



The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii

October 22, 2017

Vol. 4, No. #4

**We are the only Church in the World to have
Bronze Doors with all 20 Mysteries.**

Dear Friends of the Shrine,

October 7th was the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and recently during mass we spoke about the mysteries of the Rosary. Here is a sidebar story that involves the Shrine.

About 15 years ago, after our Shrine community was standing on its own two feet as an independent entity, we were afforded the ability to order bronze doors for our Shrine entrance. They were to be unique and emblazoned with the 15 mysteries of the Rosary so that anyone who would walk past the Shrine could see them.

Timing is everything.

As these doors were being cast in Corleone, Sicily, Pope John Paul II added five new mysteries LITERALLY at the very same time as the doors were being created.

We had to stop the presses!!

I called Corleone and in my best Sicilian said, "Please! Can you stop the production? The Pope has just added five new Mysteries!! Our doors will be outdated like all the other churches in the world!!"

Of course the answer was no. After some begging and the promise to pay extra money, the workers in Corleone decided to redesign the doors.

What Pope John Paul II added were the Luminous Mysteries... the mysteries of light.

Pope Pius V established the original 15 mysteries in the 16th century. They were grouped together as the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Glorious Mysteries. However, in 2002 Pope John Paul II found it fitting to create five additional mysteries.

The first mysteries, the Joyful Mysteries, are exactly that - the joys of a young couple, the joy of family. Let us give thanks and let us find joy always. The second mysteries are the Sorrowful Mysteries - mysteries of agony, disturbing things like the crown of thorns and the crucifixion of death. The Glorious Mysteries give us promise that we will see the resurrection on the last day. And then came the Luminous Mysteries of light - the baptism of the Lord, a wedding feast, a healing ministry.

We are enlightened. And we are now unique.

Cardinal George once told me we are the only church in the world to have bronze doors with all 20 mysteries. Our doors have the mysteries of the rosary because they are the mysteries of life.

But a true mystery of our life right now is all the death and destruction in our world. We have never lived in times quite like these. If anything good can come out of this time we live in, it is that we fall on our knees and pray that God will enlighten us, that a God will give us the luminous grace of this little church, in this little place dedicated to Mary, that we can walk out of here and be enlightened and not live any longer in the dark.

Our doors... they belong to the city of Chicago and to everyone who passes by because they speak of what life can be if they believe in the gospel.

Blessings to you,

Fr. Richard Tragoneri

Father Richard
Rector