



22 September 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY – *for immediate release*

Homeland Security providing security for the Little Saint of Great Mercy

Homeland Security is providing top level security for the Pilgrimage of Mercy. Officers, both uniformed and undercover, are engaged in round-the-clock protection of the sacred remains of St. Maria Goretti, of the vehicles that make up the entourage, and of the tour staff. At each location streets are closed off as a heavy security detail manages the flow of persons and vehicles.

At noon today Fr. Carlos Martins, CC, Director of the *Pilgrimage of Mercy* issued the following statement: “I am grateful for the overwhelming support offered by the Department of Homeland Security. It has been a consolation knowing that St. Maria’s protection is in such good hands. The officers have been very helpful and are a delight with which to work. On behalf of the Holy See, the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace and St. Maria Goretti (in Nettuno, Italy), and St. Maria Goretti herself, thank you for your generous and kind service.”

As part of the Level One detail, which is the same level of security given to a head of state, the Department of Homeland Security is working with State and local law enforcement to provide a police motorcade escort for the entire 18 state, 53 city tour.