

# Pathways

to Our Lady of Consolation

*Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing*

## A SEA OF CANDLES: THE AUGUST NOVENA AT OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

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



Even though I am still in my first year at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, I have visited frequently throughout my life and have many memories of this place deeply etched in my mind.

The memory that stands out most is one that is annually refreshed: the breathtaking view from the top step of the Basilica at 9:00 p.m. on August 14th, looking down on a sea of candles all the way down Clay Street. Every year it amazes me, because even though one can sense a growing crowd all afternoon on the 14th, the pilgrims are spread out all over the Shrine Park and throughout the buildings and grounds. What a powerful sight it is when they all gather to greet Our Lady of Consolation, as her image comes forth from the doors of the Basilica.

It is a wonderful snapshot of the universal Church as well. Our own local bishop, Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair of Toledo, leads the crowds in prayer. Joining together in procession, in a pilgrimage to the Altar at the Shrine Park, are recently arrived immigrants from Iraq; their American Chaldean relatives; neighbors from Carey and surrounding counties and visitors from much farther away; the descendants of Italians, Poles, Slovaks, Lebanese; and so many other immigrants who have found special consolation in this place over the years.

Processions remind us that our life is a journey through this marvelous world God has created for us, towards the even more marvelous world which is God's eternal kingdom. Mary, our mother, is with us every step of the way pointing to her Son, Jesus, who calls us to Himself.

When the candlelight procession arrives at the altar in the park, we hear the majestic music proclaiming the joy of Our Lady's Assumption into heaven and the joy we anticipate at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. The Word of God is proclaimed, the Novena preacher brings the nine days of reflection to a conclusion, and we are nourished at the Table of the Lord's Body and Blood. Our Catholic tradition teaches us that this Eucharistic meal, celebrated in the festivity of this solemn feast and celebrated daily

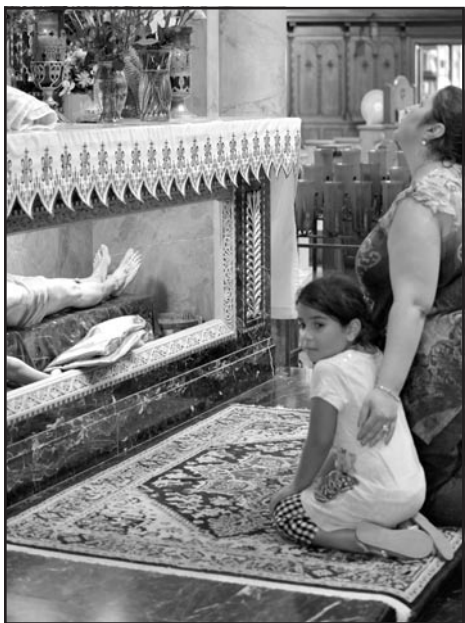
throughout the world, is an earthly foretaste of the unending banquet feast of heaven.

This year, as I look out upon the thousands of flickering candles, I will also be mindful of many more pilgrims who are here spiritually even though they are unable to be here physically. Their faith and prayers will brighten the night as much as the candles here in Carey, and their special intentions will be carried once again in that beautiful procession to the Shrine Park. Mary's powerful intercession will be felt in their lives, just as it is felt here.

## YOUNG PILGRIMS

We are delighted to welcome people of all ages to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. It is a special joy to hear pilgrims tell us proudly that they have been coming for 40, 50, 60 and even 70 years.

We also look forward to meeting the many school, youth and young adult groups that come to the Shrine. Recalling Jesus' instruction to the disciples, "let the children come to me," we are happy to receive first communion and grade school students on class trips and share the Shrine's living testimony of faith with them.



*Children as well as adults  
ask for Our Lady's help.*

Questions from the younger pilgrims can really be inspirational. One seventh grade boy (a non-Catholic) who was looking at the collection of Our Lady's dresses went home and convinced his grandmother to make a dress on behalf of the family.

