

# Pathways

## to Our Lady of Consolation

*Your Journey to Faith, Hope and Healing*

### SACRAMENTALS: LITTLE THINGS, WHICH AREN'T SO LITTLE

*By Fr. John Raphael Hadnagy, O.F.M. Conv.*

There is a line from an old song: “Little things mean a lot.” In the Catholic Church, we have two distinct groups of things that we hold very dear to our hearts. The first of these is the *sacraments*. These are the things which are essential to us, as Catholic Christians, in our daily lives, such as the Eucharist, Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick, or at more significant points of our lives, such as Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and Holy Orders. The second group consists of what we call *sacramentals*. These are the medals, rosaries, crucifixes, holy pictures, statues, holy water, candles, palms, books of prayer, etc., which we use as aids to strengthen our relationship with God. (I do not include in either of these groups God’s Word in Sacred Scripture. The Bible is truly in a class by itself.)

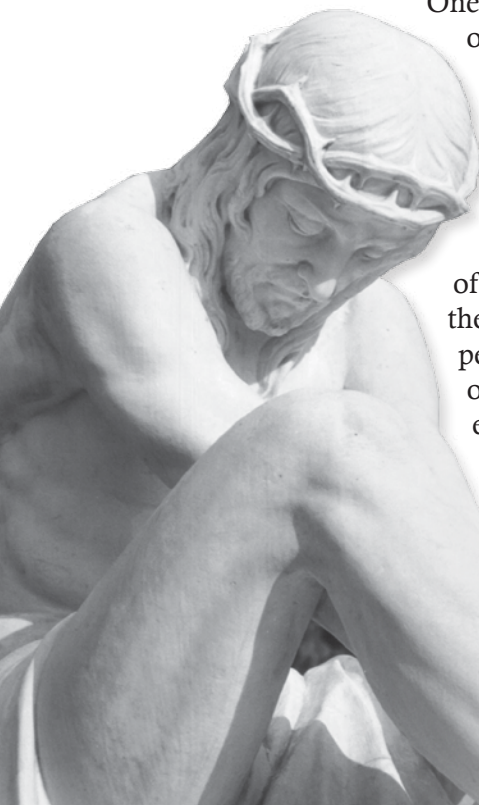
One of the most obvious differences between these two groups is that a sacrament is a public action of the Church for the benefit of God’s people (including a one-on-one experience like sacramental reconciliation)—whereas many

sacramentals are used in private. This is true whether they are used for personal prayer or reflection (rosaries, prayer books, etc.) or as reminders of our relationship with God and an invitation to deepen that relationship (crucifixes, statues, holy pictures, palms, holy water, candles). While the sacraments can, if we are open to God’s grace, deepen our communal and personal relationship with God, there is always a public aspect to them. Sacramentals are usually personal, private actions that call on us to deepen our relationship with our loving God.

In our daily lives, “little” things such as a kind word from someone, a smile (especially on a bad day), or a favorite song, can move us in a better, more fruitful direction. It is the same in our daily lives with God. Sacramentals can move us in the direction of a deeper relationship with God, who loves us.

The Rosary is a meditation on the Mysteries—the life and actions of Jesus and of Mary’s place in that life. As we pray such a wonderful gift, we are invited by God to “imitate what they contain,” and so “obtain what they promise.” By doing so, we imitate Jesus and Mary in their love for the Father, and are drawn more fully into the mystery of Jesus’ life in us even now.

A candle helps us to remember that we are to reflect the light of Christ to all we meet, but it is also a perfect symbol for the Christian person. As a candle “does its ministry” of giving light, it uses itself up in the process. Every Christian person, as he or she does the work of Christ, uses him or herself up. St. Paul called this “being poured out as a libation.” In a similar way, keeping blessed palm branches in our homes after Holy Week reminds us to hail the Lord Jesus as our Messiah and King all of the year, and not just on Palm Sunday.



## ON MY FAITH JOURNEY—A WALK WITH OUR LADY, JULY 17, 2000

By Helen (Grammie) Kromer, age 75

✝ I want to put on paper the memories of yesterday. I want my children and my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to experience the walk I had then. My daughter Judi walked with me. We were joined by about 300 other people. We met at Saint Nicholas Church in Frenchtown. After a short service, we then followed in the procession carrying the statue of Our Lady of Consolation seven miles to the Basilica in Carey, Ohio. The statue of Our Lady was carried by different volunteers. Judi and I took our turn while Brother Randy Kin, O.F.M. Conv.—my nephew—led the procession.

