

# Marian Helper

Fall 2023

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

[Marian.org](http://Marian.org)

## THE LIGHT OF FAITH



‘Oh my God ...  
I have placed  
all my hope in  
You, and I know  
I shall not be  
disappointed’  
(*Diary*, 317).

# Order your 2023 Christmas cards



**BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER**  
**B59-XC232**      **GOLD FOILED**



**MADONNA & CHILD**  
**B59-XC233**      **GOLD FOILED**



**HOLY FAMILY**  
**B59-XC231**

**GOLD FOILED**



**CHRISTMAS CARDINALS**  
**B59-XC235**      **SILVER FOILED**

Available in each exclusive design  
or as an assortment. Get a box of 10  
deluxe cards for just \$13.95

plus p&h, while supplies last.

**FREE SHIPPING**  
on two or  
more boxes.

**FOR AN ASSORTMENT,**  
**USE B59-XCA23**



**THREE KINGS**  
**B59-XC234**

**GOLD FOILED**

**Order now: Visit [ShopMercy.org/b59](https://ShopMercy.org/b59)  
or call 1-800-462-7426.**

All prices are in United States funds. Free shipping, continental U.S. only. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders.

# THE LIGHT OF FAITH, RENEWED

The winds of change have brought good news to Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, provincial headquarters of the Marian Fathers and home to the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#). We have a newly elected provincial superior: the [Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC](#), bursting with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We have two new priests, [Fr. Timothy Childers, MIC](#), and [Fr. Jason Lewis, MIC](#), both ready to serve God's faithful. Our first-ever [capital campaign](#) is off to a roaring start, and we invite your participation! And pilgrims and conference attendees have returned to the National Shrine, making the pandemic drought a distant memory.

[8 On Eden Hill](#)

[10 A new leader](#)

[13 Full steam ahead](#)

[14 Welcome, new priests!](#)

[16 'Carrying God with you'](#)

[18 Sainly perseverance](#)

In a new biography, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle admires the courage of the young Sr. Faustina.

[20 An ocean of mercy](#)

Samoa hosted the fifth World Apostolic Congress on Mercy — and the Marians were there.

[22 School's in. Church's out?](#)

What's a parent to do when school activities intrude on Sunday? Scott L. Smith, Jr. has answers.

[24 The Little Flower shows the way to Heaven](#)

It's the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, who proposed the "little way."

[26 A look back](#)

Dr. Bryan Thatcher reflects on 25 years of service by the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy.

[28 The white habit returns](#)

You may be surprised the next time you see a Marian priest or brother, explains Br. Jacob, MIC.

## DEPARTMENTS

[3 Father Joseph Writes](#) [4 Marian Helpers in Action](#) [6 Father Joseph's Picks](#) [7 Notes from Rome](#)

[17 New from Marian Press](#) [31 Outstanding Helpers](#) [33 Graces Received](#) [36 From the Vaults](#)

### AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER:

Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC — "Father Joseph, MIC"

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Dr. Joe McAleer

DESIGNER: Andrew Leeco

WRITER, ASSISTANT EDITOR: Chris Sparks

AMH GENERAL PROMOTER:

Br. Andrew R. Mączyński, MIC

### 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 © 2023 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](mailto:editorial@Marian.org) Website: [Marian.org](http://Marian.org)

Vol. 80,  
No. 3  
Fall 2023

## WHO WE ARE



### Marian Helpers Center

Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
Headquarters and publishing  
center for the Association of  
Marian Helpers.

1-800-462-7426

### National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

(413) 298-3931

For pilgrimages:

(413) 298-1119

[ShrineOfDivineMercy.org](http://ShrineOfDivineMercy.org)



### Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our lay ministries:

#### Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy

Dr. Bryan Thatcher

[TheDivineMercy.org/eadm](http://TheDivineMercy.org/eadm)

1-877-380-0727

#### Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy

Marie Romagnano,

MSN, RN, CCM

[TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare](http://TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare)

#### John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy

Dr. Robert Stackpole

[TheDivineMercy.org/JPII](http://TheDivineMercy.org/JPII)

1-866-895-3236

#### Mother of Mercy Messengers

Joan and Dave Maroney

[TheDivineMercy.org/momm](http://TheDivineMercy.org/momm)

1-830-634-7765

### Evangelization Team

Invite the Marians  
to speak at your parish.

(413) 298-1349

[parishmissions@Marian.org](mailto:parishmissions@Marian.org)

### Intercessory Prayerline

Send us prayer intentions.

1-800-804-3823

[Marian.org/prayer](http://Marian.org/prayer)

### Websites

[Marian.org](http://Marian.org)

[TheDivineMercy.org](http://TheDivineMercy.org)

[ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org)

[DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org)



## Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

## Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

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

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

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



Sign-up is easy: Visit [MICPrayers.org](http://MICPrayers.org)



You Tube



Visit [marian.org/social](http://marian.org/social)

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION

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

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

Free online help for your will, visit [Marian.org/will](http://Marian.org/will).

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

# MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

**T**here I was, the interim Provincial Superior. Now I am the official one, voted in for a six-year term! It's a blessing and a burden all at once, of course. I'm honored by the trust my Marian brethren have put in me, and conscious that I can only bear this burden well by the grace of God and through your prayers.

Please pray for me. Pray that I may be a father to my province, a good brother to my fellow Marians, and responsive to the will of God for myself and for the province over the next six years.

But it does mean there will be changes coming, including a new Fr. Joseph. We'll talk more about that and other changes in future issues.

Suffice it to say that, for the present, I'm enjoying continuing to meet you in person as you come on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy; I'm always glad to meet new and long-time Marian Helpers at conferences, at the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM), and as I've continued to meet existing obligations for travel. I may be spending a lot less time on the road in the months and years to come, I'm afraid, but again, more on that in future issues of the magazine.

As you'll see in the pages of the present issue, the Marian Family is in a good and challenging place. We're welcoming new priests to the ranks, including Fr. Timothy Childers, MIC, and Fr. Jason Lewis, MIC; we're continuing our capital campaign to fully fund and break ground on our new monastery here in Stockbridge, Massachusetts; we're reaching farther than ever before with our livestreams, my Saturday "Explaining the Faith" talks, our EWTN show "Living Divine Mercy," our websites, and other forms of media — we're serving Christ and His Church in huge and important ways.

But of course with all this, we confront challenges that we could not overcome without the steadfast prayers and support of our Marian Helpers.

That means you. Through your intercession and support of the

Marian Fathers, you are on the front lines of the New Evangelization, confronting the culture of death with us, spreading a culture of life, and helping pave the way for the advent of the civilization of love.

Through your participation in our First Friday and First Saturday devotions, you obtain the promises given us by Jesus and Mary about the Sacred and Immaculate Heart devotions — truly, these are the answers to the evils of our present age.

Through your steadfast promotion and practice of the Divine Mercy message and devotion; of devotion to the Immaculate Conception; of offering prayer and suffrages for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; and of serving the Church where the need is greatest — you participate in some of the greatest works of the Church in the world today.

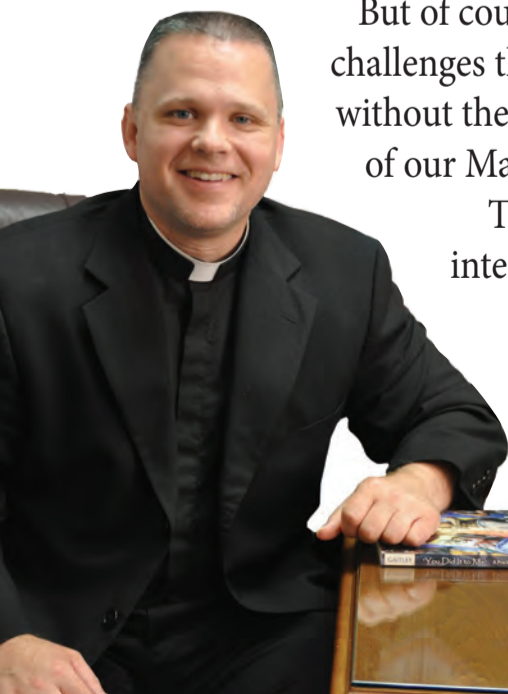
As St. Faustina wrote in her Diary, shown on our cover: "Oh my God, my only hope, I have placed all my hope in You, and I know I shall not be disappointed" (317).

Let us press on, persisting in our prayers and our work. The rays of Divine Mercy shine in the darkness. Christ is our Light. Keep your eyes fixed on Him amidst the gathering darkness, and be not afraid.

Our Lady wraps her mantle around us all, and St. Joseph watches over us, a terror to the demons.

May God bless you.

*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, Provincial Superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province in the United States and Argentina.

## MARIAN HELPERS IN ACTION



Marian Helpers Lou Betro (center) and his wife Ann (third from left) faithfully pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary with a group of friends every Wednesday at noon at St. Pius X Parish in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

# Livestream love

By Maria V. Gallagher

**Y**ou could call Idaho resident Louis Betro a Marian Fathers “super fan.” A devoted viewer of the livestream of the Marians’ daily Mass, Lou rises each morning by 6 a.m. Pacific Time to participate in the online Liturgy. If he lacks the time to view the entire Mass, he makes sure he catches the homily.

“The Marian Fathers,” Lou says, “make me feel like I grew up with them. Father Chris Alar is amazing because he’s honest about his life growing up.”

Lou feels such a connection with the priests he sees

online that it’s as if he is only a few pews away from them during the sacred liturgy. “We need them because the world is in such chaos,” Lou states.

He adds, “The Marians are special and will shine in our world and bring souls back to the Church.”

## Praise and worship

In addition, Lou and his wife, Ann, who live in Post Falls, attend Mass at a local church during the evening. There, they are able to end their day in praise and worship. Lou and Ann are devoted to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and attribute many blessings to the practice.

Lou feels quite close to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and offers his prayers for their happy repose. He also credits the Sacrament of Reconciliation with showering him with the graces necessary to live out his vocation as a husband and father.

Lou and Ann also have a great devotion to the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows, a prayer which dates back to the Middle Ages but is best known for its association with the Marian apparition in Rwanda, where the Blessed Mother appeared under the title of Our Lady of Kibeho.

The feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows is Sept. 15. The Seven Sorrows of Mary include: the prophecy of Simeon; the flight into Egypt; the loss of Jesus in the Temple; meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary; standing at the foot of the Cross; receiving the dead Body of Jesus; and placing Jesus' Body in the tomb.

## Hospital ministry

As Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lou and Ann have the privilege of bringing Jesus to hospital patients. Lou also connects them with the Marian Fathers, texting them a link to the daily Mass from Stockbridge, Massachusetts. When he ministers to the patients, sharing with them the Sacred Host and the inspirational messages of the Marians, he sees a noticeable change in them. It is as if they become illuminated

with the light of Christ.

Lou describes his life as filled with miracles. Born in Canada, he was adopted as a child and raised in the state of New York. He has since lived in many different states, including Connecticut, Arizona, and California. In each location, he has felt as if he is surrounded by the miraculous.

Perhaps the biggest miracle of all for the couple was the adoption of their son, a boy with special needs. "That's why I am against abortion totally," Lou says. An active member of the Knights of Columbus, Lou cherishes and reveres the tremendous gift of human life.

## 'Use me, God'

Lou has also opened himself up to wherever the Holy Spirit leads, offering to God the simple prayer, "Use me to draw people to the faith however You want to do it."

The dedicated Catholic also offers the following recommendation to people searching for ways to strengthen their faith. "If you can't get to daily Mass, stop at a church during the week," he says. "Go light a candle, and say a prayer."

As active Marian Helpers, Lou and Ann also hold within their hearts a desire for an in-person meeting with the Marian priests who have inspired them so.

"If my wife and I ever get the chance to visit the National Shrine, we would love to be able to just sit and have a cup of coffee with Fr. Chris and all the priests! We feel their love on livestream!"

*A pamphlet on "The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows" (Product Code: B59-SORROW) and a Seven Sorrows Rosary (Product Code: B59-RTOL) are available now on [ShopMercy.org/b59](http://ShopMercy.org/b59). MH*

## Marian Livestreams

Visit [DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org) to watch live from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts:

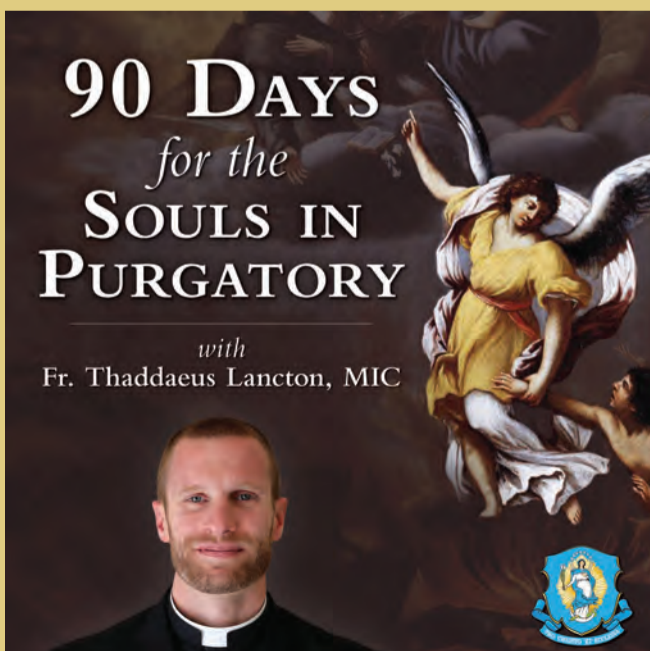
**Mass:** 9 a.m. EST, daily

**Divine Mercy Chaplet:**  
3 p.m. EST, daily

**The Rosary:** 5 p.m. EST, daily

**"Explaining the Faith" talks:**  
11 a.m. EST, Saturdays

You can also watch the livestreams on our YouTube channel "[Divine Mercy](http://DivineMercy)" — please like us and subscribe!



## A NEW PODCAST

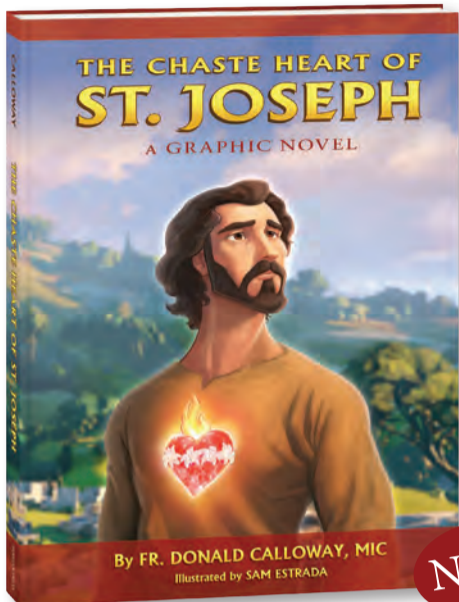
Between now and All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, join Fr. Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC, as he walks us through 90 different groups of Holy Souls in Purgatory in need of our prayers and suffrages. Since their founding by St. Stanislaus Papczynski in 1670, the Marian Fathers have had a charism of praying and offering suffrages for the faithful departed.

Listen today on:  
[DivineMercyPlus.org/podcasts](http://DivineMercyPlus.org/podcasts).

## FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b59](http://ShopMercy.org/b59) or call 1-800-462-7426.

Back to school the children go, and back to school we all should go, to grow ever deeper in our faith. Here are some great resources to help you do that.



### THE CHASTE HEART OF ST. JOSEPH: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

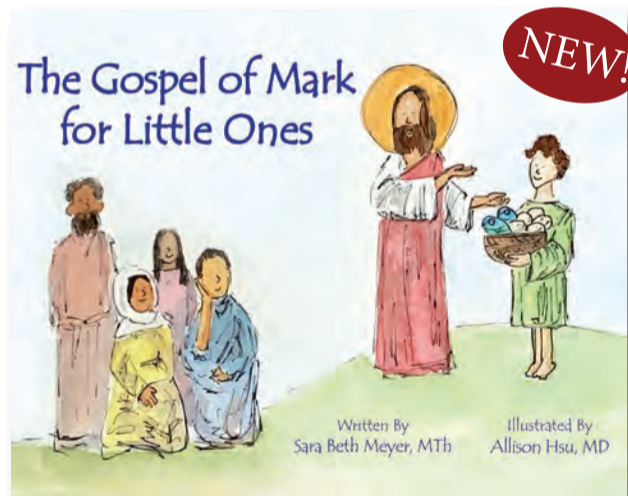
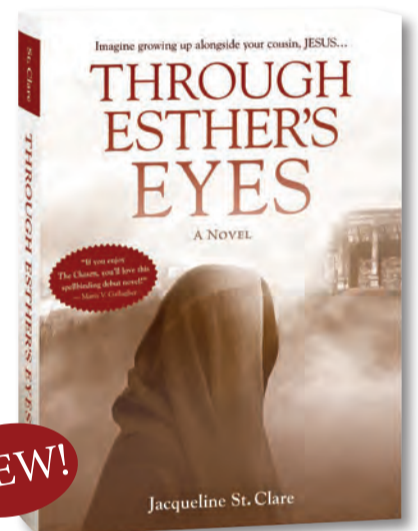
By FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC;  
ILLUSTRATED BY SAM ESTRADA

How much do you know about St. Joseph? Consider: He had royal blood; was a young man when he married Mary; was a wonderful father to Jesus; was the brave and steadfast protector of the Holy Family; is a model of manhood; has worked many miracles; and is a powerful intercessor for us. In this illustrated graphic novel, join Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, as he tells the inspiring story of St. Joseph, our spiritual father and the “Terror of Demons.” \$22.95. **B59-JOEG**

### THROUGH ESTHER'S EYES

By JACQUELINE ST. CLARE

When Esther falls in love with Lazarus of Bethany, she thinks that her role as a woman will be complete with their marriage and children. This extraordinary first novel is a sweeping saga of first-century Palestine and the life of Jesus of Nazareth, as seen through the bright green eyes of His fictional cousin, Esther. You may know the Gospel story and how it ends, but you will be enthralled seeing the power and the glory unfold anew, *Through Esther's Eyes*. \$17.95. **B59-TEBK**



### THE GOSPEL OF MARK FOR LITTLE ONES

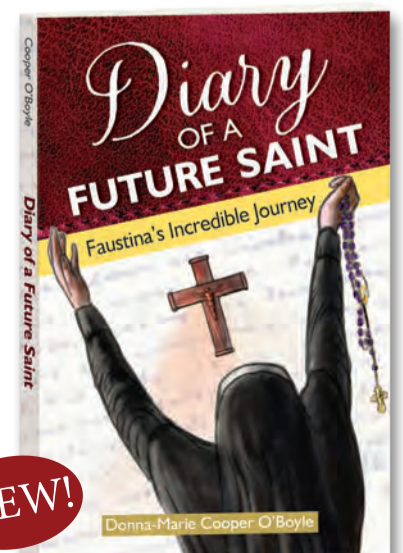
By SARA BETH MEYER, MTH; ILLUSTRATED BY ALLISON HSU, MD

Author Sara Beth Meyer and illustrator Allison Hsu, both working mothers, perfect a format and design created in their first book, *The Gospel of Matthew for Little Ones*. In *The Gospel of Mark for Little Ones*, readers of all ages are invited to journey with Jesus from the Baptism in the Jordan to the Resurrection on Easter morning. Told in delightful rhyming stanzas and beautiful watercolor illustrations, the Gospel message comes alive and remains Good News for all to enjoy. \$19.95. **B59-MRKB**

### DIARY OF A FUTURE SAINT: FAUSTINA'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

By DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE

Born Helena Kowalska, a simple Polish peasant farm girl at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Faustina was chosen by God to teach the world about His unfathomable Divine Mercy. She went on to become one of the world's most popular saints. Befriend this lovable, down-to-earth saint through the work of celebrated author Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, a Faustinian researcher and master storyteller, who presents St. Faustina's life in this page-turning novel for all ages. \$15.95. **B59-UNST**





# A FOUNTAIN FULL OF GRACE

**I**n this issue, I would like you to meet Fr. Joseph Mukasa Musoni, MIC, a Marian from Rwanda. The Marians established their Rwandan mission in 1984. Among the places we serve is Kibeho, the site of the first fully approved Marian apparitions in Africa. Our apostolate concentrates its work on formation of the young people, the spreading of Marian spirituality, and working for peace and reconciliation through helping victims of the fratricide.

Here is Fr. Joseph's story, in his own words:

"On Sept. 8, 1988, I became the first-born in a Catholic family that would grow to four boys and two girls. My father died when I was 10, while my beloved mother died two years before my ordination to the priesthood in 2016.

"In my culture, it is said that 'the firstborn son equals his father!' In the absence of his father, the eldest son assumes the father's responsibilities. He is culturally obliged to get married to assure the continuation of the family line by providing descendants. Many thanks to my family who encouraged me to follow the path of God's will instead of turning away from it.

"After my first Communion, I became an altar boy. It occurred to me that I could become a priest. At the end of my primary school, with my mother's encouragement, I applied to continue my education in a diocesan minor seminary. But then I thought about becoming a journalist to help people to know the truth. I was disgusted with what had happened in my country prior to the genocide of 1994, especially with journalists who made the situation worse by telling lies to people. I wanted to help cleanse this shame by spreading the message of truth to the Rwandan people.

"But then my best friend persuaded me to not give up on my first wish. 'There is no journalist who is heard more than a priest,' he said. 'A priest is a journalist of Christ.' I prayed to discover God's will for my life. Even-



tually, I joined the Marian Fathers. I am very happy to be part of this Congregation that constantly helps me to improve my relationship with God and neighbor, to contemplate the truth in Jesus, and to become His messenger in society.

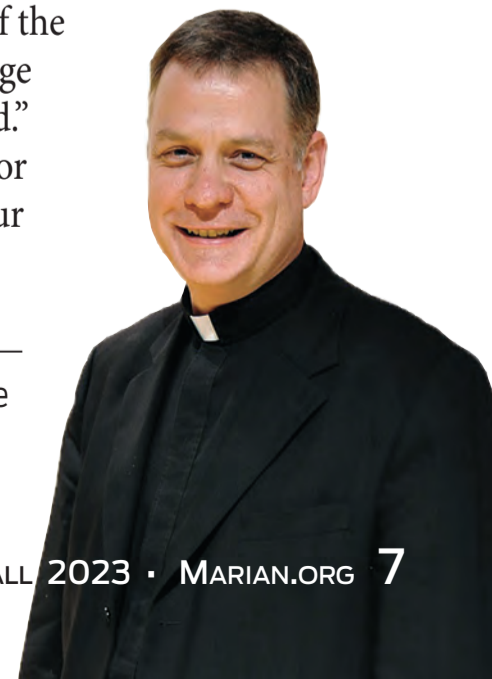
"I was ordained on July 15, 2018. I have experienced in my ministry the misery of a people who need to be listened to, consoled, healed, and reconciled with themselves and their history by giving themselves a second chance. The great challenge here is to get people to trust in the

man of God, 'the priest,' in a society torn apart by ethnic ideology.

"Our Congregation is for me a fountain full of grace that I discover daily. I am happy to be transformed by our charism which shows me the way to fulfill the will of God in my life and invites me to fulfill it together with my brothers in community life.

"I came to Rome in June 2022 to study Mariology. This subject allows me to learn more about Mary, who is very close to us as a Marian congregation. It is also a heavenly answer to my desire to delve deeper into the message of Mary's apparitions at Kibeho in Rwanda. Like the Mother of the Word, I want to see her message proclaimed to the whole world."

Our Lady of Kibeho, pray for us and for new vocations to our Congregation!




---

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

**ON EDEN HILL**



The annual Filipino Day at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy was held on June 17, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The rainy day did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of hundreds of pilgrims who gathered for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



Two new statues now grace Eden Hill. At left, located just beyond the statue of our Marian founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński, is his eighth successor as superior general, Ven. Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski (1700-1755). We remember him as a Marian missionary who expanded the Order, founding our first monastery in Portugal.

At right, a beautiful addition to the Holy Family Shrine is this statue of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth, with Jesus and John the Baptist in their respective wombs. This was a gift of John Kliska of Simsbury, Connecticut, in honor of his wife Joan and their children: Jennifer, Jeffrey, and Julie.





▶ Encuentro Latino celebration



On a picture-perfect Saturday, Aug. 5, 6,000 Latino pilgrims gathered for “Encuentro,” the annual celebration of faith and family. In addition to testimonial talks, Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, and a Rosary procession, pilgrims enjoyed great food, ethnic folk dancing, music, and even piñatas. “This was our 18<sup>th</sup> year, and I think it was one of our best,” says Magaly Lopez, who has organized Encuentro since the beginning.

Sister Teresa de la Fuente of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, St. Faustina's order, journeyed from Lakeville, Massachusetts, and greeted Shrine Rector, Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, and Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC.



