



## Press Release

### **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Pilgrimage in Calabria February 2-27, 2021**

On November 11, 2020, when Pope Francis blessed the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in the Vatican, the pilgrimage of this image began on the occasion of the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions to Saint Catherine Labouré. This initiative is promoted by the Congregation of the Mission in Italy in collaboration with the worldwide Vincentian Family.

During the month of February, the pilgrimage will take place in Calabria (in January this pilgrimage was held in Campania). Today, like 1830, the world is devastated by poverty, violence, and a health and financial crisis. The Blessed Mother invites us to the foot of the altar. After 190 years the Blessed Mother continues to provide for us ... and she does so because her love is unwavering. On the night of July 18-19, 1830, the Blessed Mother appeared for the first time to Catherine Labouré, a young Daughter of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. This was a rather lengthy encounter in which the Blessed Mother stated: *The times are very evil. Misfortunes afflict France and the entire world will experience misfortunes of every sort ... But come to the foot of this altar, there abundant graces will be spread over all those who ask for them with confidence and fervor. They will be given to the great and the small.* Then once again, on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1830, the Blessed Mother appeared again to Catherine Labouré, holding in her hands a small globe (representing humankind). Catherine contemplated her beauty and accepted the mission to make a medal: *the persons who wear this medal will receive great graces.*

The members of the worldwide Vincentian Family, faithful to the Word of God, inspired by the charism which calls them to serve God in the person of the poor and encouraged by this initiative of the Blessed Mother to go on pilgrimage, want to remind us that the Blessed Mother continues to invite men and women to approach the foot of the altar.

The program includes the following:

February 2-3, Saint Michael the Archangel in Plantania;

February 4, the image will be received in the Cathedral of Lamezia Terme during the celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life;

February 5, Saint Rafael the Archangel;

February 6-7, Saint John the Baptist in Santa Eufemia;

February 8-9, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Gizzeria Lido;

February 10-13, in Gizzeria Lido, first in the hospital of John Paul II (February 10-11), then in the parish of Saint Joseph, the worker (January 12-13);

February 14-15, the parish of Saint Andrew in Curinga;  
February 16-17, the parish of Saint Mary Catholic in Maida;  
February 18-19, the parish of Saint Mary Goretti in Lamezia Terme;  
February 20, the Shrine of St. Francis of Paola in Paola;  
February 21, the church of Saint Francis of Paola in Sambiasi;  
February 21-22, the parish of the birth of the Blessed Mother in Lamezia Terme.  
February 24-25, the parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother in Martirano;  
February 25, evening, until 26, the Church of Sant'Anna in Mazzeo;  
February 26-27, the parish of Saint Pius X in Catanzaro.

After 190 years, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal continues to watch over humankind and comes, as a pilgrim, to visit and to meet with the members of the Christian communities spread throughout Italy. Thus, Mary fulfills the promise of love that is contained in her message: *I will be remain with you, trust and do not be discouraged.*

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