Some of us only walked part of the way. There were several cars in the procession. We prayed the Rosary, sang songs, and had quiet time or visited quietly with those near us. It was a beautiful day with the temperature in the 70's. We started the walk at 12:34 pm, and took the same route that was taken by those who carried the statue when it had just arrived in this country from Luxembourg in 1875. The statue has been in the church in Carey ever since then. Judi and I had helped to carry the statue 25 years ago, at the time of the centenary celebration. Today we had sneakers to wear for comfort, with our own bottled water to drink.

We took a rest after four miles, on the lawn of the Herman Brodman farm. It felt so good to sit on the grass and kick off our shoes. We started on the last part of our journey. Again we sang and prayed as we walked. As we neared the town of Carey, the parishioners rang the bells of the Basilica. While we were walking down the main street of the town, people lined the street to greet us. It seemed as if our footsteps picked up speed and our hearts beat a little faster because we were bringing the statue of Our Lady back to her home. We entered the church, where we joined in celebrating a benediction service.

We had aches and pains during the walk, but I would do it all over again if I had the chance. These are memories I want to keep in my heart and share with you. Maybe someday you will make the walk.

### PREACHER FOR THIS YEAR'S SOLEMN NOVENA

The Friars and Staff of Our Lady of Consolation are happy to announce that **Father Tom Merrill** will be the preacher for the Solemn Novena before the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. The Novena begins on August 6 and finishes on August 14, 2008 during the Mass for the Vigil of the Assumption in the Shrine Park.

Father Tom Merrill is a native of Edina, Minnesota. He professed solemn vows as a Conventual Franciscan in 1977 and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1979. Father Tom has spent a good portion of his life ministering to the Hispanic people, both in this country and in our Missions in Honduras. Presently, Father is Pastor of the Assumption Parish in Richfield, Minnesota.



*Father Tom Merrill*

We welcome Father to share this wonderful time of celebration with us this August. We invite each one of you to be with us during this special time for all of us who are devoted to Our Lady of Consolation.

## FROM THE PILGRIMAGE DIRECTOR

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



Every year on May 24, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Consolation. It was on that date in 1875 that the venerable statue of Our Lady of Consolation was carried in procession from the parish church of St. Nicholas in Frenchtown Township, to be installed in the new little church in Carey.

Many of us know of the dreadful storm that began to rage in this area, just as the procession was to begin its march to Carey. For the entire route of the procession, some seven miles, those who were marching observed the wind and rain pouring down all around them, yet not one drop fell on any of those in the procession or the statue of Our Lady. This same blessed event continued until the procession reached Carey. According to a journal kept by Father Joseph Gloden, the statue was barely through the door of the church when the storm broke over Carey with tremendous fury.

The story of the procession on that day has always been taken as an indication that Mary did indeed wish to be honored here in Carey. However, on this day much more happened than only the miraculous procession with the statue.

I now quote from the pages of Father's journal: "As Mary showed her power with the elements, she also wanted to show that same power in a different way. Benedict Belogue, a Frenchman from Belgium, had joined the procession with two of his sons and two of his daughters. He was praying for the cure of his daughter, Eugenie. This girl had been taken ill with a very serious cold. For several months she had visited the best doctor in Carey, Doctor Brayton. He tried everything possible to help her, but finally he had to tell her that he was powerless to help her get better. Her condition was so serious that she could not walk unaided. But no one whoever prays to Mary prays in vain. Mr. Belogue and his children's prayers were answered as the crippled and enfeebled girl felt much better the next day. In a few days she was completely healed, and to this day she enjoys wonderful health. So the entrance of Our Lady into Carey was celebrated by two wonderful manifestations."

Ever since that day so long ago, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, continues to touch and heal those who come to this holy place. She revealed herself truly as Mary, Consoler of the Afflicted. I hope and pray that you also may make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Whatever problem you bring to her feet, she will carry to her beloved Son, Jesus our Lord.

## FROM OUR PILGRIMS



Our mother had ulcerative colitis at a very young age. She was ill with this disease when she married my father. At one point she did not want to burden him with the disease, and was not going to marry him. My father had strong faith and informed her she was the one he would marry. They spent 60 loving years together and were the proud parents of 4 children.

My mother would often tell us stories of Dad taking her to the doctor, as she did not drive, and how most of his weekly paycheck would go to medicine for her illness.

