



**CHARITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE HONORS
2011 – 2012
INFORMATION**

**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
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BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CHARITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE HONORS PROGRAM

2011 - 2012

ABOUT THE CHARITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE HONORS PROGRAM

The Charity and Social Service Honors Program is a biennial honors program that was established by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in 2009 to honor "charity in action" as urged by Pope Benedict XVI to the youth of our nation during his Apostolic Visit to the United States in April 2008.

The Basilica invites each Diocesan Bishop in the United States to submit a Student-Produced Video or PowerPoint/Slide Show nomination on behalf of his Diocese of a Senior High School (Sophomore, Junior or Senior) student or group engaged in charity in action as demonstrated by their outstanding works of corporal and spiritual mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit those in prison; bury the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy: convert sinners; instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; comfort the sorrowful; bear wrongs patiently; forgive injuries; pray for the living and the dead.

The deadline for each Diocese to submit a nomination to the Basilica is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Thursday, December 8, 2011.

The Basilica will announce its selection of five honorees for the 2011-2012 Charity and Social Service Honors Program on Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras, February 21, 2012.

Each honoree (or in the case of a group, an honoree representative) will be awarded a trip to Washington, DC, to be honored in person at the Basilica on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 15, 2012.



Each honoree/honoree representative will receive a medallion struck with the Charity and Social Service Honors emblem (as shown to the left). The emblem is a reproduction of a marble rondel located in the Basilica's Great Upper Church. The burning heart and basket of bread are symbols of charity and social service. The ship and the Spirit are symbols of the Spirit led Church.

ABOUT THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is the largest Catholic church in the United States and North America, and it is one of the ten largest churches in the world. Located in Washington, DC, it is our nation's preeminent shrine dedicated to the patroness of the United States, the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception. In addition to its Great Upper Church and Crypt Church, the Basilica houses more than 70 chapels and oratories as well as the largest collection of contemporary ecclesiastical art in the world. Open 365 days a year, the Basilica welcomes nearly 1 million people annually. Among those who have visited are Blessed Pope John Paul II, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Pope Benedict XVI. All are welcome.

THE BASILICA'S MISSION

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic church dedicated to the patroness of our nation, is a place of worship, pilgrimage, evangelization and reconciliation. It offers visitors the occasion for a deepening conversion, a step forward in the journey to God, with Mary as the model for that journey. This monumental church, raised by Catholics of the United States because of their devotion to Mary the Mother of God, gives visibility to their faith and Catholic heritage. Mary's Shrine invites people from across the country and beyond into the saving moment of faith, hope and charity, so that they may be reconciled and transformed into living symbols of Christ's presence in the world. It is here that the faithful gather to worship God, give honor to Mary, and are sent to spread God's word wherever they go.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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