

Marian Helper

Summer 2024

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

[Marian.org](#)



'IT IS THE LORD'

Our Source and Summit

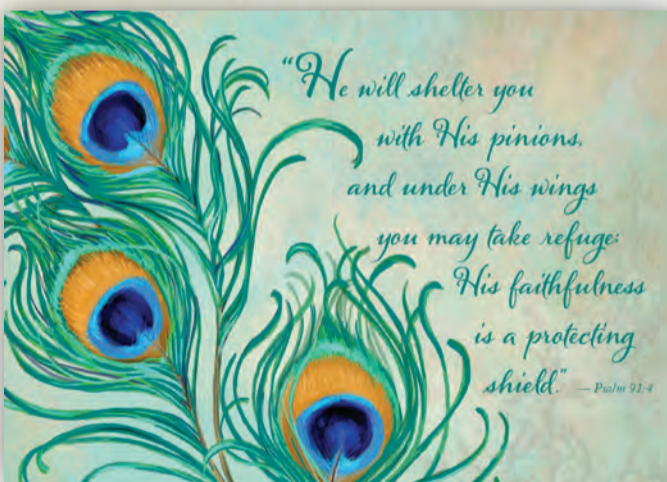
GIVE A PROMISE OF PRAYER



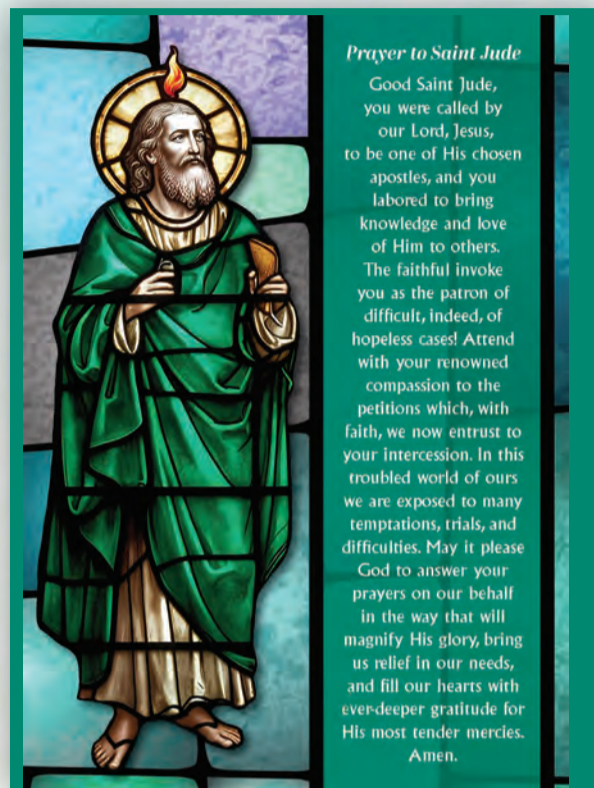
BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY
(PREMIUM PAPER)

B62-BC23

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“The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord’” (Jn 21:7). And so should we, every time we approach our Lord, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the Holy Eucharist. The “source and summit” of our Catholic faith is undergoing a revival in the United States, the perfect opportunity to get reacquainted with the Sacrament of Mercy.

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On the cover: Father Andy Davy, MIC, photographed by Giuseppe Mignano.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

The Marian Fathers are a Congregation of nearly 500 priests and brothers in 19 countries around the world.

We support the Holy Father and embrace the official teachings of the Catholic Church in our special calling to:

- Spread devotion to Mary as the Immaculate Conception.
- Offer our lives for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the victims of war and disease.
- Operate publishing apostolates and assist where the need is greatest in parishes, shrines, and missions.
- Promote the Divine Mercy message and devotion.
- Organize people of good will to work with and through us to bring Christ everywhere.

Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Established in 1944, the Association of Marian Helpers is a spiritual benefit society that prayerfully and financially supports the priests and brothers of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.

Your enrollment means that, by a decree of the Holy See, you share in these graces:

- A daily Mass offered for all Marian Helpers.
- A share in the prayers, good works, and merits of the Marian priests and brothers around the world.
- A special Mass offered on feast days of our Savior and His Blessed Mother.
- A monthly Mass on each First Friday and each First Saturday.
- A Mass offered for deceased members on All Souls' Day.
- The perpetual Novena to the Divine Mercy.



Sign-up is easy: Visit MICPrayers.org



You Tube



Visit marian.org/social

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION

- **Deepen your commitment of prayer** and support by joining one of our three spiritually nourishing prayer clubs: Marian.org/clubs
- **Support a particular ministry:** Marian.org/give
- **Create a memorial or tribute:** MemorialsOnEdenHill.org
- **Arrange a special gift** of stock, a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, a grant from your donor-advised fund, a gift through your will or trust, or annuity: Giving.Marian.org

Call 1-800-671-2020 to make a gift by phone or for assistance.

Free online help for your will, visit Marian.org/will.

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is: *I give and bequeath to the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. (Tax ID #20-8599030), Stockbridge, MA 01262, ___% of my adjusted gross estate (or \$_____, or a specific asset) to be used for its religious and educational purposes.*

YEAR OF PRAYER

I have to admit something. Since I took over as Fr. Joseph, MIC, in January, I have been occupied with prayer. Now, on one level, that should come as no surprise. After all, I am a religious priest and prayer is a central part of my daily life. So I should be preoccupied with it. That is true. However, it seems that since I arrived on Eden Hill, God has been emphasizing prayer to me both personally and ministerially in a different and renewing way.

Let me briefly explain. Shortly after I began working in the role of Fr. Joseph, I was asked to lead a live praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on our Instagram page (@thedivinemercy). That ultimately inspired me to lead a 54-day Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena from Ash Wednesday through Divine Mercy Sunday.

After that, I decided to continue the live praying of the Chaplet on Fridays. Now, beginning June 7, a First Friday as well as the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will dedicate the Friday Chaplet to praying specifically for the dying, on Instagram as well as Facebook (@DivineMercyOfficial) and on DivineMercyPlus.org.

The simple motivation in all of this is that I felt the Lord just wanting me to shepherd His people by praying *with* them.

But as I previously mentioned, it wasn't just in the area of ministry where prayer was given more of a focus. Rather, it has been in my personal life as well. Back in March I felt the Lord moving me to renew the quality of my own prayer. So I began to once again read *The Ways of Mental Prayer* by Fr. Vital Lehodey. It's an excellent book on prayer that I discovered a few years ago when it came highly recommended by Fr. Chad Ripperger during one of his YouTube talks.

Why do I share all of this with you? Well, what the Lord has been emphasizing in my life and ministry since January made even more sense to me when I was reminded recently that Pope Francis dedicated 2024 to be a "Year of Prayer," to prepare the Church for the celebration of the upcoming Jubilee Year of

Hope in 2025.

How providential that in this time of Eucharistic revival in the United States, the Universal Church summons us all to focus on prayer! For if we consider that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that "the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with Him" (2565), then we can truly value how the Year of Prayer perfectly coincides with the revival. The Eucharist is central to the life of faith and prayer in the Church. It is where we can be in the presence of God in a substantial manner and have a real communion with Him, especially when we participate in the Mass.

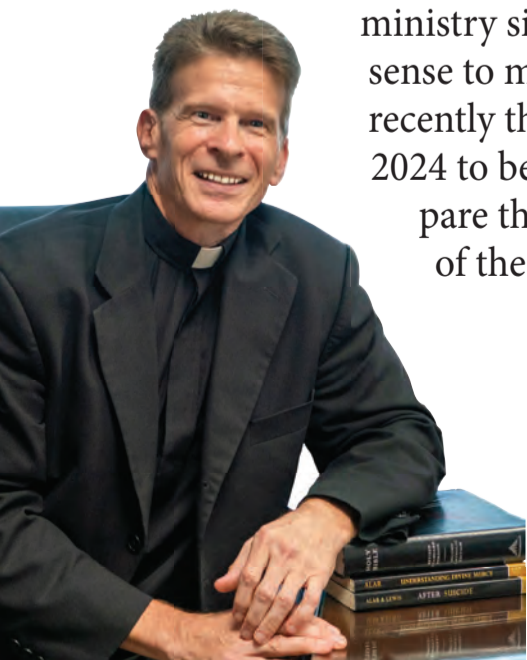
So even though we are halfway through the calendar year, let us recognize that we still have six months to take advantage of the graces the Holy Spirit is offering to us during this Year of Prayer for the upcoming Jubilee.

My question to you, then, is this: Will you join me and my Marian brethren in the Year of Prayer? Will you open your hearts to the Holy Spirit and allow your whole life to become a prayer to God? Will you also renew your sense of awe and wonder in Jesus' true presence in the Holy Eucharist?

Think about the fire that God wants to set ablaze in our hearts. Please join me in this call to faith, in this call to prayer, in this call to transformation, in this call to holiness.

God bless you!

Fr. Joseph, MIC



"Father Joseph, MIC," is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, currently Fr. Mark Baron, MIC.

‘UNDERSTANDING’ THE MESSAGE OF MERCY



Domenic Rizzi, a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Blue Springs, Missouri, was a presenter at the parish’s Lenten mission on Divine Mercy.

By Marian Friedrichs

Before Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, spoke at the parish of St. Robert Bellarmine in Blue Springs, Missouri, in June 2023, the parishioners had heard of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Their current pastor had come to them in October 2019 from Our Lady of Good Counsel, the diocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy and St. Faustina in Kansas City, Missouri.

As a seminarian assigned to St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City in 2000, Richard Rocha had attended daily Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, where the pastor prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet with his congregation after every Mass.

Seventeen years later, Fr. Rocha became the pastor there, continuing what his predecessor had begun.

Understanding Divine Mercy

Father Rocha introduced the tradition of praying the Chaplet after Mass. While some parishioners faithfully remained in the pews to pray, not many knew much about the message Our Lord had given to St. Faustina and the wealth of graces that can be obtained through the devotion.

After Fr. Chris’ visit, that began to change.

During his talk on “The Four Last Things” (Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell), Fr. Chris’ Marian Press books were available for sale, including *Understanding Divine Mercy*. Frank and Ruth Hays were among the attendees who acquired a copy, as was their friend John Milosevich. “Those of us who bought it and read it found ourselves rereading it,” says Frank.

John had already read St. Faustina’s diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, but after reading *Understanding Divine Mercy*, he realized he had “only scratched the surface” of learning about the message and devotion.

“The *Diary* is not an easy read, compared to Fr. Chris’

book, which is very conversational and easy to digest,” he admits.

The three approached their pastor about finding a way to get the book into the hands of as many other parishioners as possible. “I was open to the fact that they wanted to do this,” says Fr. Rocha. He recommended that they speak to Deacons Robert Falke and Joseph Zagar, who suggested building a Lenten mission around it.

Understanding Divine Mercy is divided into five chapters, and there are five full weeks in Lent. Five weekly sessions would help the parish prepare for the celebration of Easter, especially for the Second Sunday of Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The mission team hoped that when the mission was concluded, attendees would participate in the parish traditions of praying the Divine Mercy Novena together, beginning on Good Friday, and observing the Feast of Mercy so as to gain the indulgence and special graces attached to it.

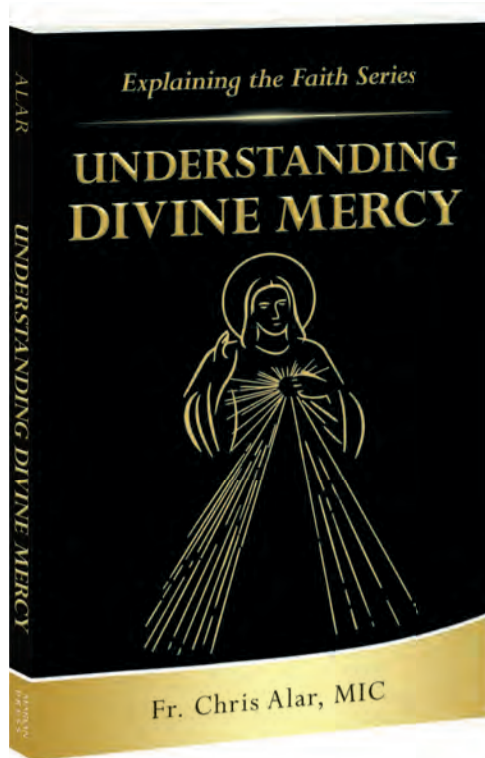
Book copies

To spread the word about the mission and to propagate the Divine Mercy message among those who would not attend, the mission team decided to order 500 copies of *Understanding Divine Mercy*. The parish women’s and men’s ministries and chapters of Knights of Columbus and the Catholic men’s group “That Man is You” agreed to provide the funds.

Peter Markavage at the Marian Helpers Center helped the team order the large quantity of books they needed at the best possible price. He also provided them with a playlist of Fr. Chris’ videos to use at their sessions.

When the books arrived, the mission team prepared them for distribution, with a flier advertising the mission tucked inside each copy. On Ash Wednesday, 450 copies were given away, and the remaining 50, on the first Sunday of Lent. The team promptly ordered 100 more copies and quickly distributed them as well.

At the first session of the mission, nearly all of the participants reported having read at least the first chapter of *Understanding Divine Mercy*. Many had already finished the book. Over the five weekly sessions, in-person attendance averaged 130 people; the videos had more than 300 views on Facebook and YouTube as of this writing.



Understanding Divine Mercy (Product code B62-EFBK) by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, is available as a book and eBook from ShopMercy.org or by calling 1-800-462-7426.

After the parish mission, Fr. Rocha noticed more people than usual remaining in the pews to pray the Novena of Chaplets in preparation for the Feast of Mercy.

“Not bad for a small parish like ours,” says Frank.

The mission team offered social time after the final session, expecting 20-30 people to stay. Almost 100 did.

“Everyone was anxious to share their thoughts, conversions, and *Aha!* moments,” Frank reports.

Not just praying

“The first word of the book title is key,” says Ruth. “*Understanding*, not just praying, this devotion.”

After the mission, Fr. Rocha noticed more people than usual remaining in the pews to pray the Novena of Chaplets in preparation for the Feast of Mercy. Frank had hoped for this outcome, believing that “if people knew the opportunity and the graces they were walking away from, they would give those extra seven minutes.”

Some mission participants shared their gratitude and insights with the team in written comments. Nathan Eckenberg wrote, “I’m blown away. I had absolutely no idea the significance and power of Divine Mercy Sunday. Unbelievable — what a gift!”

Susanna Daley learned, “Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet will save more and more souls beside ourselves. I have made it my mission to pray the Chaplet daily at 3 p.m.”

Lines for Confession

On the Feast of Mercy, three priests heard confessions at St. Robert Bellarmine, beginning at 2 p.m. Lines of people waited for the Sacrament up to and even during the celebration that began at 3 p.m., the Hour of Mercy, and included the blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, the singing of the Chaplet, and Eucharistic Adoration.

“The Holy Spirit is working in our parish right now,” says Ruth. “We feel very honored and blessed to be a part of it.”

And the work has begun to extend its reach. Frank has been contacted by several nearby parishes interested in holding their own Divine Mercy mission next Lent.

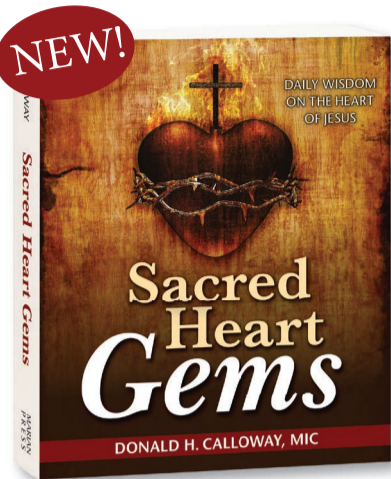
“I had no idea what Divine Mercy was,” wrote attendee Candy Mitchell, “and think more people should hear this word.”

The Divine Mercy parish mission is posted on the parish YouTube channel: [@st.robertbellarmineadultfa2409](https://www.youtube.com/@st.robertbellarmineadultfa2409). MH

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b62 or call 1-800-462-7426.

Summer time is a great opportunity to pick up some beach reading, choose a book to have with you in the hammock, or let spiritual reading keep you company in the rocking chair on the porch as you sip lemonade and watch the kids play in the sprinklers. Here are some terrific options.



SACRED HEART GEMS:

DAILY WISDOM ON THE HEART OF JESUS

By FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

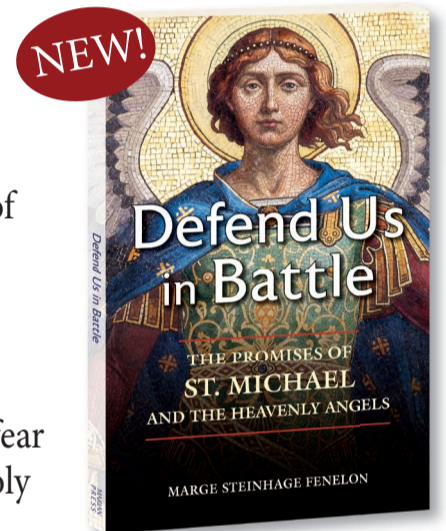
The Magisterium of the Catholic Church teaches that there is no contradiction or competition between the message of the Sacred Heart as revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the Divine Mercy message and devotion as revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska. After all, it's the same Jesus! Father Calloway once again gathers a treasury of wisdom from blessed, venerables, servants of God, and popes who loved the Sacred Heart. Each of the 366 days also contains an invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. \$16.95. **B62-SHGM**



DEFEND US IN BATTLE: THE PROMISES OF ST. MICHAEL AND THE HEAVENLY ANGELS

By MARGE STEINHAGE FENELON

Saint Michael made three promises to all who faithfully pray the Chaplet in his honor: an escort of nine angels chosen from each of the nine choirs of angels when approaching Holy Communion; his continual assistance and that of all the angels throughout life; and, after death, deliverance from Purgatory for themselves and all their relations. As the beloved Catholic author and blogger Marge Steinhage Fenelon explains in this extraordinary exploration of the significance and power of the Chaplet of St. Michael, we all should be concerned about the influence of evil, but we should never fear evil because God is always with us and assists us through His grace and His heavenly helpers, the holy angels. \$16.95. **B62-DUFL**



THE BREAD OF LIFE: RENEWING YOUR DEVOTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF MERCY, THE HOLY EUCHARIST

By THE ASSOCIATION OF MARIAN HELPERS

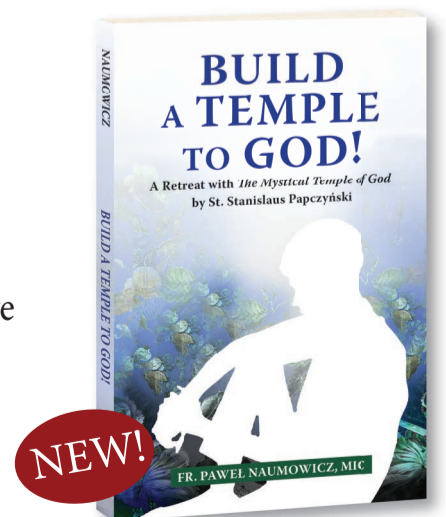
Our bishops have summoned us to a Eucharistic Revival — but what does that mean? How can I make sure my Eucharistic devotion doesn't end with the revival? In this handy booklet, we discuss our Church's Eucharistic faith, equipping you to revive your own Eucharistic devotion as well as to share that devotion with others, and reveal the witness St. Faustina and others have given to the power and reality of Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. Perfect for sharing with your family and fellow parishioners to help them live this special time of grace. \$3.99. **B62-EUTC**



BUILD A TEMPLE TO GOD! A RETREAT WITH THE MYSTICAL TEMPLE OF GOD BY ST. STANISLAUS PAPCZYŃSKI

By FR. PAWEŁ NAUMOWICZ, MIC

In this extraordinary, inspiring work, Marian Fr. Pawel Naumowicz shows us that we can look to the Marian Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński, for spiritual guidance, particularly his work *The Mystical Temple of God*, written as a spiritual handbook for all members of the faithful on how to live the spirituality of the Immaculate Conception in everyday life. This 10-part retreat is about seeing God's plan towards each of us: We were desired and loved by God before the foundation of the world; through Baptism we became His temple; and we are invited to unity with God here on earth and ultimately in eternity. \$15.95. **B62-TTGB**





CALLED TO SERVE

The Marians arrived in Cameroon, on the western coast of Africa, 25 years ago. Today, 10 priests serve in three communities: Atok, Minkama, and Ngoya. Communities of Divine Mercy seek to set people free from fear and poverty, proclaiming hope and the promise of a dignified way of life.

Father Rogatien Ntsana, MIC, a Marian priest from Cameroon, is currently studying in Rome. He was ordained five years ago. Let's get to know him in his own words.

"I was born into a strongly Christian family, the son of the late Daniel Ze and Lucie Bouan, the second child in a family of seven. I come from St. Joseph de Mbegue parish in the Diocese of Doume-Abong-Mbang.

"My grandfather, Antoine Ntsana, was a catechist in the Christian community, and my grandmother Sophie Minkos helped him in this service. It was in this climate of daily prayer that I grew up. My father was also a catechist. As for my mother, it was thanks to her that I discovered and came to love the beauty of liturgical chant. Today, her commitment is very limited because she became blind 13 years ago at the age of 47.

"As for my Marian vocation, in 2006 I met Fr. Francis Filipiec, MIC, who founded the Marian mission in Cameroon. I was touched by the charism. I started monthly meetings in 2007 and, in 2010, I began postulancy.

"On Aug. 3, 2019, at the Shrine of Divine Mercy in Atok, I received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, recalling the words of Scripture, 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine' (Is 43:1).

"Our mission in Cameroon comprises three communities: the parish and shrine of the Divine Mercy in Atok in the Diocese of Obala; the parish of St. John Paul II in Minkama; and the Bl. George Matulewicz House of Formation, for novices and seminarians.

"In our parishes, we imbue our charism with a variety of pastoral activities, including services for the faithful and, above all, sharing our Marian spirituality with the younger



generations through the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception.

"As youth chaplains, we had a slogan, 'He lives and He wants you to live.' We took part in diocesan pilgrimages with the young people and children, composing songs in line with the theme of the pilgrimage. I also did two years of family ministry.

"I then became the postulant moderator and spiritual father of the confrères still in formation at Ngoya. This was an important moment of taking the future of our Congregation to heart, and thus assuming greater responsibility.

"Now I'm in Rome, a very rich experience with community life in all its diversity and the opportunity to visit the Eternal City and the historic sites that have left their mark on the Catholic faith. I'm currently studying Pastoral Theology at the Pontifical Salesian University, specializing in youth ministry. These studies will be a great help to my spiritual and human growth. In our mission in Cameroon, it will be an instrument for the New Evangelization, and for vocational pastoral care (welcoming, listening, and accompanying). I am also learning how to share the Bible with parishioners.

"I never cease to express my gratitude to my superiors for this opportunity which allows me to feel the heartbeat of our Congregation and the universal Church. Clearly, this multifaceted renewal allows us to move forward for Christ and the Church."

Please pray for Fr. Rogatien and all of our student priests here in Rome!



The Most Rev. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the superior general of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome. Listen to his podcasts, including "Saint Faustina's *Diary* in a Year," on TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts and DivineMercyPlus.org/podcasts.



“We are called to constantly evaluate our way of life, and be open to new ways to evangelize and bring Mary to the world. I am convinced that the key to everything is the Immaculate Conception.” So said the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC (above) during his presentation at the International Conference of the Association of Marian Helpers, held at Marian Fathers’ Retreat House in Sulejówek, Poland, April 21-26. Marians and lay co-workers gathered from all over the world to share news and best practices. Attendees heard presentations from Poland, Great Britain, Brazil, Ukraine, Latvia, Portugal, the Philippines, and Belarus. A special conference was also held at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University marking the 25th anniversary of the Marian Fathers’ mission in Cameroon.



Father Pawel Ostrovski, MIC, shared heartfelt stories of his service as a military chaplain on the front lines in Ukraine. God is always present, he said. “I saw a little girl talking to an officer, and called him ‘Father,’” he recalled. “And he called her ‘my angel.’ I asked if they are related. And this officer said, ‘No. She’s not my daughter, but I’m taking care of her.’ And he added, ‘My own child is serving somewhere. And I hope somebody will take care of him as I am of this little girl.’” Father expressed his gratitude for donations and prayers. “Thank you for understanding that we are walking together along the road to victory.” [Read more about Fr. Pawel on TheDivineMercy.org.](#)



Following Mass at the Shrine of St. Stanislaus Papczyński in Marianki-Góra Kalwaria, Fr. Pawel Naumowicz, MIC, rector, blessed the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, superior general, with the relic of St. Stanislaus. “The Lord is always doing something new within us,” Fr. Roesch said. “It’s beautiful to see how our charism in every culture is flourishing and bearing fruit, even in the midst of very trying situations.”

DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND

‘The world becomes more warm’

Not even an April snowfall, an East Coast earthquake, or cold blustery weather could deter 15,000 faithful from making the journey to Eden Hill for the celebration of Divine Mercy Weekend, April 6-7 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

“We’re in the middle of four beautiful days!” proclaimed the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior, during the live EWTN pre-show on April 7 with the Most Rev. Joe Roesch, MIC, superior general. “We had First Friday and First Saturday. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. And tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Annunciation — and an eclipse! What a blessing!”

Pilgrims arriving on Saturday were treated to the annual Mercy Weekend Conference. This year’s speakers, under the theme “Godly Fathers Strengthen Families,” were Marian vocation director and author Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Jim Wahlberg, producer of the new documentary *Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist* (in theaters June 4-6).

Tent city

Throughout the weekend, the 350-acre Shrine grounds were transformed into a tent city, providing opportunities for Confession, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Rosary, and perusing the Divine Mercy Gift Shop. A dedicated team of Marian priests, brothers and seminarians, lay employees, and volunteers — 500 in total — provided a safe and serene atmosphere for pilgrims eager to obtain the extraordinary graces promised on this feast.

Masses were celebrated outdoors at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. The celebrant of the Vigil Mass was

Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, National Shrine rector, and on Divine Mercy Sunday, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, Archbishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Next year, Fr. Tomeny will join the archdiocese as a Navy chaplain.

The Divine Mercy Sunday Liturgy was broadcast live on EWTN. The lively and informative hour-long pre-show discussed the Eucharist and Spiritual Fatherhood with five guests: Archbishop Broglio, Fr. Calloway, Wahlberg, former NFL quarterback and inspirational speaker Elvis Grbac, and NFL assistant coach Ben Steele.

Warm light

Despite the cold, the atmosphere atop Eden Hill was joyous (as shown on the following pages), and pilgrims departed for destinations as far away as California and Canada with renewed faith and hope in the promise of God’s loving mercy.

“Through the divine fire that pours forth from the side of Christ, the rays of Divine Mercy that represent the Blood and Water by which we are washed clean of our sins and sanctified, Jesus opens every locked door and sets all captives free,” said Fr. Andy Davy, MIC, in his homily for the Vigil Mass. “As the missionaries of mercy go forth, the world becomes more warm and more filled with mercy, and you become a light. You become an extension of that bridge of the rays of Divine Mercy.”

Watch the Divine Mercy Sunday pre-show and Liturgy on the Marian Fathers’ dedicated streaming site, [DivineMercyPlus.org](https://www.DivineMercyPlus.org), and on YouTube (Divine Mercy).

MH

DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND



The youth group from St. Anthony Church in Everett, Massachusetts, pose with “St. Faustina,” one of several life-size cardboard cutouts scattered throughout Eden Hill for selfies!



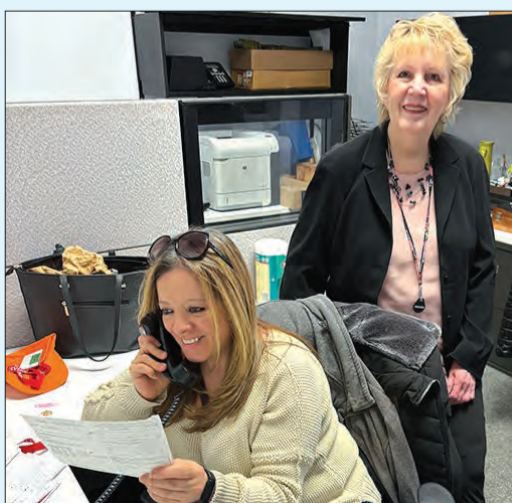
The procession begins for the Vigil Mass of Divine Mercy Sunday.



Tara Davis and her husband drove from upstate New York with their nine children for Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. “Jesus and the Catholic Church are the answer to every problem the world faces,” she said.



Connecticut pilgrims take a selfie with Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski (1700-1755).



Our Intercessory Prayerline (800-804-3823) was open as usual, with Miriam and Barbara taking calls.



Father Donald Calloway, MIC, and Jim Wahlberg spoke on “Godly Fathers Strengthen Families” at the Divine Mercy Weekend Conference, posted now on DivineMercyPlus.org.



Elvis Grbac, retired NFL quarterback turned Catholic motivational speaker, fired up the crowd at the field show before Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. "Bring God into every decision and welcome His grace and mercy," he said.



The Taylor family from Cummington, Massachusetts, veteran volunteers, assisted disabled pilgrims.

Ben Steele, assistant coach for the NFL Arizona Cardinals, brought his wife Rachel and 5-month-old daughter Theresa to Eden Hill. "When you pray the Rosary, you really can't fail," Steele said at the field show, sharing how he encourages men to pray the Rosary through his handcrafted "Rosaries of Steele."



Deacon Hernst Bellevue and his wife, Yanick, from St. Martha Church in Uniondale, New York, have been coming to the National Shrine since the 1990s. "Divine Mercy is my spirit," Deacon Hernst says. "It keeps me in touch with the Lord and helps me into a deeper relationship with Him."



A familiar face at the National Shrine is volunteer Mark Makuc from Monterey, Massachusetts. His uncle, Fred Leuchs, created the beautiful stained-glass windows. "One of my earliest memories is coming here for Midnight Mass in Polish on Christmas," he said. Mark's daughter brought nine of her fellow students from Princeton University for Divine Mercy Weekend.



California, here they came! Representing San Francisco and Los Angeles were these Filipino pilgrims, bundled up for the cool 35-degree weather!

DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND



In front of the altar was the “Cross of Gratitude,” carved in Lviv, Ukraine, which travels around the world in a call for unity under our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



The Prayer Banner hung behind the altar in the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. Prayer intentions sent in from Marian Helpers across the United States and Canada were stitched together to form this beautiful devotional work of art.



Fourth time’s the charm for William and Myrna Kennedy of Guasti, California. “Come and experience the miracle that happens here,” Myrna said. Added William: “Soak it all in, bring it back home, and share with everybody.”



Following Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, the Chaplet was sung during the Hour of Mercy, evoking strong emotions from pilgrims.



Sisters Linda Orton and Diane Finney traveled from Vermont. “Divine Mercy matters because it’s God bringing us closer to Him,” said Linda. “We’re all sinners, and we need His mercy.” Diane added, “God calls us here, It’s such a beautiful place to visit.”



Proud pilgrims came prepared for the chilly weather!



A Tale of Two Superior Generals! The cardboard cutout of St. Stanislaus Papczyński with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC.



Father Timothy Childers, MIC (above), distributes Holy Communion.



Pilgrims were treated to the magnificent voice of Ashley Nemeah, who sang at the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. Ashley is dedicated to using her voice to honor the Blessed Mother in everything she does.



Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio processes into the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, accompanied by Deacon Stephen Castellano, MIC, who was ordained to the priesthood on May 18.



At right, Virginia Sipin from Montclair, New Jersey, volunteered in the Adoration tent. "Divine Mercy to me feels like you've been washed, cleansed of all your sins. Jesus is always there for you, no matter what."

Father Mark Baron, MIC, aka "Fr. Joseph, MIC," was live on social media all weekend, interviewing pilgrims and volunteers.



Father Michael Callea, MIC, was among the many priests on hand to hear Confessions.



An annual tradition: the Pre-Mass Show on EWTN, hosted by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC. Watch the show now on DivineMercyPlus.org.



PHOTO BY KATELYN DOBBS

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio celebrated Mass in the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on April 8, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, was the celebrant of the Divine Mercy Sunday Liturgy on April 7 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Archbishop Broglio oversees the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., and is the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Here is an excerpt from his homily.

Gathered in this National Shrine, we recall that Divine Mercy is without a doubt directly related to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which gives meaning to all sacrifice. Suffering has meaning inasmuch as it allows us to be in communion with the Lord who suffered for us.

We begin to understand the depth of His love. Divine Mercy flows forth from the wounded side of Christ in the moment of His glorification, as St. John portrays the Passion, Death, and Resurrection as an inseparable, unique moment.

Forgiveness is the first Easter gift. The power and the

responsibility to forgive repentant sinners is clearly given to the Apostles on that Easter Sunday night. It flows from the very breath of our Divine Savior.

Mercy everywhere

Pope Francis is known for his desire to make certain that the effects of Divine Mercy are experienced everywhere, especially on the peripheries. Even the motto of his pontificate, *Miserando atque eligendo* (“By having mercy, and by choosing him”), emphasizes this imitation of Divine Mercy. He will be remembered for his impetus to bring the message of salvation to every person, and leave no stone unturned in his quest to invite all to experience the Merciful Lord. ...

Saint Faustina left priests a mission to proclaim the mercy of God to all, as she says, quoting the Lord Jesus: **“Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me. The flames of mercy are burning Me — clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon [all] these souls”** (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 50). ...

We can change

The mission is to go forward from this celebration with the challenge to build up our human communities to reflect more precisely our origin and call. The incivility, anger, back-biting, and me worship that so often characterize our world need not be the rule. They can change, if we change. ... Remember the mafia victim Bl. Rosario Livatino’s statement: “When I die no one will ask me how much I believed, but rather how credible I was.”

We remember those four characteristics of the authentic Christian community: assiduous attention to the teaching of the Apostles (that is, we have to learn how to live as Christians); communion, the union of hearts manifested also in the sharing of goods; the Eucharist; and prayer. We are challenged to examine ourselves constantly, to see how our Catholic communities parallel the description of the ideal community in the Acts of the Apostles.

The more perfect community is possible by faith, as St. John reminded us in the second reading [1 Jn 5:1-6]. So that allows us to look at St. Thomas in a different way. There is a tendency to see his doubt as something negative, a lack of faith or of trust of his fellow Apostles. However, we can also insert a pause in his remarks. “We have seen the Lord” [Jn 20:25]. It is not incredible to imagine Thomas saying, “And...?” After all, they were still locked in the Upper Room. What had changed? Eight days later, what had they done with their experience? Where had they taken

the gift of the Lord’s forgiveness? They were still afraid to move outside.

We must always ask that question. God’s Mercy and His presence are incredibly generous, but what are the results for us?

We have prayed — “And...?”

We have walked in a procession — “And...?”

We have made our pilgrimage — “And...?”

We have made clear our opposition to abortion — to unjust laws — to capital punishment — to the mistreatment of the poor — “And...?”

Walking with Christ

The Easter mystery which we celebrate for 50 days requires us to grow in His presence and to make His victory over sin and death ours. That is a constant in our walking with Christ. ...

Pope Francis takes up the theme in his reflection at the conclusion of the Year of Mercy:

Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father’s love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life. Every page of the Gospel is marked by this imperative of a love that loves to the point of forgiveness. Even at the last moment

of his earthly life, as he was being nailed to the cross, Jesus spoke words of forgiveness: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34).

We pray also for the grace to imitate that spirit of forgiveness and tolerance. That contribution will reduce tension, that tension that fills our world.

Saint Faustina holds out a promise to us, as she relates the Lord’s words to us in her *Diary*: **“Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior”** (*Diary*, 1075).

Dear sisters and brothers, the long “Easter Day” will conclude this evening with Vespers. Twenty-four hours are insufficient to contain the Easter joy or to revel in the Easter mystery. ... We are filled with the grace of belief, but also challenged by the blessing of having life in the Name of Christ. That life requires our cooperation to make its fruit manifest.

It requires the courage of the day after.

Watch the Divine Mercy Sunday Liturgy on our dedicated streaming site, DivineMercyPlus.org.

MH



CHOIRS OF ANGELS (DETAIL), ANNUNCIATION TO THE VIRGIN, BY FRANCESCO BOTTICINI. PUBLIC DOMAIN.

HEAVENLY HELPERS

SAINT MICHAEL AND THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS

By Marge Steinhage Fenelon

I have a friend who refuses to talk about anything having to do with Satan, even in the most abstract way. When his name comes up, she either changes the subject or bows out of the conversation. Clearly, it makes her uncomfortable.

I think many of us are like that. We'd rather not think about the devil, preferring instead to focus on more pleasant things. Granted, we should not dwell on Satan and his evil ways, because when we do that, we make him feel more powerful than he deserves. On the other hand, we should not ignore his existence, power to tempt us to disobey God's commandments, or ability to engage us in a spiritual battle.

We need to strike a balance between keeping our faces toward the divine and being aware of the influence of the evil one.

Resist evil

We are called by our Baptism to renounce evil and follow Christ. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us, "By his reason, man recognizes the voice of God which urges him to 'do what is good and avoid what is evil.' Everyone is obliged to follow this law, which makes itself heard in the conscience

and is fulfilled in the love of God and of neighbor" (1706).

Resisting temptation and sin isn't just a good idea; it's an obligation, part of our Christian mission, and gives us dignity.

Saints and angels

Thankfully, we're not left to our own devices in this regard! Our Lord has given us the Sacraments, particularly Reconciliation and Eucharist, to strengthen us against temptation. He's also given us heavenly helpers — the saints to intercede for us and the angels to protect and guide us. The saints are human beings who have gone before us and lived lives worthy of canonization and imitation.

But angels are pure spirits without forms or bodies whose only purpose is to praise God and mediate between God and man. They have the power of thinking, willing, choosing, and deliberately loving. Saints communicate to us through their words and examples while angels communicate with



Fr. Chris Alar talks
about the story of
St. Michael.

us by suggesting things to our imagination, which we often call “inspiration.” In their spiritual form, we cannot see them but they can make themselves look like anything they want by manipulating our imagination or putting on a disguise — usually a human form; the images we see of angels with wings and halos are merely symbolic representations.

God acts through His helpers to form a spiritual shield around us to safeguard us from temptation and the nasty tricks and snares of Satan and his demons. They help us to resist the sins that could damage our souls and threaten our salvation.

Saint Michael

Among the saints and angels, St. Michael holds a prominent position in the fight against Satan and our protection against his wiles. When Lucifer, filled with pride and contempt, rebelled against God, it was St. Michael who cast him forever from the eternal gates.

Saint Faustina had a special place in her heart for St. Michael. On September 29, 1936 — the Feast of St. Michael — St. Faustina was visited by St. Michael, who assured her of his special protection against evil. He told her, “The Lord has ordered me to take special care of you” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 706).

A powerful, yet lesser-known devotion is the Chaplet of St. Michael. The chaplet was given by St. Michael himself to a Portuguese Carmelite nun, Antónia d’Astónaco, in 1751. He instructed her how to pray it, and to teach others about it, as well.

**‘God acts through
His helpers to
form a spiritual
shield around us
to safeguard us.’**

He made three promises to all who faithfully pray the Chaplet in his honor: an escort of nine angels chosen from each of the nine choirs of angels when approaching Holy Communion; his continual assistance and that of all the angels throughout life; and, after death, deliverance from Purgatory for themselves and all their relations.

The first time I prayed the Chaplet, I felt a great sense of peace and security. It was as if St. Michael had suddenly drawn very close to me and was reassuring me of his presence and protection. I began reciting the Chaplet of St. Michael as

part of my morning prayer routine and since then I have rarely missed a day; it’s part of my stable of essential devotions.

In practicing this devotion to St. Michael, I’ve received an additional and unexpected gift. I’ve not only grown closer to St. Michael, but also to the nine choirs, or groups, of angels traditionally recognized by the Church. The Chaplet includes nine

salutations (like decades of the Rosary), each addressed to one of the choirs, and each asking for a particular grace.

I pray that you discover the peace and security that I have in the Chaplet of St. Michael, and that you will introduce it to others as well. Together, we can stand strong against sin, temptation, and the influence of evil, and grow in holiness and wisdom. May St. Michael guide and protect you always!

Defend Us in Battle: The Promises of St. Michael and the Heavenly Angels by Marge Steinhage Fenelon (Marian Press, Product code B62-DUFL) is available on ShopMercy.org. MH



Join us in efforts to make much needed improvements to the Shrine here on Eden Hill.

SPRUCING UP THE SHRINE



A rendering of the new altar rail to be installed in the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts is having a big birthday next year — and we need your help now to prepare for the celebration with some long-overdue improvements.

The year 2025 will mark the 75th anniversary of the groundbreaking for the National Shrine, and the 65th anniversary of its dedication and blessing. In the April-

June 1960 edition of *Marian Helpers Bulletin* (the precursor of *Marian Helper*), Fr. Joseph shared his excitement at the opening:

The growth of the spiritual structure of Divine Mercy in America is, indeed, a marvel of God's grace. It is a sign that its origin is Divine, for no human work could move so far by its own accord. The change and progress appear unbelievable. The Shrine, once a small side chapel, is now an imposing edifice visible for miles around, standing proudly on the heights of Eden Hill overlooking the majestic hills and valleys of the Berkshire mountains, calling all of God's children to imbibe and refresh themselves, in the peace and tranquility of God's Holy Love, uniting themselves with the Marian spirit on the heights with Our Lady of Eden Hill.

Sixty-five years. Think of it! Tens of thousands of pilgrims visit every year, so that means at least 2 million people have experienced in person this spiritual oasis, seeking to draw closer to the Divine Mercy Himself by means of prayer and the Sacraments. That doesn't include those who visit the Shrine daily online for Mass, the Chaplet, and the Rosary via our livestreams — numbering in the hundreds of thousands!

Truly, our National Shrine — constructed in part by the Marian Fathers and brothers themselves — is the jewel of Eden Hill. But like any grand individual of advancing years, it needs sprucing up.

Improvements

Today, the Marian Fathers urgently request your assistance to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the chapel. With your help, in honor of the National Shrine's 65th anniversary, we will raise \$650,000. Those funds will go toward the following:

- Install an altar rail. Especially during this time of National Eucharistic Revival, we are reminded of the importance of reverence when receiving Holy Communion.
- Install air conditioning. If you've ever visited the National Shrine during the heat of a Berkshire summer, you'll understand the need.
- Remodel and expand the Welcome Center. Located next

to the National Shrine, the Welcome Center will become more informative and interactive.

- Refinish, repair, or replace exterior and interior doors, to keep the weather out and the temperate air in.
- Repair and tune the National Shrine organ. Brother Ken's music enhances our daily and Sunday Masses!
- Replace carpeting in the National Shrine vestibule. There's a lot of foot traffic and it takes quite a beating, especially during Berkshire winters.
- Replace the ceiling in Memorial Hall, downstairs from the chapel, where meetings are held and Mass is broadcast for the visitor overflow.
- Exterior improvements: repair the front steps to the National Shrine; improve the plaza out front; and enhance the landscaping around the building.



The National Shrine under construction, 1959.

**We invite you to make
a donation to our Urgent
Appeal for improvements
to the National Shrine of
The Divine Mercy. Please visit
Marian.org/b62.**

If, by God's grace, we exceed our goal, every dollar above and beyond our needs for the National Shrine will be used to make physical improvements to Eden Hill for the benefit of our pilgrims and Marian Fathers.

Safe and sacred

We know that many of our pilgrims come here to Eden Hill in spiritual crisis. We know that many come to pray for loved ones or simply to give thanks for the presence of God in their lives. Many graces are received here, including physical and spiritual healings.

We owe it to our pilgrims — and to God Himself, who has entrusted us with this mission of spreading Divine Mercy — to provide a safe and sacred experience. The projects we have identified will go a long way toward achieving those ends, honoring the extraordinary 65-year legacy of the National Shrine.

Thank you in advance, and from the bottom of my heart, for prayerfully considering making a gift. Through your prayers and support today, you join us in our efforts to enhance the pilgrimage experience here on Eden Hill. **MH**

‘HERE, TAKE MY HEART’

THE WONDER OF THE EUCHARIST

By Fr. Andy Davy, MIC

I remember the moment like it was yesterday: my first Mass as a Catholic priest, when I would consecrate the bread and wine into the Holy Eucharist — the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was 15 years ago, on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009, in my home parish, St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg, Maryland (coincidentally the home parish of our newest Marian priest, Fr. Stephen Castellano, MIC). I was ordained to the priesthood the day before by Bishop Martin Holley. Now it was time to celebrate Mass by myself.

The church was packed. But at the consecration, I was surrounded by a hush, like the quiet sweetness of a steady wind.

I remember the power of the words I spoke, slowly. It was all suddenly made real. Of course, I was already a believer, thanks in large part to my parish, one of the first in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., to establish perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Holding our Lord

But now it was strikingly different. I felt the reality, looking in awe like a child at the Host that has become the Body and Blood of our Lord. I could see through the outward appearance of bread and wine that I was holding the Lord in my hands.

It brought me back to my pre-ordination retreat at Mother Angelica’s shrine in Hanceville, Alabama, and the story of how she was inspired to build her monastery by the statue (above) of the Divino Niño — the Divine Child — in Colombia. The Infant Jesus is holding out His Sacred Heart, and there’s a cavity in His chest where His Heart should be. I felt the Lord very deeply touching my heart, as if to say,



The statue of the Divino Niño in Hanceville, Alabama.

“This is a picture of what your priesthood is called to be.”

And so at the consecration I am holding the Heart of God. I’m called to place my heart here with His Heart, and give His Heart to the people.

In a word, wow. Yes, it was very emotional. And I can honestly say that, every day since for 15 years, whenever I celebrate Mass, the same feeling of awe and reverence and humility overcomes me. It has never, and will never, grow old. How could it possibly?

Eucharistic Revival

That is why it pains me, and my brother priests, to hear about the lack of reverence for the Eucharist, and the lack of understanding about the Real Presence. A feeling of sadness

comes over me. If people only knew Who they were missing!

It has been a blessing for me to be part of the National Eucharistic Revival under way throughout the United States. This could not happen at a more pivotal time in our history!

The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1324-1327). It’s the very heart, a place of encounter where Jesus is waiting for us, over and over again. It’s reassuring to see people discovering that more and more, eager to deepen their relationship with Him.

As one of 50 “official” Eucharistic preachers, I talk about how we need to see through the eyes of children, who see the wonder and marvel in things that the rest of the adult world takes for granted, or finds boring. It’s about helping people re-discover Jesus. He’s right here. He comes in a quiet whisper that has its own thunder beneath it.

Jesus is waiting

Jesus is waiting for you, at every Mass. He wants you here. He’s opening His Heart. He’s saying, “I thirst for you.” Pope Francis talks about the “merciful gaze” of Jesus. He knows you, and sees you.

From the Cross, Jesus is looking at me with love and He’s saying, in a sense, “Yes, you have crucified Me by your sins. But I’ve come to make all things new.” And so it’s like the Child saying again, “Here’s My Heart. Will you take it?”

If you haven’t picked up the habit yet, please try Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration is the place where Jesus trains us how to see like a child. But beware: from a modern standpoint, Adoration is the most boring, pointless thing ever. You’re just sitting there! Our minds are wired to scream against silence.

The feeling is normal. Just take a few moments to turn back the years, put away the phone, clear your mind. Wade through that noisy storm, to experience something far deeper on the other side. God is present before you in the Eucharist. He is listening. Talk to Him.

If you can’t make it to an Adoration chapel, just go to any Catholic church. Jesus is right there, in the tabernacle, waiting for you.

Readers of a certain age will recall that whenever you

walked or drove by a Catholic church, you blessed yourself, and men tipped their hats. Why? Out of respect for Jesus, waiting inside.

He died for us

One of my favorite novels is *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo — pretty good musical and movie, too. My favorite scene (and a favorite of Fr. Mike Schmitz) is very Eucharistic, when Jean Valjean rescues Marius. He’s willing to go the extra mile, dragging him to safety through the muck of the sewers of Paris. He could have simply left him and swum to safety himself. But no.

And the Passion is like that. At any moment, Jesus could have said, “I’m outta here.” But no. He loved us to the end. He emptied Himself all the way to the bottom to drag us out of sin. He sacrificed Himself so we can be free.

That’s the reality of the Eucharist. It’s the mystery of the Cross at every Mass, and Jesus is present. Behold the Lamb of God! He’s reaching down, pulling us out of the muck and mire of our sins so that we can be saved.

In our noisy existence, there’s still this quiet, gentle whisper. It’s Jesus, saying, “Look here, because that’s where your heart is going to finally rest. It won’t rest anywhere else.”

Homework

Truly, the National Eucharistic Revival could not happen at a more crucial time. Please tune in and take part! Visit EucharisticRevival.org for details.

I’ll be joining a group of Marian priests, brothers, and seminarians at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 17-21. We hope to see you there! Please pray for its success, and a renewal of Eucharistic love in our country.

In the meantime, here’s some homework. Try Adoration. Maybe come to church early and sit quietly before the tabernacle before Sunday Mass begins. Try to attend daily Mass.

Talk to your kids about the Eucharist. A family conversation is excellent preparation for Sunday Mass, and I guarantee there will be plenty of interesting questions!

Father Andy Davy, MIC, is the director of postulants for the Marian Fathers, based at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

MH

“The Eucharist is the ‘source and summit’ of our Catholic faith. It’s the very heart, a place of encounter where Jesus is waiting for us, over and over again”



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Congress**



Vinny Flynn with two fellow evangelists of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and Fr. George Kosicki, CSB.

THE EUCHARIST AND DIVINE MERCY

By Chris Sparks

Few people know more about the Holy Eucharist than Vinny Flynn, life-long Marian Helper and former Marian Press executive editor. Vinny sets approved private revelation alongside Public Revelation in his book Mercy's Gaze: 100 Readings from Scripture and the Diary of St. Faustina, a perfect devotional for either Eucharistic Adoration or praying before the Divine Mercy Image. Marian Helper sat down with Vinny to find out what connects these two devotions.

What can the Divine Mercy Image teach us during this National Eucharistic Revival? I'm tempted to call it kind of the cheat sheet.

It's even more than a cheat sheet. It's a full outline to a renewed appreciation of the Eucharist!

You see, everything in the Divine Mercy devotions — Feast, Image, Novena, Chaplet, Hour (FINCH) — centers on the Eucharist. They all draw their grace from the Eucharist — as do the other Sacraments of course — but especially the Divine Mercy Image.

We're supposed to be gazing on the Image to convert our hearts, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, looking on Christ to convert our hearts (see 2715, 2724). Pope St. John Paul II is saying, "Contemplate the face of Jesus" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*). We're contemplating it there in the Image.

That's supposed to lead us to realize that that's what we should be doing with the Eucharist. We are contemplating the Face of Jesus in the Eucharist and we're doing it with Our Lady, whom St. John Paul calls the Woman of the Eucharist. We ask Our Lady to help us in the Eucharist to contemplate who's really there.

Is it rather like looking into a mirror?

Exactly. This is the God of Mercy in person. This is Divine Mercy in person. And just as Fr. Kosicki used to say, we're not supposed to just hang that Image on the wall; we're supposed to *become* it. We're supposed to look at that Image enough so that it's like we're looking in the mirror.

When I look in the mirror, do I see a hand raised in blessing? Do I see another hand inviting people into my heart? Am I pouring love, mercy, and forgiveness upon all the people who are coming to me?

So we're supposed to look at the Image so that we can conform ourselves to it, become like God, which is the same thing that the Eucharist is for. We're not supposed to just consume the Eucharist. We're supposed to allow it to *become* us, and us to become Eucharistic in our lives.

Eucharistic spirituality: Become what you eat, and enter into communion.

Saint Faustina put it beautifully, saying the Lord was alive in her heart between the physical acts of communion. Is

that really the point for all of us?

Absolutely. She talks about the indwelling: "Once after Holy Communion, I heard these words: **You are Our dwelling place.**" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 451). Note that: You are *Our* dwelling place. And she continues: "At that moment, I felt in my soul the presence of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." My soul is in *communion* with these three.

Recall the verse from John 14:23: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

That's the indwelling of God. So we see St. Faustina sharing that she's experiencing this presence of the Trinity. And then we have in Scripture St. John telling us, "This is real. Christ told us that the Trinity makes its dwelling in us."

That is one of the great strengths of your book, *Mercy's Gaze*: You allow Scripture and the *Diary* to shed light on each other, to unpack each other.

I loved doing this, going through and selecting certain Scriptures and selecting certain passages from the *Diary* to bring out what seemed to be the strongest themes in both. And then to see how closely the Scriptures and the *Diary* are in presenting the same message, the same — if you will, the same Revelation from the Lord.

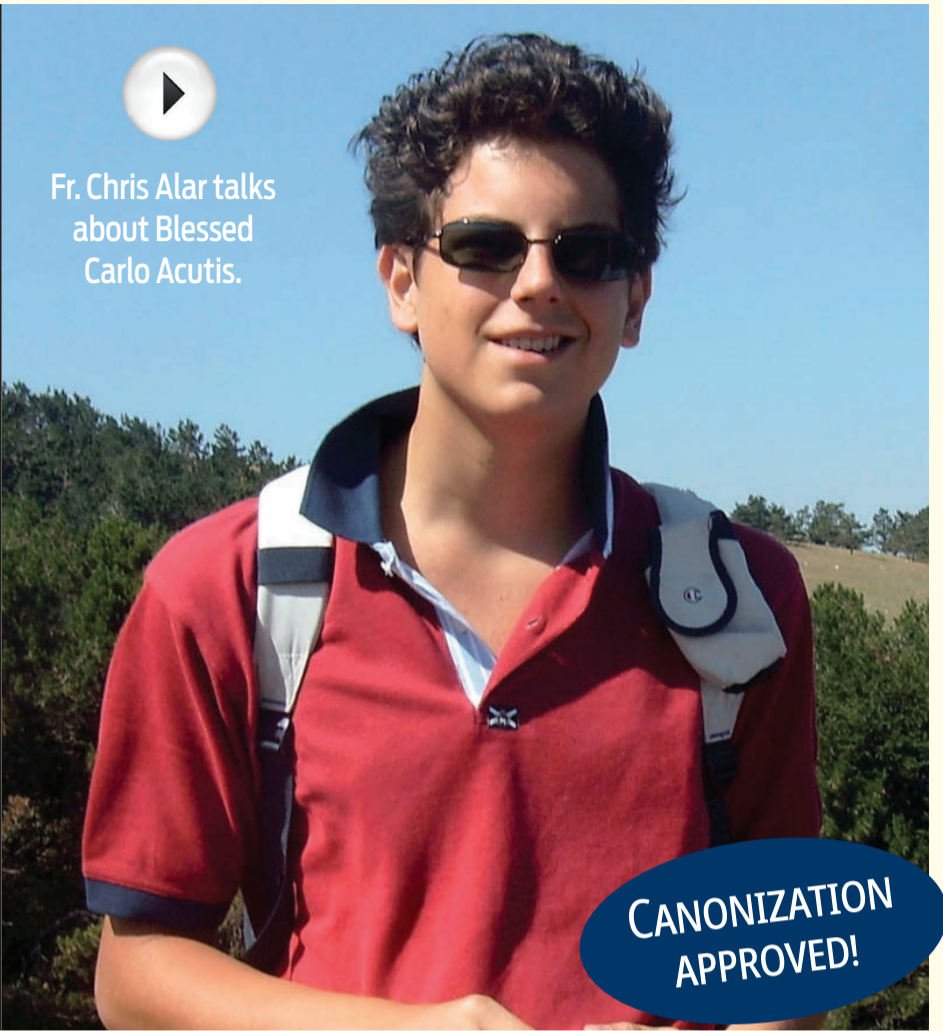
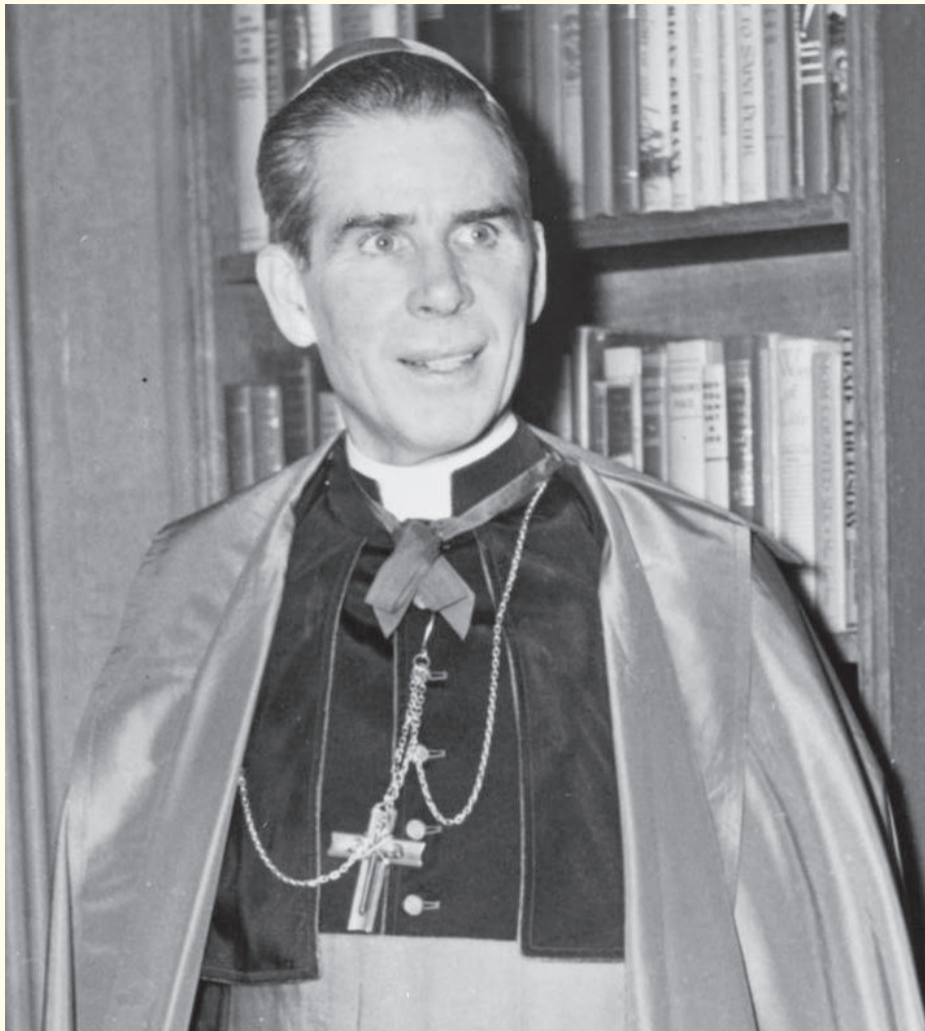
The Holy Spirit never contradicts Himself. That's not surprising, but it's certainly edifying to see that, especially useful for people who are wondering, "Well, who is this? Who is this Polish nun? How does she know all this stuff? And where is this stuff coming from? How do I know this is real?" You find it all in Scripture. There's nothing new here. It's just a different focus. It's a concentration.

As kids, we used to take a magnifying glass and shine it on a certain point on a leaf with the sun focused so it gets more intense, and actually start a fire with it.

Well, that, to me, is what God's trying to do. He started to set our hearts on fire. "Let's take the Gospel message. Now, let's focus it all so you can see it through the lens of mercy. You understand what My plan really is. Here now, let Me take hold of you and set you on fire."

To order *Mercy's Gaze* (Product code B62-GAZE), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.

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Fr. Chris Alar talks about Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Two Champions of the Eucharist

By Chris Sparks

One was born in the 1800s, and died an old man of heart disease, a year or so into the pontificate of St. John Paul II. The other was born in 1991, and died as a teenager, barely a year into the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI, suffering from acute leukemia.

One authored many books, appeared on television in its earliest days in award-winning shows and historic appearances, and pioneered televangelism, never seeing the rise of the internet.

The other took to the internet to spread the word of Eucharistic miracles, Marian apparitions, and the reality of Heaven, hell, and Purgatory.

They are Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) and Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006).

Two halves, same coin

Blessed Carlo and Ven. Sheen are two halves of a coin, two Christians doing the same work — spreading the word of the

Gospel to an unbelieving modern world, and doing it using the very latest in technology, of which they were each early adopters.

These two children of God, with such different lives, different upbringings, and different lengths of time on earth to make their marks, are perhaps some of the foremost apostles of the Eucharist in the last 150 years.

Ordained to the priesthood for the diocese of Peoria, Illinois, in 1919, Ven. Sheen is best remembered for his unprecedented 40-year run on radio and television, hosting “The Catholic Hour” (1930-50), “Life is Worth Living” (1952-57), and “The Fulton Sheen Program” (1961-68).

A gifted theologian with an engaging style, Ven. Sheen won

an Emmy Award in 1952 for “Outstanding Television Personality.” In his acceptance speech, he said, “I feel it is time I pay tribute to my four writers — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”

Venerable Sheen, who was appointed bishop of Rochester, New York, and titular archbishop of Newport, Wales, practiced the daily Holy Hour, a practice that may have saved his humility and his soul — few Catholics of any description can both endure that level of celebrity and still be saints.

He was also a preacher at the 1976 Eucharistic Congress, a unique event in American Catholic history for having also been attended by then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (the future St. John Paul II); Mother (now Saint) Teresa; and Servant of God Dorothy Day.

“It is so easy to lose Christ; He can even be lost by a little heedlessness; a little want of watchfulness and the Divine Presence slips away,” Ven. Sheen said. “But sometimes a reconciliation is sweeter than an unbroken friendship. There are two ways of knowing how good God is: one is never to lose Him; the other is to lose Him and find him again.”

Pokemon and computers

Born in London, Bl. Carlo soon moved with his family back to Assisi, Italy. A popular, funny kid who loved video games, computers, but above all else, God and neighbor, Carlo touched many, many souls during his short earthly life.

“He loved football, Pokémon, action films, and all animals (he had four dogs, two cats and many goldfish as pets),” said Corinna Turner in *The Catholic Herald*. “From early childhood, his first love was Our Lord in the Eucharist. Neither of his parents were religious, yet from an early age Carlo never wanted to pass a church without going in to ‘say hello to Jesus.’ As a result, his mother came back to faith, then his father.”

Blessed Carlo designed and created “The Eucharistic Miracles of the World,” an international exhibit that tours the world and has a website dedicated to it, as well as several other websites dedicated to sharing the word of God’s miracles. What Bl. Carlo began, the Holy See has adopted and expanded.

Blessed Carlo is one of the most quotable of holy millennials. “The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven,” he said. “To always be close to Jesus: that’s my life plan.” And this: “Everyone is born an original, but many die as a photocopy.”

When he was stricken with leukemia, this astonishing teenager proclaimed, “I’m happy to die because I’ve lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn’t have pleased God.” Amazing!

Venerable Sheen and Bl. Carlo are both inspirations for us, young and old, in this time of Eucharistic Revival, when the New Evangelization is more badly needed than ever, and the times are as dark as ever.

The two are truly different, but also rooted in the same reality, the same love of the

Eucharistic Lord, the same devotion to the Good News of Jesus Christ, the same fidelity to the faith and morals teaching of the Church, the same abiding willingness to stand on the side of Christ and His Church, even through suffering, scandal, or tumultuous times.

They are the bookends of a time of immense change in the Church, and now we turn to them both for their interces-

sion and help in these times of ours, when the ideologies of the last 300 years all seem to be back, all seem to be coming for a reckoning, all seem to be waiting for the Mother of God to deal with them, since she promised us, “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

Follow them

They are bookends, Archbishop Sheen and Carlo Acutis. God willing, through their work the faith of many more will emerge.

The writings, videos, and recordings of Ven. Sheen continue to touch hearts and minds, continue to change lives.

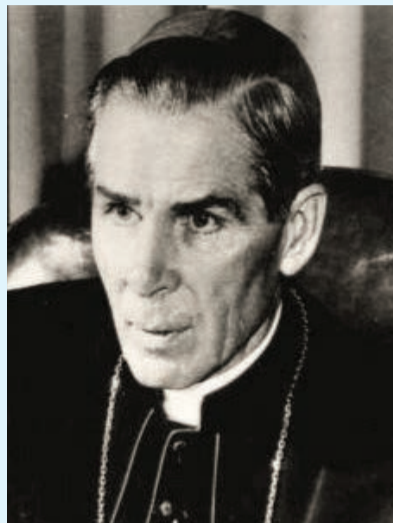
The websites established by Bl. Carlo have been taken over by the Holy See, and expanded, and continue to proclaim the miracles of God across the history of the Church, miracles to provide evidence to the modern world that God is in His Heaven, and the Catholic faith is true.

Follow Ven. Sheen and Bl. Carlo to the Eucharistic Lord, and bring your neighbors with you. That way, we shall have a true Eucharistic Revival, and change the world.

To order the pamphlet “The Holy Millennial: Blessed Carlo Acutis” (Product code B62-BCPT) or the prayer card “The Holy Millennial: Blessed Carlo Acutis” (Product code B62-ACEPC), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426. MH



CarloAcutis.com



CelebrateSheen.com

Is there another Carlo Acutis headed for sainthood? It appears so, halfway around the world from Bl. Carlo's home in Assisi, Italy.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, the cause for canonization of Niña Ruiz-Abad was officially opened at the Cathedral of St. William the Hermit in Laoag City, Philippines. Venerable Niña received the title of "Servant of God."

Devotion to the Eucharist

Born Oct. 31, 1979, in Quezon City, to lawyer parents, Niña lost her father when she was 3. Her mother was a great devotee of Divine Mercy, and Niña took after her, having a strong devotion to the Eucharist. From her early years, she distributed Rosaries, Bibles, and other religious articles to her neighbors and schoolmates.

Diagnosed at the age of 10 with the heart condition that would ultimately kill her, Niña was a model of redemptive and joyful Christian suffering. She died in 1993, just 13 years old, making her one of the youngest people to ever have a cause for canonization opened for them.



SUFFERING WITH JOY

Father Dennis Ruíz, postulator of the cause, compared Niña to Bl. Carlo.

"Many of the youth nowadays are preoccupied by technology, fashion, fun, pleasure and desire for worldly material things, which sometimes draw their attention away from healthy relationships, especially to God," he said. "With the presence of dysfunctional families and family disintegration in today's society, children are usually the most affected, which consequently makes them turn for solace and consolation to their environment.

"But having a good model of piety and fortitude for the youth, they can be saved from utter destruction. Knowing Niña's character and traits and her strong faith toward God will serve as a guide to the youth."

"Today, children and young people are inspired by the life of Niña Ruiz-Abad to live a life rooted in prayer," the Philippine Bishops' Conference stated. "Her story continues to reach the hearts of many

people because it is an example of how, with God, obstacles can be overcome."

MH

“What is the Mass? The Mass is the unveiling of Heaven here on earth through the breaking of the bread.



Fr. Chris Alar, MIC
Provincial Superior, Marian Fathers
United States and Argentina

JESUS THIRSTS
THE MIRACLE OF THE EUCHARIST

IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE
JUNE 4, 5 & 6



THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE

By Chris Sparks

During this time of war and unrest, now into the third year of war between Ukraine and Russia, I get asked all the time: Has the Catholic Church ever officially condemned fascism, nationalism, and Marxism?

She certainly has, and for a long time. Look back 90 years to a series of encyclicals by Pope Pius XI in which he addressed all three subjects.

On June 29, 1931, responding to the alarming rise of a totalitarian fascist regime in Italy, the Holy Father published *Non Abbiamo Bisogno* (“We Do Not Need”):

A conception of the State which makes the rising generations belong to it entirely, without any exception, from the tenderest years up to adult life, cannot be reconciled by a Catholic either with Catholic doctrine or with the natural rights of the family. It is not possible for a Catholic to accept the claim that the Church and the Pope must limit themselves to the external practices of religion (such as Mass and the Sacraments), and that all the rest of education belongs to the State (52).

Response to Hitler

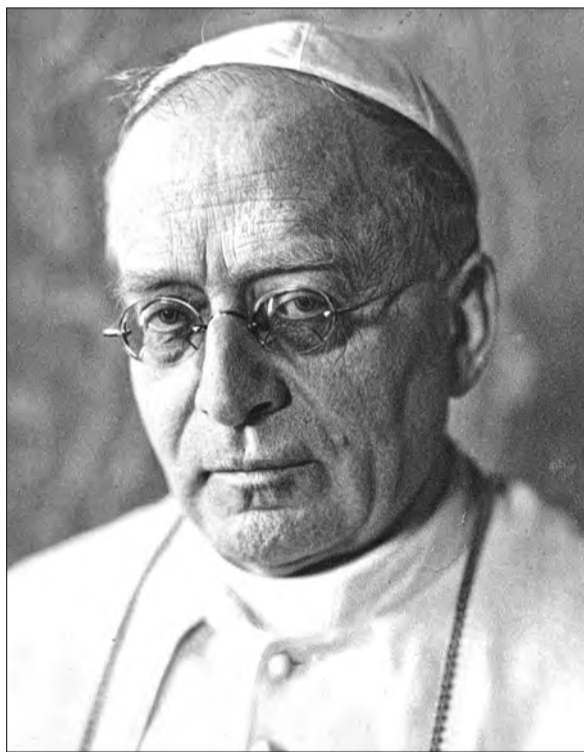
The encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* (“With Burning Anxiety”) was published on Palm Sunday, March 14, 1937, in response to Hitler’s regime in Germany and the alarming rise in anti-Semitism. Distributed in secrecy, it was read from the pulpit of every Catholic church in the country:

Whoever exalts race, or the people, or the State, or a particular form of State, or the depositories of power, or any other fundamental value of the human community — however necessary and honorable be their function in worldly things — whoever raises these notions above their standard value and divinizes them to an idolatrous level, distorts and perverts an order of the world planned and created by God; he is far from the true faith in God and from the concept of life which that faith upholds. ... None but superficial minds could

stumble into concepts of a national God, of a national religion; or attempt to lock within the frontiers of a single people, within the narrow limits of a single race, God ... (Isaiah 40:15). (8, 11)

Turning his attention to Spain, Mexico, the Soviet Union, and atheistic communism, Pius XI issued another encyclical one week later: *Divini Redemptoris* (“The Promise of a Divine Redeemer”):

Both man and civil society derive their origin from the Creator, Who has mutually ordained them one to the other. ... The Creator Himself has regulated this mutual relationship in its fundamental lines, and it is by an unjust usurpation that Communism arrogates to itself the right to enforce, in place of the divine law based on the immutable principles of truth and charity, a partisan political program which derives from the arbitrary human will and is replete with hate (33).



Firm ‘Yes’

Clearly, the answer to the question is a firm yes, and all three encyclicals should be required reading. They are available at Vatican.va.

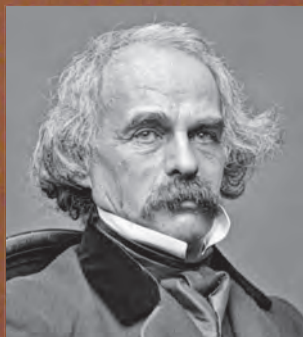
The Catholic Church may not express it often enough, but the position is clear. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, moreover, is unequivocal:

Moral judgment must condemn the plague of totalitarian states which systematically falsify the truth, exercise political control of opinion through the media, manipulate defendants and witnesses at public trials, and imagine that they secure their tyranny by strangling and repressing everything they consider “thought crimes” (2499).

How Can You Still Be Catholic: 50 Answers to a Good Question by Chris Sparks is available in book and eBook from Marian Press (code B62-BCBB) at ShopMercy.org.

Please consider supporting the Marian Fathers’ campaign to fund humanitarian aid to the victims of war in Ukraine. Visit Marian.org/Ukraine.

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THE SAINT NEXT DOOR

Venerable Mother Mary Alphonsa, OP

Mother Mary Alphonsa, OP, and (inset) her famous father, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

By Chris Sparks

If her surname sounds familiar, it should, from your schooldays: She was the daughter of the great American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864), author of *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of the Seven Gables*, and other classics. And she was born just a few miles from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Rose Hawthorne's story is at once unique and relatable. She was a Catholic convert; the separated wife of an alcoholic, who died a few years after they'd parted ways; a model of the works of mercy through the work of the Hawthorne Dominicans in serving the poor suffering from cancer.

"Many Catholics are unfamiliar with the life and influence of Rose Hawthorne," according to the Rose Hawthorne Guild, "and yet there is scarcely one who could not identify with Rose."

Stockbridge-Lenox roots

The famous writer and his family lived in a red "cottage" on the border of present-day Stockbridge and Lenox from August 1850 to November 1851. Rose was born on May 20, 1851, the third and last child of Hawthorne and Sophia Peabody.

The original cottage burned down in 1890, but a "re-creation" of it sits behind the world-famous Tanglewood concert venue.

Growing up traveling Europe, living a remarkably privileged life by the standards of the time, Rose was first exposed to Catholicism in the course of her travels, even seeing Pope Bl. Pius IX during Holy Week. She would later write, “I became eloquent about the Pope, and was rewarded by a gift from my mother of a little medallion of him and a gold scudo [coin] with an excellent likeness thereon, both always tenderly revered by me.”

Both parents died when Rose was in her teens.

In 1871, age 20, Rose married George Parsons Lathrop, the editor of *Atlantic Monthly*, and they had one child, Francis. Sadly, he died at the age of 4.

Conversions

In 1891, while living in New London, Connecticut, both George and Rose converted to Catholicism. “To many of their old friends this conversion came as a shock; but to Rose and George it was grace filled,” according to the Rose Hawthorne Guild. “In their new lives as Catholics, George and Rose attempted to devote themselves to work for the Church.”

But a happy ending was not to be. George slid into alcoholism, which made his behavior more and more erratic till the couple separated with the permission of the Church. He died in 1898.

At age 45, Rose decided to dedicate herself to one of the works of mercy, so she studied nursing at New York Cancer Hospital. “A fire was then lighted in my heart, where it still burns,” she wrote. “I set my whole being to endeavor to bring consolation to the cancerous poor.” Working on the lower east side of Manhattan, Rose attracted companions to join her in her labors.

“While this work took up a great portion of her strength and time, she records in her diary daily Mass attendance, frequent confession, the recitation of litanies and novenas, and spiritual direction,” notes the Rose Hawthorne Guild.

Cancer victims

Inspired by a young Dominican priest, Rose became a third-order Dominican and, taking the name Mary Alphonsa, went on to found the Hawthorne Dominicans, dedicated

to caring for the destitute enduring cancer, which was then seen as a contagious, dangerous disease. On Dec. 8, 1900, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Archbishop Michael Corrigan of New York approved the new community of Dominican Sisters.

Under Mother Mary Alphonsa’s leadership, the Congregation expanded its good works to several care homes. She carried on with her heroic work till her death in 1926, at the age of 75, at her motherhouse in Hawthorne, New



A re-creation of the Hawthorne home is located on the grounds of Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts.

“Many Catholics are unfamiliar with the life and influence of Rose Hawthorne, and yet there is scarcely one who could not identify with Rose.”

York. She was declared Venerable by Pope Francis on March 14, 2024.

Mother Mary Alphonsa died the same year that the Marian “Renovator,” Bl. George Matulaitis made his tour of America, but two decades before the Marians arrived in Stockbridge.

She was ministering to the poor in New York City at the same time as Mother Frances Cabrini, recently in the limelight in the Angel Studios movie *Cabrini* (and who had a much harder time with Archbishop Corrigan).

Mother is also a distant cousin of the actor Mark Wahlberg (*Father Stu*) and his brother, producer/director Jim Wahlberg, who

spoke at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy this past Divine Mercy Weekend.

Saintly religious

Thank God for Mother Mary Alphonsa, and for all the heroic, saintly women religious who’ve served the poor and those most in need in our country, and all across the life of the Church. They’ve answered God’s call, and we are all the better off for it. Thank God for men and women of God who do the works of mercy, and show to the world that Jesus truly is the Divine Mercy Incarnate.

When next you come on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, say a prayer to Mother Mary Alphonsa, a hero of the works of mercy, who was born so near to an international center of the Divine Mercy movement.

Mother Mary Alphonsa, OP, pray for us!

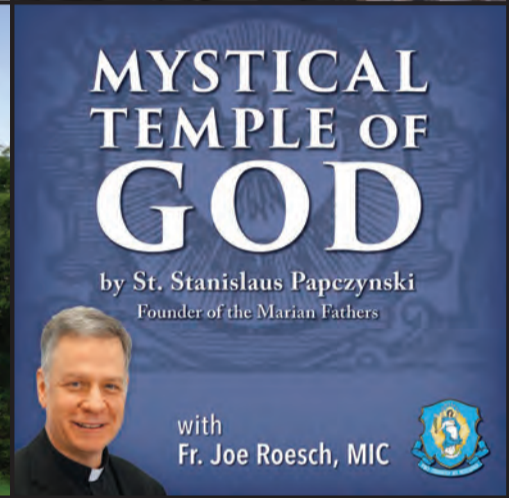
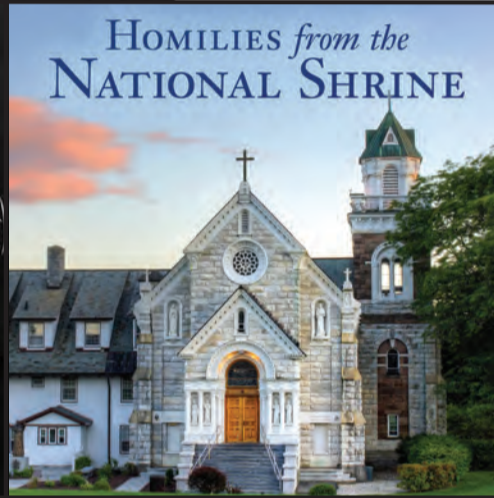
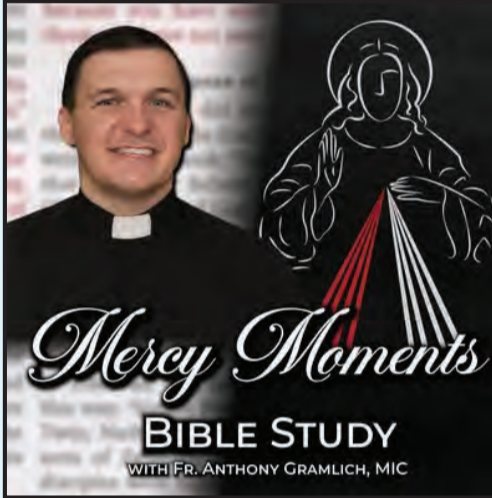
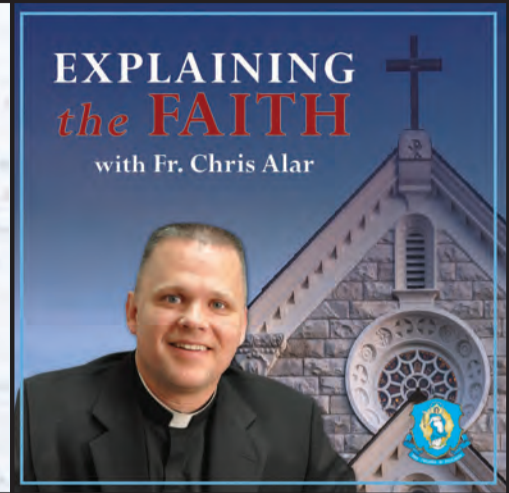
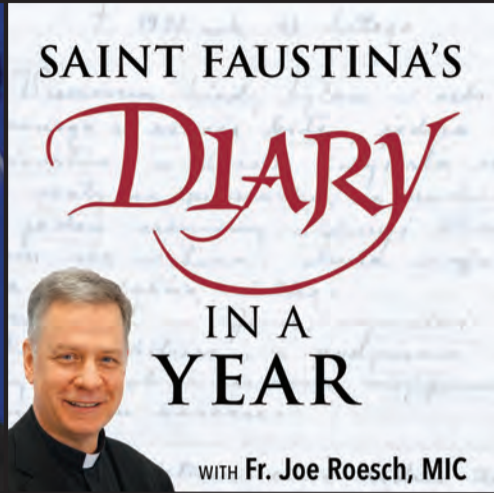
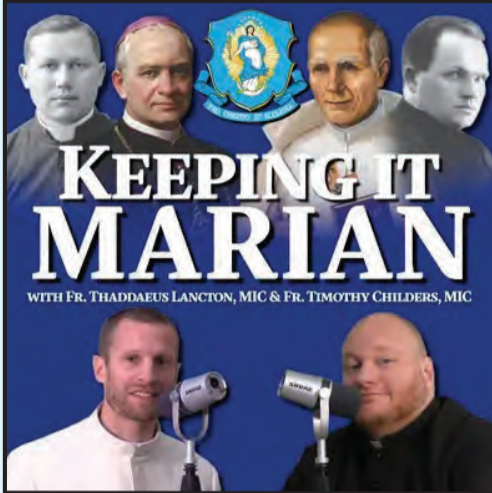
For more information on Ven. Mother Mary Alphonsa, OP, and her cause for canonization, visit the Rose Hawthorne Guild: Hawthorne-Dominicans.org.

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GIVING ALL TO MARY

Not many religious sisters have experienced the joys of falling in love, getting married, and raising a family. However, I had the pleasure of hearing from one who has.

“Sister Rose” (name changed for privacy purposes) never expected to hear a call to the religious life, and even less the call to a cloistered life. But like our Marian Fathers, Sister shares a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and credits much of her call to enter the religious life to Our Lady.

After her husband’s death in 2018, and shortly after her children left home for college, Sr. Rose felt called to do something meaningful with her time after work. With the help of Our Lady, she found herself enlisting in the Legion of Mary and joining the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites (OCDS).

Sister Rose would spend her weekends going door to door evangelizing, visiting the convalescent homes or praying in front of the local abortion center. Her connections in the Legion of Mary led her to her local parish, where she eventually signed up as a nightly adorer. On every first Friday and Saturday, she would finish her work as a designer at a high-tech company, head straight to Eucharistic Adoration, and not leave until after Mass the next morning.

“I was there so much that Father could have charged me rent!” she laughs.

Keep trying

During the countless hours she spent in Adoration, Sr. Rose specifically remembers praying for an end to abortion and for her vocation. Her spiritual director encouraged Sister to reach out to different convents in hopes of fitting in somewhere as a “late” vocation.

Patience and perseverance were required. Sister either didn’t get a response or was beyond the age limit. She wanted to give up, but her spiritual director encouraged her to keep trying.

She continued her search. Her prayers were answered

during a “Come-and-See” weekend retreat at a convent that was coincidentally hosting a Fatima pilgrimage. The prioress and chapter took it as a sign of the beginning of her vocation.

“I felt as though Our Lady was at my back, guiding my every step,” Sister recalls. “How loved and blessed I was to have Our Lady so close.”

Sister Rose had finally found her home, in a cloistered convent in middle America. “God has poured His grace out upon me, and this is a blessing beyond belief.”

Vow of poverty

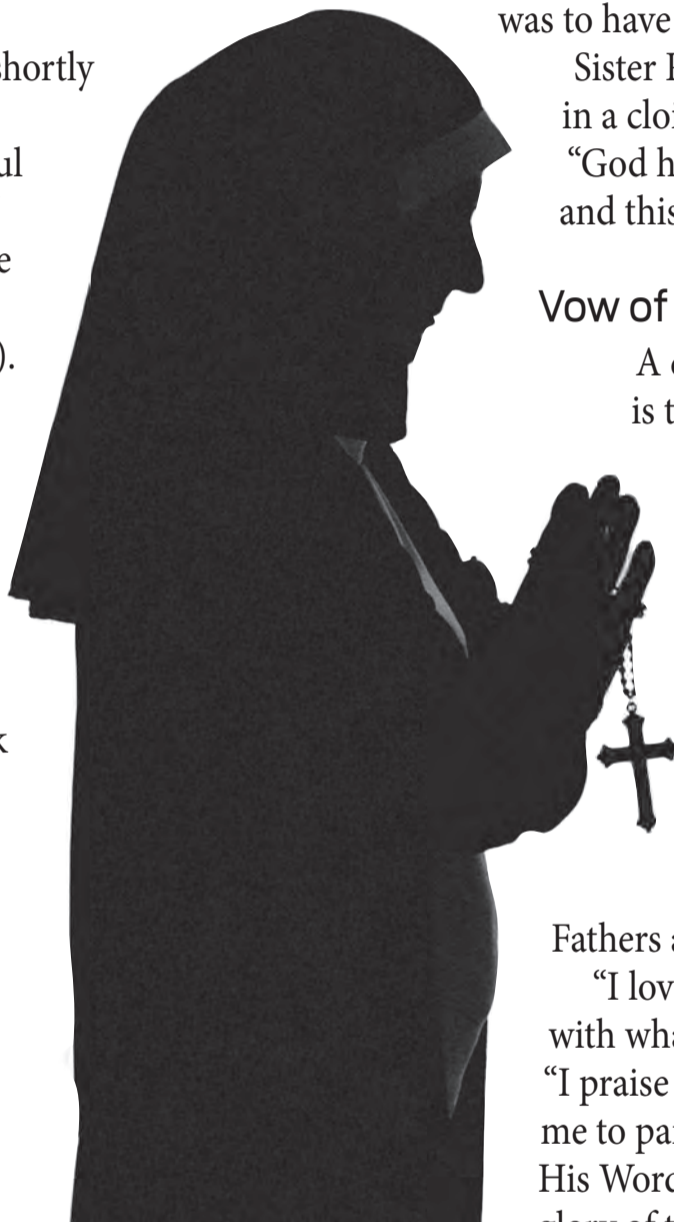
A condition on entering religious life is to relinquish all of your material goods, honoring the vow of poverty. Accordingly, before entering the convent, Sr. Rose gave all of her savings to the Marian Fathers and other missionary organizations in thanksgiving to Our Lady for her intercession for her vocation. Her donation is now a Donor Advised Fund, so it will continue to assist the Marian Fathers and their mission.

“I lovingly support the Marian Fathers with what I have been given,” Sr. Rose says. “I praise God and thank Him for allowing me to participate financially in spreading His Word and His apostolic work for the glory of the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Sister Rose asks only one small thing in return: “Please pray for me to persevere in my vocation.”

We certainly will, Sr. Rose!

Your support, like Sister’s, is vital to further our evangelization efforts! Visit Giving.Marian.org to discover the many ways you, too, can help the Marian Fathers.



Jacqueline (Jacqui) Kennedy is a Donor Relations Officer for the Marian Fathers. You may reach her at (413) 298-1390; jkennedy@Marian.org; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit Giving.Marian.org to learn more.





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“May all our thoughts, desires, and longings be directed toward that one goal: to bring Christ everywhere, to restore all things in His Spirit, to glorify the name of the Catholic Church in every place.”

— *Blessed George Matulaitis,
Renovator of the Marian Fathers (1871-1927)*



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GRACES RECEIVED

Three job offers

I want to share my story about how I received three job offers recently, and I believe it is through the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski.

I first found an article about him from *Marian Helper* magazine. I clipped the article and kept it posted on my fridge. At that time, I had no need to look for a job, but I knew many who were looking. Recently, though, I needed a new job, and added the prayers to Ven. Casimir from the magazine article to my regular prayers as I prayed to find a good one.

Just recently, I received three job offers, including from the company I intend to resign from. One of the offers is from a dream company, and I was happy to accept it.

So thank you, Venerable Casimir!

— HD, email

Daughter got a job after 13 months

My daughter was out of work for 13 months. We were so worried about her. We read about Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski in *Marian Helper* magazine. We did a novena as a family in November, and my daughter got the job in January! We believe it was through the intercession of Venerable Casimir Wyszynski. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Casimir.

— ME, email

Husband's tumor is dormant

Through the intercession of Venerable Casimir Wyszynski, I believe, my husband's large lung tumor shrunk and is dormant. While he was treated with radiation, and oral and IV "chemo" medicines, he stayed

remarkably healthy with very little negative side effects.

I am so grateful as the initial prognosis was not great; the doctors felt that it was either Stage 3 or 4. Thank God, there was no spreading, and now he needs no treatment! I believe that praying to God through Casimir's intercession truly brought about this wonderful result!

— SR, email



Acknowledgments of graces received through the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski (1700-1755).

'I finally received job offers'

I started looking for work beginning of 2023. I received no replies. I began to pray to Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski. Soon after, I started receiving interest in my applications. I finally received job offers in May — 3 to be exact. Thank you, Ven. Casimir!

— SR, email

Daughter-in-law gets a job offer

My daughter-in-law had been looking for a job for a long time. It was hard for her because she's legally blind in one eye and deaf in one ear. She is a smart girl; she has a master's degree in English.

I started praying to Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski that he would intercede for my daughter-in-law. After three months, she got a job offer

which she liked very much.

Thank you, Fr. Casimir!

— TF, email

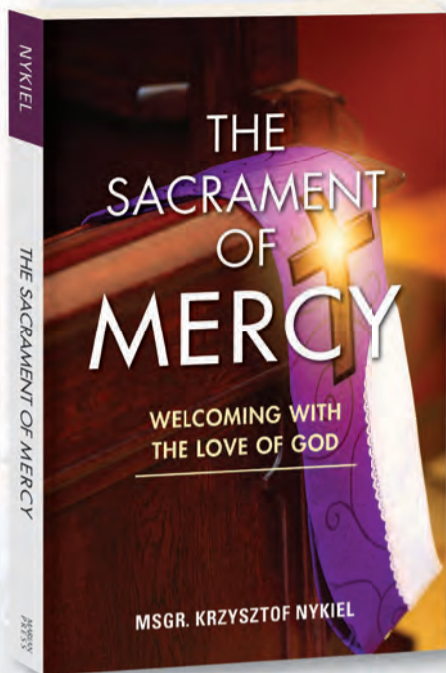
For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B62-BCWP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, P. O. Box 716, Stockbridge, MA, 01262. Email: graces@Marian.org

Prayer for a special grace through the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski

O God, Merciful Father, in the heart of Your Servant Casimir, You aroused a great zeal for accomplishing corporal and spiritual deeds of mercy; deign to grant to me (to us) through his intercession the grace ... for which I (we) implore You. Amen.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

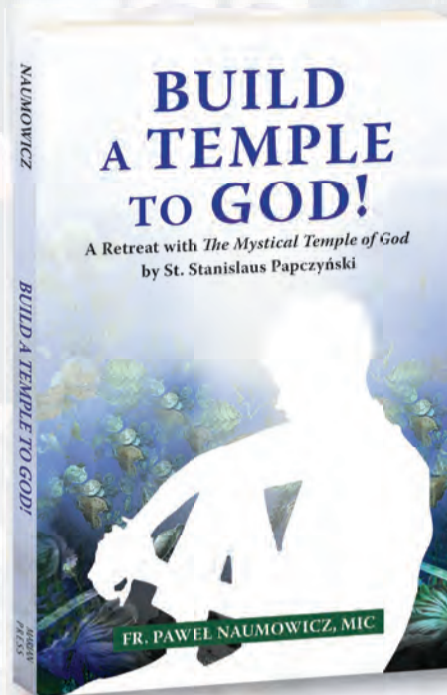
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The Sacrament of Mercy

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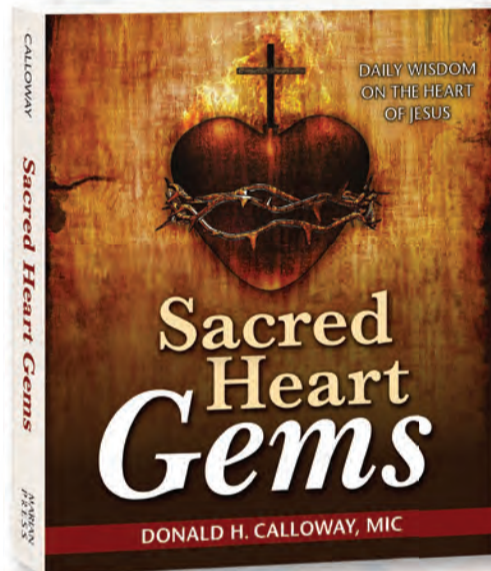
Marian Fr. Pawel Naumowicz shows us that we can look to the Marian Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński, for spiritual guidance. This 10-part retreat is about seeing God's plan towards each of us: We were desired and loved by God before the foundation of the world; through Baptism we became His temple; and we are invited to unity with God here on earth and ultimately in eternity. Paperback, 144 pages.

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Father Donald Calloway, MIC, once again gathers a treasury of wisdom from blessed, venerables, servants of God, and popes who loved the Sacred Heart. Each of the 366 days also contains an invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Paperback, 304 pages.

