



Central Association *of the* Miraculous Medal

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photos

Miraculous Medal Shrine's Latino Event Draws 1,200 Participants from Surrounding Regions

Procession Photos:

Approximately 1,200 Latino people gathered at the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA, on Saturday, November 5, 2016, to celebrate the upcoming Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The event began with a Procession and Rosary offered for Families, Children, Young, Immigrants, Latino Countries, and the United States of America.

You can view "DSC_0187.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/00c1a560-ddf8-4b03-81a7-4a5fe0f8f51f>

You can view "DSC_0107.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/8940c6da-84ce-46a9-81a1-df8dcb338fcb>

You can view "DSC_0171.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/2cbd05e7-10bc-4f87-9c8f-a655c744102e>

Holy Mass/Eucharistic Celebration Photos:

The Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Holy Mass were Celebrated by Bishop Alfonso Cabezas, CM, and a group of Vincentian Priests at the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA.

You can view "HolyEucharist--MiraculousMedalShrine--SpanishCelebration--Nov.5,2016.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/46b96179-3806-4a2a-8c8f-8ff910dd60dc>

You can view "FullHouse--HolyMass--MiraculousMedalShrine--SpanishCelebration--Nov.5,2016.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/eccbdd11-e111-4df7-baf4-ecc1f55f3044>

Family Celebration Photos:

The Family Celebration followed the Mass outside the Shrine. It was a day of blessings in which Our Blessed Mother's presence, the families, the love and unity among our Latino Community were part of the All-Day Celebration.

You can view "DSC_0691.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/9294f11c-4ecf-4bc1-af95-8fbd5021fe63>

You can view "DSC_0737.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/5c2a54da-f5f6-47cf-beb9-4a28097c6479>

You can view "DSC_0766.JPG" at: <https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/3deb0fdb-40cc-4415-8f1e-efcb0d4a99ed>

Germantown, Philadelphia, PA—November 15, 2016—Approximately 1,200 Latino people gathered at the Miraculous Medal Shrine on Saturday, November 5, 2016, to celebrate the upcoming Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Despite the transit strike that affected travel in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, people arrived from all corners of the Philadelphia area, including South Philly, North Philly, Norristown, Chester, Coatesville, Lansdale, and Malvern as well as other cities and neighboring states including New York, New Jersey, and Virginia. The people, most of whom are from Central and South America, enjoyed the opportunity to come together as one family with the Blessed Mother at the center.

The Day began with an Outdoor Procession and Rosary with a statue of Our Lady, starting at the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal (CAMM) Office Building crossing Cheltenham Avenue and around the Miraculous Medal Shrine, and in through the Shrine's Holy Door for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. During the Procession, a woman named Cristina sang a beautiful song she wrote for Our Blessed Mother. During the procession, voices lifted in prayer as the Rosary was recited in Spanish and English for different prayer intentions: Children, Families, Immigrants, Young People, all Latino Countries, and the United States of America.

Bishop Alfonso Cabezas, CM, celebrated the Liturgy and preached simply but movingly. The two-hour Liturgy did not seem like two hours. To say there was a full house would be an understatement. Not only was every pew jammed full and the choir loft brimming, but people were standing in all the aisles—middle, left and center—and also in the area of the two side altars. And, there was an overflow crowd in the lower level of the Shrine watching the celebration via the Live-Stream broadcast online.

Confessions took place all day long throughout the Shrine and its grounds, keeping a number of Spanish-speaking Vincentian priests busy as they heard the confessions of those who had gathered for this magnificent celebration!

The anointing of the Sick took place outside the Shrine following the Mass, and the Celebración Familiar (Family Celebration), was held under tents in the grove next to the Shrine, featuring a seemingly-endless supply of food and festivities for all ages. Latino groups from different parts Philadelphia and its Suburbs supplied the food as a symbol of generosity, solidarity, and sharing—important virtues that characterize the Latino people.

The Celebration's focus was on family time, prayer, blessings, and building relationships between the people, who are all from many different Latino countries, remembering that they have one faith that unites them despite all their differences. One of the greatest joys of the Latino culture is the opportunity to share food and fellowship with family and friends. Food is a symbol that builds and strengthens relationships, especially since there is a prayer before eating. Cooking is a way of showing love, as in, "I cooked all night for you..." And, in return, the recipients of the food show their love and appreciation by eating what was cooked for them. At this Celebration, there was no shortage of people happy to do both! The food was eaten at one long dining table with chairs all around it—which further helped to strengthen relationships among members of the communities. During this time, performances by Mariachis and Traditional Dancers featured songs about Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

With the assistance of a translator, Mary Ann Dantuono, President of the Ladies of Charity USA, spoke to the group about the Ladies of Charity who are celebrating their 400th Anniversary of their founding by St. Vincent de Paul.

Thus, on November 5, 2016, not only did the Latino community mark a new phase in the history of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal, but perhaps also the rebirth of the Ladies of Charity in Philadelphia.

And, as the Latino Family Celebration drew to a close, the adage, "Many hands make light work" came to mind. All communities joined together to clean up, and before long, as if by a miracle, all was cleaned up before the last car or bus from New York, New Jersey, and Virginia departed!

The Miraculous Medal Shrine, home of the Perpetual Miraculous Medal Monday Novena, welcomes all visitors to our beautiful Shrine, located in the heart of Philadelphia. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal provides a sanctuary for prayer, meditation, and pilgrimage to God and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Visitors are also encouraged to enjoy our Museum's historical collection of Marian and religious artwork. The Shrine and Museum are run under the auspices of the Vincentian Community and The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal.

For over 100 years, The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal has been dedicated to spreading devotion to Mary Immaculate and her Miraculous Medal, supporting the promotion of this devotion, helping the formation and education of seminarians, providing care to the aged and infirm Vincentian Priests and Brothers of the Eastern Province, and supporting programs that provide assistance to the poor.

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