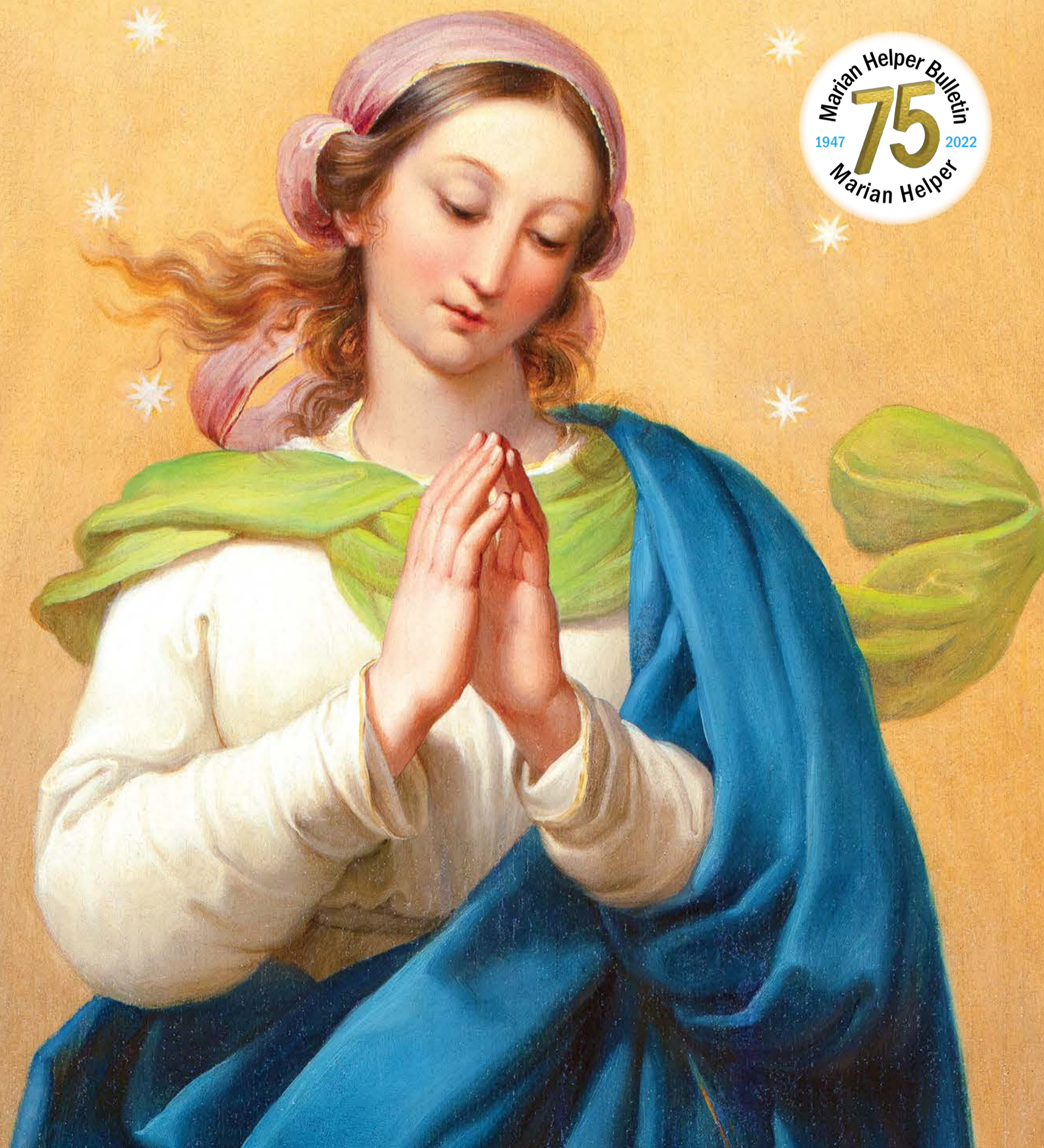


Marian Helper

Summer 2022

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

Marian.org



‘OUR LADY’ RENEWED

A Marian icon is restored to its former glory

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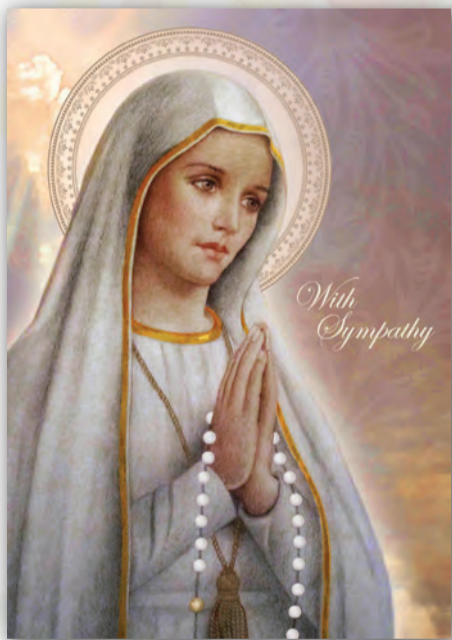


Fr. Joseph explains enrollments.



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Page 10 'OUR LADY,' RENEWED

An icon commissioned by the Marian Fathers 240 years ago is restored to its pristine glory, ready to inspire a new generation of Marians and Marian Helpers.

4 Helping the victims of war

The Marian Fathers, with the support and prayers of Marian Helpers, respond with prayer, ministering to victims, and persisting in living their religious vocations.

13 Return to Eden Hill

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, pilgrims were welcomed back for the public celebration of Divine Mercy Weekend in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

16 Saint Faustina and the Eucharist

A National Eucharistic Revival is under way, and it's time for a refresher on the "source and summit of the Christian life."

18 'A special sign of grace'

She is perhaps the most popular representation of the Blessed Mother: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whose feast we celebrate on July 16.

20 'More brilliant than the sun'

As we anticipate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 24, Robert Stackpole, STD, introduces a new weekly online series on the devotion.

22 A tale of three Images

Three versions of the Divine Mercy Image are particularly outstanding in the history of the Divine Mercy message and devotion: Vilnius, Hyla, and Skemp.

24 Equine Dreams

Father Andy Davy, MIC, is catapulted into a world where man and beast are joined together in a hymn of praise, one filled with the healing rays of Christ.

26 The 'Renovator' of the Marians

Get to know Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, 35 years since his beatification.

DEPARTMENTS

3 Father Joseph Writes 7 Notes from Rome 8 Marian Helpers in Action 12 Father Joseph's Picks 29 New from Marian Press
31 Outstanding Helpers 33 Graces Received 35 Answers to Questions 36 From the Vaults

AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER:

Fr. 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. Maczynski, MIC

MISSION STATEMENT

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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



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The Marian Fathers are a Congregation of nearly 500 priests and brothers in 20 countries around the world.

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

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

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

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

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- 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.



You Tube



Visit Marian.org/social

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- **Support a particular ministry:** Marian.org/give
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- **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 a charitable gift annuity: Marian.org/PlannedGiving

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I TRUST OUR LADY

Recently, a man approached me with a direct question. “Father,” he said. “Are you hopeful for the future?” I responded without hesitation: “Yes, absolutely!”

Here’s why.

This is a time of testing, but I trust Our Lady. I know she’s trustworthy because God almighty entrusted her with His Son. That Son trusted her enough to be obedient to her (see Lk 2:51). God found Mary to be utterly trustworthy, utterly reliable, utterly committed to Him. In fact, apart from God Himself, you could call Our Lady the most trustworthy person ever to exist.

So I trust her enough to have given my life to her service — I made vows in the Congregation of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. I trust her enough to follow her, knowing she will always lead me to her Son.

All that means I also trust her when she said at Fatima in 1917, 105 years ago: “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she shall be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”

My Marian brother Fr. Anthony Gramlich, rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, laid out in his March 25, 2022 homily (which you can watch on YouTube) the Holy See’s position that, according to Sr. Lucia of Fatima, the requested consecration took place on March 25, 1984. Subsequently, in a series of events, the USSR collapsed. Soviet atheistic communism broke and went away, something no one would have believed possible before it happened.

But as Pope Benedict XVI said in 2010 at Fatima, we still await the full Triumph of the Immaculate Heart.

On March 25, 2022, the 38th anniversary of St. John Paul II’s consecration, Pope Francis led an explicit consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart, an act of trust and love of Our Lady in the face of a Russia still in the clutches of the same errors she’s been wrestling with for well over a

century, including “caesaropapism” (the secular head of state claiming dominion over the church, as well).

