

## Marian Year Grotto 1987-1989

*The Railings of the Grotto tell a Story, made and written by parishioner Frank Laszczyk.*

- ◇ The Grotto, white and Bright, is like “Morning Star” which lights up the parish complex.
- ◇ When you look at the Grotto you will see in each section, circles with two letters “A” and “M” which in Latin means, Ave Maria or in English, Hail Mary.
- ◇ Walking around the Grotto, you will see circles representing the whole Rosary, the entire life of Christ and Mary’s life from the Annunciation to the Coronation in Heaven.
- ◇ When you look in front you will see eight circles representing the eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, they are:
  - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.
  - Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
  - Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall have their fill.
  - Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
  - Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall be called the children of God.
  - Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ◇ When you look in the back you will see seven circle representing the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they are:
  - The prophecy of Simeon; a sword shall pierce your heart.
  - The flight to Egypt.
  - The three days loss of Jesus in the Temple.
  - The meeting with her Son on the way to Calvary.
  - Mary standing at the foot of the Cross.
  - The taking down of Christ’s body from the Cross.
  - The burial of her Divine Son.
- ◇ In the back centre section, you will see the three circles representing the Blessed Trinity, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.
- ◇ Also on the back on top, you will see twelve middle-sized balls, representing the Twelve Apostles: Peter, Andrew, James, Jude, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, John, Simon, James the Less and Matthias.
- ◇ There are four posts with big balls, representing the four Evangelists: John, Luke, Mark and Matthew.
- ◇ When you look at the gate, you will see two circles representing Peter, upon whom Christ built his Church even after he had denied Christ; and Paul who persecuted Christ yet strengthened the Church by writing the Epistle.
- ◇ In the front there are two sections of railings, which contain six circles representing the Six Truths:
  - There is only one God.
  - God is first, a judge.
  - In God there are three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - The second Person of the Blessed Trinity became man to redeem us.
  - The soul is immortal
  - The grace of God is necessary for salvation
- ◇ There are many small balls, representing us, the children of Mary, coming to our heavenly Mother. And in the floor under the statue, a Miraculous Medal is buried by one of our parishioners.

When you walk by the Grotto,

look at the Statue of Mary, she holds her hands stretched out, and says

*“Come all of you to me,  
I am the Mother of Good Counsel,  
I am the refuge of sinners.  
I will lead you to my Son, who is Christ the King.”*

*O Mary, pray for us sinners.*