On either side, high along the ceiling of our Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, there are ten shields. A total of twenty shields depict titles of our Blessed Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto.

The stylized renderings duplicate a set of Marian shields in the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal in Princeton, New Jersey. That chapel was built with contributions from members of our Central Association of the Miraculous Medal and dedicated in 1939. Until 1992 the chapel was the focus for daily services and the liturgical formation of Vincentian candidates for ordination to priesthood.

The seminary closed in 1992, and a retreat center occupied the site until 2009. The site is now on lease to three private schools in the Princeton area; the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal is now home to the Princeton Abbey and Cemetery. The Abbey can accommodate 15,000 spaces for burial of cremated remains; it also serves as an event space for the Princeton area.

This week we describe in general our set of twenty Marian shields in our Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. On the eastern side, from right to left, ten shields honor Mary under the following titles:

1. Queen conceived without sin
2. Mother most pure
3. Mother of God
4. Mother most chaste
5. Virgin most powerful
6. Queen of the Apostles
7. Queen of Martyrs
8. Queen of Confessors
9. Queen of Virgins
10. Help of the Sick
On the western side, from right to left, another ten shields honor Mary under the following titles:

11. Mother of Good Counsel
12. Seat of Wisdom
13. Comforter of the Afflicted
14. Cause of our Joy
15. Vessel of Honor
16. Queen of Peace
17. Morning Star
18. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary
19. Gate of Heaven
20. Queen of Heaven

Our prayer this week is taken from the Litany of Loreto. In it we invoke Mary under her title Mother of God and ask for God’s blessings on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

We pray:

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God,
that we your servants may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body,
and by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary, ever Virgin,
may we be freed from present sorrow, and rejoice in eternal happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In our next Shrine Reflection we will begin discussing the twenty Marian shields beginning with the first one, Queen conceived without sin.