



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 12, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located in Washington D.C., has been affectionately referred to as *America's Catholic Church*. It is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the United States and North America. Almost 100 years old, its mission is fulfilled as a place of worship and prayer, pilgrimage, evangelization and reconciliation. Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patroness of the United States, it is our nation's foremost Marian shrine.

The Basilica, made available to all peoples, cultures and traditions of the Catholic faith, is open 365 days a year offering six Masses and five hours of confessions daily. It is truly a National Sanctuary of Prayer and Pilgrimage as designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Today I am excited to share with you news of a very special one-time collection, approved by the Catholic Bishops of the United States. The one-time collection will support the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome, the crowning jewel of the Basilica. Fittingly, this special collection will take place this Mother's Day in parishes all across our nation. Your prayerful and financial support will adorn a lasting legacy for this living monument honoring our Catholic faith and heritage.

I want to thank you in advance for your promotion, prayers and support of this initiative as we look ahead to the 100th Anniversary of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

May God bless you, and may the joy of the Easter Season remain in the hearts and homes of you and your families, as I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay