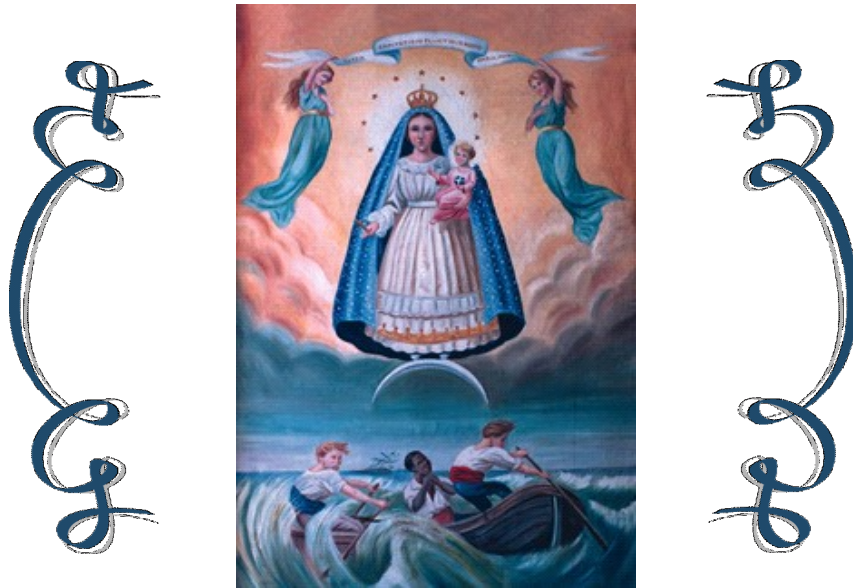


Join with the Knights of Columbus
August 15 at 8:30 am
before the Assumption Mass
in a devotion to
Our Lady of Charity



The Knight of Columbus Marian Prayer Program in honor of Our Lady of Charity features an image of Our Lady of Charity, the patroness of Cuba. Devotion to Our Lady of Charity dates to the early 1600s, when a statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child was found in Cuban waters by three young men. As the story has been passed down, the three were rowing in search of salt to preserve meat for the copper miners of El Cobre. Halfway across the bay, the young men sought shelter from a storm and encamped for the night. In the morning, they saw a white bundle floating toward them. It was a statue attached to a board that was inscribed with the words: “I am the Virgin of Charity” (“Yo soy la Virgen de la Caridad”). A shrine was erected in her honor and devotion to Our Lady of Charity spread throughout Cuba. Our Lady of Charity now comes to Knights of Columbus everywhere as we turn to her maternal intercession in our Marian Prayer Program. Our prayer program gives us an opportunity to pray in solidarity with Pope Benedict XVI, whose first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, was dedicated to the theme of charity. During each prayer service we will remember in a special way the pope and his worldwide ministry as the Vicar of Christ and shepherd of the Universal Church. At the conclusion of each yearlong prayer program, a “spiritual bouquet” will be presented to the pope, including a report on the total number of prayer services that were held and the approximate number of participants.