

Marian Helper

Fall 2022

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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Nearly 50 years of prayers and consistent witness paid off when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* on June 24, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. But the battle against abortion is far from over. What's next? [12 Renewing a Culture of Life!](#); [14 What would Mother say?](#); [16 June 24: The Sacred Heart of Jesus and *Roe v. Wade*](#); [18 Post-abortion healing can save a soul.](#)

8 [Update on Ukraine](#)

An extraordinary effort continues to send funds and humanitarian aid to our Marian priests and those in their care in the war zone.

20 [Vatican II at 60](#)

The Second Vatican Council opened on Oct. 11, 1962. Dr. Robert Stackpole looks to "Council saints" like John XXIII, Paul VI, and John Paul II to understand its goals and achievements.

22 [The Prayerline is a lifeline](#)

The Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline receives more than 10,000 calls every month, and Br. Stephen J., MIC, and staff are committed to pray for each caller individually.

24 [When the hills were 'alive'](#)

In her new memoir from Marian Press, pioneering journalist Peggy Stanton recalls an encounter with Julie Andrews on the set of "The Sound of Music."

26 [Do pets go to Heaven?](#)

It's one of the most common questions people have about the Catholic faith. Chris Sparks discovers the true answer is, we really don't know.

28 [American pilgrimage](#)

There's a rich history of the Catholic Church to discover right here in the United States, as Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC, learns on a journey to New Mexico.

32 [Getting to know the Founder](#)

A new spiritual treasury offers the majority of the works of the Founder of the Marians, St. Stanislaus Papczynski, in English translation.

DEPARTMENTS

[3](#) Father Joseph Writes [4](#) Marian Helpers in Action [6](#) Father Joseph's Picks [7](#) Notes from Rome [10](#) Answers to Questions
[11](#) On Eden Hill [31](#) Outstanding Helpers [33](#) Graces Received [36](#) From the Vaults

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MISSION STATEMENT

MARIAN HELPER is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation. MARIAN HELPER is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association. Printed in the USA with ecclesiastical approval. Copyright © 2022 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: editorial@Marian.org website: Marian.org

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WHO WE ARE



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The Marian Fathers are a Congregation of nearly 500 priests and brothers in 20 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.

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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.

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- A Mass offered for deceased members on All Souls' Day.
- The perpetual Novena to the Divine Mercy.



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THE BATTLE CONTINUES

Where were you on June 24, 2022? It was the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and I was in France, leading a pilgrimage to Marian shrines including La Salette and Lourdes. But news traveled at lightning speed across the Atlantic when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Could it really be true — after 49 years, *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned?

As we look back on this historic day, we owe thanks to every man, woman, and child who, over the past 49 years, advocated for life and prayed unceasingly to reach this tremendous victory. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated, it is the fruit of these labors that has brought about this momentous legal decision to uphold the natural law.

We should praise the six Supreme Court Justices who voted to overturn *Roe* for their courage in upholding the dignity of human life. Thanks to their ruling, the beating hearts of many more unborn babies will now have a chance to survive.

It is a cause for rejoicing, giving all thanksgiving and praise to God for His providential care over our nation and the lives of those entrusted to us. But it is also an occasion for renewed prayer and action because this announcement is not an end to abortion in our country.

In many ways, the battle has just begun. In this edition of *Marian Helper*, we consider practical next steps for the pro-life movement.

The matter has now returned to the states, which is where it should have been from the beginning. It puts the issue back in the hands of voters, for them to decide. We trust in the process.

Therefore, we must redouble our prayers that voters across the country will stand up for life, imitating the courage shown

by our Supreme Court Justices and demanded by God.

Abortion is not a political issue. It is a pre-eminent moral issue based in natural law that states that only God, not man, is the author of life and death. Thus, this can be seen as an act of God's mercy, as His justice could have easily sent further chastisement of our nation for the killing of tens of millions of innocent lives. Instead, God has given us the chance to start anew. Let us not reject this grace.

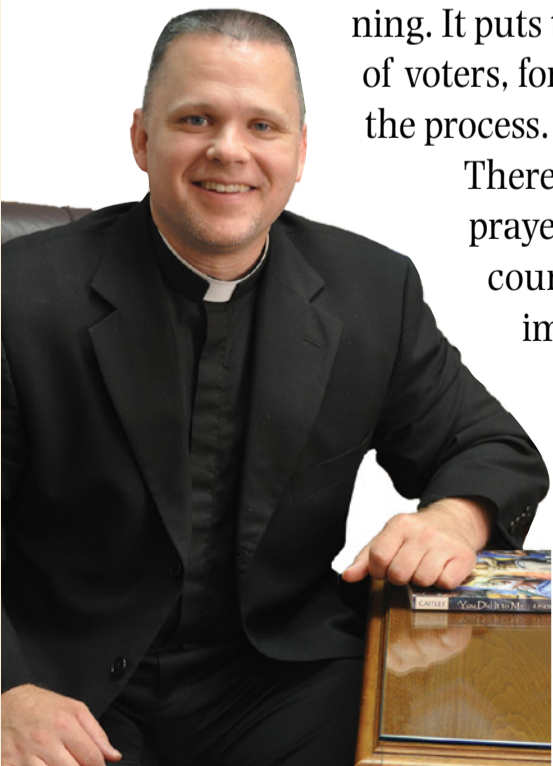
Lastly, we call on our government officials to condemn swiftly and unequivocally any violence that may result from the June 24th announcement, just as our government condemns other forms of violence, because all life is sacred.

The words of the Great Mercy Pope and defender of life, St. John Paul II, come to mind. In his homily during Mass in Washington, D.C., in 1979, he said:

We will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life. When a child is described as a burden or is looked upon only as a means to satisfy an emotional need, we will stand up and insist that every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift of God, with the right to a loving and united family.

To which we can add a resounding "Amen!"

Fr. Joseph, MIC



"Father Joseph, MIC," is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. The current director is the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC. On July 29, 2022, Fr. Chris was also named the new interim Provincial Superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province in the United States and Argentina, which is headquartered at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

‘Master, I want to see’

PHOTO BY FARRINI ON UNSPLASH



As a 10-year-old, Leslie Beck beseeched Jesus to restore her sight – and the first thing she saw were lilacs in bloom outside her window.

By Marian Friedrichs

She could see the lilacs. It was May, and they were in full bloom. She had seen the couch first, because it was beside the couch that she had knelt to say her prayer.

Now, Leslie Beck gazed in astonishment through the picture window in her family’s living room. There was her front lawn. There were the lilac bushes. They looked as they had when she had last seen them, before she had lost her sight, two years earlier when she was 8 years old. Now, Leslie found herself staring out the window and speaking the words, “Oh, my gosh, I can see!”

Leslie Beck, now 65, grew up in a farming community outside Spokane, Washington. The area is a housing development now, but when Leslie was a child, it was countryside where she lived on a farm with her mother, father, older brother, and older sister. In 1964, a tainted batch of MMR vaccines caused a variety of health problems in many children of the community. Leslie contracted encephalitis, which affected the lining of her brain and the retinas of her eyes. She was hospitalized for a year. Leslie remembers having her hands tied to

keep her from clawing at her eyes.

“The pain was so terrible,” she says.

Never lost hope

Doctors told Leslie’s parents that there was no hope of her regaining her sight. They recommended putting her in a special facility for blind children. Leslie’s parents did

not take this suggestion, and so, unable to go back to her former school, Leslie was allowed to, as she says, “run wild on the farm.” Until the day she knelt beside that couch to pray.

Leslie’s family was not religious. Her father was a non-practicing Catholic, her mother an atheist. Still, Leslie says, she always “had a strong faith in Jesus” and believed He was

present in her life.

On that spring day in 1966, Leslie approached her mother and asked if Jesus might restore her sight if she asked Him. Her mother quipped laughingly, “Well, you can try.”

Leslie decided she would, indeed, try. She walked into the living room, felt for the couch, and knelt beside it. “If

Despite the doctors’ grim report and her parents’ lack of faith, Leslie turned to Jesus with trust, and her eyes were opened.

it's Your will, Jesus," she prayed, "would you restore my sight?"

A moment later, she says, "It was like I was in a dark room and someone turned the light on."

Leslie, then age 10, does not recall her parents' reaction to her healing, although she knows they were very happy. She does remember the subsequent visit to the doctor. He examined her eyes and found the same atrophy of the optic nerves, the same scarring on the retinas that had caused her blindness. And yet it was undeniable that Leslie — suddenly and inexplicably — could see. She returned to school.

"Things were normal again," she recalls.

Searching for God

For Leslie, normal life included a quest for God. "I was always searching," she says. "I read the Bible, but I didn't understand about the one true Church." Leslie attended many different churches during her young adulthood. In her 20s, she was introduced to the Rosary and "prayed it on and off" for years. "I really fell in love with Mama Mary," she says.

But before Leslie finally made her way home to the Catholic Church, she had to pass through another terrible time of darkness. At the end of 2004, Leslie's son committed suicide. Yet even amidst profound grief, Leslie "felt such a comfort and closeness to the Lord." Responding to God's invitation to draw still closer to Him, Leslie started praying the Rosary and reading the Bible more regularly.

One day she realized, "I want to be Catholic. I think that's my home." Leslie entered the Rite of Christian Initiation program and was baptized in 2006 at the age of 50.

Very soon after she became Catholic, Leslie bought a

copy of *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. Her heart responded immediately to the Divine Mercy message, and the Chaplet became part of her daily prayers. Today, Leslie is not sure how many times she has read the Bible, and she is currently reading St. Faustina's *Diary* for the third time. "I'm trying to understand my faith," she says.

As soon as Marians Fr. Chris Alar and Br. Jason Lewis' book, *After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You* was published, Leslie read it. The book offered her consolation and hope, not only for her son's soul, but for that of her grandfather as well, who took his own life when Leslie's mother was a teenager. Jesus' message of trust in God's mercy encourages Leslie to be "confident they are both in Heaven."

Eyes opened

When the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, became aware that Jesus was passing by, he called out, "Jesus, son of David, take pity on me!" The crowds tried to hush him, but he repeated his plea until Jesus sent for him and asked what he wanted. To the blind man's simple request — "Master, I want to see" — Jesus gave an equally simple reply: "Go in peace; your faith has saved you" (Mk 10:47, 51-52).

Despite the doctors' grim report and her parents' lack of faith, Leslie turned to Jesus with trust, and her eyes were opened. After decades of searching and the anguish of a mother's loss, she submitted to Christ's loving guidance and entered His Church.

Leslie's journey shows just how much Jesus will do for a soul who has enough faith in His power and goodness simply to ask for His pity and trust that He will grant sight and salvation. Leslie's faith in the merciful God saved her. And she has peace.

MH

WELCOME NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR!

On July 29, 2022, the Most Rev. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC, Superior General of the worldwide Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, announced a change in leadership of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province of the United States and Argentina, which is headquartered at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

The Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, is the new interim Provincial Superior, succeeding Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, who has held the position since 2011. Father Kaz had expressed a desire to be



dispensed from the administrative burdens of the position and return to pastoral ministry.

On Aug. 3, the Feast of the Angels, Fr. Chris was formally sworn-in (left) as Provincial Superior at the National Shrine in the presence of Marian Fathers and Brothers. Father Anthony Gramlich, MIC, rector of the National Shrine, kneels beside Fr. Chris.

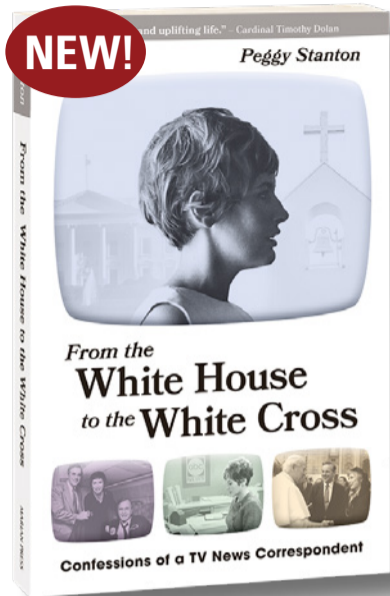
Please keep Fr. Chris and Fr. Kaz in your prayers, and know that they are praying for all our Marian Helpers throughout the world.

MH

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As we approach the season of new school years, reaping what we have sown, and counting our blessings, help prepare your heart and mind with some of these excellent resources on our faith and the difference it makes in our lives.



FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE WHITE CROSS CONFESSIONS OF A TV NEWS CORRESPONDENT

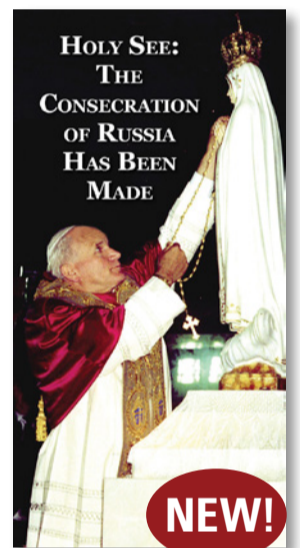
BY PEGGY STANTON

Peggy Stanton served ABC-TV as the first female news correspondent in Washington, DC, in the 1960s. Opening up the journals she kept for decades, *From the White House to the White Cross* offers an entertaining and revealing glimpse into a storied world of glitz and glamor. Her perspective — and life — change unexpectedly during a visit to Medjugorje, where, in her words, “the Master attempts to chisel a poor piece of clay into what He intended her to be.” Paperback, 280 pages and 16 pages of photos. \$14.95. **B55-WHWC**

HOLY SEE: THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA HAS BEEN MADE

(Pamphlet)

What's the deal with the consecration of Russia by the Holy See? Why have we not seen the full, final Triumph of the Immaculate Heart and the launching of the era of peace, promised by Our Lady at Fatima? This pamphlet explains the truth — Pope St. John Paul II completed the task in 1984 — and much more. **B55-CORT**



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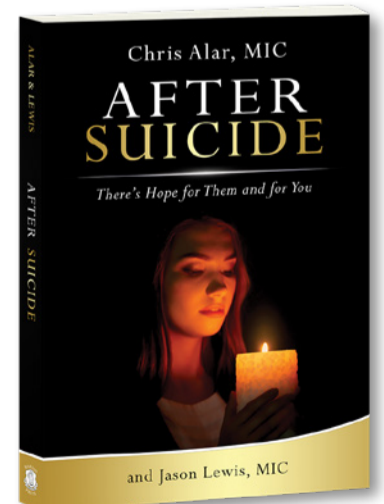
OUR LADY, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: PATRONESS OF THE USA SINCE 1847 (Pamphlet)

The Patroness of the Marian Fathers — Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception — is also the Patroness of the United States of America. This pamphlet tells the story of how she became our nation's patroness and gives the history of one of the most iconic parts of the Marian heritage: a holy image depicting “Our Lady, Immaculately Conceived” that's been around as long as the U.S.A. **B55-IMLT**

AFTER SUICIDE: THERE'S HOPE FOR THEM AND FOR YOU

BY FR. CHRIS ALAR, MIC, AND BR. JASON LEWIS, MIC

Addressing the hard issue of suicide simply and pastorally, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Br. Jason Lewis, MIC, draw from the teaching of the Church, the message of Divine Mercy, and their own experience of losing a loved one to offer readers two key forms of hope: hope for the salvation of those who've died by their own hand, and hope for the healing of those left behind. This book is a must-read for all those trying to make sense out of such a difficult subject. Remarkably, the spiritual principles of healing and redemption apply not only to a loss from suicide, but by any means of death. Paperback, 195 pages. \$14.95. **B55-ASTH \$14.95**  **SPANISH: B55-HSPA**





A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Located in our Roman House is the International Marian College to which our Marian priests come for further studies after ordination. This year, there will be six young Marian priests studying here. Let's hear from one:

Can you tell us a little about your background? When were you ordained?

My name is Fr. Emmanuel Habumuremyi, MIC. I was born in 1986 in Rwanda. I studied in the minor seminary because I felt a desire to be a priest because of the good example of a priest whom I had seen when I was 6 years old. In 2008, I began my formation in our Congregation. The charisms connected with the desires of my heart, in particular, the devotion to Mary and praying for the souls in Purgatory. After philosophical studies in Rwanda and theological studies in Cameroon, I was ordained a priest in 2016.



Father Emmanuel Habumuremyi, MIC

What kind of work have you done as a priest so far?

After my ordination, I was appointed vicar of the parish of Nyakinama and chaplain of the youth. I was responsible for vocations in our vicariate in Rwanda. I traveled to parishes in various dioceses speaking to Christian youth about the call of God and our Congregation. My joy was full during an unforgettable vocational gathering in which 650 young people and 120 religious from 38 congregations participated.

I was then appointed pastor of the parish of Ruyenzi, in the diocese of Kabgayi. Caring for the souls of the parish was not an easy task for me, but God's graces in each moment were always with me.

You came to Rome one year ago. Can you tell us about your experiences?

After arriving in Rome, I studied Italian for three

months. Last October, I started studying spiritual theology at the Salesian Pontifical University, specializing in the formation of formators and vocational animators. Before training others, you must first be trained. The future of the Church on the missionary level requires a strong preparation of the workers in the vineyard of the Lord. Human and Christian values are visibly threatened. These studies will allow me to give my contribution in the formation of future

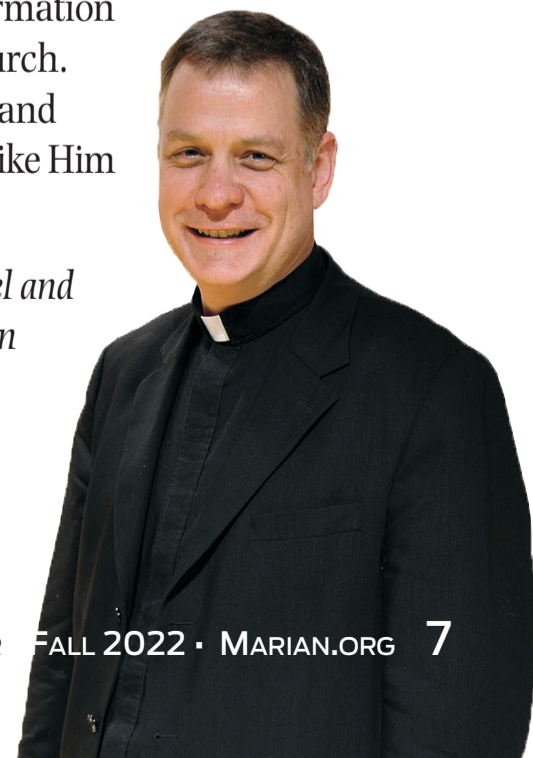
Marian Fathers capable of accomplishing the mission of the Church in all places and in all circumstances.

I never thought I would arrive in this city, which I consider to be the Little Heavenly Jerusalem. Setting foot on the ground which witnessed the martyrdom of the great Apostles Peter and Paul gives a special feeling. Seeing the Holy Father in person and visiting the Roman basilicas and the shrines in Italy dedicated to saints like Francis, Clare, and Benedict have left a deep impression on me.

What will you write your final thesis on?

An analysis of the experience of the Marian Fathers in Rwanda doing religious formation at the service of the local Church. Formation prepares disciples and apostles of Christ to become like Him in every age and place.

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



Father Joe Roesch, MIC, is the vicar general of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome. Listen to his new podcast, reading and reflecting on "The Imitation of Christ," on TheDivineMercy.org.



A priest ministers to a resident in the Marian Fathers' Mercy House in Gorodok, western Ukraine.

AN UPDATE FROM UKRAINE

By Chris Sparks

The daily news headlines may be few and far between, but the war continues in Ukraine (as we go to press, in its seventh month), as does the need for humanitarian and medical aid. The Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers also continue in our service to those in need, suffering as a result of Russia's unjust, illegal invasion of an independent, sovereign nation, home to the largest Eastern Catholic Rite (the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church [UGCC]) in the world.

Project C.U.R.E.

The indefatigable work of Nurse Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN, founder and head of the Marian Fathers' Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy apostolate, and Dr. Bryan Thatcher, founder and head of the Marian Fathers' Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy apostolate, has produced remarkable fruits. Their collaboration with Project C.U.R.E. has allowed a steady stream of medical and humanitarian aid to reach the Marian



Fathers in Eastern Europe, which has then reached the Ukrainian people both in and outside the country.

"To date, we've shipped 81 pallets of goods to the Marians in Poland/Ukraine, with a Gift-In-Kind value of nearly \$1.5 million (\$1,499,537)," said Kristin Robinson, Kansas City executive director of Project C.U.R.E.,

in a July 12 email. "There are 11 additional pallets in the queue for shipment, and then two containers that are in the planning process set to sail in the coming weeks."

"Three-hundred emergency beds from Project C.U.R.E. were provided to the Marians' Mercy House in Ukraine," stated Dr. Thatcher, "allowing those patients — even the

wheelchair bound — to get off the concrete floor and into a bed. We need everyone's help to continue this work. In addition to medical aid, we are facing a humanitarian crisis of insufficient food and water."

Nurse Marie noted that the Oliver-Hoffman Foundation has also provided significant monetary assistance

and 15 pallets of desperately-needed medical supplies. “Both Bryan and I are deeply grateful to them and the Marian Helpers who are so generous,” she said. “Each day that goes by, we are working on shipments and procuring medical and humanitarian supplies. We are determined to continue with this corporal work of mercy, no matter how difficult.”

The response to our update on the situation in Ukraine in the last *Marian Helper* has been outstanding, said the Very Rev. Fr. Joseph “Joe” Roesch, MIC, vicar general for the Congregation of Marian Fathers.

“I would like to thank all of the Marian Helpers who have done so much to help our Marian priests and their parishioners who have been living under the constant threat of death, especially in Kharkiv, where they have been under almost continuous attack,” said Fr. Joe. “I encourage you to continue to pray for them and support them in any way you can since this terrible war marches on unabated.”

Need remains

“I would like to thank you for your financial support and your prayers for the end of the war, peace, and reconciliation,” added Fr. Wojciech “Wojtek” Jasinski, MIC, general treasurer of the Congregation. “The innocent Ukrainian people suffer death, injuries, homelessness, despair. Ukraine still needs our support.”

“We Marian Fathers around the world are doing whatever is possible to sustain hope among our Marian brethren in Ukraine who have stayed there to help those in great need,” Fr. Wojtek continued. “My brothers provide shelter, medicine, food. They provide hope and strongly believe that soon peace and victory come.”

“We are able to continue our ministry in Ukraine because of you, our wonderful benefactors,” Fr. Wojtek concluded. “May our Merciful Lord pour upon you His blessings of love and mercy. May Our Mother, Immaculately Conceived Blessed Virgin Mary, intercede for you always and protect you.”

Please visit [Marian.org/Ukraine](https://www.marian.org/ukraine) to make a donation for Ukraine relief. One hundred percent of donations are used to help cover the cost of humanitarian and medical assistance for Ukraine and refugees in Poland.

In the midst of the terrible Russian attacks against his

own country, the chief Catholic prelate in Ukraine offered an extraordinary teaching on loving one’s enemy.

“Ukraine is standing, Ukraine is fighting, Ukraine is praying and learning to overcome,” said Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the UGCC, in a July 14 message from Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. “These days, there were many questions about how to overcome the hatred of the enemy who kills us, how not to be angry when you



see all the crimes that are taking place on our land.

“Today I want to invite everyone to pray for us to be able to turn our anger into the virtue of courage through our meekness and long-suffering.” Archbishop Shevchuk continued. “Let us pray today for our army, our defenders, the girls and boys who defend our Ukrainian land with their bodies. Let us protect our hearts from anger and hatred, let us be filled with the virtue of long-suffering, so we can resist evil for a long time, and the enemy does not first fill our hearts through the demon of anger.”

All of the Major Archbishop’s daily messages can be found at news.ugcc.ua/en/ugcc-head/ along with other news from our Catholic brethren of the UGCC.

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC – SOMETIMES

By Chris Sparks

“How can you still be Catholic when the music at Mass is so awful?”

I was once asked a very similar question by an ex-Catholic. He wanted to know if I thought the Mass was boring. After all, it’s the same thing every week, the routine doesn’t vary much, the music is bad, and honestly, wouldn’t it be much better to worship God in a more free-flowing, changeable sort of way?

I said, “Boredom is a really bad reason not to worship God.”

Solitary conceit

That said, yes, sometimes I don’t like the music at Mass. But in this, Catholics do not suffer alone. C.S. Lewis of *Narnia* fame had a similar opinion of the hymns at Anglican services:

I disliked very much their hymns, which I considered to be fifth-rate poems set to sixth-rate music. But as I went on I saw the great merit of it. I came up against different people of quite different outlooks and different education, and then gradually my conceit just began peeling off. I realized that the hymns (which were just sixth-rate music) were, nevertheless, being sung with devotion and benefit by an old saint in elastic-side boots in the opposite pew, and then you realize that you aren’t fit to clean those boots. It gets you out of your solitary conceit.

Not to say that all objections to Mass music involve “solitary conceit,” of course.

There are standards for sacred music that Catholic musicians playing at Mass should adhere to. Sixty years ago, Vatican II dedicated an entire chapter of *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*) to the question of sacred music. The Council Fathers clearly placed a high importance on the music traditionally used in the Liturgy of the Church, saying, “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value,

greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy” (112).

We are all supposed to sing at Mass, not just the choir. (Singing is praying twice, St. Augustine allegedly said.) We are meant join our voices to the endless praise and thanksgiving offered to God in the heavenly worship. And what does the Church recommend we sing? The Church

acknowledges Gregorian chant as especially suited to the | Roman Liturgy. Therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place. But other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded, so long as they accord with the spirit of the liturgical action.

There’s an artistic standard — the music should be beautiful and appropriate for use at Mass — but there is also a lot of room for people to write new music and for traditional styles of music from all over the world to be incorporated into use in the Liturgy.

Not the point

I leave it to the liturgists and musicians to discuss whether what’s current practice throughout America is the most faithful implementation of the letter and spirit of Vatican II. But even if the music at a particular parish is awful, remember

that the point of the Mass is not the music. The point of the Mass is Jesus Christ, present in Word and Sacrament to the Mystical Body of Christ. We are to seek to present a more beautiful Liturgy, yes — because it’s appropriate that we offer our very best efforts to God when we gather to worship Him. But that growth in beauty should remain faithful to the norms and teaching of the Church.

So bad music is a problem where it exists, and it should be corrected if possible. But it’s certainly not worth ceasing to be Catholic because of bad music.

Adapted from How Can You Still Be Catholic? 50 Answers to a Good Question by Chris Sparks (Marian Press; Product code B55-BCBB)

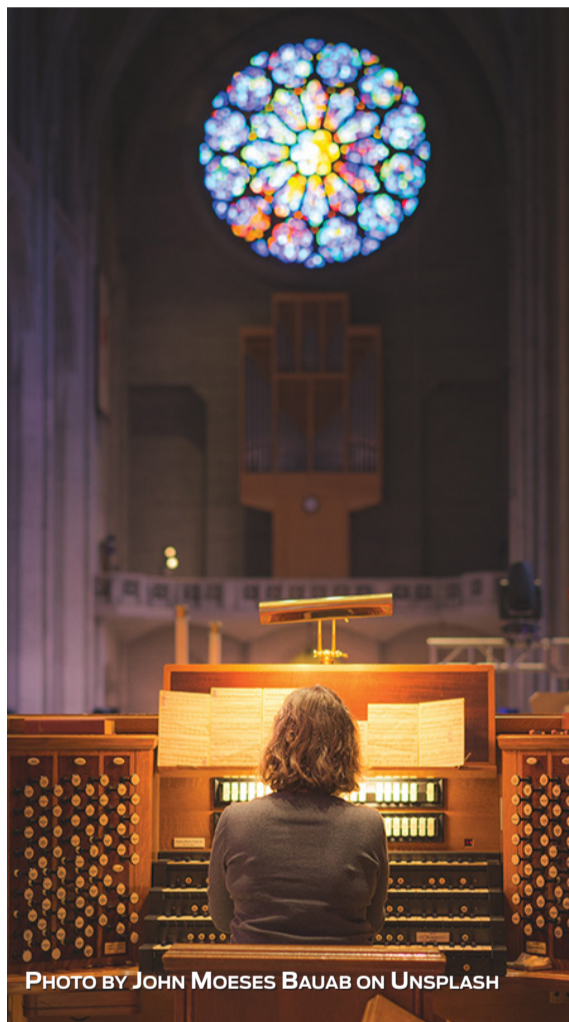


PHOTO BY JOHN MOESES BAUAB ON UNSPLASH



¡ENCUENTRO!

The August heat wave did not deter more than 50 buses with thousands of pilgrims from journeying to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Aug. 6 for “Encuentro Latino 2022,” a day of celebration dedicated to the Latino community. What made the event even more special was its joyous return after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic.

Father José Siesquen Flores (below) was the principal celebrant of Mass at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. The day included music, dancing, a Rosary procession, catechetical talks, opportunity for Confession, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, as well as time for food and fellowship, and sharing the healing message of Divine Mercy. “I come here with a lot of things on my heart,” said one pilgrim from New Jersey, “but God is here and is telling me it’s going to be okay.”

MH



Renewing a Culture of Life!

By Maria V. Gallagher

I was taking part in a lovely Irish dancing festival in the Catskills when I heard a message that would change my life forever.

A priest who hailed from the Emerald Isle had been invited to celebrate Mass for the festival-goers. During the homily, he recounted his shock and horror over a politician's refusal to sign legislation protecting preborn babies from the barbaric practice of partial-birth abortion, in which a baby is partly delivered, then killed.

At the homily's conclusion, he sang an Irish ballad

**After
'Roe'**

that spoke to a mother's sacrifice for her child. I began to weep, and I knew that the time for dancing had passed. I felt a calling to become more actively engaged in helping pregnant women and their babies amidst what Pope St. John Paul II referred to as the "Culture of Death."

I would eventually leave my career in secular journalism behind to work full-time in the pro-life movement. My goal was to work for the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states.

Like Anna in the Temple

I was in Atlanta for the National Right to Life Convention on June 24 this year when I heard the news that *Roe* had been overturned. I was overcome with emotion in the moment — I felt a little like Anna in the Temple, having finally laid eyes on the Savior after years of praying for His arrival. I had prayed so long and so hard for the demise of *Roe*, I could scarce believe that I had been granted the privilege of seeing the end of the *Roe* era in my lifetime.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* returns the issue of abortion policy to the individual states. As of this writing, some states have taken life-saving action to protect preborn babies at the earliest stages of development. Others have laws in place that permit abortion throughout pregnancy.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where I live, we are working to pass an amendment to the Pennsylvania constitution which declares that there is no constitutional "right" to taxpayer funding of abortion. The amendment would also ensure that the people, through their duly elected representatives, decide abortion policy, rather than the courts.

Much work to do

Whether you live in a state where the law largely protects preborn babies, or in a state that does not, there is much work to do to renew the "Culture of Life" that Pope St. John Paul II spoke about. After all, an estimated 63 million unborn babies have died from legal abortion since 1973. Countless mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers have been left to grieve children lost to abortion. We are in the rebuilding phase of our society, trying to pick up the pieces after the devastation caused by the *Roe* regime.

It is a daunting task, but we need to be committed to undertake it, for the sake of our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and students. Our young people have grown up in an abortion culture. It will take a concerted effort to introduce them to the beauty and truth which a Culture of Life has to offer.

People have been asking me, "Post-*Roe*, what happens now, and what should I do next?" Organizations such as National Right to Life and its state affiliates offer timely information about both pro-life and anti-life legislation. (Visit nrlc.org for details.) While the Supreme Court wisely determined there is no federal constitutional right to abortion, advocates for abortion continue to try to pass legislation in Congress to not only uphold abortion, but to expand it.

The situation means that we must be vigilant in our

lobbying efforts on both the state and federal level. We must be willing to take the time to call, email, write, and visit our legislators, and let them know that human life should be protected from its earliest stages.

Listen, then talk

Sadly, many of our families are deeply divided when it comes to the issue of abortion. In such cases, it is wise to talk to God about your family member before you try to broach the subject. In fact, I have found over the years that when I am engaged in one-on-one conversations about abortion, it is best to listen more than I talk. When I do talk, I am more inclined to ask questions than to make pronouncements.

I have discovered that so many people are misinformed when it comes to abortion and other issues involving the sanctity of human life. By clearing up misconceptions, I can plant a seed that perhaps can blossom in the future.

I recall that when I was a secular journalist, a representative from a right-to-life organization wrote me a note, thanking me for an interview I had conducted with her. I kept that little pink note in my desk drawer for years. It was instrumental in helping me to re-evaluate the issue of abortion and ultimately become a pro-life advocate. So you never know where even modest efforts at pro-life persuasion might lead.

People will also be drawn to the cause by your pro-life example. As St. Teresa of Calcutta noted, we can do small things with great love. Whether it's taking part in a diaper drive at church, sorting baby clothes at a pregnancy resource center, or volunteering to baby-sit the children of a couple in your parish, you can make great strides in rebuilding a culture of life in your own community.

Finally, the late Fr. John Hardon, SJ, a holy and gifted priest, used to say that there is no stopping abortion without the Eucharist. Please consider making a monthly or weekly Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament for the cause of the protection of human life. Offer your reception of Holy Communion for a pregnant woman facing challenging circumstances.

With God's help, we can create a culture that honors life as the irreplaceable gift that it is!

A journalist and mother, Maria V. Gallagher works on education and legislation for the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, the state affiliate of National Right to Life. She is the author of Joyful Encounters with Mary: A Woman's Guide to Living the Mysteries of the Rosary (Marian Press; Product code B55-JYMY).

MH

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Mother Teresa was delighted to meet Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle's son Joseph in March 1989 during a visit to a Missionaries of Charity convent in New Jersey.

What would Mother say?

By Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Etched upon my memory is the first conversation I ever had with Mother Teresa, the “Saint of the Gutters,” who died 25 years ago. It was a hot summer day filled with holy surprises. My family and I had participated at a private Mass at a Missionaries of Charity convent. We had no idea when invited that Mother Teresa would be with us. We didn't know we would be very blessed to also have a private audience with her afterwards.

After Mass, in the convent's foyer, I tried to digest the amazing blessings of being so close to a saint, while holding onto my toddler daughter Jessica so that she couldn't run around the convent! That's when Mother Teresa approached and asked an unexpected question.

“Is this the baby who was singing at Mass?” *How lovely!*

She referred to a somewhat noisy child as a singing baby!

The petite nun placed her worn, wrinkled hand on

Jessica, nestled in my arms, my children Justin and Chaldea nearby. Mother declared, “Your children are very lucky to have a family.” The Albanian-Indian nun, dressed in a simple cotton sari, was accustomed to seeing children in other sorts of situations. Many families to whom she

ministered were broken and miserable in some way, or severely impoverished — their lives dangling on worn spindly threads.

The blessing of family

Mother Teresa could not have known that I had been an abandoned single mother for many years or that I had lost three babies to miscarriage.

