



Central Association of the Miraculous Medal

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTO**

**Over 10,000 People Visited the Miraculous Medal Shrine
for the 88th Annual Solemn Novena
*November 14-22, and Feast Day Mass November 23***



Note: Please click link to download photo.

Photo: *Concelebrants in front of Mary's Altar at the Miraculous Medal Shrine on Wednesday, November 23, after the Feast Day Mass in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal celebrated by Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, at 10am.*

<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/b6958619-da6f-4fb3-a005-e375a8afcb62>

NOTE: Photo Credit: Anne Pryce

Germantown, Philadelphia, PA—December 7, 2016 – Over 10,000 people gathered to pray for those they love and care for during the Solemn Novena Services at the Miraculous Medal Shrine at 500 E. Cheltenham Avenue in Germantown.

The Miraculous Medal Shrine in Germantown celebrated the 88th Annual Nine-Day Solemn Novena, with six to eight services daily, beginning on Monday, November 14, 2016, and culminating on Day Nine of the Novena on Tuesday, November 22, followed by the Miraculous Medal Feast Day Mass on November 23. Additionally, the Shrine officially closed its Holy Door of Mercy with a special ceremony on November 18 at the 12:05pm Mass. Attendees were reminded that God's mercy never ends, and were invited to become doors of mercy for others.

Thousands of special intentions, sent in from around the world, were placed at the altar for prayer during the nine-day Solemn Novena. The services were streamed LIVE each day at 9am. If you missed a day, you can watch the sermons on the Shrine's website, www.MiraculousMedal.org.

Fr. Michael J. Callaghan, CM, Associate Director, Miraculous Medal Shrine, was the Preacher for all nine days, speaking about the theme: *The Miraculous Medal in America's History*.

"Participating in the Solemn Novena with the people...I felt closely connected to the Shrine...its purpose and the pilgrims to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Preaching clarified my vocation as preacher, as Vincentian, as a kind of pastor to the pilgrim people of the Shrine in Germantown. I realize how much I'm now one with them in prayer and pilgrimage," Fr. Callaghan said upon reflection on his role in this year's Solemn Novena. "Preaching closely behind the 2016 presidential election clarified for me the Church's role as a unifier and healer in the Spirit of Christ the Good Shepherd...He leads us, with Mary, beyond the politics."

In his sermons, Fr. Callaghan offered reflections and personal stories related to the theme: *The Miraculous Medal in America's History*. He focused on the meaning of the Miraculous Medal throughout America, including Mexico and South America, and touched on topics including immigration, citizenship, and what it means to be pro-life. His props, including stuffed animals and hats, and songs throughout the Novena kept everyone entertained.

The Novena, which closed on Tuesday, November 22, 2016, was followed by the Shrine's Feast Day Mass on Wednesday, November 23, to celebrate Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, was the Principal Celebrant and Preacher, speaking on the gift of the Miraculous Medal

Shrine in the Archdiocese, its meaning in his own life, and the role of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in the Church.

Bishop Senior began his homily pulling from his pocket the sterling silver Miraculous Medal that his father wore during World War II, and sharing about his grandmother's faith in Mary to protect his father during the horrors of that time. Bishop Senior's family was raised in Germantown, and devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was part of his life for as long as he can remember. The *Memorare*, a prayer perhaps taught him by his grandmother, is still one of the prayers he says before he goes to bed at night.

In wondering why the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal brings him and others such comfort, solace, and reassurance, he pondered Mary's role in our redemption.

"The word of God confirms what we feel in our hearts," he said, referencing the Book of Revelation. "That's why we fly unto her, because of her relationship with Jesus. She is the intercessor who takes what is on our hearts to the Lord, and He responds with great love."

After the Mass, attendees were treated to a delicious luncheon buffet in the Lower Shrine.

Pilgrims who visited the Shrine during the Solemn Novena experienced prayers of intercession to Mary, powerful Sermons, and our beautiful, restored Sanctuary, renovated this past September! Many thousands of people around the world were able to participate in the Novena and Feast Day Masses online at www.MiraculousMedal.org, and on the "Miraculous Medal" iApp. These are archived and available to view on the website.

[See Celebrant Bio information and list of topics below]

You may [click here for the full Novena schedule](#).

[Link: <http://cammonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/MiraculousMedal-SOLEMN-NOVENA-2016-FLYERFINAL.pdf>]

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Solemn Novena Theme:

The Miraculous Medal in America's History

Monday, Nov. 14: Our Declaration: "O Mary, Conceived without Sin, Pray for Us..."

