

Pathways

to Our Lady of Consolation

Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing

Celebrating a Year of Faith at Our Lady of Consolation

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

In 2012, we celebrated the centennial of Conventual Franciscan ministry at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. It was on June 1, 1912 that Father Aloys Fish celebrated his first Mass at the Shrine in Carey.

Just as the friars were winding down the celebrations of one hundred years of presence and



Mass is celebrated at Our Lady of Consolation

ministry at Our Lady of Consolation, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI called our attention to another special anniversary. October 11 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening session of the Second Vatican Council, a momentous occasion in the life of the Church. Pope Benedict has called for a Year of Faith to mark this

special anniversary.

Here at the Shrine we are happy to welcome those who are observing this Year of Faith in a special way. Our Lady of Consolation's Shrine is a fitting place to celebrate faith, and perhaps even to rediscover it. One of the frequent comments that I hear at the Shrine, even from non-Catholics, is that it is hard not to believe in God and the effectiveness of prayer when one visits the Lower Basilica and sees all of the items that have been left in testimony of healings and other favors from God and Our Blessed Mother.

Another reason that the Shrine is a very fitting place to observe this Year of Faith is because of the beauty that one encounters here. One of the real treasures of the Catholic faith is its appreciation for what is beautiful, and its attempts to offer the very best to God in architecture, sculpture, painting, music, oratory and all of the arts. The exquisite beauty of our stained glass windows and the remarkably carved altars, the warmth of the image of the Sorrowful Mother grieving for her Son, and the beauty of the dresses and jewels that adorn the image of Our Lady of Consolation all point us towards the everlasting beauty and glory of heaven.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his apostolic letter announcing the Year of Faith, describes it as "a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world." We are encouraged to consider the words of the creed that we profess and ask for the grace to grow in faith. This special year is

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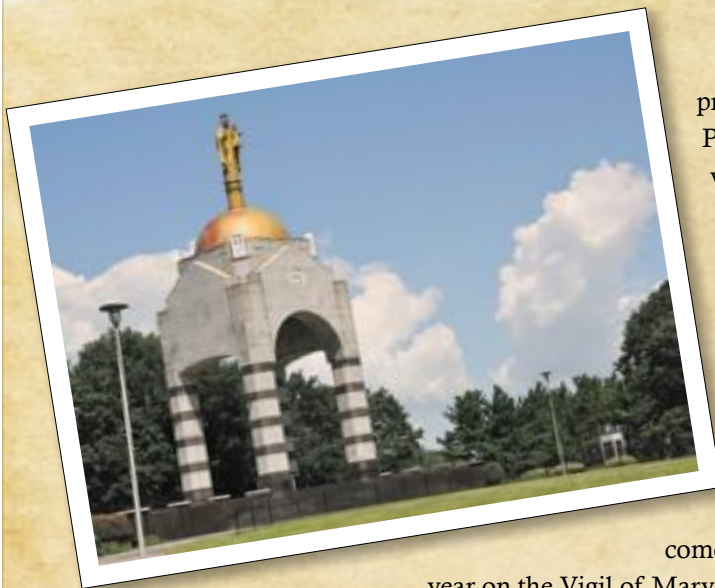
also an opportunity to learn more about our profession of faith and, more importantly, to strive to live that faith in a deeper way.

One can often be discouraged by the sight of so many difficulties in our world: economic uncertainty, political rivalries, war and terrorism, increasing violence in our cities, diseases, natural disasters, and more. We can also look at the lowering of moral standards and what appears to be a growing disinterest in God and God's Word. The gift of faith reminds us that God is still in charge. He is infinitely patient and continuously calls us to conversion. He does not merely condemn our waywardness, but also offers us a better alternative. God has sent His Son Jesus into the world to turn us toward Himself once again. He teaches us the values of His Kingdom in the Beatitudes, and encourages us to focus on more than the present reality.

Faith is not certainty, which means that a true believer will also experience doubt; all the great saints did. But faith continues to search for the sign of God's action and presence even when everything seems lost.



Restoration Work Ongoing at the Shrine



Shortly after the August Novena, work began to preserve the monumental altar structure in the Shrine Park. Some of its granite panels were cracked from water pressure building up in the four columns that hold up the dome and image of Our Lady. Thanks to your help in our last appeal and to the generosity of many pilgrims, that problem is being corrected and the columns will be resealed. The ceiling will also be cleaned, removing the gold paint that is peeling and restoring the copper ceiling to its natural finish. The dome above the altar will likewise be cleaned and painted. This should preserve the altar structure for many years to come.

This altar is the site of our largest Mass of the year on the Vigil of Mary's Assumption. It is also a site of prayer for many pilgrims throughout the year and a venue for a spring Mass with the school children each year.

At the same time, funds that had been set aside some years ago for the renovation of the Lower Basilica are being used now to remove the asbestos tile from the floor, and replace the tile flooring throughout the Lower Basilica. Since the pews had to be removed for the removal of the old floor, they were refurbished at the same



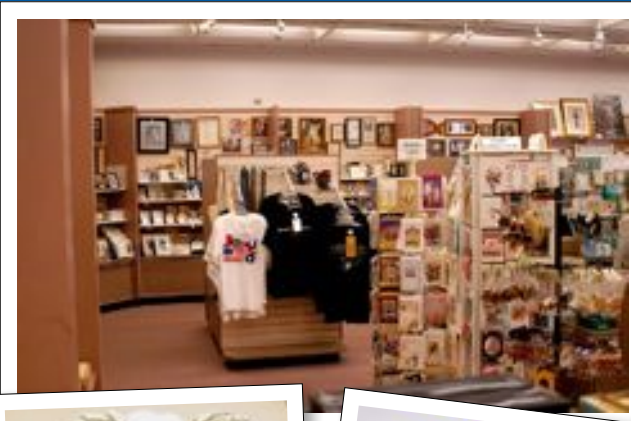
The Retreat House

time, and many kneelers were added or fixed. The Lower Basilica looks like it has received a nice facelift, yet it retains all its familiarity from over a century of usage.