Mass at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine was celebrated by Fr. Diego Maximino, MIC.



PHOTO BY BR. MARK FANDERS, MIC

The new Provincial Superior, the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC (center), and his provincial council: Fr. Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC; Fr. Mark Baron, MIC; the Very Rev. Donald Calloway, MIC; and Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC.

# A NEW LEADER

## The province turns to Fr. Chris

**O**n May 15, 2023, the members of the VII Provincial Chapter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province, after hearing the results of the province-wide consultative vote, elected the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, as the provincial superior, for a six-year term.

A native of Monroe, Michigan, Fr. Chris, 54, was ordained to the priesthood in 2014. Since then, he has served as the director of the Association of Marian Helpers (“Fr. Joseph”), and in July 2022 was named interim provincial superior.

*Marian Helper* sat down with Fr. Chris to discuss the state of the province and his plans for the future.

### **Were you surprised to be elected provincial superior?**

Surprised? More like shocked! I really wasn’t expecting it. In fact, I was so sure I would not be elected, I made a lot of

plans for travel, conferences, and projects that I have had to now cancel. But I am humbled by the faith my fellow Marians have in me, and hope I am up to the job.

### **What are your principal duties as provincial superior?**

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province covers the U.S. and Argentina, with nearly 80 Marian priests and brothers. As superior, I have to make sure the province stays on track, doing God’s will spiritually, but also administratively. That covers everything from maintaining the spiritual health of my fellow Marians and making assignments, to

fundraising to expand our evangelization efforts, maintain our facilities and the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and provide for the needs of the community.

It's a big job with a lot of moving parts, but I look forward to the challenge, and visiting our different houses around the country and in Argentina to see our ministry in action.

### **What are your goals for the province?**

These are early days, but we're really focused now on the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy so that, when pilgrims come here, they can expect a better pilgrimage experience.

When I was a seminarian, I used to do talks and tours. We're going to return to that. We want to open a Marian museum. We also want to reimagine the St. Faustina Center as a Welcome Center, so that when people arrive on Eden Hill, they will receive a proper orientation and understand who we are, the meaning of Divine Mercy, and the many places they will encounter at the National Shrine. It's long overdue.

I'm also making changes on the ministerial front, assigning more priests to do missions and retreats around the country. It's not just about people coming to Stockbridge for Divine Mercy. We want to bring Divine Mercy to the people, wherever they may be. We're going to restart the parish mission team that I created years ago with Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.

Changing assignments is never easy, and I know many people are sad to be losing their favorite Marian priest. I understand!

### **What are your expectations of a Marian priest?**

I'm going to meet with every one of our priests and brothers on a regular basis, to work with them to find an apostolate and ministry, depending on their particular interests and where the needs are. My motto is, "Accommodate whenever possible; delegate when only absolutely necessary." So if someone has a desire for teaching, or health care ministry, or even landscaping, I'll try to accommodate their requests.

Someone reminded me that I am now the father figure,

and I have 80 sons to look after! But it's truly an honor. So long as I ensure that my Marian brothers have the resources and tools they need, they will succeed.

### **How has your experience as "Fr. Joseph, MIC," prepared you for this new position?**

I was Fr. Joseph for almost 10 years, and the experience was invaluable. I learned everything about the Marians and our Marian Helpers who make our outreach possible, and that knowledge will serve me well as provincial. We were in heavy debt when I became Fr. Joseph, and I'm especially proud to say that now we are 100-percent debt-free, internal and external.

Our evangelization efforts have expanded 10-fold, way beyond our foundational direct mail/e-mail and publishing operations, which remain vital to our ministry. The biggest leap has been in video and livestreams. Our weekly EWTN show, "Living Divine Mercy," is now in its third season. We've done more than 100 original episodes, and they are broadcast all over the world. When I visited Ireland and Australia recently, people told me how much they love the show.

Everyone said I was crazy to do a 90-minute "Explaining the Faith" talk on a Saturday morning. People won't listen for more than three or four minutes, they said. Well, I've done more than 150 talks now, and only two of

them have fewer than 50,000 views online. The top talk, on Ukraine and Russia, has more than 2 million! There's such a hunger out there for knowledge of the faith and the truth. It really accelerated during the pandemic, and is stronger than ever. I love doing them — as I often say, I loved my time in the seminary, and enjoy bringing listeners "back to seminary" with me.

I always laugh that, since God gave me a big mouth, I'm going to use it for Him!

### **Now that you are provincial superior, will you continue the Saturday talks and EWTN show?**

Yes. People have responded so well. As long as I keep getting the feedback that says, "Please, Father, keep going," we'll keep going. We have a great team here, on the video and research side. And, luckily, I don't require much sleep!





PHOTOS BY ANNA NUZZO

In his first visit to Australia, hosted by Divine Mercy Publications and Parousia Media, Fr. Chris crisscrossed the continent May 27-June 4, preaching at a dozen churches in six cities, including Our Lady of the Angels in Rouse Hill, outside Sydney.

**You've been doing double duty as Fr. Joseph and interim provincial superior for over a year. Will you continue as Fr. Joseph?**

No. I will announce the new Fr. Joseph soon. He is a priest of deep faith and boundless energy and enthusiasm. I know he will be a good fit, and take us to even greater heights.

**What were your impressions of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Samoa?**

The Congress was a profound reminder of the universal message of Divine Mercy and how it has spread to the far corners of the globe.

The Samoan people are the happiest you've ever seen, full of joy in spite of having very little. I gave several Divine Mercy 101 talks to convey a basic understanding of Divine Mercy, as expressed by our beloved Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC,



Father Chris' epic tour of Australia included Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, talks on Divine Mercy, and meeting the faithful, asking God's blessings.

pray very hard for both, as the devil is hard at work. Priests

and Dr. Robert Stackpole.

I also got to meet the Archbishop of Vilnius, who wants the Marians to be actively helping him in his diocese, which is very good.

Over the summer I gave a retreat to 850 bishops and priests in the Philippines. [Watch for photos and story in the next *Marian Helper*.] Filipinos are devoted to the message of Divine Mercy, so I am hoping to bring some new perspectives and ideas on how to deepen the devotion, particularly in a parish setting.

I always say that the spark of Divine Mercy came from Poland, as Jesus said, but the Filipinos are the ones fanning that spark, especially the Filipino women.

I truly believe there are two chosen people in a special way today: the Poles and the Filipinos. And we must

# FULL STEAM AHEAD!

As announced in the last issue of *Marian Helper*, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have launched their first-ever capital campaign, “Together for Christ and His Church,” to build a monastery and chapel on a vacant tract of land at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, atop Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

“The enthusiasm of the Marian Helpers to support our Marian Fathers has been extraordinary!” says Ben Davis, director of mission advancement. “So many have stepped forward to help, all with prayerful gifts to accomplish a long-term solution to our housing needs on Eden Hill. Many donors have made second or third gifts to ensure we can move forward next year without delay, and we are confident many more will join the effort to reach the goal in the months ahead. Thank you, Marian Helpers!”

## Blessed to help

The Congregation has been making do for decades, housing men in buildings scattered across Eden Hill, but that’s not how you guarantee a healthy community life in a religious order. Of course, as they’ve grown, the situation has only become more unsustainable.

are under attack in Poland, and the Philippines is facing a growing threat from China. There’s a lot going on right now, but when you are a follower of Christ, you’re always going to face persecution of some kind.

## Tell us about the plans to build a new Marian monastery and chapel at the National Shrine.

This is so exciting. It’s our first-ever capital campaign, and the response has been overwhelming, and deeply humbling. To date, we’ve raised more than \$25.5 million. We hope to break ground next year, and complete construction

“We feel very blessed to help!” say Josie and John DeStefano, Marian Helpers from Huntington, New York. “We love the Marians, and love visiting Eden Hill. We’re excited to help the Marians expand and provide the community the

opportunity to come together in this special way.”

“We enthusiastically support the Campaign because the Marians are bulging at the seams with new priestly candidates, as opposed to so many parishes that have merged due to lack of priests!” add

Kathy and Larry Bolanowski from Essex, Connecticut.

As *Marian Helper* went to press, the Campaign has commitments exceeding 90 percent of the goal, with gifts in hand at 73 percent of goal. “More than 9,000 donors have participated with gifts of every size,” Davis reports. “With just \$3 million remaining, we hope to meet our goal by the end of this year.”

“Our vocations boom has been made possible by the grace of God and the prayers, as well as the support, from Marian Helpers like you,” says the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior. “Your generosity so far has been outstanding — but there’s still a ways to go. Please join us!”

Visit [TogetherForChrist.org](https://www.togetherforchrist.org) to follow our progress and participate in the campaign.

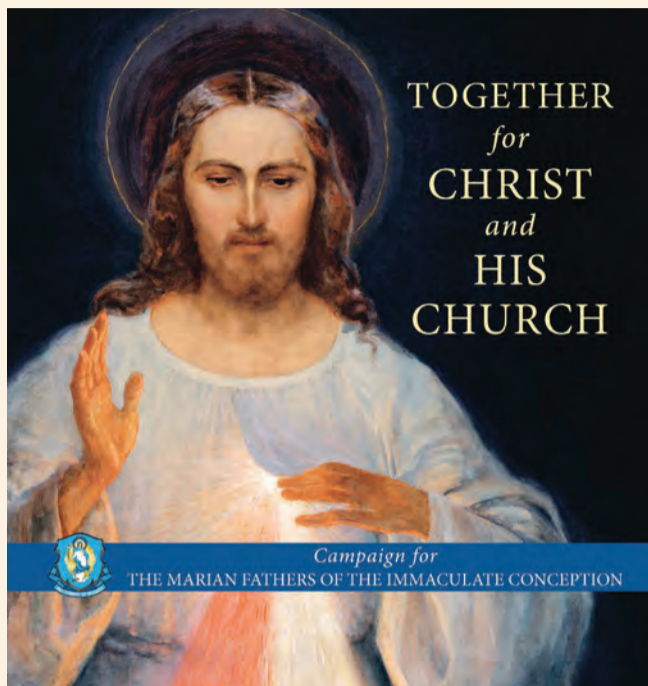
MH

in 2025.

We have not yet met our fundraising goal, so I invite all of our Marian Helpers to participate, as their hearts and means allow.

This is the realization of a long-held dream and an absolute necessity. It will solve the very happy housing “problem” that we Marians have. We’re bursting with new vocations, the very future of our Church. The new monastery and chapel will allow our seminarians to live in community with the Marian priests and brothers, and experience the true religious way of life.

MH



We invite you to participate in the campaign to build a new monastery and chapel at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Visit [TogetherForChrist.org](https://www.togetherforchrist.org).

# WELCOME NEW PRIESTS!



PHOTOS BY MELANIE WILLIAMS

On July 8, Fr. Timothy John Childers, MIC (center), was ordained to the priesthood for the Marian Fathers at St. Stephen Church in Riverview, Florida. The Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee and a *vir aggregatus* (associate member) with the Congregation.

## FATHER TIMOTHY CHILDERS, MIC



Father Timothy greets his proud parents, Jennifer and Michael Childers.



PHOTO BY GIUSEPPE MIGNANO

“It is my prayer that you will consecrate yourself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Divine Merciful Heart of Jesus,” Bishop Holley told Deacon Timothy. “Go out in the world and proclaim the Truth, for only the Truth will set us free.”



Father Timothy celebrated his first Mass at St. Stephen's on July 9. Father Allen Alexander, MIC (at right), delivered the homily.



PHOTOS BY BR. MARK FANDERS, MIC, & GIUSEPPE MIGNANO

The second priesthood ordination of the summer was held on Aug. 12 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, when Dcn. Jason Lewis, MIC, was ordained by the Most. Rev. William Byrne of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts.



“You are being ordained to bring peace and joy to the world through the proclamation of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments,” Bishop Byrne said in his homily. “Strive to bring the faithful into one family so you can lead them to God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Seek out the lost sheep.”



# FATHER JASON LEWIS, MIC



Acknowledging the Lewis family, especially Dcn. Jason's parents, Joyce and Larry, Bishop Byrne said, “As happy as you are today, there's someone who is even happier: the Blessed Mother, for her son Jason will join her Son Jesus in the priesthood.”



During his first Mass celebrated at the National Shrine on Aug. 13, Fr. Jason used the chalices of two beloved departed Marian priests, Fr. Mark Garrow, MIC, and Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC.