The consecration was a great act. Pope Francis trusts Our Lady. He’s shown that throughout his pontificate, especially by visiting the icon of Our Lady, *Salus Populi Romani* (Protector of the Roman People), before and after each foreign trip he makes, asking her help and protection.

But our trust in Our Lady should mean we answer all her requests. That’s why I and my Marian brethren have been leading First Friday and First Saturday devotions, livestreamed from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, for well over a year now. Our Lady made multiple requests at Fatima, after all. The consecration of Russia was one. The First Saturdays in reparation for the blasphemies and outrages against her Immaculate Heart was another, required in order for us to see the conversion of Russia, the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart, and the era of peace. The daily Rosary for peace in the world, another. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart alongside devotion to the Sacred Heart — well, that’s the heart of the whole of Fatima.

Because we trust Our Lady, I and my Marian brethren continue to lead all you faithful folks to Our Lady. Hence the reason we’ve put Mary Immaculate on the front cover of this magazine, and dedicated funds to helping restore the classic image of “Our Lady, Immaculately Conceived.” You’ll read more about that and other good works of members of our Marian family in this issue of *Marian Helper*.

In all things, trust in Our Lady, and let her bring you home to her Son.

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 Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.



The Marians in Kharkiv, Ukraine, celebrating Mass in the basement.

Helping the victims of war



Dr. Bryan Thatcher and Nurse Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN talk about relief efforts.

THE MARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE, POLAND, AND THE U.S.

By Chris Sparks

The illegal, unwarranted invasion by Russia of its peaceful neighbor, Ukraine, comes at a high cost, one that, sadly, the Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers are paying. “It’s hard to put into words the tragedy that has unfolded since the invasion began on Feb. 24,” said the Very Rev. Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, vicar general of the Marian Fathers. “Not just the loss of innocent lives, but the disruption and displacement of millions of people, the greatest forced migration since World War II.”

And the Marian Fathers, with the support and prayers of Marian Helpers, are responding to this new challenge just as they always have: with prayer, gifts of aid and funds, ministering to victims, and persisting in living their religious vocations in spite of the best efforts of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

“On behalf of the Marians in Ukraine, I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for all the support and prayers, for keeping interest in what is going on there, and for the help that we have received that is beyond imagination,” said Fr. Wojciech “Wojtek” Jasinski, MIC, general economer (treasurer) for the Congregation of

Marian Fathers. “Our Marians in Ukraine feel the prayers of our donors and supporters. They are grateful for the financial support, and pray for all donors and the end of the war.”



The Marians in Ukraine

There are 17 Marian priests and one deacon in Ukraine in five parishes. Four of these parishes are in the western part of the country, closer to Poland and Moldova, and the Marians there continue to minister

to the people by providing food and shelter.

The Marian parish in Kharkiv, Ukraine, famously one of the hardest-hit cities in the country, has suffered most. The two Marian priests who had been assigned to the city before the war have remained, offering shelter to families, mostly to elderly people who were unable to escape. They’ve been celebrating Mass in the basement.

“From the very beginning, they decided to stay to the end, and it looks like they are even ready to die,” said Fr. Wojtek. “They want to be with the people, with the parishioners, all the time. They didn’t even think about

leaving.” In fact, they had a car, but they gave it to some religious sisters who needed to escape in order to avoid falling victim to Russian depredations. The Marians make do with a bike, which they use when they go and try to get food.

So far, there’s been enough food to go around, but there have been shortages, especially of medical supplies for first aid and treating the wounds caused by the invaders. The Divine Mercy Nursing Home in Gorodok, Ukraine, has been at max capacity for some time. “We have a house for around 80 people,” explained Fr. Wojtek. “There are many elderly and disabled people brought by their children for safety.”

Relief efforts

In response, you, the Marian Helpers, have swung into action. So far, substantial funds have been raised for immediate needs as well as the long-term rebuilding of the Marian parishes and ministries in Ukraine, and fundraising efforts continue.

Just ask Dr. Bryan Thatcher, founder of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), and Nurse Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. Both have medical training as well as years of experience practicing and promoting the Divine



Mercy message and devotion under the guidance of Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC.

Wasting no time, Dr. Thatcher and Nurse Marie both set to work from the earliest days of the conflict, making phone calls and trying to figure out how they could help. “Both of our ministries have many contacts in Poland. I have been to Ukraine and have friends there. This is a real humanitarian crisis,” Dr. Thatcher noted. “We need to move and act, all done in a spirit of Christian love, out of love of God.”

For 25 years, he and EADM have been filling shipping containers with medical supplies and sending them to populations in need across the world. All that experience, along with partners like the charity Project C.U.R.E., has paved the way for a remarkably quick response to a world historic crisis. Also, Nurse Marie’s experience coordinating pilgrimages with major airlines has expedited the process.

Coordinating daily with the Marian Helpers Center in Warsaw, Nurse Marie was able to utilize her experience in air logistics and treating catastrophic injuries to source the critical medical supplies needed. With Dr. Thatcher and Project C.U.R.E., she has been able to ship more than 30 pallets and 100 Stryker beds for the sick and injured. →

FOLLOWING FATIMA: THE FIRST SATURDAYS

We still haven’t seen the final fulfillment of the promise of Our Lady in Fatima that, “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.” According to Sr. Lucia, St. John Paul II consecrated Russia to Mary’s Immaculate Heart on March 25, 1984. The USSR fell shortly afterwards. And yet there’s still not peace in the world. Why?



Ask yourself: Have most of us been faithful to her requests, especially the First Saturdays of Reparation?

What are the Five First Saturdays?

First Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary include the following elements, performed with

the intention of reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart, for at least five consecutive months:

- Confession (shortly before or after the First Saturday — so long as the person receives Holy Communion in a state of grace);
- Holy Communion received on the First Saturday of each month;
- the Holy Rosary, five decades recited sometime during the day; and
- meditating for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary (one or more).

Let’s make these devotions a part of our prayer life each month! You can join the livestream of the Marians in prayer every First Saturday at 11 a.m. EST on [YouTube.com/DivineMercyOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/DivineMercyOfficial)



The Oliver-Hoffman Foundation and members from a Marian parish, St. Mary's in Plano, Illinois, have also shipped more than eight pallets. The urgent need is ongoing.

"We need donations to buy essential medical supplies, air cargo space, and humanitarian aid, but we also need everyone to pray," Nurse Marie said. "I've tried to alternate one Chaplet, one Rosary for Ukraine, for Russia, for everyone impacted by the conflict."

Facing familiar challenges

When the Russian army invaded Ukraine, the Marian Fathers were confronted with a very familiar set of challenges.

This is the Congregation, after all, that was founded by St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701) just after the Deluge, a whole series of invasions of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth in the 17th century. Concurrent with that, plagues were sweeping the region repeatedly, all helping to contribute to St. Stanislaus' deep concern for praying for the dead.

More recently, the Congregation dwindled down to a single member as the result of repressive Russian imperial measures designed to eradicate Catholic religious orders in lands under control of the Czar. During the Cold War, the Congregation again faced existential challenges at the hands of the communist regime operating out of Moscow.



The Ukrainian forces fighting for their country now see the spiritual context of the current struggle, one reminiscent of Russian invasions past, said Fr. Wojtek. "They consider the attack of the Russians as a diabolic one," he explained, "especially in Mariupol, which is the 'City of Mary.' For them, it's like the attack of Satan on the Blessed Virgin Mary." If Ukrainian soldiers come to the Marian Fathers' parishes or ministries, he went on, "of

course they receive the help which we can provide — food, medicine — and also they are asking for Rosaries and pictures of the Merciful Jesus and St. Stanislaus Papczynski, whom they consider their patron. They ask for a blessing before they go to fight. So people see very clearly that there is also

a very heavy spiritual battle which is going on in Ukraine right now."

The Congregation, with the support of the Marian Helpers and their Marian apostolates, will face this new set of challenges, lovingly minister to the victims of the conflict, and remain steadfast in service to Christ and His Church, all under the mantle of Mary Immaculate.

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

MH



A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

Just before Lent, I had the privilege of serving as the spiritual leader on a 206 Tours Pilgrimage to the Shrines in Italy. A pilgrimage is a wonderful experience. You go to holy sites with a group of people that you don't know and, by the end, God has formed you into a family.

