



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

May 14, 2017

Dear friends in the Lord:

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 this on Mother's Day.

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, 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 eighty chapels and oratories dedicated to Our Blessed Mother.

This one-time national collection for the Trinity Dome offers all of us an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy by honoring our Catholic heritage and entrusting ourselves and our families to the Mother of God.

Please be as generous as you can.

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed Easter season, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

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Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York