**After
'Roe'**

I quickly responded. “I am so blessed to have them in my life!”

Mother Teresa took time with us. A beautiful conversation unfolded. Each word she uttered pierced my heart. I was struck by Mother’s great love for human life which seemed to exude her pores. I deeply experienced her love for us, too — feeling extremely comfortable with her, as if she was my grandmother; someone I had known all my life. Reflecting now, I realize it was Jesus in her Who comforted and blessed me.

Nothing could possibly top that day — or so I thought. As my life would unfold, Mother Teresa became my friend, spiritual director, and sweet mother as we kept in touch over the next 10 years. In God’s amazing Providence, I would be with my saintly friend on 12 more occasions, have a phone conversation with her between Calcutta and the United States, and be blessed to receive 22 letters from her. Mother prayed me through two precarious pregnancies, which included heart conditions and a profuse uterine hemorrhage. Though 35 years ago, I’m still unpacking it and trying to share the blessings.

When asked, Mother Teresa gave speeches, but for the most part, she didn’t jump up on the nearest table to preach the Gospel to the masses. She was all about meeting each person where they were and evangelizing with God’s love and mercy — one on one. She truly lived Jesus’ instructions: “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Mt 25:40). Recognizing Jesus in everyone, she served Him there. She called the unfortunate, “Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor.”

It was so important to Mother Teresa, great saint of mercy, to tell the world about the intrinsic beauty and sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death by preaching against abortion and through rescuing orphan babies and placing them in families after personally caring for them. She encouraged love within the family.

Mother often ministered to the dying, sometimes reaching them in their last moments, lifting them up out of gutters, showering them with dignity, comfort, and love. And they smiled at her and closed their eyes to enter their eternal reward. Life is intrinsically valuable and lovely at every moment.

At Mother Teresa’s canonization in 2016, a reporter asked me what advice she would give. I said she would tell

us to lift our eyes off our devices and pay attention to the person standing before us. We miss out on life and opportunities to serve others (even with a kind smile) by spending too much time on technology and latest status updates. God expects us to be present to the people He gives us to love and serve.

Indeed, we are living in times of great change and extensive division. How are we to react, give example, create change, and protect human life? The question of abortion has now gone from the national level down to the state level, to the local communities. How would Mother Teresa guide our pro-life witness?

Pro-life witness

Now, more than ever, we should become educated about issues surrounding abortion and the sanctity of

human life. We need facts from trusted sources. We should be prepared to give a holy and helpful witness when called upon, and know where to send people for necessary help.

Mother Teresa, a model of the works of mercy, has illustrated the way forward as Catholics and therefore as pro-life citizens of the United States. Praying, being attentive to needs surrounding us, and taking time to listen and be present helps us discover the silent cries of “Jesus in the distressing disguise” from those who might initially appear all put together. We can offer our prayerful help, time, and resources.

Opportunities abound, beginning in the family, setting foundational examples and broadening our reach to help

and educate when out and about in our neighborhoods, parishes, communities, and workplaces.

Let’s not fear the evil one’s tactics that aim to silence the truth about the intrinsic beauty and sanctity of every human life. Instead, we earnestly and prayerfully arm ourselves with the knowledge and truth of God’s love and mercy and courageously move forward with His grace to impart it to others.

As Mother Teresa once told me, “Do everything for the glory of God and the good of His people.” Let’s do that, changing the world one on one — one by one.

Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle is a Catholic wife, mother, and grandmother. She is an EWTN TV host and author of more than 35 books, including 52 Weeks with Saint Faustina (Marian Press, Product code B55-WEEKS) and Divine Mercy in a Woman’s Life (B55-DMFW).

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Now, more than ever, we should become educated about issues surrounding abortion and the sanctity of human life. We need facts from trusted sources. We should be prepared to give a holy and helpful witness when called upon, and know where to send people for necessary help.

June 24



PHOTO BY ARTURO REY ON UNSPLASH

After
'Roe'

The Sacred Heart of Jesus and *Roe v. Wade*

By Br. Elliott, MIC

On the liturgical Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 24, 2022), the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Coincidence? Or divinely inspired?

It certainly comes as no surprise, when you consider the history of papal invocations of the power of the Sacred Heart to change the world.

A little less than a century before *Roe v. Wade*, Pope Leo XIII noted that there was “a sort of wall being raised between the Church and civil society.” What did the Vicar of Christ do? Leo XIII asked for the whole human race to be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“Such an act of consecration, since it can establish or draw tighter the bonds which naturally connect public affairs with God, gives to States a hope of better things,” the Holy Father predicted in his 1899 encyclical letter *Annum Sacrum*. “The whole human race is most truly under the power of Jesus Christ.”

Does this mean that after this consecration all evil in society was eradicated?

The short answer is, of course, no. In fact, Pope Pius XI sought reparation (or restitution) to the Sacred Heart in his 1928 encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor*.

“Since in the last century, and in this present century, things have come to such a pass, that by the machinations of wicked men the sovereignty of Christ Our Lord has been denied and war is publicly waged against the Church, by passing laws and promoting plebiscites repugnant to Divine and natural law,” Pius XI observed. “Even now, in a wondrous yet true manner, we can and ought to console that Most Sacred Heart which is continually wounded by the sins of thankless men.”

Good fruit

So, was the consecration to the Sacred Heart useless if it didn’t seem to do much? Again, the short answer is no. Even though the early- and mid-20th century was wracked by war and assorted evils, the consecration to Christ’s divine and Sacred Heart did bear good fruit. We know this because a third pope, the successor of Pius XI (Ven. Pius XII), also wrote about the Sacred Heart. In his 1956 encyclical *Haurietis Aquas*, Pius XII wrote, “The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has triumphed, so to speak, over the errors and the neglect of men.”

When so many evils meet Our gaze — such as cause sharp conflict among individuals, families, nations and

the whole world, particularly today more than at any other time — where are We to seek a remedy, venerable brethren? Can a form of devotion surpassing that to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be found, which corresponds better to the essential character of the Catholic faith, which is more capable of assisting the present-day needs of the Church and the human race?

Certainly not. Pius XII cited two benefits of devotion and reparation to the Sacred Heart that have inspired the pro-life movement: Mary’s spiritual motherhood and Divine Mercy.

**A century before
Roe v. Wade, Pope
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to the Sacred Heart
of Jesus.**

Spiritual motherhood

“Mary the beloved Mother of God and the most loving Mother of us all,” Pius XII wrote, “She who gave birth to our Savior according to the flesh and was associated with Him in recalling the children of Eve to the life of divine grace has deservedly been hailed as the spiritual Mother of the whole human race.”

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has fostered a spirituality and devotion

to Mary’s Immaculate Heart, a mainstay of the pro-life movement. Women have a role model for authentic femininity and motherhood as they look to Mary and learn that they, too, are beloved daughters of the Father. Mothers look to how Mary cared for Jesus when He was an infant in the womb. “The adorable Heart of Jesus Christ began to beat with a love at once human and divine after the Virgin Mary generously pronounced Her ‘Fiat,’” Pius XII wrote.

Divine Mercy

A second benefit that stems from devotion/reparation to the Sacred Heart is *Divine Mercy*. Divine Mercy affects pro-life work inasmuch as we show merciful love to the most vulnerable, those in the womb.

“Christ Our Lord, exposing His Sacred Heart, wished in a quite extraordinary way to invite the minds of men to a contemplation of, and a devotion to, the mystery of God’s merciful love for the human race,” Pius XII wrote. He echoed the words of Pope Leo XIII, who wrote, “[T]here is in the Sacred Heart a symbol and a sensible image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love one another.”

The defeat of *Roe v. Wade* on this year’s feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was no coincidence. May we continue to show gratitude and reparation to Christ’s most Sacred Heart, and continue to have the courage and fortitude to turn to the Sacred Heart in our upcoming campaigns for the sanctity of life at all stages.

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PHOTO BY BEN WHITE ON UNSPLASH

POST-ABORTIVE HEALING CAN SAVE A SOUL

By Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC

Thank God for the end of *Roe*. Thank God for the end of the legal fiction of a right to legalized abortion on demand in the United States of America.

It's true that the end of *Roe* merely sends the issue

back to the individual states. We don't live in a country where abortion is illegal across the board. But we do live in a nation that has undone a great, tragic, historic injustice. The unborn are no longer quite as vulnerable under the laws of our great nation as they were before.

The costs and the consequences of *Roe* have been beyond imagining. Tens of millions of innocent, unborn lives lost; tens of millions of women exploited by a predatory abortion industry; tens of millions or more of immortal souls put in jeopardy.

Before *Roe* went away, the Catholic bioethicist Charles Camosy did the research and pointed out in his book *Beyond the Abortion Wars* that only around 1 percent of abortions are for reasons of rape or incest, and only a further 1 percent were sought to protect the life and physical health of the mother. That means that for years, 98 percent of all abortions were essentially elective surgery. And worse: So many post-abortive women have shared that they were forced into it, either by their parents, the father of the child, or other circumstances. So many women wanted to keep their children, but felt that, for whatever reason, they had no other choice.

Culture of Death

How right Pope St. John Paul II was to write in his great encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, “We are confronted by an even larger reality, which can be described as a veritable structure of sin. This reality is characterized by the emergence of a culture which denies solidarity and in many cases takes the form of a veritable ‘culture of death.’ This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic and political currents which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency” (12).

How right Pope Benedict was to say in a [2006 address](#), “God’s love does not differentiate between the newly conceived infant still in his or her mother’s womb and the child or young person, or the adult and the elderly person. God does not distinguish between them because he sees an impression of his own image and likeness (Gn 1:26) in each one.”

How right Pope Francis was to say in his [Oct. 10, 2018 Wednesday general audience](#), “Is it right to take a human life to solve a problem? It’s like hiring a hitman.”

How terrible is the loss of life from abortion; how grave the sin (though there is always hope for the salvation of those involved in this practice). We must pray for those women tempted to abortion through doctor’s advice.

Advice refused

Indeed, I am alive today because my own mother refused such advice, thanks be to God! My mother was having difficulty when she was carrying me, and it was

suggested to her that maybe she shouldn’t carry me to full term because it might endanger her life. She and my father discussed it, and for whatever reason, the decision was that she was going to make the sacrifice if necessary to bring me to term. She didn’t have a pleasant last three months of pregnancy, but obviously, I did get born, full term. As a matter of fact, I was four days late. I’d like to continue in my possibly erroneous belief I’ve done more good than harm, so maybe it’s been a blessing I was able to make it to full term.

So help save souls; pray the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) for those contemplating abortion, those working in the abortion industry, and those misguided souls defending unjust laws permitting the taking of innocent human life in the womb. Pray for the conversion and healing of pro-choice minds and hearts; pray for women facing nearly impossible situations or pressured into abortion; pray for the conversion of clinic workers, abortionists, etc. Pray also for the new evangelization to successfully replace a culture of death with a culture of life, leading to a civilization of love.

The Holy Souls

But our works of mercy shouldn’t just encompass the living. We owe the dead our assistance, as well. As we approach Nov. 2, the Commemo-

ration of the Faithful Departed, the Church redirects our focus to praying for the [Holy Souls in Purgatory](#) for the entire rest of the month of November. This work of mercy is so badly needed today. So few people practice their faith in the West, and so many people are dying without the Sacraments, either through disease, disaster, war, or any of the other terrible tragedies taking place in our world today.

Let’s pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who are there because they had some connection to abortion. Potentially, that includes the mothers, doctors, nurses, politicians — anyone who has some temporal punishment due for their connection to the sin of abortion. One powerful way to do that is to include the names of deceased abortionists, abortion clinic workers, pro-choice politicians and activists, or people who’d had or supported abortions in our November remembrance.