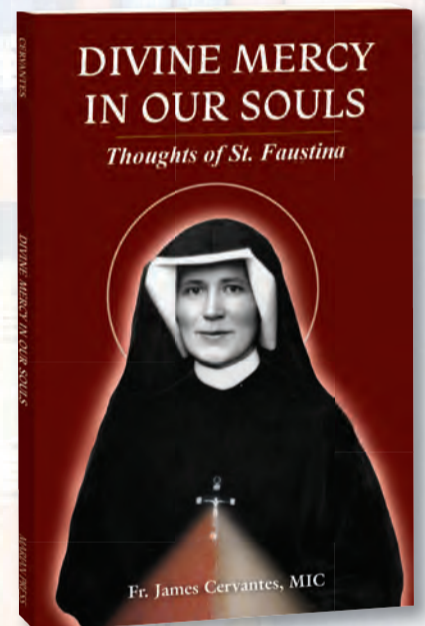
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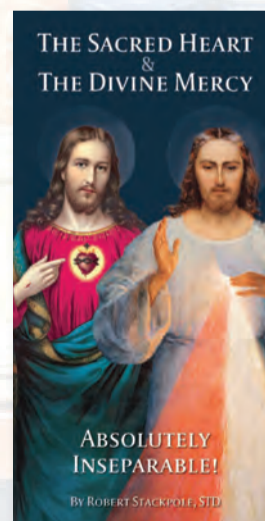
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This unique decorative piece shows a Nativity scene within a shooting star frame where Mary, Joseph, and the Three Wise Men welcome Baby Jesus. Features cream and gold swirl coloring in an LED-lighted shooting star. Measures 12 1/2" long. Made of porcelain. Takes 3 AAA batteries (not included). **B62-SHFG** ~~\$68.95~~ **\$51.95**



O Holy Night Holy Family Snow Globe

This LED swirl snow globe features the Holy Family in the center surrounded by continuously swirling glitter. Bottom reads, "O holy night, the stars are brightly shining," surrounded by stars. Measures 7" tall. USB powered or takes 3 AA batteries (not included). **B62-SGLO** ~~\$62.95~~ **\$43.95**



O Holy Night Countdown to Christmas

Let the Christmas countdown begin with this interactive Nativity scene. Move the Mary and Joseph piece each day until Christmas. On Dec. 25, flip the Mary and Joseph piece around to display the Holy Family and rejoice in the birth of Jesus. A wonderful addition to your seasonal home décor for years to come. Measures 8 1/2" tall. **B62-CDNH** ~~\$35.95~~ **\$27.95**

'Jesus is the Reason' Cardinal Nightlight

A red cardinal sits on the lower inside of a green wreath, lightly-glittered and decorated with holly, berries, and pinecones. The center of the wreath reads, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." A transparent insert allows light to shine through. Measures 5" tall. **B62-WRHN** ~~\$20.95~~ **\$15.95**



Bronze Holy Family Ornament

Let this beautiful bronze-toned Holy Family ornament remind you of the true meaning of the Christmas season. Intricate details with rich bronze coloring and detailed golden-toned accents. Ornament measures 3 1/2" tall and includes a gold cord for hanging. **B62-YYHF** ~~\$18.95~~ **\$14.95**



Holy Family, Three Kings, and Angel Ornament Set

Add some sparkle to your tree with this burgundy and glitter Nativity glass ornament set. Each measure 4 1/2" tall and comes with a silver string for hanging. **B62-HFTA** ~~\$27.95~~ **\$19.95**

Order Info

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders; 2-4 weeks for mail orders.

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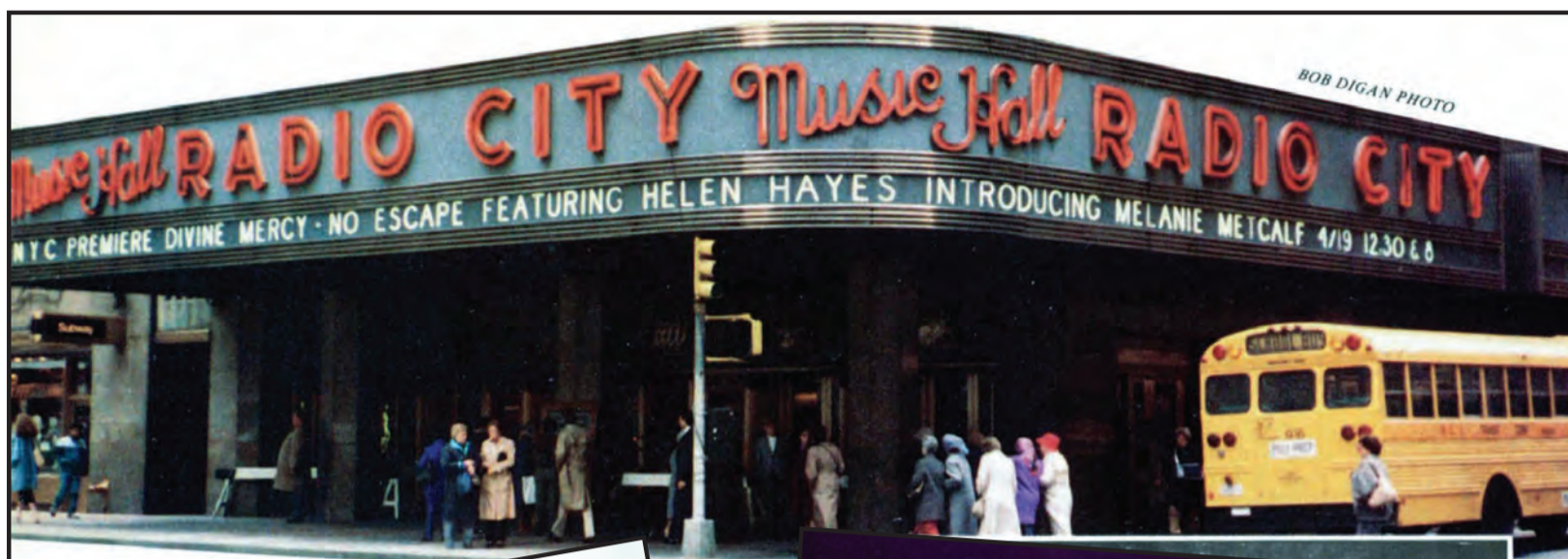
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VAULTS



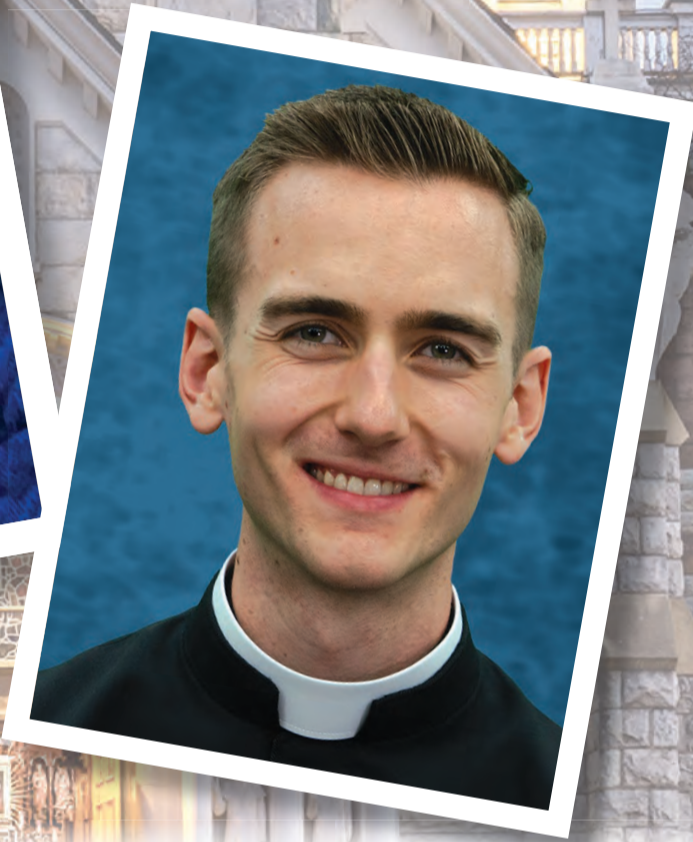
When Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, attended the red-carpet Hollywood premiere of *Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist*, the new Jim Wahlberg-produced documentary in which he and Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, make an appearance, it brought back memories of another gala premiere, 36 years ago.

On April 19, 1988, *Divine Mercy — No Escape* had its East Coast premiere at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. “America’s First Lady of the Theater,” Helen Hayes, who narrated the film, was in attendance, as well as actress Melanie Metcalf, who played Sr. Faustina.

“The world of stage and screen ordinarily have little to do with the world of cross and consecration. In American culture they usually stand opposed to each other,” wrote Fr. Gerald Ornowski, MIC (pictured above with Helen Hayes), in the summer 1988 edition of *Marian Helpers Bulletin*. This was not the case with *Divine Mercy — No Escape*. “Not only has the genius of modern cinematography been put at the service of a religious message, but the people of religion and the theater have had to relate. Both seem to have come away for the better.”

Divine Mercy — No Escape is available on the dedicated streaming website of the Marian Fathers, DivineMercyPlus.org. There you will find a vast array of spiritually enriching original and archival material for all ages, from videos to podcasts. Please visit the site and register today!

Live the call!



Marylou Del Mastro:

In the last few days of my husband's life, he pointed over his right shoulder to our Image of the Divine Mercy. He was fully aware of who had his back, which gave him great peace. This peace in knowing God's mercy is the reason that I support the seminarians. The Marians, I believe, are our hope for the future. Dedicated to Mary, they proclaim the mercy of God for the salvation of souls.

Brother Jacob, MIC:

When I attended the SEEK conference with FOCUS during my freshman year in college, I heard God calling me to discern the priesthood and to help Him save souls. I also heard a talk at that conference about Marian consecration and wanted to give my life totally over to Mary. When I learned that the Marians dedicate their lives to Mary Immaculate and save souls by spreading Divine Mercy, I knew I had to join.

Attend a retreat

Father Donald invites you to attend a VOCATION RETREAT at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio.

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Learn more

Email: vocations@Marian.org

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Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
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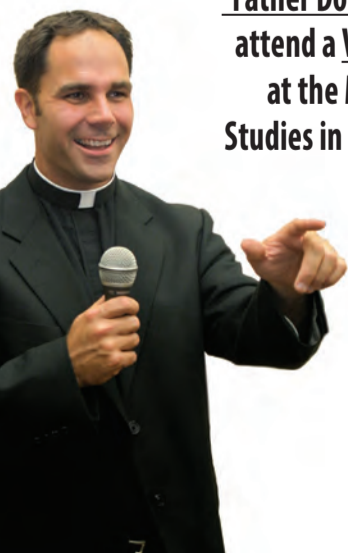
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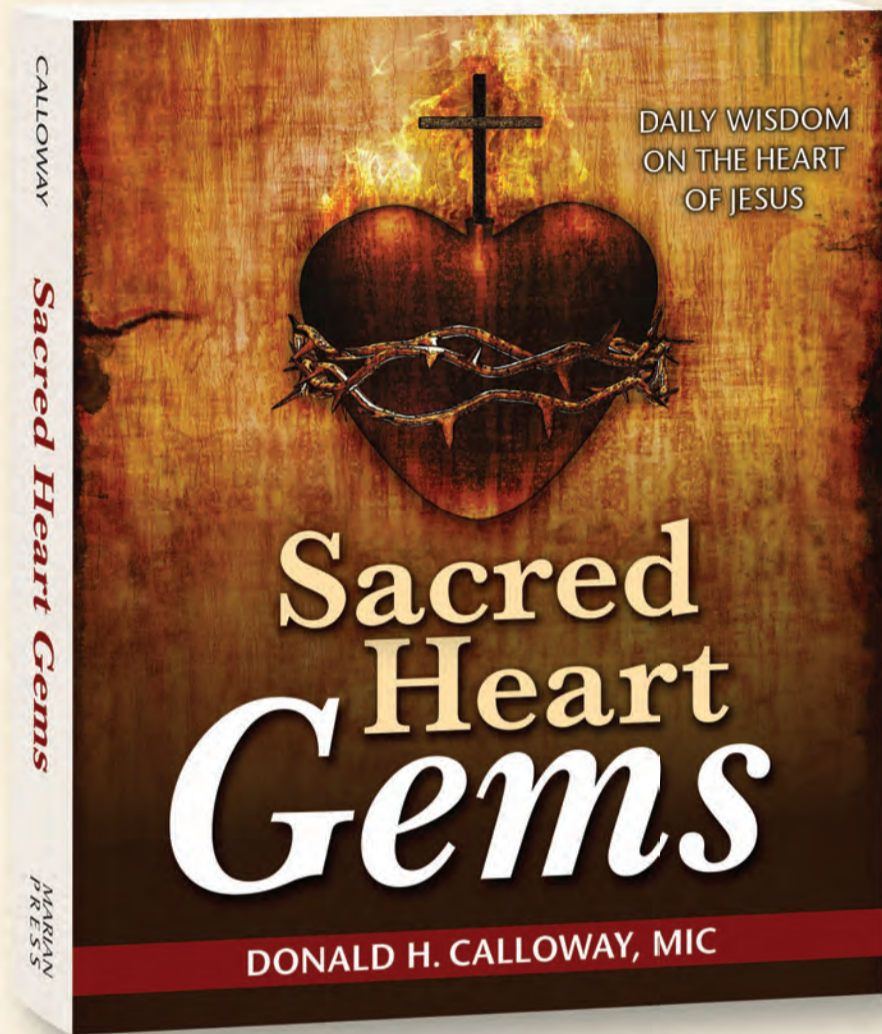
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BY FR. DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC



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