carey.

## Please Help Us Be Good Stewards of Our Lady's Shrine



In the 1920's, Father Aloys Fish, the first Franciscan rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, asked parishioners and pilgrims alike to make sacrifices in order to build a truly beautiful church in honor of Our Lady. They responded whole-heartedly. The magnificent Basilica we enjoy today, which has inspired so many, is the fruit of the sacrifices of those devoted Catholics 90 years ago. We have benefited from the sacrifices of that generation, and have enjoyed our magnificent Basilica for 85 years.

Periodically throughout the Shrine's history, various rectors have appealed to the generosity of pilgrims and parishioners to maintain and enhance the Shrine and its properties. The beautiful, modern Stations of the Cross, the lighting system, the pipe organ, and the Shrine Park altar have all been accomplished with the prayers and sacrificial gifts of those devoted to the Shrine. The stained-glass window restoration project, still nearing completion, is a recent example of the gifts of those who truly wish to glorify God and be good stewards of our beautiful Basilica. It is time to once again make an appeal to our already generous donors and to those who have not yet been a part of this magnificent project.

Offerings sent in and given by pilgrims just barely cover the expenses of basic operations at the Shrine of Our Lady of



*Father Aloys Fish (far right) takes his place ahead of the statue of Our Lady of Consolation in a pilgrimage procession in Carey, Ohio, 1909.*

Consolation. Larger projects, and even routine maintenance on our buildings, have depleted our savings and cash on hand. We have had to repair and replace sidewalks so that they are not hazardous to pedestrians. We want to restore the front steps of the Basilica. Several areas on the grounds are overdue for re-paving. The dome above the altar at the Shrine Park needs to be replaced. The Christ the King garden needs some work to look fresh and inviting once again. The windows in the Retreat House are not energy efficient, but we have not been able to replace them because of other needs that keep surfacing. New trees need to replace dying trees in the Shrine Park. These are just examples of what is needed to maintain

the facilities that we have and keep them in usable condition.

A much larger necessity is for an elevator in the Basilica, and for air-conditioning. These are enormous undertakings, but are essential to the future of the Shrine. Many of those who come to seek Mary's intercession have physical disabilities and have a difficult time with the stairs and with the heat in the summer. Pilgrims who have come here annually for 40 and 50 years would love to keep coming, but find it more difficult to do so. We cannot even begin to work on these major improvements until we address the

immediate needs in front of us.

You will be receiving another mailing from me. Please read it, pray about it, and if you are able to do so, make a special gift to keep Our Lady's Shrine a place of prayer and beauty. You will not regret it, and God will certainly reward your generosity. If you are ready to do so now, you can make a contribution through the envelope with this newsletter.

Thanks for all of your support for the Shrine and its ministry!

## The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation Gift Shop Continues to be Open For Business on the Web at...

[www.olcshrine.com/store](http://www.olcshrine.com/store)

### Come browse our selection of Catholic gift items including

- Christmas Items
- Rosaries, Crucifixes and Devotional Items
- Books
- Greeting Cards
- Statues and Wall Art
- Inspirational CD's
- Clothing and Jewelry
- ...And much more!

See our Online Catalog  
and place your order at:

[www.olcshrine.com/store](http://www.olcshrine.com/store)

or call for more info: (419) 396-6080



# OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION HEALING ROSARY... with Shrine Centerpiece!

This unique and beautiful rosary is available only through the Basilica and National Shrine. Request yours today! Available with your gift of \$18 or more in support of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

Makes a Nice Christmas Gift



Detail: Reverse of centerpiece.



## Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

Conventual Franciscan Friars

315 Clay Street

Carey, OH 43316-1498

YES! Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Our Lady of Consolation Healing Rosary(ies). I have enclosed a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of the Basilica and National Shrine. *(The suggested offering is \$18 for each Rosary requested.)*

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

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

PW1R-12



## 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:

**Our Lady of Consolation Capital Improvement Project.**

General donation. *(Please use my gift wherever the need is greatest.)*

Vigil Light Remembrance. *(I understand the suggested offering is \$5 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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315 Clay Street

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Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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PW1VL-12

# From the Pilgrimage Director

by Brother Randy Kin, O.F.M. Conv.

The colder months in Carey may not see as many buses arriving as during the pilgrimage season, but we stay busy with Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) and Kairos retreats. It is a real privilege to see so many high school students making their retreats at our retreat house on the grounds of the Shrine. They have many opportunities for prayer in the beautiful Basilica, and are moved by the testimonies in the Lower Basilica left by pilgrims over the years since 1875.