# ‘CARRYING GOD WITH YOU’



## Healthcare Professionals tackle hot-button issues

By Chris Sparks

**A** Catholic response to gender ideology. End of life issues. Treating patients mercifully, with dignity. These and many other of the biggest issues facing the Church and the world today were discussed by scholars and medical experts at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference, held June 7-9 on the grounds of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Organized by the Marian Fathers' apostolate Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, the conference is a place where faith and reason meet and mutually enrich each other.

### Stronger together

That's what brought Paul O'Connor, a physician's assistant practicing in Maine, to the conference. He explained that he thought this sort of conference is necessary "because all of us, no matter how strong our faith is, are stronger together."

"Anytime you can carry God with you throughout the day, especially amongst colleagues," he explained, "there's more strength" and less chance of emotional burnout.

Appropriate, since this year's theme was "Fortitude — A Virtue for Healthcare Professionals." Fortitude, the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good, is definitely needed at the bedside of the sick and dying.

### Expert disciples

Participants were present both virtually by livestream and in person, gathering from more than 34 states and five countries, drawn by the important formation in both spiritual care for their patients and in best practices in healthcare. Continuing education credits were available to conference participants.

Speakers dealt with a range of topics both spiritual and medical. The experts included Dr. George Delgado, the

man behind the revolutionary abortion pill reversal; Bishop Robert McManus, DD, STD, of the Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts; the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior of the Marian Fathers; and a long-time friend and collaborator with the Healthcare Professionals' work in Ukraine: Kristin Robinson, Kansas City executive director, Project C.U.R.E./Franciscan Mission Warehouse.

### Aid to Ukraine

Kristin explained that, from 1985-2020, Sr. Andrea Kantner, OSF, founder of the Franciscan Mission Warehouse, and Dr. Bryan Thatcher, Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) founder, worked together to send containers around the world with medical and other supplies to people in need. In 2020, Franciscan Mission Warehouse merged with Project C.U.R.E., which had been founded in 1987 to address the staggering shortage of medical resources around the world.

Since its humble beginnings in a garage in Colorado, Project C.U.R.E. has become the world's largest distributor of donated medical supplies, equipment, and services to doctors and nurses serving the sick and dying in more than 135 countries.

Please visit [Marian.org/Ukraine](https://Marian.org/Ukraine) to make a donation for Ukraine relief. One-hundred percent of funds received are sent directly to those in need through our Marian priests in Ukraine and Poland. Because shipping via container is more cost effective, monetary donations are preferred rather than sending medical supplies. Please know that boxes previously sent to the Marians or the EADM office were sent to Project C.U.R.E., and will be on future containers.

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare](https://TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare) to learn more about past conferences or to become a member of the Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy.

MH

# JESUS AND ME

By Jacqueline St. Clare

*Editor's note: Marian Press is proud to publish an extraordinary first novel about Esther, who grows up alongside her "cousin" Jesus and His extended family, observing His "hidden" years and His public ministry, leading to the Passion. Here is an excerpt.*

I was so young when Jesus and I first met, and the two of us lived in the same house for so long, that it felt like He was always a part of my family. Jesus, His father Joseph, and mother Mary were originally from Nazareth but lived several years in Egypt before returning to their home village. Which they did when I was 5. Jesus and I were the same age.

He was my closest friend.

I glanced at Aunt Mary working quietly behind us, drying out roasted chickpeas about three hands from the bedrock wall. Close to her was the awning of the carpenter shop. Between the shop and the *traklin* was Aunt Miriam's prized aloe plant.

Aunt Mary hardly spoke to anyone and few spoke to her, especially not Ima.

Catching me watching her, Aunt Mary smiled. I just stared back at her, blowing up my cheeks with air. Her eyelashes swept the tips of her cheekbones as she arranged the roasted chickpeas on a tray. She sat on her heels, and her brown face was framed by a cream-colored veil that was tied tightly down her back.

"Ima!" Little Jesus hurried over to Aunt Mary from under the awning of the carpenter shop, which took up nearly a fourth of the small courtyard on the west wall.

Jesus squeezed behind one of our wandering chickens to get to Aunt Mary. Mother and son's faces were eye level. Jesus presented a small block of wood to His mother. "It is finished," He said.

"It is finished," Aunt Mary said, accepting the block of wood from Jesus so she might admire it. She placed a light hand on Jesus' shoulder, covered by His shapeless, stone-toned tunic. "You will show Abba your work when he comes home. He will be well pleased with you, my son." She returned the wood to Jesus.

"Esther, did you see?" Jesus turned toward me. I left my post by my mother to go to Him, meeting in the center of the courtyard. "Feel how smooth it is!"

Uncle Joseph had begun to assign small tasks to Jesus to train Him whenever He returned home from studying at the synagogue, in the early afternoon.

I held the piece of wood to my cheek, making a sound of awe. Jesus laughed, delighted by my appreciation. His hair, which was a dark, burnished color — almost the shade of a walnut — shot up from all directions. When there was

more sunlight, his hair would even have hints of auburn in it. There was something forthright about His face. Plain, but not to the point of being artless.

"That is lamb I smell, is it not?" Uncle Joseph's voice carried into the courtyard. I turned around.

"Abba!" Jesus cried.

"Show Uncle Joseph, Jesus!" I returned the wood to Him.

Jesus happily gave the wood to His father.

Uncle Joseph had large, rough hands, just like my abba and Uncle Clopas. I thought that Uncle Joseph looked much more like Abba than Uncle Clopas did. Joseph had the same inky black hair and small beard as Abba, but hints of gray dotted Uncle Joseph's hairs. His arms could stretch to the length of an ox's yoke.

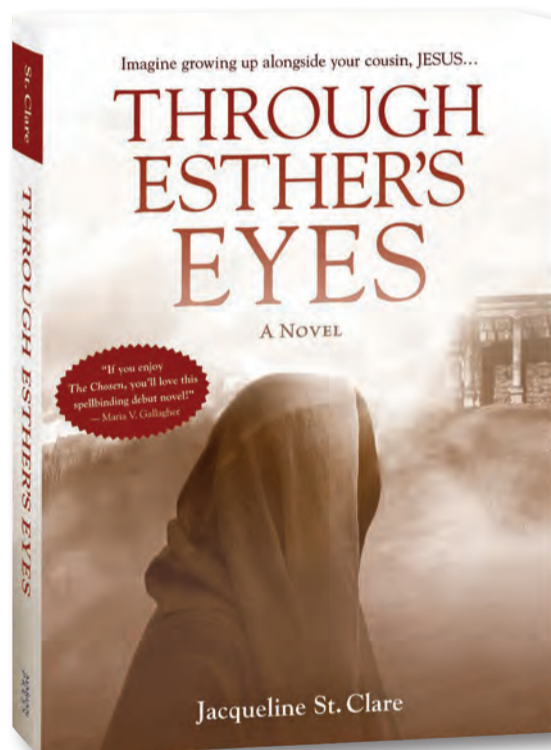
Turning the wood in his hands, Uncle Joseph looked at his son. "Well done, Jesus. You are a natural at sanding."

"It once was coarse, but now it is smooth!" Jesus exclaimed, gazing eagerly at His father.

"And it is the same piece of wood," Uncle Joseph said, "But with the hand of a carpenter, the same wood can shift from hard to soft."

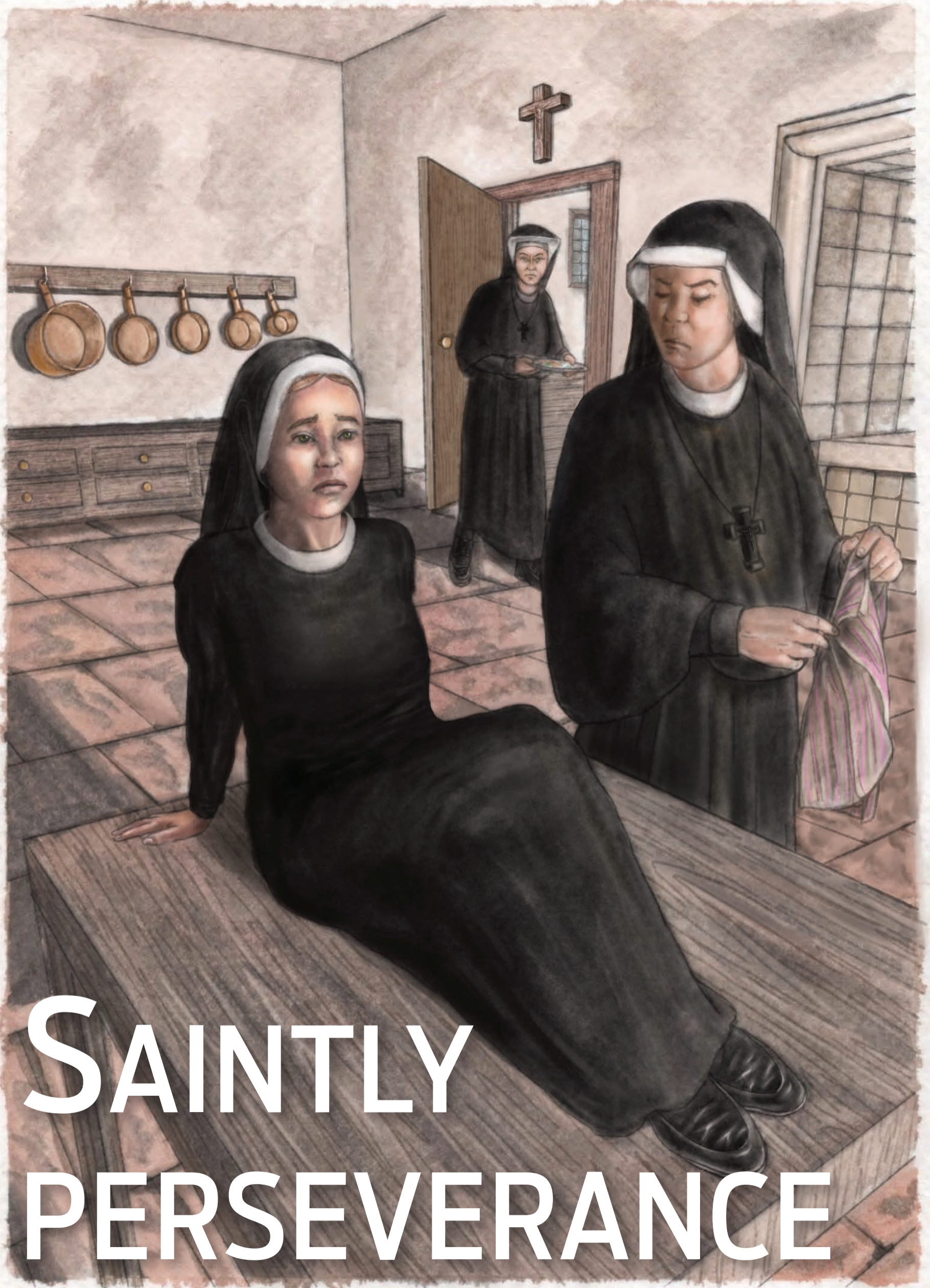
"My Father in Heaven does that," Jesus said, gazing upward at Uncle Joseph. "He wants to take hearts of stone and make them hearts of flesh!"

"The prophet Ezekiel," Uncle Joseph said slowly with a grin. He gazed proudly at Jesus. "Has Rabbi already been reading the prophet's writings to you?" He rustled his son's hair. MH



To order *Through Esther's Eyes* (Product Code: B59-TEBK) visit [ShopMercy.org/b59](http://ShopMercy.org/b59) or call 1-800-462-7426.

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL ORNIDO



# SAINTLY PERSEVERANCE

*Editor's note: As we anticipate the feast day of St. Faustina on Oct. 5, we share here an excerpt from Diary of a Future Saint: Faustina's Incredible Journey, an exciting new illustrated biography by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, just published by Marian Press and intended for all ages.*

Religious life was not just handed to Helena Kowalska (the future St. Faustina) on a silver platter. As we know, she had to fight for it. At first, she thought she had entered "Paradise" when finally stepping freely into the convent of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, Poland, in 1925. She was just 20 years old.

But truth be told, convent life for Helena was not a bowl of cherries. In addition to hard work and perseverance to get into the convent, other difficulties were in store for Helena — ones she never imagined. There would be humiliations, contradictions, criticisms, and more suffering on the horizon.

One evening after dinner, Helena thought she'd surely die of shame. A certain Sr. Marcianna Oswiecimska, who was the cook at the time, became very irritated with Helena. She asked Helena to wash the dishes after dinner. Helena was happy to oblige. She never minded helping. In fact, she was eager to help and knew that when she was obedient, she was pleasing Jesus. She always tried to do all of her work as well as she possibly could in order to be extra pleasing to God.