About 30 people flew to Italy from the United States, and I joined the group in Rome. There were many challenges: Two-thirds of the group arrived a day late because of a cancelled flight; we had snow and windy conditions on a couple of days; and of course there was the need for COVID testing and protocols along the way. Despite all the difficulties, it was a great blessing for all who participated, and we learned many lessons.

We visited the four Major Basilicas in Rome and the Holy Stairs, among other places. We attended the General Audience with Pope Francis in which he called for prayer and fasting on Ash Wednesday because of what was happening in Ukraine. He said, "I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war."

We visited the Shrine of Padre Pio, the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano, the Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto, and the sites in Assisi and Gubbio. Our drive to Assisi was difficult because of the weather conditions and we had to cancel a trip to La Verna where St. Francis had received the stigmata. However, when we arrived in Assisi after a very long day, almost all of the pilgrims attended a Vigil of Prayer for Peace in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels. There were many Franciscan friars, religious sisters, and laity in attendance, praying the Rosary for peace in the world. We walked in the footsteps of the saints and tried to learn



Father Joe Roesch, MIC, stands next to a life-size statue of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy.

from their example. Saint Francis was only about 5-foot-1-inch, but he was a powerhouse of prayer and of apostolic activity.

The secret of the saints is their faith and trust in the Lord. We learned about all that Padre Pio had suffered during his lifetime. He had a cell where he often remained for 15 or 16 hours a day helping people to convert. Saint Clare gave up a life of comfort and luxury to follow the example of St. Francis in living a radical life in conformity with the Gospel. Francis teaches us the joy of discovering Christ in all things. He calls on all of creation to sing of the glory of God.

We also visited the tomb in Assisi of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old who was beatified on Oct. 10, 2020. He taught us that a millennial, who knows his way around a computer and wears Nike sneakers, can reach the heights of holiness.

The unfolding situation in Ukraine served to focus us during our pilgrimage experience. Our prayers and sacrifices for peace were offered up for those who are suffering. One of our priests in Ukraine wrote a letter of farewell to our Superior General in case anything happens to him because his city is being bombed. He was amazingly tranquil and accepting of the will of God in all things.

Let's continue to pray for peace! As Jesus said to St. Faustina, "**Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy**" (300).

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

‘By the Grace of Almighty God’



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHY MCENANEY

The Parkers' home in Princeton, Kentucky, was destroyed by an EF4 tornado.

By Marian Friedrichs

On Dec. 10, 2021, Kathy McEnaney and her family were in St. Louis, Missouri, to celebrate a wedding. That Friday evening was the rehearsal dinner, but Kathy, her husband, Joe, and their 19-year-old daughter Kaylee were not in a festive frame of mind. At the hotel, the McEnaneys were engrossed by the TV news and the text messages Kathy was receiving regularly from her meteorologist nephew. A tornado was heading straight for their hometown of Princeton, Kentucky, and it was a big one.

Seeking refuge

The intensity of the wind and rain had grown frightening when Kathy's friend and neighbor, Jill Giordano, called Kathy to ask if she and her family could take refuge in the McEnaneys' house, as Jill's did not have a basement. Kathy opened her garage door remotely through her phone, and Jill and several relatives, including her 2-year-old grandson, took cover in the McEnaneys' basement. Not long after that, the power cut out in Princeton. An EF4 tornado ripped through the town as the McEnaneys, more than 200 miles away, prayed for their community.

The next call they received was from Karsyn Parker, a close friend of Kaylee. "My house is gone!" she cried. Kathy called Jill, who assured her that she and her family were safe. Next, Kathy called Karsyn's mother, Katie Parker, and told her that the Parkers should join Jill's family in

the basement. Shortly afterward, Princeton lost cellphone service. The Parkers made their way to the McEnaneys' house and waited with Jill and her family for daylight.



Last fall, Kathy McEnaney placed a blessed Image of Divine Mercy in the window by the front door.

Stunning surprise

The sun rose on Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021, to reveal a scene of devastating loss across western Kentucky. "The neighborhood across from my home was completely annihilated," says Kathy. Like the Parkers' house, Jill's home and her mother's had been destroyed. Jill's sister's house was still standing, but her detached garage was severely damaged.

Waiting in St. Louis for word, Kathy recalls: "I expected my house to be severely damaged, but for [my friends] to be protected in the basement." When she finally learned the truth, Kathy was stunned. Her large hilltop house had lost some roof shingles and a Christmas decoration. It bore no other sign of the tornado's violent path through Princeton.

Though surprised, Kathy had no trouble identifying the reason her home was spared. It was all thanks to a birthday present, some YouTube videos, a few special prayers, and a certain picture displayed prominently in the McEnaneys' front window.

For her birthday in July 2021, Kathy had received a book about Eucharistic miracles. The subject intrigued her, and she set out to learn more. An internet search led her to Marian Fr. Chris Alar's "[Explaining the Faith](#)"



Kathy McEnaney's hilltop house only lost some roof shingles and a Christmas decoration in the tornado.

series on YouTube. Although a copy of the Divine Mercy Image hangs in Kathy's church, it had never been explained or mentioned from the pulpit, and neither Kathy nor Joe, both cradle Catholics, was familiar with the Divine Mercy message and devotion. "I truly believe I was led to Fr. Alar's videos," she says.

Sealing the doorpost

From Fr. Alar, Kathy learned about a devotion called "sealing the doorpost," in which a blessed copy of the Divine Mercy Image is hung on a home's front door, facing outward, as a sign of the inhabitants' trust in the Lord's care. That fall, Kathy ordered a copy of the Image from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, had it blessed by her pastor, and placed it in the window beside her front door.

According to St. Faustina's confessor, Blessed Michael Sopocko, Jesus promised, "Let everyone procure for their homes this Image ... The time will come when all those who do so will give witness to the miraculous efficacy and to the special protection of mercy

flowing from this Image."

Inspired by another of Fr. Alar's videos, "Angels: The Forgotten Army," Kathy also prayed for her families' guardian angels to watch over their home. At Thanksgiving, she presented her grown children with their own blessed copies of the Divine Mercy Image and urged them to watch Fr. Alar's videos themselves.

God's grace

Today, when people express amazement that the McEnaneys' house escaped the tornado unscathed, Kathy is quick to respond, "It was by the grace of Almighty God." She is open about her belief that the Divine Mercy and the guardian angels preserved her house and the lives of her friends who found safety there. Those friends are now beginning to

make plans for rebuilding their homes.

Kathy has already presented Jill with a blessed Divine Mercy Image. "When you rebuild," Kathy told her friend, "You are putting this up!"

MH

'Explaining the Faith'

Watch Fr. Chris Alar's 'Explaining the Faith' talks from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Saturdays at 11 a.m. EST, livestreamed on:
Facebook: [Divine Mercy \(Official\)](#)
YouTube: [DivineMercyOfficial](#)
 All past talks are posted on our website, [TheDivineMercy.org](#), and on our YouTube channel.

FATHER CHRIS MEETS 'FATHER STU'

Father Chris Alar, MIC, journeyed to Boston to interview actor/producer Mark Wahlberg about his starring role in the film *Father Stu*, based on the true story of a lost soul who finds his purpose in a most unexpected place: the priesthood.

Wahlberg, a Catholic, spoke about daily prayer, his devotion to Mary, and the impact that good priests have had upon his life.

"I have met and encountered some of the most amazing people who have dedicated their lives to serving God and touched me in so many ways, and have done so many things without trying to take credit for it. It's just what



they're supposed to be doing," Wahlberg said. "Hopefully this movie will encourage more people to the vocation of priesthood."

Father Stu is rated "R" for strong language. "Although disturbing, the language falls away as Stu proceeds on his vocational journey, an indication of his transformation and self-improvement," said Fr. Chris. "Despite the rating and language, I recommend the film for its inspiring portrayal of the Catholic priesthood."

Father Chris' interview with Mark Wahlberg, part of our weekly "Living Divine Mercy" program on EWTN, is posted on our YouTube channel, Divine Mercy.

MH

‘Our Lady,’ renewed

A MARIAN ICON IS FINALLY READY FOR HER CLOSE-UP

By Dr. Veronica Szczygiel

Leaning against ancient Servian walls near the Arch of Gallienus in Rome sits the Church of St. Vito. Hanging within is a treasure familiar to the Marian Congregation and to Marian Helpers: a painting entitled “Our Lady, Immaculately Conceived.” For decades, the Marian Fathers have reproduced the lovely image on prayer cards and pamphlets. However, it turns out that the extreme golden hue of the painting was not original, but rather caused by centuries of age and neglect.

