



A CENTURY IN THE MAKING

Reverend and Dear Father,

The completion of the Trinity Dome, in preparation for the one hundredth anniversary of the placing of the foundation stone of the National Shrine in 2020, is a monumental undertaking for which the Bishops of the United States have approved a special one-time collection to take place in-pew on Mother's Day 2017. Thank you in advance for your support of this collection.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the patronal church of our nation, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This great Marian shrine exists today because of the generosity of American Catholics and Clergy, the prayers of the faithful, and the hard work of the artisans and laborers who began building it nearly one hundred years ago.

Mary's Shrine, also known as America's Catholic Church, is an authentic reflection of the diversity of the cultures and ethnicities of the United States and the unity and universality of the Catholic Church as evidenced in the more than 80 chapels and oratories dedicated to Our Blessed Mother.

The national collection for the Trinity Dome offers the faithful an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by honoring their Catholic heritage and entrusting themselves and their families to the Mother of God.

The most effective way you can support this collection is to announce it during Mass and encourage participation by using the collection envelopes provided. In addition, I encourage you to lead your parish in the *Prayer from America's Catholic Church*, also provided, entrusting our nation and all the faithful to Our Patroness and Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception.

With my deep appreciation for your promotion of this collection, together with my request that you pray for the success of this important project, wishing you every blessing in your ministry, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Donald Cardinal Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington
Chairman of the National Shrine Board

The Trinity Dome Project

Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception

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