## Helena's surprise

As she washed the dishes, some sisters came in late for dinner, and Helena set down her dish cloth to serve dinner to them. She then went back to the dirty dishes in the sink. We can imagine Helena's surprise when Sr. Marcianna walked in and suddenly gave her a strange penance for not washing the dishes as quickly as she had expected her to do. Perhaps "shock" is a better word.

Here's what happened: Sister Marcianna returned to the kitchen and observed that the dishes were not all washed. She ordered Helena to sit on a kitchen table. That's correct — it was on a table. The sister cook told her it was a penance for not finishing the job.

Well, that was a hard enough punishment to just sit there, not able to help, while Sr. Marcianna was at the sink scrubbing away. But on top of that embarrassing punishment, Helena was not allowed to talk or defend herself. She was ordered to just sit there quietly! This was so difficult because other sisters came into the kitchen when Helena was sitting atop the table! Add to that, they saw Sr. Marcianna doing the dishes! Doesn't seem fair, does it?

It was excruciating for the young postulant to bear the embarrassment. She was unfairly punished and also criticized. In that moment, she might have reminisced about her family life back home and how her parents had never treated her or her siblings unfairly. Yet ironically, in religious life, a time meant to grow close to God, unthinkable things occurred.

About eight years later, Helena recalled the daunting experience of Sr. Marcianna getting upset with her and ordering her to sit on the table while she did the dishes herself. Helena wrote:

And while I was sitting there, the sisters came along and were astounded to find me sitting on the table, and each one had her say. One said that I was a loafer and another, "What an eccentric!" I was a postulant at the time. Others said, "What kind of sister will she make?" Still, I could not get down because Sister had ordered me to sit there by virtue of obedience until she told me to get down. Truly, God alone knows how many acts of self-denial it took. I thought I'd die of shame (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 151).

Helena later pondered, "God often allowed such things for the sake of my inner formation, but He compensated me for this humiliation by a great consolation." It was at Benediction when she was blessed with Jesus' profound words. Helena recalled that she saw "Him in great beauty." She wrote, "Jesus looked at me kindly and said, **My daughter, do not be afraid of sufferings; I am with you.**"

## Profound peace

We can only imagine the profound peace that entered her soul because of Jesus' words. In time, Helena came to know that Jesus allowed her to experience certain sufferings and humiliations in order for her to grow in holiness as He lovingly burnished her heart and soul as a metalsmith did to shape, forge, and perfect a precious metal.

Jesus desired that Helena turn to Him during such times. As difficult as it was for Helena to receive Sr. Marcianna's punishment that day, the young postulant certainly turned to Jesus and made what she called "many acts of self-denial." She continued to offer the humiliation up to Jesus, asking for His help. Helena grew to accept her sufferings as gifts from God.

Jesus later taught her that meditating upon His suffering during His Passion would advance her in holiness. It's the same for all of us.

Visit [ShopMercy.org/b59](https://ShopMercy.org/b59) to order *Diary of a Future Saint: Faustina's Incredible Journey* (Product Code B59-UNST). MH



We invite you to send us your intentions for the St. Faustina Novena. Visit [Marian.org/b59](https://Marian.org/b59).



Father Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC (center), at the closing Mass for the Fifth World Apostolic Congress on Mercy.

# An Ocean of Mercy

By Chris Sparks

“Your life may be the only Gospel some people read,” the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, told the Fifth World Apostolic Congress on Mercy (WACOM5), convened in Samoa from May 20-26, 2023. “They’re not going to pick up the Bible, but they’re going to see you. They’re going to hear you. That makes living the message and devotion of Divine Mercy all the more important for our times.”

## A first for Oceania

From the Americas and Europe to the countries of the Pacific Rim, Divine Mercy devotees gathered at WACOM5 for prayer, fellowship, and formation based around the theme “Divine Mercy: The Ocean of Love that Envelops the Whole World.”

The deputy prime minister of Samoa, Tuala Iosefo

Ponifasio, welcomed all the delegates on behalf of the government and people of Samoa, an island nation 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii.

“We noticed that the last three hosts of WACOM were countries with larger economies and resources: Poland in 2011, Colombia in 2014, and the Philippines in 2017,” Ponifasio said, noting Samoa was the first country in Oceania to host WACOM. He offered “the warmest of Oceanic and Pacifica *alofa’aga* — an ocean of love, enveloping not only the delegates but the whole world. May His guiding arms lead, protect, and steer our ships/canoes, as we sail through this week and our respective journey back, as apostles of mercy, proclaiming and striving for perfection and His righteousness — leading the mission and movement of the Divine Mercy.”

Speakers included Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, who’d worked so closely with the late, great Fr. Seraphim

Michalenko, MIC, since the 1980s on promoting the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

“The World Apostolic Congress on Mercy is so important,” Fr. Kaz said. “Divine Mercy devotees need to know who we are. We need to know that we, both priests and laypeople, have been invited to a mission of mercy. Divine Mercy is the only thing that’s effective in reaching the wounded people of today.

“We need to realize what God has given to us: He revealed Himself,” Fr. Kaz continued. “We have to go back to Scripture to come to know Him more clearly. We have to re-enter the culture because the culture is pushing Him out. Excluding God really increases isolation and all kinds of social problems. We are sent as missionaries of mercy to go out and reach the people of today through one-on-one conversations, relationships of love, mercy, and truth. That’s the most effective witness to Jesus.”

## Pure joy

As the newly-elected provincial superior of the Marian Fathers in the U.S. and Argentina, Fr. Chris served as lead celebrant at some of the Masses and was a speaker at the Congress.

“The people there were so joyful: singing, dancing, and worshiping God without a care in the world,” said Fr. Chris, recalling Samoa. “These are people who have nothing. They have no money; they have no cars; yet they are the happiest people you ever saw. So you see there can be joy without materialism, just by trusting in and receiving God’s mercy.”

Since 2017, WACOM has been under the management of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Evangelization. Representatives from the Holy See were present and participated throughout the Congress. The Congregation in which St. Faustina lived and died, the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, were represented by Sr. M. Teresa de la Fuente, ISMM, and Sr. M. Inga Kvassayova, ISMM, both of

whom addressed the Congress.

## Next stop: Vilnius

And now, after Samoa, the Church sends the World Apostolic Congress to Vilnius, Lithuania, June 7-12, 2026. In some sense, this is a homecoming. Vilnius, after all, was where St. Faustina had many of the crucial visions that



**‘We are sent as missionaries of mercy to go out and reach the people of today through one-on-one conversations, relationships of love, mercy, and truth. That’s the most effective witness to Jesus.’**

established the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

“We have to be talking about unveiling Divine Providence, seeing how the Lord works in history, not just one event,” said the Most Rev. Gintaras Grusas, Archbishop of Vilnius, president of the Council of Bishops’ Conferences of Europe, and host of WACOM6. “Going back only a few years, we see God is still working in the world today. He is working with us, and He is working through us.”

Let us plan to join with our brethren at the next WACOM, as well as at the national and regional congresses, and be strengthened by our bonds of communion in Christ the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit, according to the will of the Father, to practice the Divine Mercy message and devotion, and spread it to every last corner of the earth.

For the latest news, visit [Vilnensis.lt/wacom](http://Vilnensis.lt/wacom) and [MercyCongress.org](http://MercyCongress.org).

MH

# School's in. Church's out?

*What's a parent to do?*



By Scott L. Smith, Jr.

**I**t's back to school, and parents are faced with the tsunami of activities that take up their kids' time — and often challenge the most important time of all: Sunday Mass.

These days, when it seems like the time of Christendom recedes further and further into our past, even the simplest choices we make for God and for a holy family will take on a radical character. That is, as society supports Christianity less and less, just getting our kids to church may require a seemingly extreme action on our part. A 2013 Protestant study of 16 declining congregations in the U.S. and Canada named children's sport activities as the primary reason for declining Sunday church attendance.

What can parents do?

Do you make a "sports fast," hitting pause on all school sports and extracurricular activities for a month, six months, or even a year? Maybe. This is an option to seriously and prayerfully consider.

## Eight strategies

However, there are less radical ways to cobble together a compromise between the mad rush of children's extracurriculars, family life, and the most important part of family life: church attendance. Here are eight strategies to make sure Christ and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass stay at the forefront of your very busy family life:

**Talk to your family.** Share with your family the importance of attending Holy Mass together as a family. Then, make sure your actions match your words.

**Make a family plan!** A family meeting at the beginning of every week is important. Try Sunday nights. Everybody synchronizes and shares their schedule of events for the week ahead. In advance, prioritize Holy Mass next Sunday among all the other things that fill your week.

**Use [MassTimes.org](https://www.MassTimes.org).** If you're traveling, know in advance where the nearest or most fitting Mass and Confession times are. MassTimes.org has served my family well through the years, no matter where we have found ourselves in the country.

One step better? Make a pilgrimage out of your trip. Know where the holy sites and shrines are when you're traveling. Attend Mass at these locations with your family. Make it the core of your trip.

**Make a backup plan.** "No plan survives first contact with the enemy," the saying goes. No plan survives first contact with the school and sports week, either. Find Mass time alternatives, like the Saturday vigil. Do your best to go to Mass as a full family, but you may need to split up the family, especially in cases of sickness.

**Do church sports and extracurriculars.** Do extracurriculars take you away from church? Do your extracurriculars at church. Don't have any programs like these for the kids at your church? No church leagues? Start some. Lead the

change that you want to see. You could be the subject of the next great sports movie. Make church your second home.

**Be active in your parish.** This builds from the previous point. One of the best ways to accomplish any goal is to have your friends hold you accountable. Building friendships at church is the best way for everybody, parents and kids alike, to want to go to Mass. You are also the average of the top five people you hang out with the most.

**Engage in pre- and post-Mass rituals and discussions.** Fast before Mass together as a family (at age-appropriate levels). Encourage the kids to take a dollar (or other non-noisy quantity of money) from their piggy bank to offer at the collection. Pray together as a family on the ride to Mass to orient the family's disposition to reverence.

**In the end, you will never regret making a bold choice for Christ for your family. Even if you're wrong, your priorities are right. This is what your kids will remember you for — it won't be for doing what everybody else did. As G. K. Chesterton said, 'A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.'**

After Mass, talk together about the readings, the homily, and the Eucharistic prayers. Ask the kids how they will apply what they learned to their lives.

**Ask for earthly *and* heavenly help.** We're Catholic, after all! We can ask for direct help from the two greatest parents of all time, Mary and Joseph. Consecrate your family and children to St. Joseph, too — use the book that Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and I wrote together, *Consecration to Saint Joseph for Children and Families*. We can ask for help from all of Heaven, too — St. John Bosco is my go-to for unruly boys during Mass.

## Evangelizing effect

In the end, you will never regret making a bold choice for Christ for your family. Even if you're wrong, your priorities are right. This is what your kids will remember you for — it won't be for doing what everybody else did. As G. K. Chesterton said, "A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."

Other families are having the same experience as you. They may be just waiting for someone else to take the lead — to do what everybody else is thinking. Your courage could have a huge evangelizing impact.

Order *Consecration to Saint Joseph for Children and Families* (Product Code: B59-CJHB) at [ShopMercy.org/b59](https://www.ShopMercy.org/b59). MH

# THE LITTLE FLOWER SHOWS THE WAY TO HEAVEN

By Br. Jacob, MIC



**S**aint Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) has been called the greatest saint of modern times and is truly one of the most beloved saints of all time — certainly one of my personal favorites. A Doctor of the Church, she is one of the most powerful intercessors among all the saints, and many people have had huge prayers answered by praying to her.

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, which makes this an especially perfect time to reflect on the remarkable spirituality that she taught during her short life: the way of spiritual childhood.

## The Little Way

Saint Thérèse knew that she was too little to climb the “staircase of perfection,” as St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross had done before her. This staircase consists of heroic acts of virtue, severe penances, and great effort on the part of the individual. Few souls can climb this staircase, so St. Thérèse sought another way, what she called “a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new,” according to her spiritual memoir, *Story of a Soul*.

She wanted to find an “elevator” that would take her straight to Heaven and bypass the staircase of perfection. She found that elevator after reading two Scripture passages from the Old Testament. The first is Proverbs 9:4: “Whoever is a *little one* let him come to me.” She realized that the way to God is to remain “little” (humble); she saw herself as “the little flower of Jesus,” giving glory to God but unnoticed among all the other flowers in the fields.