Heartbreaking disrepair

Seeing that this incredible artwork had fallen into heartbreaking disrepair, St. Vito’s pastor, Fr. Pasquale

Magagnini, a diocesan priest, spearheaded the restoration of the painting, with the support of his parishioners and the Marian Fathers in the United States. It was completed earlier this year, and unveiled at a special dedication Mass celebrated by His Excellency, Daniele Libanori, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rome.

“The image is part of our rule of life,” says Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, vicar general. “It’s a visual expression of our Marian charism.”

Saint Vito’s is uniquely connected to the Marian Fathers. In 1776, during the General Chapter meeting held in Marijampole, Lithuania, Marian Fathers Candide Spourny and John Niezabitowski were charged with finding a home for their Marian brethren in Rome. Arriving

in 1777, they went house-hunting, purchasing St. Vito’s and its adjoining monastery, the sale of which was approved by Pope Pius IV in 1779.

Only two decades later, they were forced to move out. During Napoleon Bonaparte’s occupation of Rome in 1789, he extradited all foreigners from the Eternal City. What the Marians had hoped would be their permanent residence was lost and never restored to them.

But there is one remaining vestige of the community’s presence in St. Vito: the painting they had commissioned of their patroness above the altarpiece.

Polish artist

The Marians turned to a Polish artist living in Rome, Francis Smuglewicz. He came from a long line of prominent painters and was even granted an annual scholarship from Poland’s King Stanislaus August Poniatowski towards his artistic education and work. As a favor to the Marian Fathers, Smuglewicz completed the masterpiece in 1782 for a modest salary.

Smuglewicz painted using oil on a canvas that measures 49-by-67-inches, in a stucco frame covered in gold leaf. The golden background denotes Mary’s glory and holiness, juxtaposed with her royal blue robe. Clearly depicted as the Queen of Heaven, she steps victoriously on the serpent, Satan, whose influence she, through God’s grace, is free from in her immaculate nature. Above

‘The image is part of our rule of life. It’s a visual expression of our Marian charism.’



Mary is a canvas depicting a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit descending on her, showing she is truly blessed among women.

School of spirituality

“The images in the painting are an endless school of spirituality that we can reflect on,” says Fr. Roesch. “Mary has humble, downcast eyes and hands folded in prayer that can teach us to pray, too. We are also reminded of the Annunciation and the gift of the Incarnation when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary from on high.”

In 1992, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, commissioned a professionally Photoshopped photograph of the painting for use in media materials to promote awareness, such as in English and Polish language prayer books and publications. Fifteen years later, the General Chapter of Marians in Rome updated their by-laws to read, “The confrères use and cherish signs that express and enliven their Marian identity, such as ... the image of Our Lady Immaculately Conceived (painted by Francis Smuglewicz in St. Vitus Church in Rome).” This renewed interest in restoring the precious artwork, and Fr. Magagnini started fundraising.

All things new

The restored painting is a revelation, far less yellow and more vibrant than the Photoshopped version.

“The Lord wants to make all things new!” proclaims Fr. Roesch. “We are always in need of purification, restoration, and renewal. And now that this image is part of our Rule of Life, we hope that it spreads throughout the world and becomes a unifying symbol for us as Marian priests and brothers, and for all our Marian Helpers as well.”

To order a copy of the restored image (Product code B54-WW10GW) or a prayer card (B54-IMMPC), visit ShopMercy.org/b54 or call 1-800-462-7426. MH

Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, is the Patroness of the Congregation of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. But did you also know that Mary, under that title, has been the Patroness of the United States for 175 years?

In 1846, a plenary council, attended by 23 of the country’s 26 bishops, declared unanimously that Mary, under the title of the Immacu-



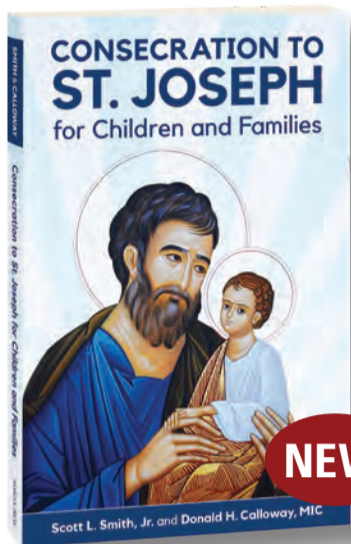
late Conception, would be the Patroness of the United States. “By the aid of her prayers,” they wrote, “we

entertain the confident hope that we will be strengthened to perform the arduous duties of our ministry, and that you will be enabled to practice the sublime virtues, of which her life presents the most perfect example.” The request was sent to the Holy See, which issued its approval on July 2, 1847. MH

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b54 or call 1-800-462-7426.

Devotion to Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph, her Most Chaste Spouse, and our Lord, the Divine Mercy Incarnate, is more important than ever. Let these resources help welcome the light of grace into your life, and contribute to changing the world for the better.



CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

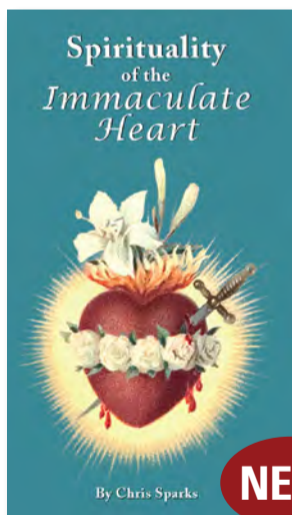
BY SCOTT L. SMITH, JR., AND DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC

Entrust your family to St. Joseph! God entrusted the Holy Family to St. Joseph to keep them safe, and so should you. Drawing on the wealth of the Church's living tradition, Scott L. Smith, Jr., and Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, call on us to turn to St. Joseph and entrust ourselves, our children and families, our Church, and our world to our Spiritual Father's loving care. Watch for wonders when St. Joseph opens the floodgates of Heaven to pour out graces into your family's lives. Paperback, 160 pages. \$16.95. **B54-CJHB**

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What is the Miraculous Medal, and why is it so popular? Accessible, enlightening, this pamphlet will help you answer those questions and equip you to share with your fellow Catholics one of the greatest sacramentals in the treasury of the Church. The pious use of the Miraculous Medal has been connected to reported healings, conversions, and protection from evil and harm. Let this pamphlet encourage you to take up the Miraculous Medal, highly recommended by St. Maximilian Kolbe and other outstanding Catholic brethren! **B54-MMLT**

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



SPIRITUALITY OF THE IMMACULATE HEART

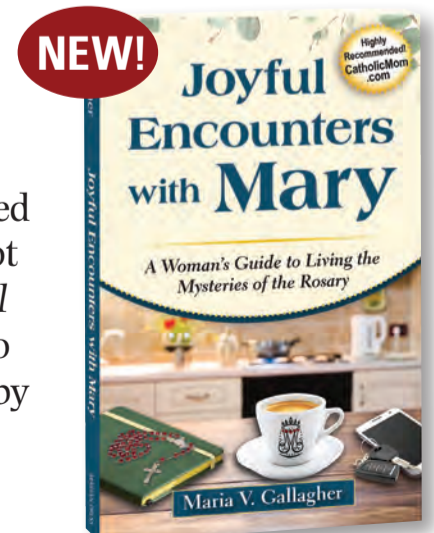
BY CHRIS SPARKS

Why are we devoted to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart? And where do the Sacraments fit into all this? Based on a Thirteenth of the Month Club series, we offer you some answers to these and other questions. Designed for everyone from middle school on up, this booklet will give you a bird's eye view of the spiritual life, how to live it in imitation of Our Lady, and why this spirituality of her Immaculate Heart, promoted especially at Fatima, is so important for our times. Paperback, 56 pages. \$3.99. **B54-IMMK**

JOYFUL ENCOUNTERS WITH MARY

BY MARIA GALLAGHER

Amid life's daily struggles, one can find true joy in encountering and loving the Blessed Mother and, in turn, encountering and loving her Son. We can relate to Mary as not only mother but friend, based on our mutual experiences with the mysteries of life. *Joyful Encounters with Mary* speaks of the power that can be unleashed when one surrenders to God's sometimes mystifying plan. While facing various challenges — from birthing a baby to birthing a project — we can experience a peace that surpasses all understanding and leads to incomparable joy. Paperback, 164 pages. \$12.95. **B54-JYMY**





Divine Mercy celebration and Mass.



