



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

August 20, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

For nearly 100 years, construction has continued on the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. This “hymn in stone” has served as a beacon of our faith to the nearly 1 million who visit it each year and to the millions more who visit and work in our nation’s capital. Perhaps you have visited the Shrine yourself. Mary’s Shrine, as it is often called, is the largest Roman Catholic Church in North America and is one of the ten largest churches in the world. Yet, 97 years after the laying of its foundation stone in 1920, it remains unfinished.

This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked our help funding the completion of the Trinity Dome, the last remaining Shrine construction project. This “Crowning Jewel” will be adorned in mosaic and will depict the Most Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, and a procession of saints who have an association with America and the Basilica. More information on this project can be found at trinitydome.org and/or nationalshrine.org.

We have agreed to do our part in making this project a success by taking up a second collection next weekend. Our goal is to raise \$600,000 to honor the Blessed Mother by completing her Shrine and signifying to all who see it that our country and its people are grateful for her many graces. Thank you in advance for your active support of this initiative.

You and your families continue to be in my prayers, and I ask that you not forget to pray for me. With every good wish I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago