



Press Release

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Pilgrimage in Apulia and Basilicata April 6 – May 2, 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 190th 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.

Beginning on April 6th, the pilgrimage will continue in Apulia and Basilicata.

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 27th, 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.

Tuesday, April 6, the image will arrive in Lecce, the parish of Santa Maria Dell'Idriq
Wednesday, April 7, will be in the capital of Salento at the Oncology Hospital, Saint John Paul II
Thursday, April 8, will be brought to the house of the Carità F.D.C. and later brought to Brindisi, where it will arrive at the cathedral on April 9th and remain there until, Sunday, April 11.
Monday and Tuesday (April 12-13) will be brought to Ugento, to the cathedral of the Assumption
The following day the image will be transferred to Casarano, to the parish of San Domenico and will remain there until Thursday, April 15.
Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, will arrive in Nardò in the parish of Santa Maróa de la Asunción.

Sunday, April 18th until Thursday, April 22 will be in Giovinazzo, in the house of the Daughters of Charity.

Friday, April 23 the image will be brought to Martano, the parish of Santa María del Rosario, and from there to Maglie, where it will remain in the mother church, the parish of the Presentation of the Lord (April 14-25).

Monday April 26-Tuesday April 27 the image will be transferred to Taranto, to the Immaculate Mary Institute

Wednesday, April 28 will be brought to the Institute Monopoli where it will be displayed at the Cofradía del Carmine of Ostuni. The image will remain in Monopoli until the end of the month in the parish of Regina Pacis.

May 1, the image will arrive in Basilicata, in Lauria and the following day will depart for Naples.

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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