Finally, let’s ask the intercession of [St. Faustina](#) and the souls of aborted children to intercede on behalf of the cause of life, for the conversion of hearts, the salvation of souls and lives, and the defeat of the culture of death.

Saint Faustina, pray for us!

[Father Dan Cambra, MIC](#), is spiritual director of the [Holy Souls Sodality](#). Visit [PrayForSouls.org](#) for more information. MH

We invite you to join the Marians this November in our month-long remembrance of all the faithful departed. Visit [Marian.org/b55](#) to join us in our November remembrance.



A session of the Second Vatican Council in St. Peter's Basilica.

VATICAN II AT 60

‘Christify,’
not
modernize,
the world

By Robert Stackpole, STD

Almost every ecumenical council in the history of the Church has been followed by a period of lively debate: What goals did the Council Fathers intend to achieve, and how should we interpret the results? It's similar to the way a freshly-baked cake is judged at a baking contest: What was the baker trying to do, and how well did that baker accomplish the task?

The Second Vatican Council, which opened 60 years ago on Oct. 11, 1962, is no exception to this general rule. Just as you can best understand the goals and achievements of bakeries by listening to the master bakers involved, so we can understand the goals and

achievements of Vatican II by paying attention to the saints, the best friends of Christ, who actually attended its proceedings and participated in fashioning its documents: saints like Pope St. John XXIII, Pope St. Paul VI, and Pope St. John Paul II.

Any interpretation of the Council that is not in harmony with their perspectives also is not likely to be in harmony with what the Holy Spirit wanted to say to the Church through Vatican II.

Historical context

To begin with, we need to see the Council in the con-

text of history. For most of the three centuries prior to Vatican II, the Church dealt with the non-Catholic world by issuing warnings and condemnations against its apostasies and errors.

For example, *The Syllabus of Errors*, issued by Pope Bl. Pius IX in 1864, and the encyclical *Caritate Christi Compulsi* by Pope Pius XI in 1932 “read the riot act” (so to speak) to the forces of radical secularism assuming control of the modern world at the time.

It is easy to characterize such salvos by the Church’s hierarchy merely as “reactionary,” “judgmental,” or “counter-productive.” Authentic love and mercy, however, sometimes needs to take the form of “tough love.” In some circumstances, the most loving thing one can do for others is to warn them about the very real dangers they are running when they wander from the safety of the Catholic faith and embrace utopian political agendas instead (e.g. Masonic republicanism, communism, or fascism).

A purely defensive attitude, however, is not the best way to win the world for Christ. How can the Church express a positive vision of her faith in a way that the modern world can hear it? — a central concern expressed by the bishops at the Council in the conciliar document *Gaudium et spes*, “Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.”

One of the ways they addressed that concern was to ask the faithful to consider: Is everything going on in the world today just darkness and error? The document *Ad Gentes* (“On the Missionary Activity of the Church,” no. 3) called upon us to remember the missionary strategy adopted by St. Paul on the Areopagus in Athens in Acts 17, where he began with the true insights already present in the writings of the pagan Greek philosophers and poets as a springboard for presenting them the greater light of the Gospel.

Such a missionary strategy is not without its dangers, of course. We have to be careful not to compromise the Catholic faith, mixing it with elements foreign to what God has revealed to the Church that can only serve to distort it.

Outside, not inside

At the same time, from an honest look at human history since the coming of Christ, we can see that the impetus for clarifying and unfolding new insights (although these insights already are contained, at least implicitly, in the divinely revealed truth of the Catholic faith) sometimes arises first from *outside* of the boundaries of the visible Church, rather than from inside.

Take, for example (as Vatican II itself did), the commitment to religious liberty for all. The Council recog-

nized that freedom from coercion in matters of religious belief and practice is a fundamental human right, a right entirely in accord with the principles of Holy Scripture and the Catholic faith. Here Vatican II focused especially on the doctrine of the inherent dignity of the human person: Since all human beings are persons, made in the image of God — a truth also accessible to some extent to all human beings by the proper use of human reason — it is a violation of that dignity to force anyone to believe and act in violation of their conscience.

The Council thereby scandalized some arch-traditionalist Catholics, who (wrongly) concluded that the Council document on religious freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae*, contradicted previous, definitive teachings of the Church’s magisterium on the subject. Ironically, liberal-radical commentators (wrongly) seized upon this Council document as evidence that a principal goal of the Council was to “modernize” the Church, bringing it up to date and in line with contemporary, secular thinking.

‘Christify’ the world

In an interview in 2012, however, Fr. (now Bishop) Robert Barron pointed out that according to SS. John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II, Vatican II was primarily a missionary council, not a modernization council. The true spirit of Vatican II was its goal of laying the groundwork for the new evangelization, embraced in a big way by the Marian Fathers and those others spreading Divine Mercy, especially online. Vatican II, Fr. Barron said, “wanted to ‘Christify’ the world [that is, to sanctify the world by bringing it to Christ] ... The trouble is, our generation, roughly speaking, got the ‘Let’s modernize the Church’ agenda. And it was a misreading of the council ... Paul VI, who was a Vatican II man in his bones, got that and, hence [his encyclical], *Evangelii nuntiandi*. John Paul II, who was a Vatican II man in his bones, got it and, hence, the new evangelization.”

That is why, in the teachings of Vatican II, you find a fresh clarification, and new emphasis on the role of the laity — especially you, *Marian Helpers* — in bringing the Gospel to the world, sanctifying the arenas of work and family life with the Spirit of Christ. Vatican II also called attention to the needs of fallen away or alienated Catholics who simply have forgotten who they are — indeed, a world in which most people have lost any sense of their identity as *imago dei*, and their inherent dignity as creatures called to be sons and daughters of God in the fullest sense: redeemed and sanctified by the merciful love of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Robert Stackpole is director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy.

MH

‘To pray
for the
living and
the dead.’



Brother Stephen J., MIC, the outgoing Prayerline supervisor, left, stands with Br. Ben, MIC (the incoming supervisor), and staff members Miriam, Br. Paul, OLA, and Barbara.

THE PRAYERLINE IS A LIFELINE

By Br. Stephen J., MIC

Adjacent to the left front side of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, are the Our Lady of Mercy Oratory and Candle Shrine. Sharing a wall with the Oratory is the office of the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline. People call or write this office from all over the U.S., and even other countries, to leave their intentions with one of our intercessors.

The Prayerline receives all the requests for prayers sent to the Marian Helpers Center — phone calls (1-800-

804-3823), voicemails, emails (Marian.org/prayerline), and snail mail. We receive more than 10,000 calls every month, but we are committed to pray with each one individually.

When Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC, asked me to consider taking on the position of prayerline supervisor for one year, I was surprised at the choice. I had not volunteered much at the Prayerline, and I was not confident of my own ability to lead a department, despite reading multiple

books on business, conflict resolution, and organization. Nevertheless, I accepted the position, hoping to learn much and to serve well.

Closer to God

Arriving in late May, I was soon trained in the basic responsibilities of the Prayerline by the departing supervisor. When he left in June, however, I relied on my three staff members — Barbara, Miriam, and Br. Paul, OLA — to inform me of tasks and events that arose during the year. Each one contributes unique gifts and skills to the Prayerline, and all three have been very helpful and patient with me.

The mission of the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline is to lead others closer to God by our prayers, bringing them and their intentions to Him so that He can answer them in accordance with His holy will. Practically, this means that we receive calls from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), and pray with each caller on the line.

We pray with people for all kinds of prayer requests. Many times, people bring us their ordinary concerns for family, friends, healing, conversion of sinners, or the repose of a loved one's soul. Major public concerns are also reflected in our callers' intentions: COVID-19; war and suffering in Ukraine; countless fallen-away Catholics; violence in our cities and schools; abortion; the safety of public officials and their conversion. We receive calls from people struggling with mental illness, depression, guilt, loneliness, and even (rarely) suicidal thoughts.

Answered prayers

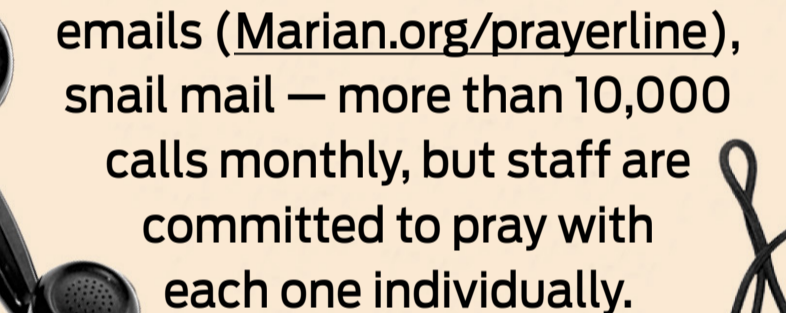
We also receive calls of praise and thanksgiving for answered prayers — some that appear to be genuine miracles. A woman who had surgery to remove *part* of her pancreatic cancer suddenly learned that it was entirely gone. A man who suffered serious trauma during brain surgery recovered enough to be re-hired by his former employer a few years after the surgery. Another man with a heart transplant lived for 16 years afterward — the longest known survivor of such a transplant — and his family credited it to faithfully praying the Chaplet. A baby whose intestines were growing outside him, for whom the doctors recommended an abortion, was born in perfect health. And a couple suffering infertility for 13 years, and considering the problematic *in vitro* option, called to thank God for giving them a son by natural conception.

Every day, we have callers thank us for praying with them — some, indeed, see the Prayerline as a kind of lifeline connecting them to God. We try not to form personal

attachments to callers — we are primarily ministers, not simple friends, and so we refer all thanks and glory to God from Whom all good things come.

We've also had some surprise calls. On one volunteer's first day, a woman called to pray that a friend, just passed away, would be "raised from the dead"! The volunteer didn't feel ready for this, and asked if I would take the call. After I spoke to the woman for a moment about her intention, I realized that she was not trying to force God's hand, but genuinely believed He could do the miracle, so we prayed together. (I never found out the result of that one.)

In addition to answering prayer requests, the Prayerline takes care of the Our Lady of Mercy Oratory and Candle Shrine. We prepare for the 11 a.m. weekday Masses and keep a supply of free pamphlets on Mary, Divine Mercy, and St. Joseph just outside the Oratory. The candle shrine contains over 2,500 seven-day candles, and we receive an average of 2,200 candle requests (by mail or online) per week. We light candles every Thursday.



The Prayerline receives phone calls (1-800-804-3823), voicemails, emails (Marian.org/prayerline), snail mail — more than 10,000 calls monthly, but staff are committed to pray with each one individually.

Work of Mercy

Once I had learned my basic responsibilities, I quickly made them into daily or weekly routines, so that I could focus on larger priorities. The day is never long enough to get everything done, but there's always time to work toward the most important goals. My first goal as supervisor of the Prayerline was to deepen my own prayer life so as to be a more effective intercessor and helper for my staff. I was happy to learn, then, that the Oratory held Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from our 11 a.m. Mass until 4 p.m., and that I was expected to take an hour each day.

I thank God every day for the Prayerline, and for the privilege He has given me in serving our mission, our intercessors, and all those who request prayers. We practice constantly the seventh spiritual work of mercy — "To pray for the living and the dead" — and this is a natural outgrowth of the Marians' commitment to Divine Mercy. MH



20TH CENTURY FOX, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Christopher Plummer (Captain von Trapp) and Julie Andrews (Maria) on the set of “The Sound of Music.”

When the hills were ‘alive’

By Peggy Stanton

It’s June 1964, and I am on my first overseas assignment. Journalists from all across the United States are guests of 20th Century Fox Film Corporation. Fox is hoping that the stories we will write and/or televise about their three “roadshow” movies, all in production in Europe, will dispose of rumors that the company is no longer a thriving movie enterprise, despite its near-bankruptcy due to cost overrun from the film “Cleopatra.”

