

Message From The Pastor

March 11, 2021

Our Porta Coeli

Have you ever spent a little time considering title of the statue of our Blessed Mother facing Totowa Road, in front of our beautiful church? The title she which has been given to it by our former pastor, Fr. Francis J. Reilly and Thomas Mitchell, the architect of the church is “Maria, Porta Coeli.” Why, that title?

The English translations are Maria=Mary, Porta=gate, Coeli=heaven. So, apparently, Fr. Reilly and Mr. Mitchell, wanted everyone who draws near to the statue to appreciate our Blessed Mother as “the gate to heaven.”

How is she “the gate to heaven?” It is for two very significant reasons. First, Our Blessed Mother is the “gate of heaven” because God selected her to be the woman who will give birth to His Only Begotten Son. As Blessed John Henry Newman penned, “It was through Mary that our Lord passed from heaven to earth.” Second, our Blessed Mother is also the “gate of heaven” because it is through her we most effectively find Him. She is not God. However, because of who is she is, the Mother of God, why would any believer neglect to ask her for help to become closer to Jesus throughout his/her life?

So, the next time you enter our beautiful church through the front doors or walk on Totowa Road pass the statue, look toward her, and say a prayer. Thank the Lord for coming to us, through Mary, Mother of God. And, ask the Mother of God to help you draw closer to Him.

God bless you
Fr. Marc