Fr. Kaz' s homily



Return to Eden Hill

Divine Mercy weekend, back after a two-year absence

Forty years ago, on April 18, 1982, the first public celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday was held at the Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. “There was hardly standing room at the Divine Mercy Shrine in our chapel,” Fr. Joseph wrote in *Marian Helpers Bulletin*. “All this is proof how much we all seek the mercy of Our Lord. We prayed particularly this year for God’s mercy upon our erring world and the thousands of individual intentions sent by the promoters of this devotion.”

Fast forward four decades to April 23-24, 2022, and the celebration of Divine Mercy weekend at the now-National Shrine of The Divine Mercy was just as prayerful and memorable, but for additional reasons.

The weather, for one, was on our side: none of the rain, mud, and even snow of past Divine Mercy weekends. Eden Hill was bathed in glorious sunshine, and many pilgrims departed decidedly pinker than when they arrived.

Excitement and thanksgiving were in the air. This was the first public celebration held at the National Shrine since 2019, as the pandemic forced the cancellation of public

observances in 2020 and 2021.

But there were differences. Months of careful planning with the local authorities were needed to ensure a safe environment for all those attending. The Shrine church, regrettably, was closed, and all Masses were celebrated outdoors. Crowd size was limited to 5,000 pre-registered pilgrims over three sessions, one on Saturday and two on Sunday. For an Eden Hill accustomed to as many as 20,000 visitors and a fleet of buses, it felt decidedly less crowded.

Nonetheless, the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior, expressed the spirit of all present, some traveling from as far away as California. “It is a day of joy for all of you to be here,” he said in his Mass homily. “Let us welcome our Lord today with joy. Lord Jesus, come into my heart. Transform me. Let the

graces that flow from the power of Your Presence truly heal every aspect of my heart. God wants to divinize us, to make us like His Son. That’s the gift He wants to bestow.”

On the following pages, we share snapshots of a Divine Mercy weekend to remember.



The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, leads the faithful in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet before the Blessed Sacrament on Divine Mercy Sunday.



HERE FOR A REASON

“God has you here for a purpose. He has you here for a reason: Divine Mercy,” Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, said in his homily on Divine Mercy Sunday. “As Jesus told St. Faustina, Divine Mercy is mankind’s last hope of salvation. Jesus said, ‘If you do not adore My Mercy, you will perish forever’ [see *Diary*, 1317]. The very fact that you are here today, you are adoring God’s Mercy.”

BESTSELLERS

Leslie Boudreau and Mark Mankus served the crowds at the Divine Mercy Gift Shop. The bestsellers? “Anything with the Divine Mercy Image on it,” Leslie said. “And St. Faustina’s oil,” added Mark.



JESUS SAID SO

“We said, ‘If Jesus wants us to be here, we will be here’ and so that’s what happened!” shared Maria Chapman (right) from Arlington, Texas, with her friend and fellow prayer warrior, Dahlmajane Rimando, of Grand Prairie. The two are part of the “Fatima Prayer Group,” started mid-pandemic and continuing to this day, praying together the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



FOLLOWING MOM

The Lazaro family from Ossining, New York, including parents Felipe and Erica, have been coming to the National Shrine for 20 years. “My mom is very devout,” says Erica. “I grew into the Divine Mercy devotion with her, and now I want my girls to follow that.”



A FLICKER OF GOOD WILL

“In the *Diary*, Jesus talks about just a flicker of good will, and Divine Mercy takes care of the rest [1486],” Fr. Gabriel Cillo, MIC, said in his homily for the Vigil Mass on Saturday. “Do you have the trust to believe that just a flicker of your good will is sufficient? Do you want the confidence of Jesus? Absolutely!”



WEDDING GIFT

Three generations of the McTiernan and Smith families from Massachusetts visited the Shrine for the first time. Kaylie McTiernan (second from left) is getting married this summer. “I thought it would be special to gather my grandmothers, my mother, and my sister to have this prayerful and meaningful weekend together before the big day,” she said.



DIVINE MERCY BINGO

Bishop William Byrne of the Diocese of Springfield holds up his copy of the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska* while delivering the homily at Divine Mercy Sunday Mass at the National Shrine, broadcast on EWTN. “I call it Divine Mercy Bingo,” he explained. “It’s a little spiritual thing I do every once and a while where I take my *Diary*, and I just put my finger and see, ‘Okay, how about this one?’ And that’s what I’m going to read and meditate today.”



OUR LADY’S GAZE

Brother Timothy Childers, MIC, and volunteer Michael Hermann stand ready to assist pilgrims at the replica of the Lourdes Grotto.

WELCOME BACK

Rory traveled all the way from Chicago, Illinois, because she’s only recently come back to church. She heard about Divine Mercy Sunday from her brother and her sisters. “In my heart, I am with Jesus, so I’m going back to give myself to Him,” she shared. To her, Divine Mercy Sunday means “Divine Mercy is with me.”



‘Awesome!’

Saint Faustina and the Eucharist

By Dr. Robert Stackpole

The Church, the Body of Christ, brings us Divine Mercy through the grace of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. As the *Catechism* teaches, “The whole liturgical life of the Church revolves around the Eucharistic sacrifice and the Sacraments” (CCC, 1113). The Blessed Sacrament is, in fact, “the source and summit of the Christian life.” The *Catechism* tells us:

The other Sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself (CCC, 1324).

Layers of God’s Mercy

Saint Faustina writes in her *Diary*, “Oh, what awesome mysteries take place during Mass!” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 914). Amazing layers of God’s mercy are hidden in the Mass, the sacrifice that brings us the Holy Eucharist. Saint Faustina continues:

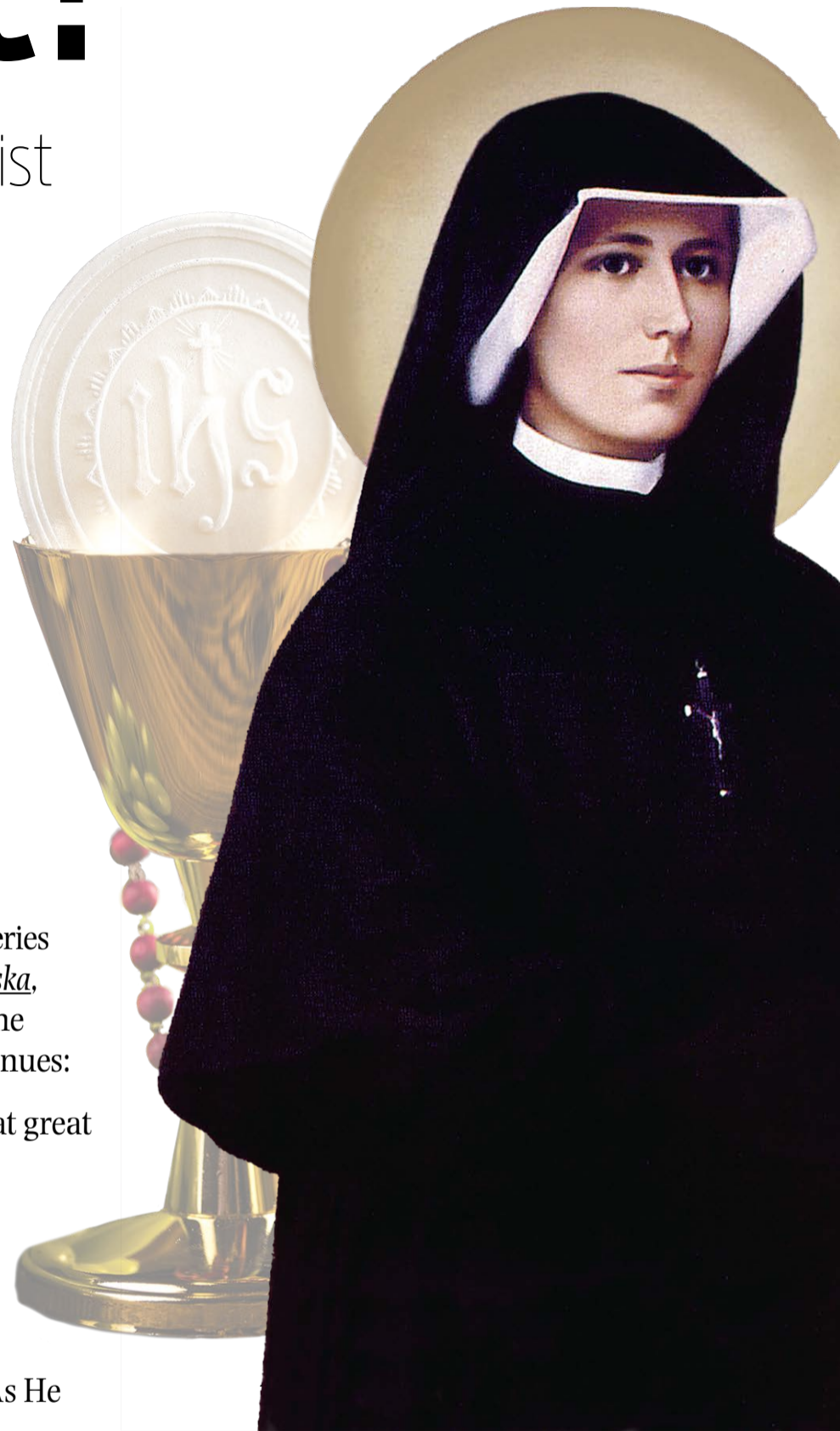
A great mystery is accomplished in the Holy Mass. With what great devotion should we listen to and take part in this death of Jesus. One day we will know what God is doing for us in each Mass, and what sort of gift He is preparing in it for us. Only His divine love could permit that such a gift be provided for us (*Diary*, 914).