The movies we will report about are “The Sound of Music,” filming in Salzburg, Austria; “The Agony and the Ecstasy,” filming in Italy; and “Those Magnificent Men

in Their Flying Machines,” in production in London. We will interview the stars, the producers, and the directors, and visit the movie sets for a rare inside view of filmdom in action.

I am barely out of college, a TV news reporter working for WISN-TV. It is my first job after graduation. I am still learning the trade, still guessing as to the proper location of the who, what, where, how, and why of a story.

On my own

When I am sent on assignment, I am always accompanied

by a cameraman who understands technology, which I do not. On this journey, however, I am on my own. My cameraman has not been invited. So I borrow a tape recorder and buy a camera, neither of which I know how to operate.

My fellow sojourners are sophisticated scribes, keenly attuned to the world of entertainment. I am a reporter educated in politics and government, reared by a mother who strictly follows the Catholic Church's Legion of Decency film ratings. She deems Hollywood "Hell's Toolshed," which has had the effect of denying my presence at most box office hits.

In short, my first trip to Europe is a fabulous adventure that I am ill-equipped to cover.

Our initial stop on the itinerary is Salzburg, Austria, and the set of "The Sound of Music." We are unprepared to fall in love with Mozart's hometown in the land of stringed music and lederhosen, as well as with star Julie Andrews. The word most often used to describe her incandescent quality is "glowing." There is nothing of the diva about this unassuming, somewhat shy young actress. Quite the opposite. There is an aura of genuine humility. With her cropped almond-colored hair, she is naturally lovely. She is also open and candid.

At 28, Julie Andrews is just three years older than me. She is not well known to moviegoers, as she usually performs in the theater. On stage in London and Broadway, she starred as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" opposite Rex Harrison. When, however, it is decided to make a film of the play, Julie loses her role to the more established movie star Audrey Hepburn, a great disappointment.

She is, however, very earnest in her efforts to perfect her performance in "The Sound of Music," a quality especially evident as we watch her rehearse a difficult moment.

Multitasking

Our first morning on the set, we stand on the side of a dirt road to observe the careful preparation for filming Maria the postulant exiting the convent to enter the household of Captain von Trapp, where she will become governess to his seven children. Maria is frightened, and to bolster her morale, she dances and sings her way to the von Trapp mansion.

It is an exercise in multitasking. The actress must dance down the road, carrying a suitcase in one hand and a guitar in the other, while synchronizing her lips

perfectly to the words of the song "I Have Confidence," which she has prerecorded.

In order to visualize how she will appear on screen performing this feat, Julie sits astride a camera dolly with film director Robert Wise, observing her choreographer, Mark Breaux, executing the dance exactly as she must. So precise is his rehearsal that he, too, lip-syncs the song. Then it is Julie's turn to attempt the dance. For a number

of trial runs, she is dressed in casual attire, black slacks and white blouse.

As the morning fades into afternoon, Julie dons her Austrian costume, dancing and lip-syncing her way down the dirt road again and again. Director Wise tells me there may be as many as 20 rehearsals out of costume and just as many in costume. Julie later confides that her day begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. Discovering how much effort and tedium goes into what I had thought a glamorous profession is an eye-opening revelation.

The tedium does not end with film takes. Julie must endure endless interviews with us junketeers. She graciously submits.

I, being the neophyte of the troop, am last to the question box. Julie has been queried about every conceivable aspect of her profession, from costume to cosmetics. What, I wonder, is there left to probe?

Young Mom

"Is there anything you haven't been asked, that you would like to be asked?" I whisper.

"We could talk about my baby," Julie responds wistfully.

I later learned that, while many in the cast enjoyed late-night sing-a-longs at the hotel with Christopher Plummer playing the piano, Julie was upstairs in her room, being a mom to her 18-month-old daughter, Emma.

Had Julie Andrews succeeded in playing Eliza Doolittle on screen, she would not have been available to accept the role of Maria von Trapp. "The Sound of Music" became the number one box office hit of all time and held that title for five years. The film grossed \$286 million. "My Fair Lady" took in only \$72 million at twice the production budget. In later years, Julie admitted that "The Sound of Music" made her movie career.

Peggy Stanton was ABC's first female TV correspondent in Washington, D.C., in the 1960s. Excerpted from her memoir, From the White House to the White Cross, published by Marian Press. To order, visit ShopMercy.org/b55 (Product code: B55-WHWC) or call 1-800-462-7426.

MH

While many in the cast enjoyed late-night sing-a-longs at the hotel with Christopher Plummer playing the piano, Julie was upstairs, being a mom to her 18-month-old daughter, Emma.

Do pets go to Heaven?

By Chris Sparks

Ask any pet owner if their beloved Fido, Kitty, or even Pudgie will join them one day (God willing) in Heaven, and the answer is always an emphatic “Yes!”

This has to be one of the most common questions people have about the Catholic faith. Of course, in the face of the grief of a person who has lost a beloved pet, it’s hard to say anything other than yes.



But the true answer is, we really don’t know.

The Church does not teach definitively whether or not there will be animals in Heaven, or in the new earth after the Resurrection of the dead. The Scriptures do describe animals at peace in the new creation (see, for instance, Is 11:6-9; 65:25), but that may be symbolic.

Aquinas says

Saint Thomas Aquinas held, according to his followers, that there would be neither plants nor animals in the new world after the end of time. He didn’t put his answer in writing, since he left his *Summa Theologiae* unfinished when he died in 1274. It was completed after his death by his students, and they settled on animals being excluded from the afterlife.

However (brace yourselves!), St. Thomas Aquinas and his students have not always been right — we see that in his rejection of the Immaculate Conception, which the Church later defined as infallible dogma in 1854.

Apologist and author Jimmy Akin points out that the “standard theological analysis” has generally been that animals would not be in Heaven, but that this is not binding. Generally, the reasoning is that human persons are immortal because we have spiritual souls; animals, on the other hand, have a lower sort of soul, a merely animal and not personal soul. The Church has not taught in a binding or official way on this point, Akin says.

Philosopher Peter Kreeft, on the other hand, asks in *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Heaven: Why not?*

Much more reasonable is C.S. Lewis’ speculation that we will be “between the angels who are our elder brothers and the beasts who are our jesters, servants, and playfellows” (*That Hideous Strength*). Scripture seems to confirm this: “thy judgments are like the great deep; man and beast thou savest, O Lord” (Psalm 36:6). Animals belong in the “new earth” (Revelation 21:1) as much as trees.

He also cited C.S. Lewis' theory about animals sharing in the salvation of their human masters as humans share in the life of Christ. Our pets, then, may in some fashion follow us to Heaven, elevated and sanctified when we are elevated and sanctified.

When a pet is not a pet

There's a further possibility, hinted at from the lives of the saints. We know that angels can arrange matter to look like whatever God wills and permits. So some pets may be waiting for their masters in Heaven because the "pet" wasn't an animal at all, but an angel assigned to them. Consider the famous example of St. John Bosco's mysterious dog Grigio, whom he considered a possible guardian angel. The dog would appear when he needed it and, on at least one occasion, disappeared from inside a house with the doors and windows shut. It lived for at least 20 years with no sign of slowing down.

Also, remember that St. Faustina saw demons under the appearance of a pack of black dogs (see *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 320). If fallen angels appear like that, then holy angels can certainly do it, as well! Still, best not to leap to any conclusions that one's own

beloved pet is actually an angel-in-disguise without some solid evidence. Non-angelic pets too can be a great blessing from God.

Further, as my colleague Zeke Chichester likes to point out, from the eternal perspective, all of creation, past, present, and future, is present to God simultaneously. That means that every animal, every plant, everything that ever has existed, is existing, or will exist, in some sense, is before God. All of creation depends on the knowledge and love of God for existence, and the knowledge and love of God are eternal, everlasting.

Also, as C.S. Lewis hypothesizes, things that are part of our lives may be part of our eternal lives. During apparitions to saints and mystics, the saints appear clothed as they were in life, at times carrying tools or objects associated with them; Jesus and Mary, the two people we know for sure whose soul and body are already reunited, appear to visionaries clothed.

If non-living things like clothing have a place in the next world because of their connection to adopted sons and daughters of God, there's no reason to definitively exclude living things like pets.

There may be hope yet for Fido, Kitty, and Pudgie. MH



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Questions? Contact Ellen Miller at EMiller@Marian.org or (413) 298-1380.

American pilgrimage

By Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC

When most people consider making a pilgrimage, they think about traveling to holy places like Rome, Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, or the Holy Land. As a priest, I have been blessed to go on pilgrimage as a chaplain to many of these sacred sites. However, many do not consider making a pilgrimage in their own country. While it's great to travel to other countries, we may need to be reminded of the rich history of the Catholic Church here in the U.S.

When I heard that 206 Tours was looking for a chaplain for a pilgrimage to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in June I jumped at the chance. It turned out that the people who were leading the pilgrimage were neighbors of mine in Steubenville, Ohio — Tom and Noëlle Crowe.

Know your history

Tom and Noëlle are the hosts of a podcast called *American Catholic History*. As Tom kindly shared with me: “Knowing your own history helps you understand your own place in your community and your area. It helps you have a perspective on what sacrifices and struggles people went through to bring the faith to your own area.



Father Angelo and pilgrims in the Loretto Chapel before the “Miraculous Staircase.”

Catholics and Catholicism are everywhere in our nation’s history.”

Catholicism has had a unique place in the history of the southwest, especially in Santa Fe. The history of Catholicism in the city of “Holy Faith” began in 1598, when Juan de Oñate arrived from New Spain with 500 Spanish settlers and nearly 7,000 head of livestock. With him came 10 Franciscan priests who established the first Spanish missions in New Mexico.

My fellow pilgrims came from various parts of the United States, and we were all of varying nationalities, cultures, and backgrounds. During the four full days of our pilgrimage, we visited the Christ in the Desert

Benedictine Abbey; Cristo Rey Church (which houses the reredos of Our Lady of Light); the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi; the San Miguel Mission; Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe; Cross of the Martyrs; San Felipe de Neri Church in Albuquerque; El Rancho de las Golondrinas; and the Georgia O’Keefe Museum.

One highlight of the pilgrimage was the Loretto Chapel and the “Miraculous Staircase.” As the story goes, when the chapel was completed in 1878, there was no way to get to the choir loft, which was 22 feet above. The carpenters said that the only solution was to put in a ladder because a staircase would interfere with the interior space of the already small chapel.

To find a solution, the Sisters of Loretto made a novena to St. Joseph, the patron saint of carpenters. On the ninth and final day of the novena, a man appeared at the chapel with a small donkey and a toolbox looking for work. Months later, the elegant spiral staircase was completed, and the carpenter disappeared without pay or thanks. After searching for the man and finding no trace of him, the Sisters concluded that it was St. Joseph himself who had come in answer to their prayers. Today, the “Miraculous Staircase” is a true marvel to see.

America’s Lourdes

Another highlight was our visit to El Santuario de Chimayo. Legend has it that this holy site produces earth with miraculous healing powers. In 1813, a man named Bernardo Abeyta uncovered a crucifix that was buried on the site and requested permission to build a chapel in honor of the crucifix of “Our Lord of Esquipulas.” The chapel was built around the hole where the crucifix was found. Today, the hole or “El Posito” is in a separate room towards the rear of the chapel. It is the sacred well where pilgrims come to kneel and pray and collect the healing earth. El Santuario de Chimayo is often referred to as the “Lourdes of the Americas,” as thousands of pilgrims journey to Chimayo for healing.

My fellow pilgrims and I were blessed to have had such a spiritually enlightening pilgrimage to Santa Fe. It was interesting to learn about the history and growth of the Catholic faith in this area of the country, and how God has



El Santuario de Chimayo, the “Lourdes of the Americas.”



La Conquistadora, Our Lady of Peace, in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe.



