



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC AIRPORT CHAPLAINS

P.O. Box 66353 * Chicago, IL 60666
Phone (773) 686 2636 * Fax (773) 686 0130
www.nccac.us

December 10, 2016

Dear Chaplain,

“Hic Verbum caro factum est.” Here the Word became flesh. These are the words inscribed over the altar in the Basilica of the Holy House of Loreto. This sanctuary is the actual house that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in at Nazareth, and it was transported to Loreto in the 13th century. It is one of the oldest Marian shrines and since 1920, when Benedict XV proclaimed the Blessed Virgin Mary as Patroness of Air Travelers, has been a place where air travelers have sought her intercession and protection.

At our particular time in history we find that air travel has become a necessity for people but is also a vulnerability for them. In my ministry at O’Hare and Midway I encounter worried or nervous travelers daily. People flying under difficult conditions (grieving, mourning, or to visit a dying person). Airport workers and travelers under stress and jammed together in a place that may be a terrorism target.

Prayer, especially the Eucharist, is the most important part of our ministry as airport chaplains. Enclosed is a copy of the Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Loreto. Even though the feast day of Our Lady of Loreto is December 10, I found that it is a good idea to have this Mass celebrated at least once per month on a non-feast or obligatory memorial day. If you or the priest you schedule are to preside at the airport chapel on one of the dates listed on the reverse side of this letter, I ask that you celebrate this Liturgy.

I also ask that you occasionally have this Mass celebrated in your parish or privately, perhaps on the first Saturday of the month. This would also serve as a way to raise the awareness of people about our ministry and unite people in prayer for those who are traveling.

Thank you for your ministry among the “people on the move.” If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Know that you are in my prayers and, through the intercession of Our Lady of Loreto, may God bless you always.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Fr. Michael G. Zaniolo
President

Calendar for celebrations of Mass in honor of Our Lady of Loreto

Jan. 10, 2017	Aug. 3, 2017
Feb. 7, 2017	Sep. 6, 2017
Apr. 26, 2017	Oct. 10, 2017
May 4, 2017	Nov. 6, 2017
Jun. 7, 2017	Dec. 5, 2017
Jul. 10, 2017	

Jan. 10, 2018	Aug. 3, 2018
Feb. 12, 2018	Sep. 10, 2018
Apr. 10, 2018	Oct. 10, 2018
May 4, 2018	Nov. 7, 2018
Jun. 8, 2018	Dec. 10, 2018
Jul. 10, 2018	Jan. 10, 2019

These weekday dates were chosen by their proximity to the 10th day of the month. They also are not feast days or obligatory memorial days (in Chicago).