Jesus yearns to give us His love and mercy in the Eucharist. As He St. Faustina:

My great delight is to unite Myself with souls. Know, My daughter, that when I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay any attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things. Oh, how sad I am that souls do not recognize Love! They treat Me as a dead object (*Diary*, 1385).

It is not just in the celebration of the Mass that Jesus is present for us physically and fully. Wherever the Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle of a church, Christ is waiting for us and longing for us to come to Him. This is a great mystery of Divine Mercy. As Jesus tells St. Faustina:

Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth — the tabernacle — and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to



Me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace (*Diary*, 1485).

Jesus tells St. Faustina that He longs for us to visit Him in the tabernacle, not for His sake but for ours. This longing is born of His love, as He yearns to pour the graces of His merciful Heart into the hearts of those who visit Him. He tells her:

My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. ... For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy. I desire to bestow My graces upon souls, but they do not want to accept them. You, at least, come to me as often as possible and take those graces they do not want to accept. In this way you will console My Heart. Oh, how indifferent are souls to so much goodness, to so many proofs of love! My Heart drinks only of the ingratitude and forgetfulness of souls living in the world. They have time for everything, but they have no time to come to Me for graces (*Diary*, 367).

How can we possibly stay away from our Merciful Lord and Savior in the Blessed Sacrament?

United to Jesus

The goal of an intense Eucharistic union with our Lord — nurtured by frequent reception of Communion, special times of Eucharistic Adoration, and the frequent practice of Spiritual Communion — is that we become more and more like Him. By spiritually and physically uniting ourselves with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we can be completely transformed into His likeness. We can become living channels of His grace and mercy ready and willing to be distributed by Him to needy people everywhere.

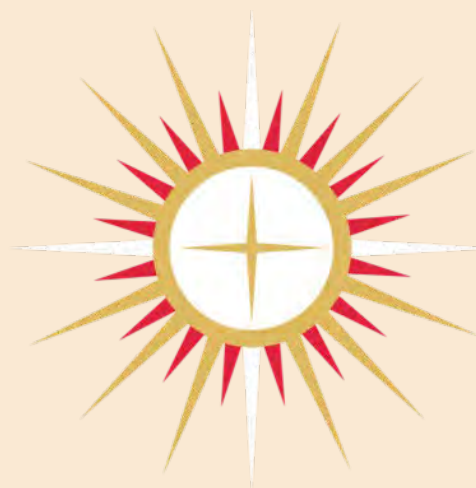
Jesus Himself sums up for us the great mystery of God's merciful love in the Mass when He tells St. Faustina,

What you see is just a tiny part, and already your heart swoons with love. How amazed will your heart be when you see Me in all My glory. But I want to tell you that eternal life must begin already here on earth through Holy Communion. Each Holy Communion makes you more capable of communing with God throughout eternity (*Diary*, 1810-11).

The mercy Jesus offers us in the Holy Eucharist is a foretaste of the love of Heaven.

Dr. Robert Stackpole is director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy. Excerpted from "The Holy Eucharist: Mystery of Mercy," published in the Divine Mercy Catholic Bible, available on ShopMercy.org (Product code B54-BIDM).

MH



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is launching a three-year "National Eucharistic Revival" on June 16, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, leading to a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2024. The campaign anticipates "a time of healing for the entire Church as well as a movement of evangelization and a reawakening of understanding of the sacrament of the Eucharist for Catholics across the country."

Heaven meets earth

Each diocese is planning its own observance of the campaign. Here in our home Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts, Bishop William Byrne has announced a "Year of the Eucharist" with a dedicated website (YearOfTheEucharist.net) filled with informative articles and videos.

"The Eucharist is the meeting of Heaven and Earth, where the Kingdom is come. The daily bread is the coming of the Kingdom," Bishop Byrne says. "No human life can really be truly fulfilled without the experience of the Eucharist in their lives. The more that we can set a fire in the hearts of those who are currently receiving Communion, they will then be the Lord's ambassadors to tell others about it."

Forty Hours' Devotion

Parishes across Western Massachusetts will be offering Forty Hours' Devotion (Mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament over several days). "It gives people a chance to sign up to be a part of this; of being with our Lord, praying and praising and interceding on behalf of our world," Bishop Byrne explains.

The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy is included in the schedule, and will be hosting Forty Hours' Devotion June 30-July 3. All are welcome. Please visit ShrineOfDivineMercy.org for more information.

MH



ONORIO_MARINARI

‘A special sign of grace’

Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Brown Scapular

By Paul Fahey

She is perhaps the most popular representation of the Blessed Mother: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whose feast we celebrate on July 16. From prayer cards to devotional statues, her appearance is well-known: Mary

cradles the Christ Child; both often wear gold crowns and hold the familiar Brown Scapular.

The Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which begins on July 7, is one of the loveliest, opening with:

O Beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine,
splendor of Heaven, holy and singular,
who brought forth the Son of God, still remaining a
pure virgin,
assist us in our necessity!

The historical origins of the devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Carmelite Order are shrouded in pious legend. The order traces its spiritual heritage back to the prophet Elijah who, according to tradition, lived on Mount Carmel in Palestine, where he defeated the priests of Baal in the dramatic showdown told in the 18th chapter of 1 Kings. Historical records of a community of Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel started to appear around the 12th century. Then, in the 13th century, this community migrated to Western Europe.

Under the leadership of their prior, St. Simon Stock, the Carmelites grew and spread throughout Europe as a mendicant order. Pious legend says that St. Simon Stock had a vision of Mary in England on July 16, 1251. Our Lady gave him the Brown Scapular, saying, “Take, beloved son, this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant and of my special protection until the end of ages.”

Confraternity enrollment

Over the next few centuries, devotion to the Brown Scapular spread throughout Europe within the Catholic Church. Today, it is a revered pious practice in the Church worldwide. Catholics are able to participate by being enrolled in the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel and invested with the Brown Scapular. This is done with a short set of prayers and blessings that any priest can administer. The scapular is usually worn over the shoulder, so that one side hangs over the chest, and the other over the back.

In her *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, the Church points to two mature and authentic graces that

can be found in devotion to the Brown Scapular. The first is that the pious wearing of the scapular is an external sign of the faithful’s relationship with and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Wearing the scapular is one of the ways available for the faithful to live out their love for Mary and show their desire to imitate her holiness.

Mary’s intimate and total union with God is the model of holiness for all Christians. This points to the second grace of the Brown Scapular that the *Directory on Popular Piety* states: “The Scapular is imposed by a special rite of the Church which describes it as ‘a reminder that in Baptism we have been clothed in Christ’” (205). The

Brown Scapular is an external reminder that, through Baptism, the wearer is a new creation, a divinized son or daughter of God the Father, another Christ (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2782). The scapular, therefore, aids the faithful to remember their identity as children who are relentlessly pursued by their Heavenly Father and incorporated into the life of the Holy Trinity.

