



# SHRINE

OF

## Our Lady Of Joyful Hope Our Lady Of South Carolina

### **Diocese of Charleston 2019 Rosary Congress Shrine's Participation: 7-Day Holy Siege**

Dear friends devoted to Our Lady,

The Diocese of Charleston has included a Rosary Congress in its Bicentennial Celebration. This will take place in a designated church rotating in each of our seven deaneries for seven consecutive days from October 7<sup>th</sup> to October 13<sup>th</sup>. Our Shrine is not structured like a parish, so it was decided that it should have a unique participation in this event.

In 1978, Our Lady requested seven days of continuous Eucharistic adoration and the hourly recitation of the Rosary to break the obstinacy of the Communist government in Poland which was forbidding the visit of Pope St. John Paul II. She asked that this be done at the national Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. On the last day, the government relented and allowed more time and places than the original request. It was compared to the biblical 7-day Siege of Jericho [Joshua 6:1-27]. This developed into frequent observances of the same Siege format throughout other countries.

This Marian Eucharistic emphasis recalls the vision of St. John Bosco in which he saw a ship, symbolizing the Church, endangered by enemy boats in a turbulent sea. Two pillars arose from the water, one was surmounted by the Eucharist and the other with Our Lady. The Pope steered the ship between the pillars to which he chained the ship and calm was restored.

In the icon of Our Lady of Joyful Hope - Our Lady of South Carolina, she is portrayed in a straight robe resembling a pillar. This honors her title Tower of David, which was Jerusalem's fort and security in time of battle. The Song of Solomon 6:10 declares, "Who is this appearing... awesome as an army in battle array". The Eucharist and Our Lady are portrayed in the icon as essential elements of its charism and message.

Since Our Lady asked that the Polish Siege take place at a Shrine, it seems proper that a "Holy Siege" take place at our diocesan Shrine by offering seven days of prayer for the sanctification of the Diocese of Charleston. The format and theme for each day follows.

I invite you to join me for one of these Holy Siege days and inform others to join us. All who are able to participate in this opportunity to honor Our Lady during this Bicentennial Celebration should contact my assistant, Cathy Bell, by phone: 864.650.2783 or email: [olscshrine@gmail.com](mailto:olscshrine@gmail.com) to schedule a day to attend.

Fraternally in Christ,

*Fr. Stanley Smolenski spma*  
Director



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**Diocese of Charleston 2019 Rosary Congress**  
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**Format for Each Day:**

- 1:00 – Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 1:30 – Holy Mass with Extended Homily on Marian Themes
- 2:30 – Eucharistic Adoration
- 3:00 - Conclusion

**Votive Mass and Extended Homily Themes for Each Day:**

1. Monday – October 7 – *Our Lady of the Rosary*
2. Tuesday – October 8 – *Mother of Mercy*
3. Wednesday – October 9 – *Mary, Mother of the Church*
4. Thursday – October 10 – *Mary, Woman of the Eucharist*
5. Friday – October 11 – *Mary, Pillar of Faith*
6. Saturday – October 12 – *Mary, Teacher in the Spirit*
7. Sunday – October 13 – *The Immaculate Heart of Mary*