Several Catholic elementary and high schools make pilgrimages as part of their annual curricula. In one case, a group of students themselves challenged the school administration to offer more opportunities to students who wanted to excel in spirituality rather than in athletics or academics, so they came to Carey. On weekends throughout the school year, a number of Catholic high schools use our Retreat House, and we also host several Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreats for boys and girls in the Diocese of Toledo.

Masses, the sacrament of reconciliation, and quiet time for reflection in the Basilica enhance the retreat experience for all of these young people and provide a sense of God's nearness that the retreatants can take home and share with their friends and families. Indian, Albanian and Chaldean Catholics usually come to visit and pray as a family, and we are delighted that so many young people are introduced to the Shrine in this way.

Brother Randy, our Pilgrimage and Retreat House Director, and all the friars love to welcome groups of people of all ages and give tours and share a bit of the Shrine's history. Brother Randy can help any group design a pilgrimage schedule that fits their needs and is appropriate for their age group.

## OUR NOVENA PREACHER: FATHER JOACHIM GIERMEK



This year, the Conventual Franciscans at the Basilica and National Shrine are happy to invite another of our Franciscan brothers to preach the annual Novena before the solemnity of Mary's Assumption.

**Father Joachim Giermek** is especially known to each of the friars at the Shrine, because he recently served the entire order of Conventual Franciscans throughout the world as its General Superior. In Franciscan terminology, Father Joachim was known as the "Minister General." All positions of leadership in Christ involve ministry, and so the Franciscans refer to their local superior as a "guardian," their major superior as a "minister provincial," and the worldwide leader as the Minister General.

Father Joachim was the 118th Successor of Saint Francis as leader of the Friars Minor Conventual throughout the world. As he journeyed to several countries to visit the brothers, and from his many years of service to the Order in Rome, Father Joachim was given the opportunity to meet many people from around the world and to experience how the Catholic faith and Franciscan life are lived in many different places.

Father Joachim was born in Buffalo, NY in 1943. He entered religious life as a Friar Minor Conventual in the province of Saint Anthony of Padua in the eastern United States. He studied in Granby, MA, in Rome, Italy, and at Saint Bonaventure University in Olean, NY. After many ministries, and serving first as Assistant Minister General for the English-speaking and then Minister General of the entire Order, he is now back in his home province and assisting at a parish in Maryland. Last year Father Joachim preached the retreat for all of the friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation. All the friars in attendance were so pleased with his retreat that the friars at Carey wanted him to share his message and experience with our pilgrims. Welcome Father Joachim!

### SHRINE UPDATES

The major restoration of the Shrine's magnificent stained glass windows is still going on. Thanks to your generosity and the support of local parishioners, the project is getting ever closer to completion. The four smaller windows with scenes from the Old Testament, as well as the larger Christ Window (27' x 17') have been re-installed and are radiantly beautiful. The large Mary Window, opposite the Christ Window, is undergoing treatment right now. We can hardly wait to have all the windows back in place.

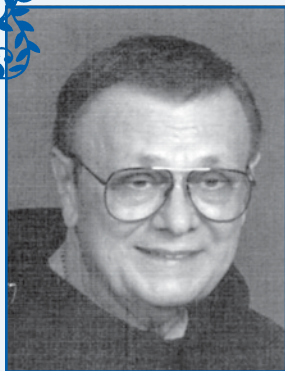
The Original Shrine Church is scheduled to get a new roof. The Church that Father Gloden built, and which was the first home of Our Lady's miraculous statue, is still used for daily Mass in the summer months and for many retreat liturgies. It is a simple building, but very inspirational. The roof to be installed is of metal and should last for years to come. It is designed to look just like the shingle roofs that have preceded it. Again, thanks to your generosity, the roof should soon be in place.