But she also wanted to know what God would do when she came to Him as such. She read Isaiah 66:12-13: “As one whom a mother caresses, so will I comfort you; you shall be carried at the breasts, and upon the knees they shall caress you.” She rejoiced in having found her elevator to Heaven and wrote, “The elevator which must raise me to heaven is Your arms, O Jesus! And for this I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more.”

We can rejoice with St. Thérèse because we can all follow her little way to Heaven. Instead of “growing up” and trying to do everything on our own, we can reach Heaven much more quickly and easily by remaining humble and relying on Jesus for everything. When we approach Jesus as a little child, He will take us into His arms and lift us straight to Heaven.

## Spiritual Childhood

But what does it really mean to be a spiritual child? Spiritual childhood is a disposition that we can develop no matter our chronological age. It consists mainly in having complete confidence and trust in God. This is very familiar to Marian Helpers, because trust is also central to the teachings of St. Faustina, but we can deepen our understanding of trust with the help of St. Thérèse.

We need to look to God as our loving Father and remem-

ber that we are His little children. He is always with us; He will never leave us. When we let this reality sink in, we will begin to have more confidence and trust in God. God has a plan for each and every one of us, and if we simply follow it as a child following the desires of our Father, we will have nothing to fear.

It really is that simple. We complicate things and want to figure things out on our own; we worry about how we will accomplish all that we need to do. But if we go to God in prayer, ask for His guidance, and listen to whatever He tells us, He will gently tell us what we need to do and guide us where we need to go.

So instead of taking your life and struggles into your own hands, surrender everything to God and trust that He will take care of you.

**‘The elevator which must raise me to heaven is Your arms, O Jesus!’ St. Thérèse wrote. ‘And for this I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain little and become this more and more.’**

## Marian Devotion

The little way of spiritual childhood of St. Thérèse also fits well with devotion to Mary, especially devotion to the Immaculate Conception. Mary is the exemplar of a spiritual child and led a most simple life of dependence on God. She heard the Word of God and kept it in her heart, trusting that God only wanted the best for her, His beloved daughter (see Lk 11:28).

In the Immaculate Conception, Mary received the greatest mercy ever given to a mere human: preservation from original sin. She did nothing to merit this grace, receiving it as a free gift from her Father; she also remained faithful to it throughout her whole life, always remaining sinless and carrying out God’s will. She did not complicate her life by doing what she herself wanted to do, but always followed the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. She can teach us how to have the same childlike dependence on God.

Saint Thérèse saw that the elevator to Heaven is the arms of Jesus, but Mary will also help lift us to Heaven. As spiritual children, we first rely on God as our Father, but Mary is also our beloved Mother given to us by God. Everything coming from God to us passes through her, and we return to God through her as well. When we run to her, she will take us in her arms, comfort us, and caress us (see Is 66:12). She will then bring us to Jesus and leave us in His loving embrace.

During this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Thérèse, and especially on her feast day, Oct. 1, may we meditate on spiritual childhood, take a step back from our busy lives, and live a little more simply as children of our Heavenly Father who will give us all we need. Let us look to St. Thérèse and Mary Immaculate as examples of spiritual children who can teach us how to love God and rely on Him for everything. MH



Dr. Bryan Thatcher has made many international trips in the service of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, and His Church.

# A LOOK BACK

## EADM celebrates 25 Years

By Dr. Bryan Thatcher

**T**his year the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM) celebrates 25 years with the Marians, as it was in 1998 that the St. Stanislaus Kostka Province (as it was then called) in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, brought us under their wings as an apostolate.

This quarter-century has been a time of great joy for me. I have traveled to so many places, spoken to many churches and at conferences, and met so many wonderful people and had so many memorable experiences. The deeply spiritual people I have encountered are the ones that inspire me to keep pushing on.

### Divine Mercy Cenacles

In 1994, a friend handed me the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and, as I began to read it, the words seemed to enlarge and jump out at me. A quote that got me through some difficult personal times was, “**The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My Mercy**” (*Diary,*



In the late 90s, Dr. Thatcher traveled to Stockbridge for a “Fortnight on Divine Mercy” with speakers Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Fr. George Kosicki, CSB, and Vinny Flynn.

723). I began to understand God’s love for me, and I could not keep it to myself.

Our church was forming small Christian communities

where people met weekly in small groups to discuss the next week's Gospel reading. I asked our priest if we could study the *Diary* of St. Faustina, and he agreed. That was the start of the first Divine Mercy cenacle. I wrote the first manual and integrated some Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* into the lessons. That was the initial "Cenacle of Divine Mercy," and things began to happen.

In early 1998, I received a call from Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and he suggested that the ministry come under the authority and guidance of the Marians. We became an apostolate and, in the early 2000s, were written into the statutes of the Order in Rome.

It was only through the guidance and mentoring of Fr. Seraphim and Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, that I grew in depth in my understanding of the message and began to see it as a spirituality and "A Way of Life." We have the beautiful devotional aspects, but we must integrate the message in our hearts and live it through forgiveness of others, trust in God, carrying our cross through our trials and sufferings, and being merciful to others.

Father Seraphim helped edit and correct the cenacle manuals, and I remember Father went through several red pens suggesting changes!

## Overseas journeys

In 1998, I made my first trip to the Philippines and met with Fr. Josefino Ramirez, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Manila. He wanted to learn more about EADM and, within a year or so, Fr. Seraphim, Fran Bourdon of the Association of Marian Helpers, and I traveled to the Philippines to host several conferences. That trip bore great fruit as, several years later, the Marians established a vicariate in the Philippines and eventually moved the major headquarters from Manila to El Salvador City on the island of Mindanao.

In 1999, Pope St. John Paul II gave a special apostolic blessing to all Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy and for those who support our efforts, and, also in 1999, gave a special apostolic blessing to all those praying a Chaplet during Eucharistic Adoration for those sick and dying in that hour. In 2003, he gave us a third blessing for all those who pray a Chaplet for pro-life causes.

EADM has brought me around the world. In Kenya, I met a nun, who allegedly was having visions of Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration. I met Bishop Cornelius Korir of the Diocese of Eldoret and spoke and traveled across the country.

I have a funny memory of the trip — Sister wanted me to meet her mother, and we traveled some distance to her home. As a gift she gave me a live chicken. Obviously, I couldn't take it on the plane, so I gave it to Bishop Korir!

In the early 2000s I visited Poland and Ukraine with Br. Albin, MIC. The people were so kind, and I think it was one of my favorite trips. We must continue to pray for an end to the war!

In 2018, I traveled to the Solomon Islands. The people there gave me a lovely tribal welcome. I gave a four-day mission on the message of Divine Mercy, the Eucharist, Our Lady, the gift of life, and cenacle formation. Divine Mercy groups will be forming in nearly all of the churches in the three dioceses there.

## Containers of supplies

Over the years, we have shipped more than 150 containers worldwide of donated supplies. It has been a great source of joy for me, and I want to thank all the volunteers who would help load one container after another to get them to ports for shipping.

Since COVID shut down conferences and church missions, I decided to do interviews with priests, nuns, scientists, health care professionals, and lay people with great stories. The purpose is to educate people on the gifts of our faith and bring hope to a hurting world. You can view more than 125 interviews or listen to the podcasts at [DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org).

I would be remiss if I did not thank Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, now superior general of the Marians, for his nearly 20 years of guidance and advising me whenever I needed help. Please pray for him in his new role.

People ask me if I miss being a doctor. I still see myself in a healing ministry, but a spiritual one. As you hopefully can glean from the above, I wouldn't change a thing!

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/eadm](http://TheDivineMercy.org/eadm) to learn more about the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy.

MH



In 2001, EADM shipped an 18-foot, two-ton Divine Mercy statue to Kibeho, Rwanda.



Marian Fathers of old (in the white habit, including St. Stanislaus Papczyński) and Marians of recent times (wearing black, including Bl. George Matulaitis) are gathered together under the mantle of Our Lady of Mercy.

# THE WHITE HABIT RETURNS

By Br. Jacob, MIC

**Y**ou might be surprised the next time you see one of the Marian priests or brothers. In recent years, we have all dressed like diocesan priests and seminarians, wearing black clerical suits or black cassocks. However, the latest General Chapter of the Marians approved the wearing of our white habit, which Marians wore from 1671 until 1909.

In recent years, there has been a growing desire among many Marians to return to the white habit worn by our Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński (1631-1701), especially after his beatification in 2007 and canonization in 2016. He chose a white habit for our community to honor the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; this

habit is an external sign of our religious consecration and a witness to the world of the Immaculate Conception. According to the *Constitutions* of the Marian Fathers, “The mystery of the Immaculate Conception is the essence of the charism of the Congregation and has been, from the very beginning, a particular sign, strength, and joy of the Marian

vocation. From this mystery flow the identity and mission of the Congregation” (*Constitutions*, 2).

## Marian tint

Who we are and what we do is “tinted” by the Immaculate Conception. While our identity and mission as Marians of the Immaculate Conception is primarily spiritual, it is aided by material means, such as images of Our Lady, Rosary beads, and various publications. Many Marians feel that the white habit will also help us to promote our charism of spreading devotion to the Immaculate Conception.

The main fruit of the Immaculate Conception for the Blessed Virgin Mary is total purity, which is fittingly represented by the color white. By wearing the white habit, we remind ourselves externally that we are called to remain pure spiritually. It is first a reminder to us who wear the habit to develop purity of body and soul, and then a reminder to the world that everyone needs to be pure.

Developing purity and chastity according to our state in life is especially important in our culture where sexual impurity is rampant. Purity is the first virtue of Our Lady mentioned in the Gospel, and the first virtue of the Rule of the Ten Evangelical Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on which the Marians professed their vows for the first 210 years. The Immaculate Conception and purity are the foundation of Mary’s whole spiritual life and allowed her to love God with an undivided heart while on earth and now forever in Heaven.

The white habit of the Marian Fathers is a reminder to all of us who wear it that we must develop that same purity and fully live out our vow of chastity. We hope that through the witness of our lives and by wearing the white habit, we will inspire others to grow in purity and imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Past persecution

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries,

our Congregation, as well as all Catholic religious orders, faced extreme persecution from the Russian empire. Many Marians left to be diocesan priests, who were less persecuted; others were sent to Siberian labor camps; and the remaining older Marians died.

By 1908, there was only one Marian left in the last Marian monastery in Marijampolė, Lithuania: Fr. Vincent Sękowski. He thought the Congregation would die with

him, but Fr. George Matulaitis, who later became an archbishop, came to him and secretly joined the Marians. Now-Blessed George adopted the attire of diocesan priests so that the Marians would blend in and not suffer persecution from Russia; he did this out of necessity. When he was initially in contact with Fr. Sękowski by letter, he expressed his desire to wear the white habit. He also wrote in his *Journal* that in our effort to bring Christ every-



**Who we are and what we do is ‘tinted’ by the Immaculate Conception. While our identity and mission as Marians of the Immaculate Conception is primarily spiritual, it is aided by material means, such as images of Our Lady, Rosary beads, and various publications. Many Marians feel that the white habit will also help us to promote our charism of spreading devotion to the Immaculate Conception.**

where, “... we should make use of any lawful and worthy means available to us: the cassock of the priest or the habit of the religious or, if need be, the clothes of the layman...” (*Journal*, October 17, 1910).

We can be witnesses to Jesus no matter what we wear, but certain clothing may help us more in different situations.

Marians now have the possibility of wearing the white habit again, but no one is required to wear it; each member can discern for himself whether or not he will wear it. The white habit will normally be received at perpetual vows, when Marians make a total offering of themselves to God forever, and those already in perpetual vows may start wearing the habit. We are encouraged to wear the white habit at least eight times per year: on feast days that are important to us, such as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, and the feast days of our Founder and Renovator.

We hope that the white habit will strengthen our identity as Marians of the Immaculate Conception and help us to carry out our mission in the Church more zealously. MH

# Remember your loved ones during the month of November

Send us the names of your deceased loved ones and they will share in the graces of the Masses offered at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Visit [Marian.org/poorsouls](http://Marian.org/poorsouls)  
or call 800-462-7426.



## GET PEACE OF MIND. START YOUR FREE WILL NOW!

Laura, a Marian Helper, thanked us for offering **FreeWill**, an online tool for preparing your will.

She said:

"I believe it was divine providence that gave me the opportunity to use this trusted resource to rewrite and update my will.

"It was very simple and straightforward. It guided me each step of the way, and zeroed in on the questions I needed to ask myself and reflect upon.