The needs are ongoing. We are getting close to being able to replace the windows in the Retreat House, which should provide for more efficient cooling and heating as well as give the place a nicer appearance. The next big project will be the preservation of the office building. The third floor has suffered considerable damage over the years, and there is work to be done to prevent further deterioration and to preserve the building so that it is here for many more generations. **Contributions for any of these projects are always welcome.** There is a folder enclosed with this newsletter in which you can send us your prayerful intentions for remembrance in our Masses and prayers, and also make any gift you can in support of our Capital Improvement Project. Thank you very much.

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



Come browse our selection of Catholic gift items including

- Christmas Items
- Rosaries, Crucifixes and Devotional Items
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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.



Detail: Reverse of centerpiece.



- I am making a gift of \$_____ in support of the Conventual Franciscan Friars.
- My gift is **\$18** or more. Please send me _____ **Our Lady of Consolation Rosary(ies)**. (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 _____

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

Phone (_____) _____

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

PW1R-13



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 **\$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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PW1VL-13

From Our Pilgrims

I would like to report of a healing here at the Shrine that happened October 3, 2010 to me. In November 2007, I developed a spasm, like a nerve pain in my left leg, which made walking very painful. Every step would send a pain down my leg. It was also difficult sleeping at night... I also couldn't walk up steps very well without searing pain. Over the next three years I received 19 steroid shots in my back and leg, which only gave me a few hours relief. I then had acupuncture treatments—about 12 of them—and still the pain remained.

I always made 2 pilgrimages a year to Our Lady of Consolation Shrine for many years. For the last three years I had asked for a cure.

Last October I again asked Our Lady to cure my leg. When I arrived home I walked up the stairs (12 steps) without any pain for the first time in three years. I have been healed of that pain since my last pilgrimage of October 3, 2010. I wanted to thank Our Lady for the healing. Now I can walk without pain and sleep without pain. Praise God and praise Our Lady of Consolation.

Thank you Mary... Jesus, I trust in you and your holy Mother.

Raised in Arlington and Protestant, I joined the Church 21 years ago. Came here for the first time three years ago. Was diagnosed with CTCL (cutaneous t-cell lymphoma), a very rare cancer. A few months later we sent in several Mass intentions for your healing Masses. Last October I was cancer free.

Praise God for your faithful ministry to God's healing power.

My father was diagnosed with 3 tumors in the left lower lobe of his lung in 1965. At the time he was 35 years old. I was 3 and my sister was 5. I remember making the trip with my family from Youngstown to the Shrine in Carey. My father had given his watch, which contained a couple of diamonds, so they could be placed in the crown of Our Lady's statue. He gave in hope that he would be given another chance at life.

Through prayer he survived the operation, which at that time was unheard of. They removed the left lower lobe of his lung. There was no such thing as radiation or chemotherapy back then, so this was a very radical surgery. I remember the day my father came home from the hospital, being carried into the house by one of my uncles.

Seven years ago my mother, who at the time was 75 years old, was told she had rectal cancer after a colonoscopy was done. After the diagnosis, we made a visit to the Shrine in Carey, and prayed in the same small church where my parents prayed back in 1965. She asked that the operation would be successful and that she would recover. Outside the church were small rocks among the landscape. My mother reached down and grabbed two small rocks. She never told us why, and I never asked. She put them in her pocket.

My father is now 82 years old and is completely independent. His only health issue is COPD. My mother recovered completely from her surgery. She has passed the 7 year mark, and her only ailment is arthritis in her knees.

I just recently saw the two rocks out on a shelf, which were the ones my mother had taken. I asked her what she was doing with them. She answered, "I promised that if I made it through the surgery and was able to, I would be back to put the rocks back where I found them. I believe Our Lady told me to take them as a sign that everything would be fine, and I would be able to be healthy again, and able to bring them back."

Both my parents now live with me, and tomorrow we will make a trip to the Shrine in Carey to give thanks for all that we have and give thanks for the healing of both my parents.

Through prayer, faith and intervention she will be able to place the rocks where she found them.

Friar Ray Ramos, O.F.M. Conv.: A Gift for Joyful Service



Friar Ray Ramos, O.F.M. Conv.

Friar Ray Ramos, O.F.M. Conv., served as a Conventual Franciscan for 38 years, bringing his gregarious, warm nature and friendly smile to all he met, and continuing the Franciscan commitment to the poor. Brother Ray passed away on July 31, 2012, at Providence Retirement Home, New Albany, IN.

He was born Ramon Antonio Ramos in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico on January 20, 1946, to Ignacio Severino Alvarado and Basilisa Ramos Navarette.

Brother Ray entered the Conventual Franciscan Order in 1967 and professed solemn vows on January 22, 1974. His many years of service took him to Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, New Mexico, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Brother Ray served the pilgrims here at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation for ten years (1982-1992), and also helped during August Pilgrimage for many years following.

A vigil of remembrance was held August 5 at the Chapel at Mount St. Francis, IN. The Mass of Christian Burial was August 6. A Memorial Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Consolation on August 8.

Mass And Devotions Schedule

SUNDAY MASSES:

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

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

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 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!