Papal devotion

Pope St. John Paul II demonstrated his faithfulness to this devotion. He received a Brown Scapular the day of his First Communion, and he wore it from that day on through the rest of his life. In 1958, as an auxiliary bishop visiting a monastery in Wadowice, Poland, the future saint said, “Amongst many devotions that captivated my child’s soul, I participated the most ardently in the novena before the feast of Our Lady of the Scapular.”

In 2001, on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of the bestowal of the Brown Scapular, the Holy Father said, “Over time this rich Marian heritage of Carmel has become, through the spread of the Holy Scapular devotion, a treasure for the whole Church.”

Whether or not you already have a devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel or the Brown Scapular, the Church invites you to entrust your life to your Blessed Mother and pray for her intercession. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and minds so that we may more fully imitate her.

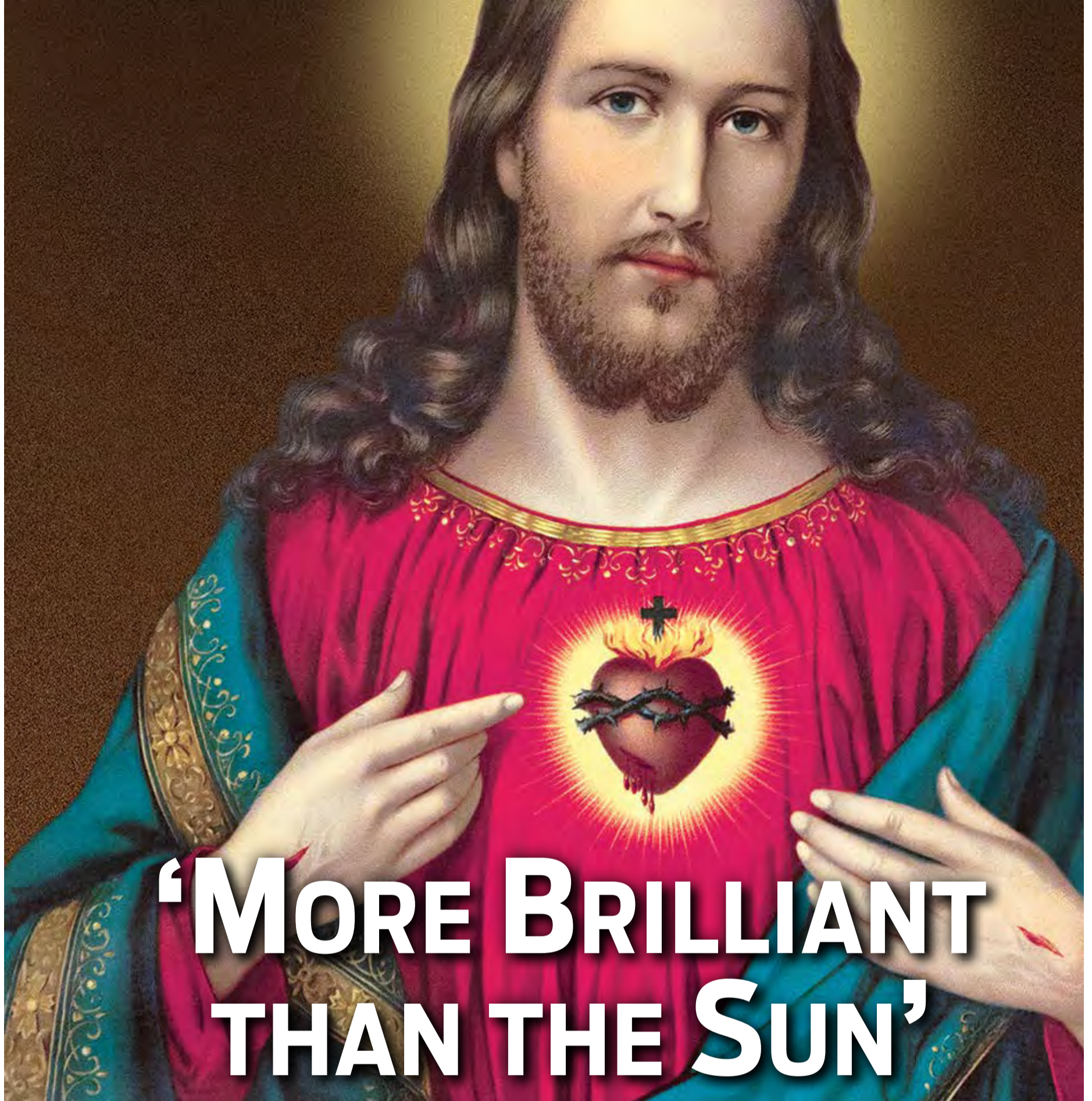
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us!

MH



The Marians at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy will offer a Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel from July 7-15 with a Holy Mass on the feast day, July 16. We invite you to have your intentions remembered.

Visit Marian.org/b54



‘MORE BRILLIANT THAN THE SUN’

THE PLAN OF THE HEART OF JESUS
TO DRIVE BACK THE WORLD’S DARKNESS

By Dr. Robert Stackpole

Editor’s note: As we anticipate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 24, Robert Stackpole, STD, the director of the [John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy](http://JohnPaulIIInstituteofDivineMercy.org), introduces a new weekly online series on the devotion, which will launch on TheDivineMercy.org on June 20.

It was the evening of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, Dec. 27, 1673. A seemingly ordinary French nun, Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque, was praying before the

Blessed Sacrament, lingering a bit longer than usual to remain near to her beloved Jesus in the tabernacle. She had learned to find refuge and strength in His Eucharistic

Heart even as a child, enduring poverty and crippling illness with patience and faith. But this time, something was different; it was like the calm before a great storm. She wrote in her recollections:

I saw this divine Heart as on a throne of flames, *more brilliant than the sun and transparent as crystal*. It had its adorable wound and was encircled with a crown of thorns, which signified the pricks our sins caused Him. It was surmounted by a cross which signified that, from the first moment of His Incarnation, that is, from the time this Sacred Heart was formed, the cross was planted in It ...

Two more times over the next 18 months, her beloved Jesus would appear to her and unveil to her the secrets and desires of His Heart, especially His plan to dethrone the prince of darkness by manifesting His love for all of humanity.

Return love with love

If we were to read through her autobiography, and all her many letters to her spiritual directors and fellow sisters in religion, we would find a whole panoply of things that Jesus evidently hoped to achieve through His revelations to this humble sister of the Visitation Order. Above all, He wished humanity to return His love with love; to make reparation to His Heart for our many failures to return His love; to place all our trust in His Heart; to honor Him through the sign and symbol of His Heart; and to grow to love His Heavenly Father more and more. Jesus sought to pour out upon humanity all the treasures of grace that flow from His Sacred Heart, and to inspire Catholics to work to establish the social reign of His Heart over families and nations everywhere.

A radiant vision ... a beautiful ideal ... and a heart-breaking tragedy! For if we look upon the state of the world and the Catholic Church now, 350 years later, we see almost the exact opposite of this dream being hammered into reality, day by day. Instead of the reign of the Sacred Heart, a culture of death and a denial of Divine Love holds sway in society, and our Lord's own prophecy seems to be coming true: Authentic love in the hearts of many is growing cold (see Mt 24:12).

Sanctified by fire

So was the whole thing a total failure?

No! For the past 350 years (and even well before that),

the Heart of Jesus has been a refiner's fire of love for those willing to respond to our Lord's invitation to draw near and take refuge in it. Many of the greatest saints have been sanctified in the burning furnace of His Sacred Heart, including St. Gertrude the Great, St. John Eudes, St. Claude de la Colombiere, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Padre Pio, and St. Teresa of Calcutta (just to name a few!). How much good has been done for the Church and for souls even by the relative few who have given themselves totally to His Heart of Love!

That is one reason why the popes, the successors of St. Peter, continue to commend this devotion to the faithful, saying it points us to the heart and center of the Catholic faith. As the saying goes: "the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." For many centuries, great saints have been forged in this devotional furnace of love

because it kept them centered on what matters most: the love of Jesus for us all, and His call to love Him back with the help of His grace.

In this new series of articles on TheDivineMercy.org starting June 20, we will do our best to call the minds and hearts of Catholics back to the tremendous gifts and graces offered to us in the Sacred and Merciful Heart of our Savior. No doubt the history of Western Civilization would have been vastly different if the response to these revelations of

Divine Love had been anything close to what Christ had intended.

'What do you fear?'