"Now that I have a valid will, I find peace."

[VISIT MARIAN.ORG/WILL](http://Marian.org/will)



# GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

**I** never thought of my late husband, Ed Miller, as a living saint. Does a saint leave the freezer door open after he gets another helping of ice cream? When we were married some 16 years ago and he started to grasp my expectations for a “happy home,” he began calling them “Ellen’s Commandments.” At last count he was up to 26 — a mere 26!

While he may not have tried very hard to obey my “commandments” (even when I suggested he could just humor me some of the time), when it came to serving our Lord, Ed was all in. He showed me so much about being faithful to God and about helping others. (And a wee bit about not sweating the small stuff.)

Ed’s goal was to be “a good and faithful servant.” He dedicated himself to following the teachings of the Church, attending Mass often, visiting “his buddy” Jesus in Adoration, performing many corporal works of mercy, and finding ways to encourage others to get to know Jesus better.

Some of his actions were simple. For example, he wore a bracelet with 10 wooden beads and a cross that said, “Jesus, I trust in You!” If someone commented on it, in a flash he would take it off and hand it to them, as he reached into his pocket and pulled out a Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer card to give them.

## ‘Let’s make it happen’

Similarly, when we traveled, we would find a local church and attend Mass. After Mass, we would usually introduce ourselves to the priest. If the church did not have a Divine Mercy Image, Ed would “convince” the priest that he could accept one as a gift.

Other undertakings were more ambitious and laborious. Following Ed’s death on June 26, 2023, some tributes to him focused on his work as an apostle of Divine Mercy. Ed would hear or formulate a good idea for a pro-life march or a Divine Mercy conference and then say, “Let’s make it happen.”

He was (in)famous for his multi-tabbed, multicolored

spreadsheets, which reflected his genius for organization and flair for recruiting talented speakers and musicians and a legion of “foot soldiers.” After all, this was a battle for souls, and Ed was willing to lead the troops.

Others remember him for his compassion. He was deeply

afflicted by the plight of the people of Haiti, and managed to get his former employers to donate an earth-mover to help rebuild roads destroyed by one of the hurricanes. That gift required connections, but Ed also rolled up his sleeves to help. When a parish-twinning program needed someone to run the warehouse and make sure that the supplies coming from all over the country were

properly labeled, sorted, and stowed in the correct shipping containers, Ed stepped up. (Hard for me to imagine how he could do that and not put the lid back on the jelly jar.)

## Generous nature

Ed donated generously to many Catholic and humanitarian charities. In the last few years, arthritis made it hard for him to write, so he allowed me to write checks for him. I used the opportunity to offer (unsolicited) advice on some tax-wise ways to give, including gifts of stock and qualified charitable distributions from his IRA, and when he realized that following this advice would allow him to donate more to charity, he did it! (At last, I said something that he found worth heeding.)

Many people have shared with me ways that Ed had an impact on them. I now ask you to join me in praying that he gets his eternal reward and hears the invitation: “Good and faithful servant, come and share your Master’s happiness.”



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

— St. John Vianney

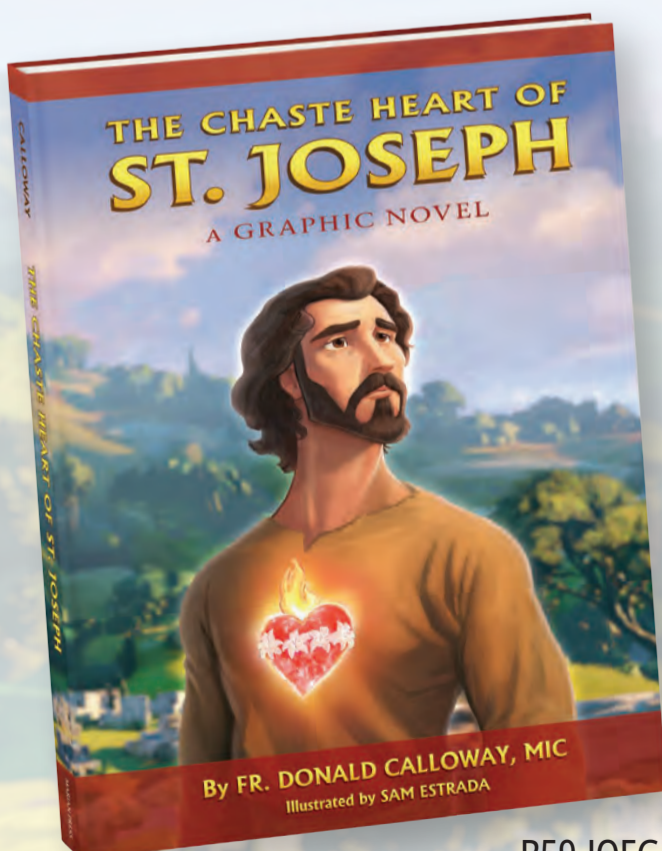


Support the Campaign  
for Holy Priests today!  
Visit [Marian.org/vocation-support](http://Marian.org/vocation-support)  
Call 1-800-462-7426

Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

2023 CAMPAIGN FOR  
HOLY PRIESTS 2024

Join Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, as he tells  
the dynamic and inspiring story of St. Joseph.



B59-JOEG

To order:  
Visit [ShopMercy.org/b59](http://ShopMercy.org/b59)  
or call 1-800-462-7426.

## GRACES RECEIVED

### Granddaughter recovers

I have been saying prayers to Blessed George for years, mostly focusing on my granddaughter. Now 14, she was diagnosed with hemolytic anemia when she was 2 or 3 years old. It is something that is controlled with medication. However, several months ago, she was very sick and, as she started to feel better, she complained of her body hurting at night. Her wrists and fingers were without strength, as well as her ankle and foot.

I prayed to Blessed George even more vigorously because her mother developed juvenile rheumatoid arthritis when she was 15. Her symptoms were similar to how her mother's began. My granddaughter is also around horses, so there was also a greater fear that the illness was caused by Lyme disease.

I continued to pray to Blessed George, while the doctors tested for Lyme, that the bloodwork would return negative, and it did! With Lyme ruled out, I gave thanks and continued prayers. I feel Blessed George also interceded in this regard because, whatever was happening, my granddaughter's body returned to normal. It is believed that she will outgrow the anemia as she matures. For now, she has returned to riding horses and playing sports such as volleyball.

I continue to pray daily to Blessed George and give thanks for all he has done and continues to do.

— MAH,  
Brandywine, Maryland

### Son gets a job

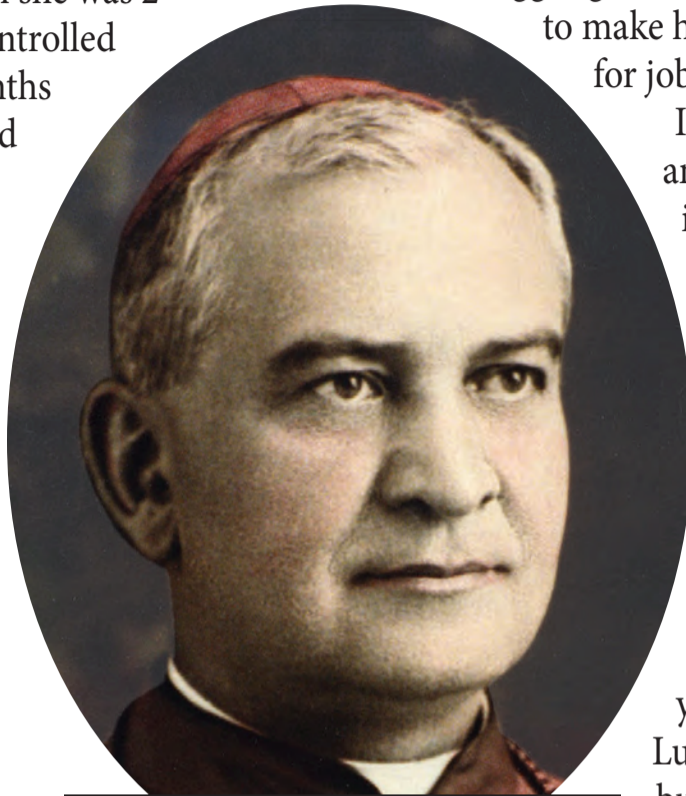
I'm a member of the Association of Marian Helpers and

read about Blessed George in the *Marian Helper* magazine.

My son graduated from university a year and a half ago, but he still had no job, not even an interview. He's been struggling with health issues, ADHD, and an inability to make himself do things, including applying for jobs.

I prayed a novena to Blessed George, and on the ninth day he got a call for an interview. I made another novena to Blessed George in thanksgiving, and on the ninth day he got the job. I'm very thankful to Blessed George for his intercession.

— LC, email



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

### Son finds employment

My son was unemployed. He works in the hospitality industry. For years he had a good job in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and a successful side business, but then he lost everything due to a hurricane. He returned to the U.S. but couldn't find a job for years, due to COVID-19.

I turned in prayer to Blessed George, asking him to help my son restart his career. After several weeks of my prayers, a job in the hospitality business came through. Knowing how difficult it has been for people in his profession to find work, I truly feel this blessing only came through the intercession of Blessed George.

— ML,  
Sherman, Connecticut

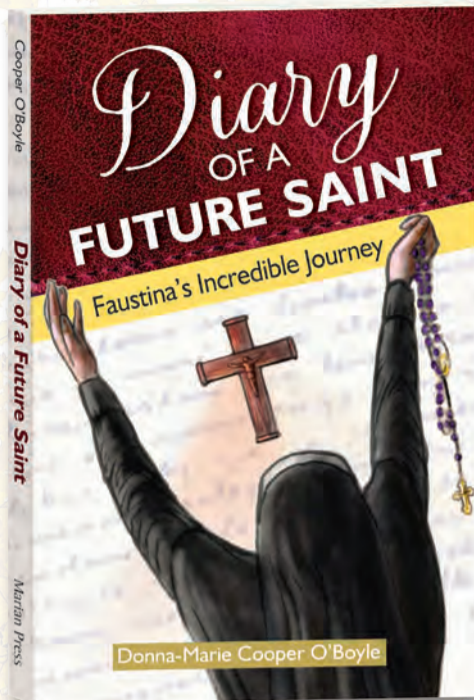
For a Blessed George prayer card (B59-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: [graces@marian.org](mailto:graces@marian.org).

### 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 ...*

# New from Marian Press

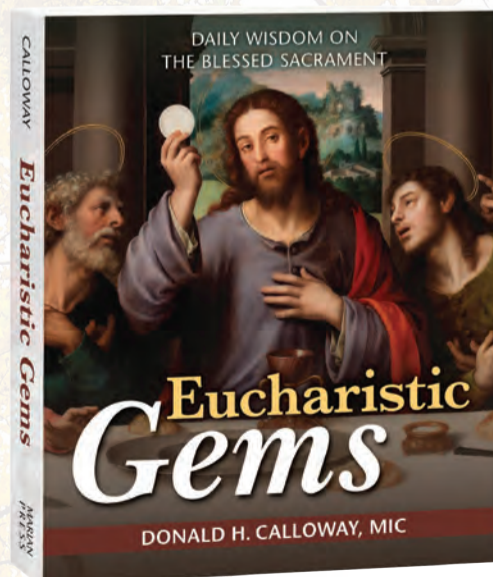


## Diary of a Future Saint: Faustina's Incredible Journey

*Diary of a Future Saint* presents the authentic biography of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska for a new generation, told by master storyteller Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle. Designed for readers ages 10 and up, this lively and thought-provoking book tells the incredible journey of a simple peasant girl chosen by God to teach the world about His unfathomable Divine Mercy. Illustrated with scenes from St. Faustina's life, *Diary of a Future Saint* introduces St. Faustina as a role model for young Catholics and is destined to become a family favorite. Paperback, 216 pages. **B59-UNST \$15.95**

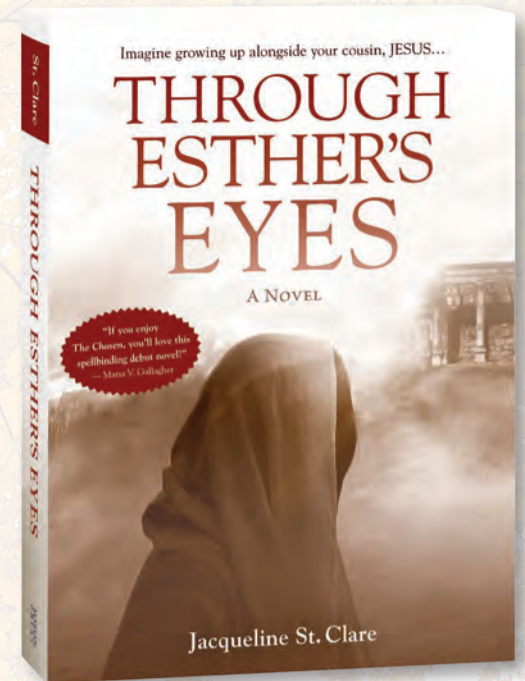
## Eucharistic Gems: Daily Wisdom on the Blessed Sacrament