The Cross of the Martyrs, honoring the death of 21 Franciscan friars in 1680.

and continues to be present to the people of New Mexico.

As one of my fellow pilgrims, Deacon Matthew Fung, observed, “People go on a pilgrimage for different reasons, but perhaps all pilgrims undertake their journeys to get closer to God. A major spiritual insight I gained from the pilgrimage is a greater awareness of God’s presence in my life.”

Father Angelo Casimiro, MIC, is the house superior and formator at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio. MH

The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.

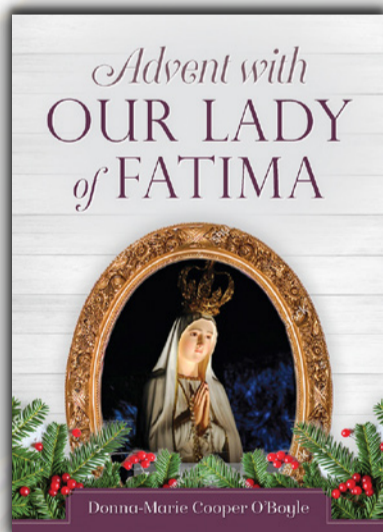
— St. John Vianney



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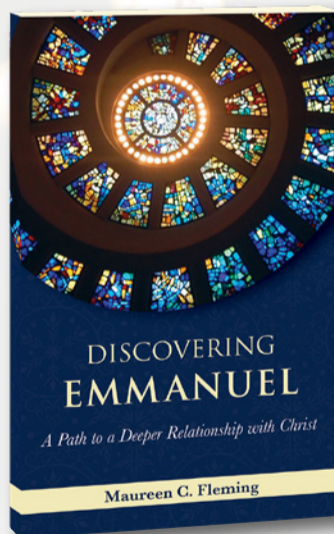
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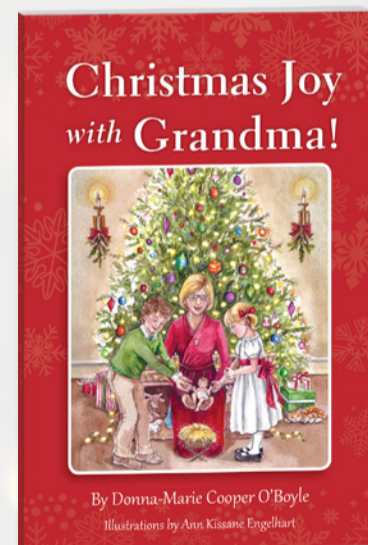
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A LIFE LESSON IN TRUST

Ever since she was a small child, Bernadette (Putt) Stratton had a strong feeling she could not shake. You see, she just knew the hand of God was on her. It often made her uncomfortable because she wanted to be in control. After all, she had big plans for her life, and thought she knew better!

Fast forward to the present, and each morning, before she even gets out of bed, Bernadette says a prayer that begins: “Good morning, Jesus; good morning, Blessed Mother; good morning, St. Joseph. Good morning, St. John Paul II, St. Padre Pio, St. Bernadette, St. Faustina, St. Thérèse, St. Catherine of Siena, and to my dear Guardian Angel.” She considers all of these dear friends.

How did she go from willful to willing?

Bernadette grew up in a faith-filled home, one of eight children in the small farming community of Auburn, Michigan. Her parents were very devout, especially her mother. It was her mother who took a young Bernadette to her first retreat where she first heard about Padre Pio. “This was the first time the Holy Spirit really infused me,” she recalled. It made such an impression on her that she carried the retreat pamphlet in her purse!



God's presence

She led a charmed life, until God made His presence felt in a big way. “I had three number ones in my life: my mother, my husband and my faith,” Bernadette explains. “So when God wanted to get my attention, He knew exactly how. He had to take away everything else.”

Her mother's death was the catalyst. Fifteen months later, her husband of 27 years committed suicide. She remembers feeling completely shattered and praying, “Dear Jesus, are you ever going to be able to put me back together?” These were dark, painful days. She began “constant chattering” to the Lord and cultivated a relationship with Jesus. “I realized my mistake. **He** always should have

been number one.”

After a particularly hard night, Bernadette woke up on the floor with a profound feeling of peace, and she says Jesus has never taken that back. “I surrendered, 100 percent. I was all his from that day, in 2001, no ifs, ands or buts.”

From there, the relationship grew and deepened and she knew Jesus would take care of her. “He gave me 50+ years to do what I wanted, knowing that I should be doing something different.”

But there was more: *three* battles with cancer! But at this point, “It was me and the Lord.” She walked through this fire with the confidence and peace of trust. “I knew it was God's will and that some good would come of it. I just love Jesus.”



Need for priests

Bernadette also loves the Marians, and is especially drawn to Fr. Don Calloway after attending a Divine Mercy conference joining him on a pilgrimage to Lourdes (St. Bernadette) and Lisieux (St. Thérèse). “All the Marian priests are so talented — solid, holy men, and I continue to grow in faith through them. I can understand why God is sending new vocations. I pray for them and support them. I have also included a gift in my trust. The future of our Church depends upon good priests, and we are in good hands with the Marians.”

If you would like to support our Marian seminarians or learn about including a gift in your estate plans please get in touch with Hope at the Marian Helpers Center.



Hope Ponsart Hansen is a donor relations officer for the Marian Fathers. Contact her at (413) 298-1387; helpers@marian.org; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit marian.org/PlannedGiving to learn more.

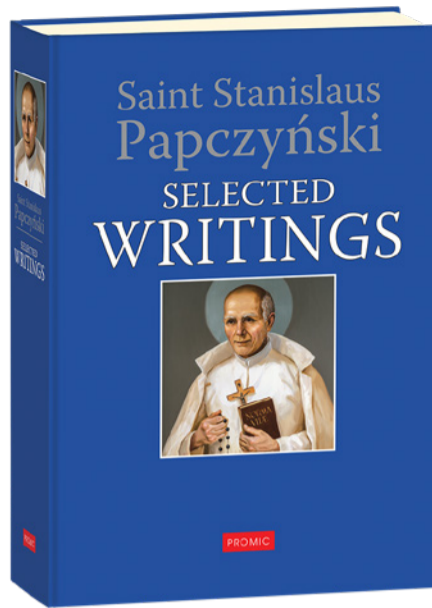
Getting to know the Founder

Ten years in the making, involving the work of Marian Fathers old, new, and in formation, the book *Saint Stanislaus Papczynski: Selected Writings* is now available.

A rich spiritual treasury, this new volume makes available in a modern English translation the majority of the known works of St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), the Founder of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and one of the outstanding figures in Polish Catholic history and culture.

A major work of faith and devotion, this tremendous resource will allow you to share in St. Stanislaus' love of God, the Church, and his neighbors, published in the heart of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Marian Congregation.

"Much of the funding for this project was given by a private foundation that has invested in the education



of Marian seminarians for a number of years," explained Ellen Miller, planned giving manager. The foundation, which wishes to remain anonymous, requests your prayers. "Present-day seminarians as well as future generations of seminarians will now have access to the treasures of our Founder's words."

So will the Marian Helpers and the entire rest of the Catholic faithful.

"Our Father Founder in his testament promised God's blessing to all of those who are going to support his 'little' Congregation. Very significant words," said

Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, who oversaw the project. "This new volume is one more very significant way to share our spirituality with our extended family, to whom our Founder promised such heavenly reward."

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Enroll yourself, your loved ones, or anyone in need of God's mercy to be remembered by the Marian Fathers in honor of St. Faustina and St. John Paul II. These novenas (Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Oct. 13-21) will be celebrated at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Enroll now at Marian.org/faustina or call 1-800-462-7426

GRACES RECEIVED

'The pain is gone!'

I had to write you regarding a miracle that happened to me. I am a Stage 5, end of life kidney patient who is on dialysis three times a week.

From the time I started dialysis a year and a half ago, I was in MASSIVE pain to the point of almost ending my life. The pain I experienced was unimaginable. I cried into a pillow due to the screams I made. I went from one doctor to another, and no one ever heard of a patient experiencing such pain. I tried every pain pill, to no avail.

As a last resort, as I was reading about Blessed George in *Marian Helper*, I decided to start praying to him. Within two weeks my prayers were heard and answered. Truly a miracle! It has been two weeks and the pain is GONE! I have perfect treatments now.

I truly believe in miracles and the POWER OF PRAYER! Thank you, Blessed George.

— C.C., Delray Beach, Florida

'An offer beyond expectations'

In March of this year, I left my employment. I knew the time for departure was approaching about two months in advance, and although I had years of experience and many contacts and friends, it was an anxious time.

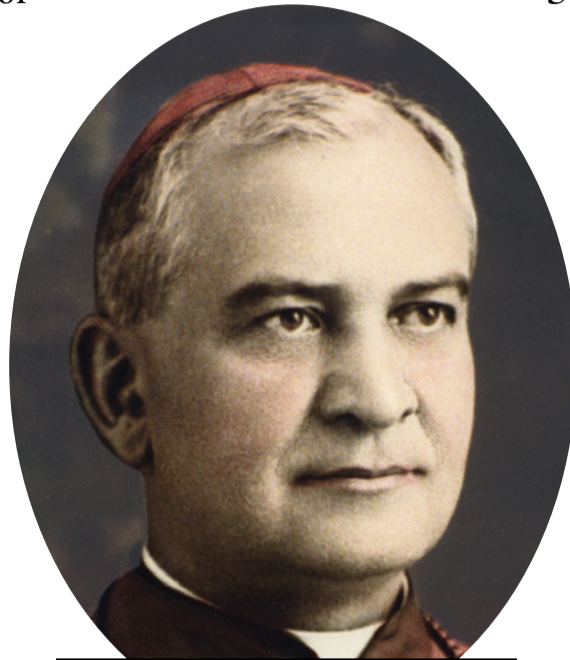
It was preceding my imminent departure that I began to pray to Blessed George and ask him for guidance. I put my trust in him to help me find my way.

On March 5, I left my employment and had no certain employment arranged but fortunately had some good conversations going on. On March 11 (the anniversary date of my mother's passing), I received an offer beyond my expectations, both financially and otherwise. In fact,

another opportunity also presented itself and although busy I am now managing a full and part-time job.

I directly attribute this to Blessed George's intercession on my behalf. He heard and understood my predicament, and I just know he will hear and understand yours through prayer.

— G.S., email



Acknowledgements of graces received through the intercession of Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, Renovator of the Marian Fathers (1871-1927).

'Good employment with good people'

I read about "Graces Received" through the intercession of Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz in *Marian Helper*. My son graduated from Belmont Abbey College in May 2021 but had not found a job. I was saying prayers for him to find good work and then read about Blessed George. I made a nine-day Novena to him requesting my son find employment that would enable him to continue practicing his faith.

Blessed George found him a good, entry-level position with a company owned by one of the parishioners at our church. His second day there,

he ran into another employee with whom he had attended some youth programs. He was contacted for an interview for a state position after he started work but declined it, realizing he had good employment with good people.

Thank you, Blessed George.

— K.S., email

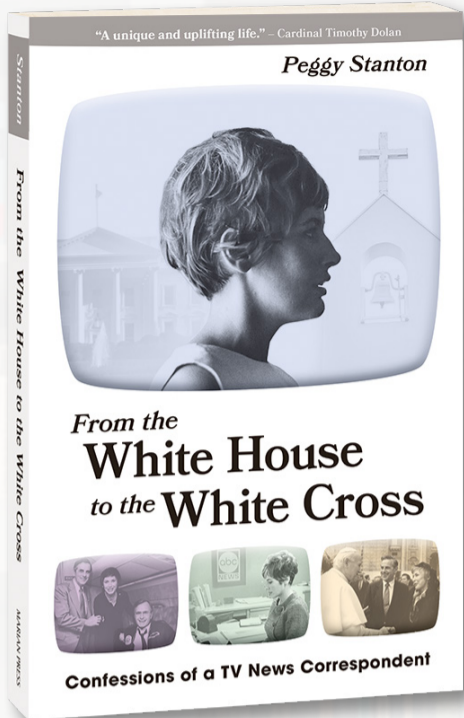
For a Blessed George prayercard (B55-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@marian.org.