Mother and Dad would yearly go to the Shrine in Carey. In the spring of 1957, my mother lit a 7-day candle. Seven days after lighting the candle, she had no evidence of the ulcerative colitis. She and Dad felt that God had answered all their prayers in healing mother.

A few years later, I was born, and I was often told I was named after the Shrine in Carey, Ohio. I continued to go for our yearly visits with my parents as I was growing up. When I became an adult, I shared the experience with my husband and family.

Mother passed away 2 weeks ago. We knew she would like it very much if donations were made to the National Shrine in Carey. Please accept the attached donations in memory of our mother.

Thank you.

Carrie R.,  
Wapakoneta, Ohio




## 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 Six-Day 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 Six-Day 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.)*
- Six-Day 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

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



**Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation**

Conventual Franciscan Friars

315 Clay Street

Carey, OH 43316-1498

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



## MY FAITH JOURNEY—“I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL!”



One day in spring, I met a woman on the steps of the Basilica in Carey. She introduced herself as “One of Mary’s Special Children.” I asked her why she gave herself that particular title. She smiled warmly and told me the following story:

“Five years ago, it was determined by my doctor that I had a malignant tumor at the base of my nose. Several of the sinus cavities were involved. My doctor further told me that in order to remove the tumor, my nose had to be removed first. I was heartsick. I asked my husband to drive me to the Shrine on the next Sunday. We participated in Mass in the morning, then remained for the Pilgrimage Devotions in the afternoon.

“After devotions, I poured out my heart before that beautiful statue of Our Lady of Consolation. I begged our Blessed Mother to pray for me, to touch me and to heal me if at all possible. At the proper time I moved to one of the Friars standing near the altar rail, told him my story, and asked him to pray with me. He did so and touched me with a relic of the True Cross of our Beloved Lord.

“The following Tuesday I checked into my nearby hospital and was taken down to the x-ray department to have further x-rays before the doctors proceeded with the surgery. I returned to my room, where, a short time later, both of my doctors came into my room. They told me that there was no need for the surgery. On all of the x-rays taken that morning, the tumor was gone. It simply was not there! There was no need for the surgery!”

She continued her story by telling me that since that blessed day, she has made a promise to Our Lady that once every month, as long as she was able to do so, she would find a chapel or a church where there was a statue or a painting of Our Blessed Mother, just to make a special act of thanksgiving!

I thanked her for sharing her wonderful story with me. She turned and said goodbye. The last thing I heard her say to me was, “I will always be so very grateful!”



# AUGUST 2008 MASS AND EVENTS SCHEDULE

## Sunday, August 3

*Upper Basilica: Masses*

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon

10:30 am—12:00 noon: Confessions

2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)

with outdoor Rosary procession

## Sunday, August 10

*Upper Basilica: Masses*

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon

10:30 am—12:00 noon: Confessions

2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)

with outdoor Rosary procession

## Thursday, 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: Mass*

1:00 pm

5:00 pm (Italian)

10:00 am—7:00 pm: Confessions

2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)

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

## Friday, August 15

### Feast of the Assumption

*Upper Basilica: Masses*

7:00 am (English)

9:00 am (English)

10:30 am (Albanian)

12:00 noon (Chaldean)

*Lower Basilica: Masses*

9:30 am (English)

11:00 am (English)

12:30 pm (English)

*Original Shrine Church: Masses*

11:00 am (Italian)

12:00 noon (English)

8:00 am—1:00 pm: Confessions

2:30 pm—Shrine Park Procession and Devotions

## Sunday, August 17

*Upper Basilica: Masses*

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon

*Original Shrine Church: Mass*

11:30 am (Italian)

10:30 am—12:00 noon: Confessions

2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)

with outdoor Rosary procession

## Sunday, August 24

*Upper Basilica: Masses*

8:00 am

10:00 am

12:00 noon

10:30 am—12:00 noon: Confessions

2:30 pm—Devotions (Upper Basilica)

with outdoor Rosary procession

## Sunday, August 31

*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 of the Feast of the Assumption (August 6-14). The Novena weekday schedule includes Masses at 7 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 rest of the year, please visit us online at <http://www.olcshrine.com/calendar.html>. For information about Retreat House events, see our web site at <http://www.olcshrine.com/franciscan.html> or call us at (419) 396-7970. You are always welcome!

## Pathways to Our Lady of Consolation

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