*Eucharistic Gems* is an aid to the National Eucharistic Revival currently under way in our country. The specific time-frame set aside by the bishops will come and go, but the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will always remain in the tabernacles of Catholic churches around the world. What better way, then, to make sure there always remains an on-going fruit of the Eucharistic Revival than to have a book that offers timeless quotes on the Eucharist — 366 quotes, in fact. Compiled by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, *Eucharistic Gems* is intended to be a book that can be read and re-read for years to come, and keep the Eucharistic Revival ever in our hearts. Paperback, 272 pages. **B59-EUGM \$13.95**



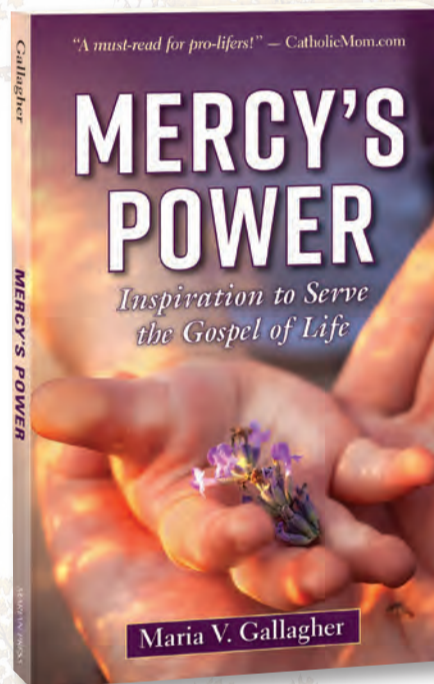
## Through Esther's Eyes

When Esther falls in love with Lazarus of Bethany, she thinks that her role as a woman will be complete with their marriage and children. This extraordinary first novel is a sweeping saga of first-century Palestine and the life of Jesus of Nazareth, as seen through the bright green eyes of His fictional cousin, Esther. You may know the Gospel story and how it ends, but you will be enthralled seeing the power and the glory unfold anew, *Through Esther's Eyes*. Paperback, 464 pages. **B59-TEBK \$17.95.**



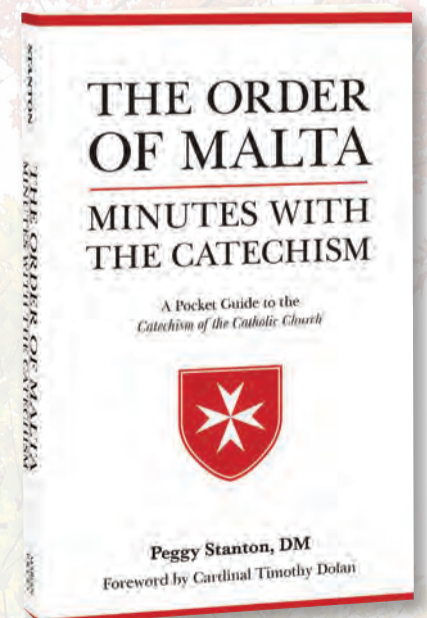
## Mercy's Power: Inspiration to Serve the Gospel of Life

This is a critical time in the history of our world and of our faith — a time when advocates for life must be more persuasive and courageous than ever before. As a result, we need a spiritual guidebook, one that can provide solace and support during these turbulent times. While *Roe v. Wade* is now history, a range of threats to innocent human life persist. *Mercy's Power*, by pro-life advocate Maria V. Gallagher, is the trusty companion for our journey. Paperback, 156 pages. **B59-MPOW \$15.95**



## The Order of Malta: Minutes with the Catechism

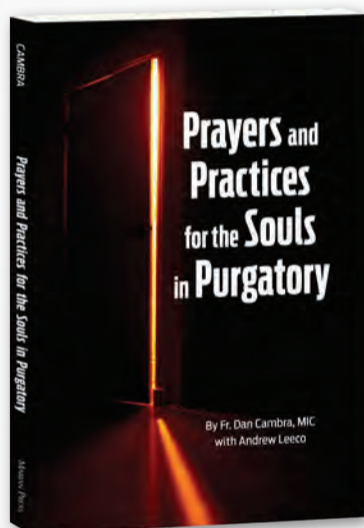
For more than a decade, Dame of Malta and veteran journalist Peggy Stanton produced, wrote, and broadcast "The Order of Malta Minute with the Catechism," a syndicated series of one-minute radio segments to inspire Catholics with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Minutes distill the essentials of doctrine in the *Catechism* and offer a handy guide when readers are questioned WHY they believe WHAT they believe. Paperback, 290 pages. **B59-OMTK \$16.95**



# Remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory



**Purgatory: A Guide**  
 This pocket-sized overview of the doctrines and practices of the Church regarding the Holy Souls in Purgatory equips you to explain and defend one of the greatest works of mercy. See how you can help the Holy Souls. Paperback, 79 pages  
**B59-SOULS \$3.99**



**Prayers and Practices for the Souls in Purgatory**  
 Discover the Catholic doctrine of Purgatory, its roots in Scripture and Tradition, and what this means for our lives and devotion. Paperback, 156 pages  
**B59-PRBK \$16.95**

## Purgatory Pack

The Purgatory Pack has everything you need to help souls reach Heaven. Includes: *Purgatory: A Guide* booklet and pamphlets: Explanation of the St. Gertrude Prayer; To Eternity; Heaven, Hell, & Purgatory; Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy; Teaching Kids to Pray for the Souls in Purgatory; An Introduction to Indulgences; Prayers with Partial Indulgences; The Four Daily Plenary Indulgences; and St. Gertrude prayercard. **B59-PURGPK \$6.95**



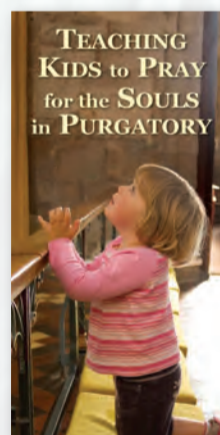
An Introduction to Indulgences  
**B59-PIPE**



Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory  
**B59-HHP**



Explanation of the St. Gertrude Prayer  
**B59-EOGPF**



Teaching Kids to Pray for the Souls in Purgatory  
**B59-CLDPF**



Prayers with Partial Indulgences  
**B59-INPF**

**Pamphlets:**  
 10 FOR \$1.60  
 •  
 100 FOR \$14.00  
 •  
 1,000 FOR \$100.00

## Order Info

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

**toll free:** 1-800-462-7426 **shop online:** [ShopMercy.org](http://ShopMercy.org)

**mail:** Order Department  
 Association of Marian Helpers  
 Stockbridge, MA 01263

## Checks payable to: Association of Marian Helpers

Order total:	U.S. postage/handling	Canada postage/handling
\$.01-\$20. . . .	\$5.25	. . . \$6.75
\$20.01-\$35. . . .	\$7.25	. . . \$9.50
\$35.01-\$75. . . .	\$8.50	. . . \$11.25
\$75.01-\$125. . . .	\$9.50	. . . \$13.50
over \$125 . . .	10% of subtotal	15% of subtotal

Postage costs may vary for online orders.

From the  
VAULTS

MARIA

# THE EDEN HILL HYMN

Lyrics by  
Rev. Seraphim Michalenko, M.I.C.

(Musical Adaptation from Beethoven's "Pastorale")

SUNG AT THE MARIAN WEEK DURING THE CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION  
OF THE MARIAN FATHERS, STOCK BRIDGE, MASS.

Eden Hill Hymn

MF—Slowly in unison

Come Faithful Christians, Your lips with praises fill, To honor Our La--dy, the  
Queen of Eden Hill.

the Ave CHORUS

S MF A--VE, A--VE, A--VE, MA--RI--A  
A MF A--VE, A--VE, A--VE, MA--RI--A

Organ MF

## The Eden Hill Hymn

1. Come faithful Christians  
Your lips with praises fill,  
To honor Our Lady  
The Queen of Eden Hill... Ave...
2. Candles in hand  
As we walk the rosary way,  
Salute Her with Aves  
To close this wondrous day... Ave...
3. Stars of the heavens  
Be not invidious of  
The flames of our candles  
These symbols of our love... Ave...
4. Woodlands and streamlets  
Join in our evening song,  
O hills, skies and valleys  
Its echo do prolong... Ave...
5. Mary, Dear Mother,  
Thy tender look we seek,  
Receive, thou, our prayers  
As we celebrate your week... Ave...
6. Mother, Beloved,  
Benignly from on high,  
Behold thou this throng  
And receive its every sigh... Ave...
7. From thy Conception  
Thou'rt free from every stain,  
Such brightness in others  
Would be searched for in vain... Ave...
8. Purest of virgins  
Our hearts we offer thee,  
To keep them for Jesus  
Of every guilt most free.

CUM PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Nihil Obstat:  
Rev. Francis Medynski, M.I.C.  
Censor deputatus  
June 21, 1962

Imprimi Petest:  
Very Rev. Joseph J. Sieski, M.I.C.  
Superior Provincialis  
July 2, 1962

Imprimatur:  
Diocesan Music Commission  
Archdiocese of Boston  
July 11, 1962

Did you know that the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy has an official theme song? It's called "The Eden Hill Hymn," and dates to the opening of the Shrine church in 1962. Father Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, of happy memory, wrote the lyrics, with the musical arrangement set to Beethoven's "Pastorale." It was traditionally sung during the annual Marian Week celebrations in August, during the candlelight procession to honor, as the opening verse goes, "Our Lady, the Queen of Eden Hill."

# Live the call!



## **Dr. Christina Chan, Marian Helper:**

Divine Mercy became the focus of my life after an awesome encounter with God's omnipotent Merciful Love in Lourdes, France. How wonderful to know that the Marian priests and brothers dedicate their lives to spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion! When I was asked to become a Marian Helper, I did not hesitate to support them through monetary donations and prayers. Let us join the Marian Fathers in spreading the Divine Mercy messages through our personal witness and support to them!

## **Brother Ryan, MIC:**

A few months after my conversion to the Catholic faith, I was given a 15-year enrollment card containing a nice image of Our Lady, which I promptly placed on my desk. Three years later, when I was discerning the priesthood, someone mentioned the Marians to me. On my "Come and See" retreat, I knew right away that this was where God wanted me to be. But only when I returned home did I notice that the image of Mary that had been sitting on my desk for three years (the enrollment card) was made by the Marians. "Pro Christo et Ecclesia!"

## **Attend a retreat**

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

The next retreats will be:  
Oct. 20-22  
Nov. 24-26

## **Learn more**

**Email:** [vocations@Marian.org](mailto:vocations@Marian.org)

**Visit:** [Marian.org/vocations](http://Marian.org/vocations)

**Write:** Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC  
Vocation Director

**Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception**

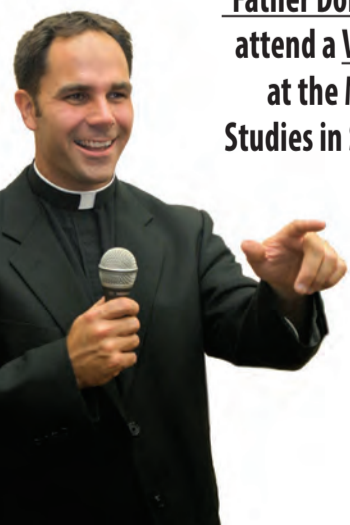
**350 Belleview Boulevard  
Steubenville, OH 43952**

## **Support**

### **Want to help our seminarians?**

We have more than 20 men preparing for religious life and the priesthood.

To donate, visit [marian.org/give/seminarians](http://marian.org/give/seminarians) or call 1-800-462-7426.



# WATCH 'LIVING DIVINE MERCY' WITH FR. CHRIS ALAR, MIC!

SEASON 3

WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M. AND MONDAYS AT 9 A.M. EST ON EWTN



VISIT [DIVINEMERCYPLUS.ORG](http://DIVINEMERCYPLUS.ORG) FOR ALL EPISODES