Last spring and summer, from May through October, we were very happy to welcome our faithful pilgrimage leaders who come year after year. Our Lady's month of May began with a May Crowning, which coincided with Divine Mercy Sunday this year. Pilgrim leaders Estelle Bitel from Detroit and Adelaide La Posta from Windsor, Ontario, crowned the Blessed Mother and the Child Jesus in her arms.

The end of the school year saw eleven school and youth groups visit the Shrine. Organized pilgrimage groups over the summer have come from Thornhill, Ontario; Lemont, Illinois; Flushing, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; Detroit and surrounding

Brother Randy Kin welcomes visiting Youth Group.



areas in Michigan, and from throughout the state of Ohio.

Retreat groups have included the Men's Serenity, Opus Angelorum Sanctorum, and a Quilting Retreat. Regnum Christi had a family day. Indian Day in June brought pilgrims from Michigan and Ohio for the annual celebration of mass in the Syro-Malankara Rite. The Shrine was filled

with Filipino pilgrims on July 9, as it is each year on the second Saturday of July. We also welcomed Albanian and Korean pilgrims in numbers. More than 80 organized pilgrimages will visit the Shrine this season. The Seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus came to the Shrine for a Day of Recollection on Labor Day, and the new school year brought new students for pilgrimages.

When the weather isn't threatening, winter is a lovely time to visit the Shrine. The Basilica is beautifully decorated at Christmas time, and the quiet experienced here may be a way to prepare yourself in the right spirit for Christmas. Or visit after Christmas and allow the joy of this season to touch your inner life. If you bring a group, please call me ahead of time at 419-396-7107 to arrange for confessions, devotions, or a program that will make your visit meaningful and prayerful.

## From Our Pilgrims

I have prayed for healing of the pain in my leg for the last three years, two pilgrimages to Our Lady of Consolation each year. After my last pilgrimage last October, I walked up the 12 stairs in my home completely free of pain, and now I can walk and sleep without pain. Praise God and praise Our Lady of Consolation. Thank you, Mary. Jesus, I trust in You and Your holy Mother.

—R.M., Lancaster, Ohio

# A Prayer to Our Lady of Consolation To Awaken Our Hope

Holy Mary, Mother of Consolation, I am happy to be in your presence and in the presence of your beloved Son in this holy Shrine where you are honored. You are a model woman of faith who learned to trust Our Heavenly Father in all circumstances of life. You give us the perfect example of openness to God's Word and God's will. Help me to be open to God's will too.

Through your prayers, help me to remember God's promise that all things will work for the good of those who believe. Help me to be able to see that God is at work in my life, even when life seems so challenging. Help me to place in God's hands the things that cause me stress and worry.

Blessed Mother, you console the afflicted with the assurance of God's love and presence in their lives. Help me to be hopeful as I continue my pilgrimage through life and as I remember all the wonderful things God has already done for me.

May I echo your song from the depths of my heart:  
"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."  
Help me to share with all those I encounter  
the hope that comes from the Holy Spirit.

—Amen

## MASS AND DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY MASSES:

**Winter Schedule (November 1 through Palm Sunday):**  
5:30 pm (Sat. Eve); 9:00am, 11:00 am

**Summer Schedule (Easter Sunday through October 31):**  
5:30 pm (Sat. Eve); 8:00am; 10:00 am; 12:00 noon

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

*Monday through Saturday*  
7 am, 11 am in the Basilica Church

### DEVOTIONS:

*Rosary, Benediction & Individual Prayer*  
Sunday, 2:30 pm

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 4 pm to 5 pm

### NOVENAS OF MASSES:

*A Mass will be offered for nine consecutive days  
for your intentions.*

**Health & Healing:** February 2 - 10

**Feast of Our Lady of Consolation:** May 16 - 24

**Assumption of Mary:** August 6 - 14

**All Souls:** October 24 - November 1

**Christmas:** December 16 - 24

### NOVENAS OF PRAYER:

**In Honor of St. Francis:** September 25 - October 3

For a complete schedule of Masses and events for the year, please visit us online at:

<http://www.olcshrine.com/calendar-of-events.html>

For information on scheduling a group pilgrimage, see our site at:

<http://www.olcshrine.com/group-information.html>

For information about Retreat House events, see our web site at:

<http://www.olcshrine.com/retreat-house.html>

or call us at (419) 396-7970.

**You are always welcome!**

### Pathways to Our Lady of Consolation

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