We need to do some major restorative work to the limestone steps that lead to the front doors of the Basilica. Thousands of pilgrims climb these steps to access the Basilica, many insisting to climb rather than be helped up the ramp. Weather and people holding on to the railings have caused some deterioration. Your gifts can help us restore these steps and access to the Basilica.

Our interior lighting system, especially designed to highlight the architectural and painted features of the Basilica, is slowly failing us. A new kind of fluorescent lighting is making the lighting around the edge of the vaulted ceiling obsolete. A project very near on the horizon is the replacement of the lighting system. This will not be possible without your help.

We are also hoping to replace the worn-out tile flooring in the Lower Basilica. Decades of pilgrims' feet have stood on these tiles in worship, and they are showing their age! The pews in the Lower Basilica also need restorative work to complete the task of painting and restoration begun a few years ago.

*In Memoriam:*  
*Brother Bruno Nemcosky*



On Holy Thursday night as we were celebrating the Lord's Last Supper with His disciples, Brother Bruno Nemcosky was called home to the Lord. Brother Bruno was the first Pilgrimage Director at Our Lady of Consolation, appointed when Father Juniper Cummings was Rector of the Shrine. He served in this role from 1970-78; from 1976-79 he served in the Franciscan Mission Association office here in Carey. Brother Bruno touched many lives during his years at the Shrine by ministering to pilgrims and his involvement in the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreats here. Many will remember Brother Bruno's skills in the kitchen as he loved to prepare delicious meals, and will remember his sense of humor. He was buried in the friars' cemetery at Mount Saint Francis, Indiana, with Carey parishioners and friends from many places he served in attendance.

*In Memoriam: Genevieve Capaldi*



We remember Genevieve (Ginny) Capaldi. Ginny passed away peacefully on Friday, January 21, 2011, and will be greatly missed by everyone. She touched countless lives during her nearly 93 years with us—a life of service, hospitality, song and spirituality.

Her busy life included the many pilgrimage trips she organized to shrines in Ohio, Michigan and Canada. Over the years she led many trips to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, bringing hundreds of pilgrims to this holy place of hope and healing.

The Friars and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank her and remember her in our prayers here at the Shrine, along with all the people who knew her over the years.

## THE OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION MAILBOX

*Dear Brothers, Thank you for showing us around the Shrine. It was fun. I got to take up the gifts. The place where I felt most holy is in the basement because you saw the little things left behind by people who were healed by miracles.*

*—Michael, St. Paul School, Westerville, OH*

*Dear Brothers, Thank you so much for having my grade and me at your church, Our Lady of Consolation. I really liked your Lower Basilica, but most of all, the stained glass window of Mary on the 1st floor. I really felt the presence of Mary in it.*

*—Cleo, St. Paul School, Westerville, OH*

# 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.)*



Reverse of medal.

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

PW2C-11

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

PW2VL-11

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—AUGUST 2011

## Sunday, August 7

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 14

Upper Basilica: Masses

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon

5:00 pm (Chaldean)

7:30 pm

9:30 pm

Lower Basilica: Mass

11:30 am (Chaldean)

Original Shrine Church: Masses

1:00 pm (Italian)

10:00 am to 7:30 pm – Confessions

2:30 pm – Procession to the Shrine Park  
with Devotions (prayers upon return)

9:00 pm – Candlelight procession to the  
Shrine Park with Mass

## Monday, August 15

Upper Basilica: Masses

7:00 am (English)

9:00 am (English)

10:30 am (English)

12:00 noon (Chaldean)

## Monday, August 15 (continued)

Lower Basilica: Masses

8:00 am (English)

11:00 am (English)

12:30 noon (English)

Original Shrine Church: Masses

11:00 am (Italian)

12:00 pm (English)

9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Confessions

2:30 pm – Shrine Park Procession and Devotions

## Sunday, August 21

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 28

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 (Sundays 2:30 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/calendar-of-events.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!



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### **Pathways to Our Lady of Consolation**

*is published by the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. Please contact us with any suggestions or comments you may have.*