Tuesday, Nov. 15: Our Stars and Stripes: The Symbols on the Miraculous Medal

Wednesday, Nov. 16: Our Forefathers and Mothers: American Vincentians, Daughters of Charity, Sisters of Charity Saints: Rosati, De Andreis, Seton, Skelly, Labouré

Thursday, Nov. 17: Our Heavenly Home: The Land of the Free: Scriptures Associated with the Miraculous Medal

Friday, Nov. 18: Our National and International Monuments of Salvation

Saturday, Nov. 19: Our Liberty and Life: The Medal as a Symbol for Life: Born and Unborn

Sunday, Nov. 20: The Pursuit of Happiness: The Medal and Immigration

Monday, Nov. 21: "From Sea to Shining Sea": USA Geography and the Miraculous Medal

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Manifest Destiny: The Future and the Miraculous Medal... Our Responsibility to Co-operate with Mary

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These Special Groups Paid Homage to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

Each day, prayer was offered for a different group, seeking Mary's intercession for their needs. Prayers were offered for the following special intentions on each day of the Solemn Novena:

Monday, Nov. 14: Priests, Seminarians, Deacons, and Religious Men and Women

Tuesday, Nov. 15: Public Servants: Police, Firefighters, and EMTs

Wednesday, Nov. 16: U.S. Veterans and Military Personnel

Thursday, Nov. 17: Catholic Educators

Friday, Nov. 18: Seniors (each service had "Anointing of the Sick")

Saturday, Nov. 19: Catholic Medical Professionals: Doctors, Nurses, and Technicians

Sunday, Nov. 20: Vincentian and Novena Families: All Who Attend Vincentian Parishes and the Monday Novenas (Past and Present Devotees)

Monday, Nov. 21: Catholic Societies / Organizations: Knights of Columbus, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, and many more

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Catholic Lawyers and Business Professionals

Invitations were sent to each of these groups locally, and advertised and posted in all of the local parish bulletins. Many of these groups organized vans and buses to bring their parishes, youth, and special groups.

In addition, thousands of intentions from all over the world were sent to the Shrine to be placed at the foot of Mary's Altar to ask for her intercession.

The Miraculous Medal was shown to St. Catherine Labouré by the Blessed Mother during her third visitation. Billions of people worldwide wear this medal today and receive many Miracles. The full history of the Miraculous Medal and Miraculous Medal Shrine can be found online at www.MiraculousMedal.org.

The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal is a Catholic non-profit organization established in 1915 by the Congregation of the Mission, an order of Priests founded by St. Vincent de Paul, popularly known as the Vincentians. The Miraculous Medal Shrine was built in 1927 to help spread the devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and to support the mission work of the Vincentian Priests and Brothers on behalf of those Most in Need.

Photos are available online at www.MiraculousMedal.org.

Bios of Celebrants and Preachers:

Preacher, Solemn Novena, All Masses and Services:

Rev. Michael J. Callaghan, CM

Associate Director, Miraculous Medal Shrine

Fr. Michael Callaghan, CM, was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 and professed final vows in the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) in 1983. He earned a BA in Philosophy and MDiv in Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnwood, PA. Fr. Callaghan also holds an MAT in English from Niagara University, NY, and a PhD in English from New York University, NY.

In his ministry, Fr. Callaghan has served as Associate Pastor at Sacred Heart Church, in Manoa, PA, and Our Lady of Fatima Church, Bensalem, PA. He was an English teacher at Archbishop Wood High School for Boys, Warminster, PA, and Assistant Professor of English and Speech at the College of Professional Studies at St. John's University, Jamaica, NY. He also served as chair of the Department of English at St. Joseph's Preparatory Seminary, Princeton, NJ.

Fr. Callaghan is a member of the Modern Language Association, National Council of Teachers of English, New York State English Council, and International Thomas Merton Society. In 2002, he received the Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award at St. John's University, Jamaica, NY.

Miraculous Medal Feast Day Principal Celebrant

Wednesday, November 23, at 10am Mass:

Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

Bishop Timothy Senior was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1985 and was appointed Titular Bishop of Floriana and Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia by Cardinal Justin Rigali on July 31, 2009. He became Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnwood, PA, on July 2, 2012. Bishop Senior earned his MDiv and MA in Theology from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Wynnwood, PA, and then served as an assistant pastor at a parish in Bucks County and taught religion in an Archdiocesan high school before earning his MSW and MBA from Boston College. He has served as Moderator of the Curia, assisting the Archbishop in the governance of the Archdiocese, and as Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese. He also served in the Archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Human Services, as Deputy Secretary and Secretary, assisting the Archdiocesan-sponsored Catholic healthcare and social services.

In 1998, Bishop Senior was named Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope John Paul, II, with the title "Reverend Monsignor." In 2004, he was named Vicar for Clergy by Cardinal Justin Rigali, and in 2005, was named a Prelate of Honor by the late Pope John Paul II.

For more information about upcoming events at The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal and the Miraculous Medal Shrine, please visit www.MiraculousMedal.org.

The Miraculous Medal Shrine, home of the 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 Priests and Brothers of the Eastern Province, and supporting programs that provide assistance to the poor.

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