



MAY 2024 (1)

Dear Friends and Benefactors

May is the month of Mary and we need her motherly care and protection.

Mother of Mercy Shrine, Magaliesburg



On Saturday the 27th of April Archbishop Buti Tlhagale opened the mother of Mercy shrine in the Magaliesburg. Accompanied by several Bishops a good number of priests and a large gathering of the faithful the new shrine was consecrated. The Archbishop speaking at the end of ceremony said,

"This Shrine will be made holy the gathering of pilgrims who seek to experience God's presence. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt. 18.20).

This Shrine will be made holy by the constant and uninterrupted, unbroken cries of children calling upon their heavenly Mother to intervene on their behalf; to plead their cause to her son, the Redeemer of humankind.

This Shrine will be made holy the feet of many pilgrims whose unshakable and deep faith gently propel them to visit the Shrine to seek comfort in the merciful heart of Mother Mary.

This Shrine will be made holy by the spirit of the many holy and saintly people of God who bear witness to each other and simply, like children in a family who seek to build their mother a house, many of us promised to build our heavenly Mother, the Queen of Heaven, a house in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg....



Pope Francis' Intention for May

For the formation of religious and seminarians - We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Patroness of Cuba.



Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under this title stretches back more than four centuries, to when the original statue of Our Lady of Charity was discovered off the coast of Cuba, near the village of El Cobre. Found by two local labourers and a child slave around the year 1600, the small wooden statue of the Virgin Mary appeared after a storm that hit while the three were out at sea in an old boat looking for salt. The men prayed for the protection of Mary from the storm. They then spotted what first appeared to be a bird floating on the water but turned out to be an image of the Virgin Mary carrying the Child Jesus on her right arm, while holding a gold cross in her left hand.

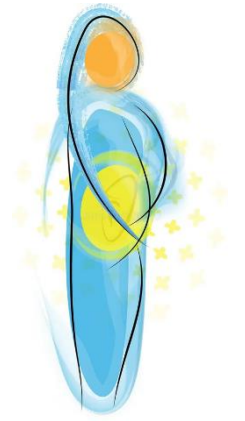
The statue had been fastened to a board with the inscription: "I am the Virgin of Charity..."

Pope Francis in a message to the Cuban Bishops wrote that Mary has three very important lessons for today's Christians. He said Mary teaches people to experience the joy of Christ and share it with others; to never let adversity beat you down; and always help those in need with love and mercy.

JOY Whoever discovers Jesus will be "filled with an inner joy so great that nothing and no one can take away. With Christ in their lives, people find the strength and hope "not to be sad and discouraged, thinking problems have no solution."

IN HASTE For the second action, people should always rise "in haste," just like Mary, to help others in need, he said. "Victory is to those who repeatedly rise up, without getting discouraged. If we imitate Mary, we cannot sit with our arms crossed, just complaining or perhaps avoiding any effort so that others do what is our responsibility," he said. Making a difference and helping others does not have to be done on a grand scale, he said, but entails doing everyday things "with tenderness and mercy."

PERSEVERE "The third verb is to persevere," the pope said. Mary relied on God and his goodness for the strength and courage needed to stay by Christ's side no matter what and to encourage his disciples to do the same. "In this world in which long-lasting values are rejected and everything is changing, in which the disposable triumphs, in which it seems people are afraid of life's commitments, the Virgin encourages us to be men and women who are constant in their good works, who keep their word, who are always faithful," the pope said.



2024 Election Prayer

On the 29th of May South Africans go to the polls to elect new leadership for the country. There are many different parties with many different views and the choice laid before voters is bewildering. Above all the country deserves a free, fair and peaceful elections where the contesting parties campaign freely before the election and then afterwards accept the outcome of the vote.



Lord, we the people of South Africa, thank and praise you for your inexhaustible love and the graces of healing and peace you continually offer to us as a nation.

As we prepare for the elections in 2024, send us your Holy Spirit to form our consciences according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that we may choose leaders who aspire for the common good of our nation, and have the fear of the Lord in their hearts. And so, we pray the following intentions:

That the youth of our nation may register as voters and prepare themselves for voting in 2024.

Merciful God and Father, may your will be done!

That all the officials and volunteers of the Independent Electoral Commission may be honest and diligent in preparing for the elections ensuring that all procedures are implemented according to the IEC regulations.

Merciful God and Father, may your will be done!

That the South African Police Services may be well prepared and ensure that law and order is maintained during the time of political campaigning and during the time of voting and during the period of the counting of the votes;

Merciful God and Father, may your will be done!

That all media companies and journalists may do their reporting and communication truthfully and with fairness to all political parties and ensure that no hate speech is allowed to be broadcast.

Merciful God and Father, may your will be done!

Thank you for your generous support for the Foundation and every blessing for the coming month.

Fr Hugh