

His Excellency, Bishop Thomas Doran. At present this new community, devoted to the traditional Latin Liturgy, has two sisters, with four other prospective candidates already being considered. Our two sisters, Sister Mary Neri and Sister Mary Montfort, are both registered nurses, while the latter holds a Doctorate in Music. This new community is semi-contemplative, with a goodly portion of the day given over to liturgical prayer---Holy Mass, the entire Divine Office, Eucharistic Adoration, as well as, of course, Marian devotions in the spirit of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort and St. Maximilian Kolbe. Their one apostolic work will be the visitation of the sick each Friday in honor of Our Lord's passion and death.

Let me assure you --- it is the generosity, both spiritual and financial --- of all the members and benefactors of Opus Mariae Mediatrix ---that has made this great new venture possible. The credit goes to you for this and so many other worthy initiatives, for example the first mission, totally devoted to the Tridentine Liturgy and staffed by diocesan clergy, soon, *Dei gratia*, to be erected to the status of a parish in the Diocese of Camden.

Let me assure you also, that none of these great works would succeed without your prayers, refined in the crucible of suffering, united to that of Jesus Christ on the Cross!

Of necessity I must move on to other matters. Please don't forget that, despite all the media hype, the new millennium begins January 1, 2001. Given that a plenary indulgence is granted for the chanting of the *Veni Creator* on Dec. 31st each year and for the chanting of the *Te Deum* on Jan. 1st each year, what better way could be found to ring out the old millennium and ring in the new---perhaps with a Holy Hour from 11:30 PM, Dec 31st to 12:30 AM, Jan 1st, 2001. Not long after Jan 1st, the Great Jubilee of the year 2000 will come to an end with the solemn closing of the Holy Door at the Vatican Basilica, by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan 6th. And don't forget, before we arrive at that auspicious occasion, we enter the Holy Season of Advent, our preparation for the Solemnity of Christ Mass. Advent is marked by the spirit of expectancy---of Our Lord's coming at the end of time, of His coming in the mystery of the Incarnation, and of His coming by grace! By the way, if I might suggest a book for meditation on that theme during Advent, why not pick up a copy of Matthias Scheeben's masterpiece, *The Glories of Divine Grace*, available from Neri Publications.

Well, space once again limits any further considerations. And if the flood of mail around Christ Mass time delays the arrival of our Christmas edition, let me wish now, to each and everyone, a Blessed Christ Mass.

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,



Fr. William F. Ashley