Prayer for a Special Grace Through the Intercession of Blessed George

O God, our Lord and Father, You surround us always by Your care; receive our humble petition, and through the intercession of Blessed George, who suffered so much for Your glory and for the increase of Your Kingdom here on earth, grant me the grace (mention intention), for which I ask You with confidence, promising to live from now on with greater fidelity to Your commandments. Amen.

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

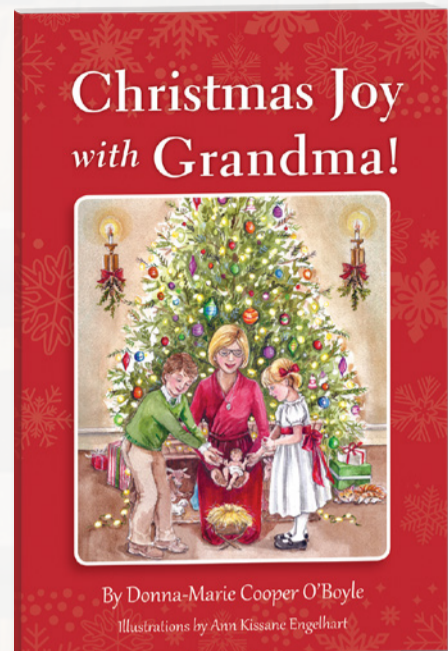
Newest Releases from Marian Press



From the White House to the White Cross: Confessions of a TV Correspondent

By Peggy Stanton

Peggy Stanton served ABC-TV as the first female news correspondent in Washington, DC, in the 1960s. *From the White House to the White Cross* offers an entertaining and revealing glimpse into a storied world of glitz and glamor, featuring A-listers from Julie Andrews and Charlton Heston to Lyndon Johnson, Fidel Castro, and Salvador Dali. Stanton's perspective – and life – change unexpectedly during a visit to Medjugorje, where, in her words, "the Master attempts to chisel a poor piece of clay into what He intended her to be." 16 pages of photos. Paperback, 280 pages. **B55-WHWC \$14.95**



Christmas Joy with Grandma!

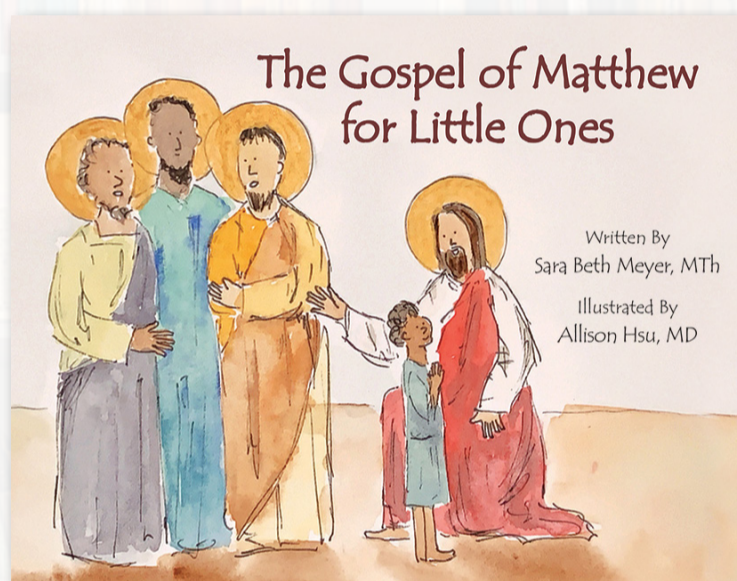
By Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Take an Advent journey with Joseph, Anne-Marie, and Grandma! Together, you'll discover the story of Christmas and get ready to welcome Jesus into your own heart and home. Beautifully illustrated, this gentle, loving introduction to the true meaning of Christmas by a celebrated author will become a beloved book for every family and revisited each holiday season. Paperback, 40 pages. **B55-CHSB \$12.95**

The Gospel of Matthew for Little Ones

Written by Sara Beth Meyer, MTh;
Illustrated by Allison Hsu, MD

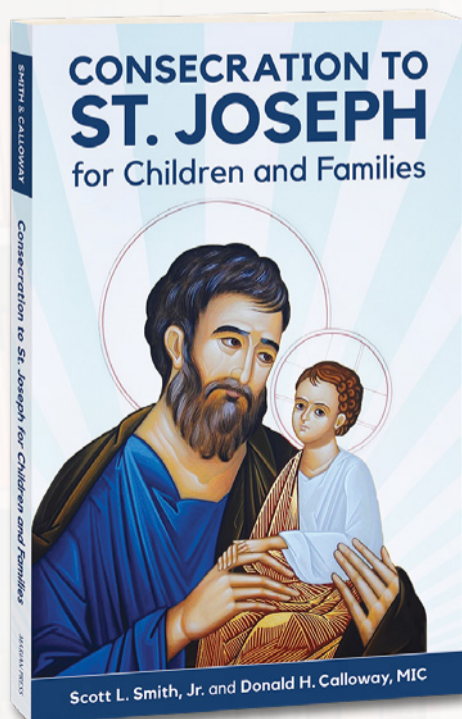
Currently, families and educators can choose from scores of children's bibles and individual bible stories, yet there is no treatment of the specific Gospels for young Catholics to grow closer to Christ, the very Word to whom all God's words point. *The Gospel of Matthew for Little Ones* addresses this great lack in an inviting format with vibrant illustrations. Hardcover, 36 pages. **B55-GMLQ \$19.95**



Consecration to St. Joseph for Children and Families

By Scott L. Smith, Jr. and
Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC

God entrusted the Holy Family to St. Joseph to keep them safe, and so should you. Father Donald H. Calloway, MIC and co-author Scott L. Smith, Jr., call on all of us to turn to St. Joseph, entrust ourselves, our children and families, our Church, and our world to our spiritual father's loving care. Watch for wonders when the Universal Patron of the Church opens the floodgates of Heaven to pour out graces into your family's lives. Paperback, 160 pages. **B55-CJHB \$16.95**

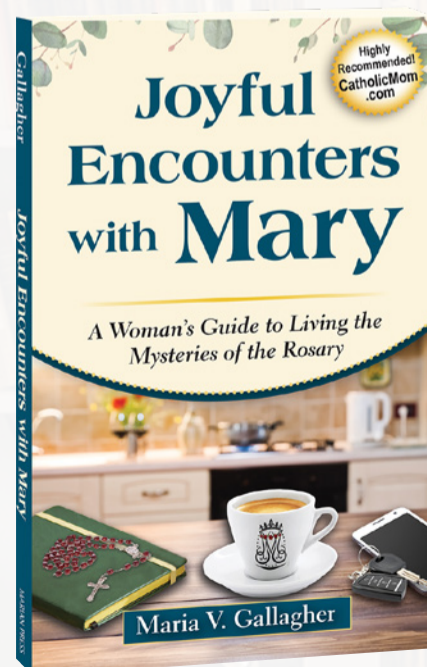


Joyful Encounters with Mary

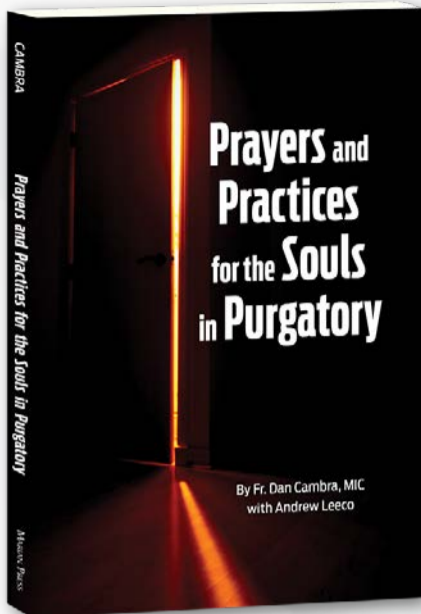
A Woman's Guide to Living the Mysteries of the Rosary

By Maria V. Gallagher

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Purgatory: A Guide

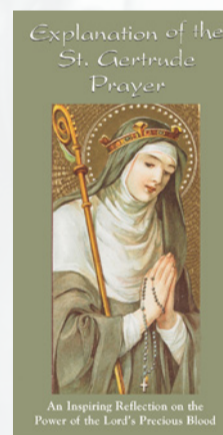
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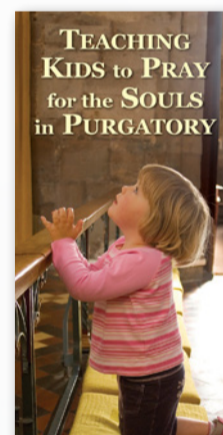
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From the
VAULTS

America,
You Are Not
Free!
Abortion



Religious News Service

The passage of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court nearly 50 years ago did not go unnoticed in *Marian Helpers Bulletin*, the precursor of *Marian Helper*. In the April-June 1973 edition, “Father Joseph, MIC” (Br. Robert Doyle, MIC), urged readers to protest by writing to President Richard Nixon and their congressmen.

“We know that the purpose of government and its laws are to protect and defend its citizens, but today our highest court of law in our land says it is all right to kill an unborn child up to six months of pregnancy. On the other hand, it does protect from death those who have with full intention killed other people,” Fr. Joseph wrote. “Where are our Christian people who allow such things without even raising their voices? If the unborn are allowed to be killed, next it will be the aged, the sick, the deformed and eventually various groups of people much as the tyrant Hitler was doing.”

In the next edition, Anne O. Nemus pumped up the volume. “America, you are not free!” she said. “Your citizens are being slaughtered in the womb, and you are making laws to sanction the same. What right have law-makers to enact legislation against the very laws of God?”

“Oh, you who march and cry for freedom, for shame that none of you defends the helpless infant of a moment’s beat of life!”



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Live the call!



Nancy Reina, Marian Helper:

A near-fatal accident during Holy Week one year led me to spend three months in a wheelchair, praying the Rosary and Chaplet and repeating, "Jesus, I trust in You." When I recovered, I began visiting the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Now as a Marian Helper, I volunteer and see first-hand the amazing work done by the Marian priests, brothers, and seminarians. Having met the exceptional group of young men in formation, I am so grateful to be able to offer my support in their vocational journey.

Brother Ruben Veloz, MIC:

Through much prayer and discernment, and the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I was drawn to the Marians because of their charism and devotions. I felt a deeper calling during a Marian "Come and See" retreat. I went to Eucharistic Adoration and venerated the relic of our founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski. I remember praying to St. Stanislaus, saying it would be an honor for me to be a Marian, if it was God's will. I applied and was accepted — and, years later, on Aug. 13, 2022, I professed my perpetual vows. Thanks be to God!

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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will be:
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Dec. 2-4

Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org
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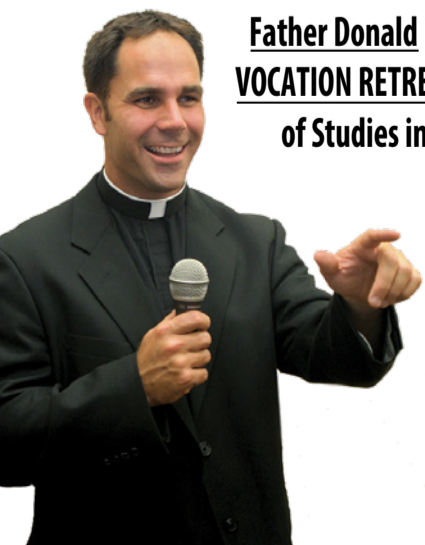
Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
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