Jesus promised St. Margaret Mary at one point, "I shall reign in spite of My enemies and of all those who oppose this devotion," and again: "What do you fear? I shall reign in spite of Satan and whatever else stands in the way." Indeed, in His Heart, even now, He is fashioning saints so on fire with love for Him that even if the whole world seems to have forsaken our Lord and all hope for the earthly triumph of the Catholic faith seems to have vanished, yet still they will love Him with all their hearts, and obey Him to the end, until His return. When there are enough souls in the world like that, even if they are few in number to begin with, Satan will be rendered powerless, and his kingdom of darkness cannot stand.

The devotion to the Heart of Jesus is all about fashioning saints in the Church filled with this heroic love. Walk with us in this series as we rediscover the one great Heart that truly is "more brilliant than the sun." MH

In this new series of articles on TheDivineMercy.org starting June 20, we will do our best to call the minds and hearts of Catholics back to the tremendous gifts and graces offered to us in the Sacred and Merciful Heart of our Savior.



VILNIUS, HYLA, SKEMP

A TALE OF THREE IMAGES

By Dr. Robert Stackpole

In 1931, our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two rays came forth, one red and the other pale.

She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 47, 48).

As Jesus requested, the Image of Divine Mercy is now displayed and venerated in homes, churches, and other places throughout the world. But get a group of Divine Mercy devotees into a room, and it won't be long before they are discussing which version of the Image they use most in their own land and which one they like best. And

of course, new ones are being created all the time.

Three versions of the Image are particularly outstanding in the history of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, and they go by rather unusual names: the original "Vilnius" Image; the very popular "Hyla" Image; and the more recently created "Skemp" Image.

Let's take them in turn.

The first Image: Vilnius

Although St. Faustina was frequently consulted about the progress of the original painting of the Image, it was her spiritual director and confessor, Blessed Fr. Michael Sopocko, who was directly responsible for hiring the artist Eugene Kazimirowski.

The Kazimirowski painting of 1934-35 is therefore the "original" Image of the Divine Mercy, the painting of which was overseen by St. Faustina and Blessed Fr. Sopocko. It presently hangs in the Church of the Holy Trinity, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Vilnius, Lithuania, having been faithfully restored to its original colors and contours with the support of the Marian Fathers and Helpers.

It also has one more remarkable feature about it:

Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, with the help of an Italian photographer, thoroughly investigated and corroborated the claim that this version of the Image is an almost exact match of the head, face, and shoulders of the figure on the Holy Shroud of Turin!

Nevertheless, that does not mean that this version of the Image is perfect, or even necessarily “the best” version in every respect. In a 1958 letter, Blessed Fr. Sopocko notes that St. Faustina wept after she saw this painting because it so inadequately represented the radiant beauty of the Risen and Glorified Lord whom she had seen (see *Diary*, 313). After all, who could ever fully capture that heavenly beauty in an earthly image?

A popular Image: Hyla

Some people devoted to the Divine Mercy prefer the Image painted by Adolf Hyla, who gave it to the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland in thanksgiving for the preservation of himself and his family during World War II. The sisters placed it over the tomb of St. Faustina at their convent in Lagiewniki. The image was blessed by Fr. Joseph Andrasz, SJ, one of St. Faustina’s confessors, on the Feast of Divine Mercy in 1944. It can still be seen in Lagiewniki today.

It seems to be the favorite version of European and Latin American devotees of the Divine Mercy. Nevertheless, some aspects of this version of the Image are also not entirely in accord with what St. Faustina requested. For example, Christ’s hand of blessing is raised too high, and the gaze of Christ is directly at the viewer, and not slightly downward as Faustina insisted. Furthermore, it is arguable that this version still does not do justice to the rays of mercy, which are supposed to be shining more toward the viewer.

A Filipino favorite: Skemp

A few decades later, therefore, the Marian Fathers commissioned a new image in the 1970s from an American painter, Robert Skemp. Completed in 1982, this version tried to rectify the issues with the Hyla Image with an Image that showed the rays from the breast of Christ radiating almost directly at the viewer. This famous, ultra-realistic rendition of the Image became the most popular version in the Philippines, and it can be found there over the altar at the Divine Mercy Shrine outside of Manila. But of course, this version is not perfect either!

As Jesus said, “Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace” (*Diary*, 313). All three of these famous versions of the Image have ecclesiastical approval for display in churches and for dissemination to the faithful. Therefore, all three are special vessels of grace and mercy, as Jesus promised (see *Diary*, 47-48; 327).

Whichever you prefer, just remember to be respectful of all the approved versions of the image, for they are all imperfect renditions of our infinitely perfect and radiant Savior!

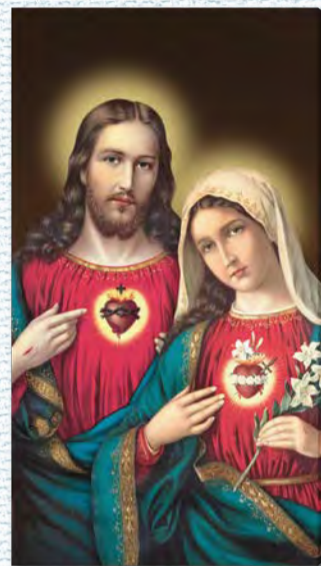
Robert Stackpole, STD, is director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy.

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EQUINE DREAMS

The art of therapeutic horse riding

By Fr. Andy Davy, MIC

“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.”

— Sir Winston Churchill

God is full of surprises! Four years ago, I was mysteriously catapulted into another kind of world. A world of mercy and love, but not in the ways one would expect. This world had a Narnian flavor to it, in which man and beast joined together in a hymn of praise; a hymn that was itself filled with the healing rays of Christ. The world I speak of is the loving community of Equine Dreams, Illinois. And the hymn sung is the art of therapeutic horse riding.

Equine Dreams was founded in 1996 by one of my parishioners, Sharon Mason. She was seeking a way to help her son, Andrew, find critical therapy for his condition, Angelman’s syndrome. As a

result, her family was brought close together around these horses that were helping her child physically to walk, as well as aiding Andrew’s emotional and cognitive health.

One family’s powerful experience soon became the experi-

ence of a multitude of families, seeking hope and healing for their children. Today, Equine Dreams is a not-for-profit organization that serves a multitude in the greater Chicago area, and is one of the only therapeutic riding centers that does not charge its clients, but is able to take whomever they are able to truly serve.

Palpable faith

What I have found particularly inspiring in being part of this Equine Dreams team is seeing how our Catholic faith is so palpable here. It is present explicitly in the celebration of Masses at the Equine Dreams’ Mary garden, and in the various devotional prayers we will pray with people. But it is



powerfully witnessed in the leaven of the loving experience of *communio* shared by the various helpers who work alongside the families coming for assistance.

More than any other religion, Christianity profoundly speaks to the truth that God loves to work and speak through “earthy” stuff.

Jesus spits in the dirt and makes mud to smear on the blind man’s eyes to heal him.

Jesus takes bread and wine at a Passover meal in order to feed His disciples with His very Body and Blood.

Jesus’ first night in Bethlehem was spent slumbering in an animal feeding trough.

And His dirty sweat, blood, and tears pouring forth from His Crucified Body became the very means by which Satan’s dark kingdom was overthrown.

Call of love

Because God entered and joined Himself to the very stuff of creation, all of creation is now “charged with the grandeur of God,” as G. M. Hopkins would write. But where can we learn to hear His call of love within creation? I have learned to hear and see His smile in an unexpected place: within the world of horses.

For some, a horse is a large scary animal. For others, it is a stoic fixture in the field. But for those who have been drawn in, the horse speaks to wounded souls the love of God. Horses have one of the deepest emotional intelligences within the animal kingdom. They have an innate ability to read the emotions of humans, and can match our emotions with a mysterious presence that says: “You are not alone. You have worth. You are loved.”

This is one of the reasons horses are used in a variety of areas of therapeutic health. Mini-horses visit veterans’ homes, hospitals and nursing homes. Horses have been known to bring forth the first words of children and adults who have been non-verbal their whole lives by the mere touch of fur to hand. These noble creatures receive our emotions and awaken beautiful responses of healing within us.

Deeper communion

As powerful as these healing properties of horses are, there is one characteristic that rises to the top: Horses are magnets for drawing people into deeper communion with one another. I have personally experienced this reality,

discovering shortly after beginning my riding lessons that to be part of a therapeutic riding community is to become family in a very real sense. One finds himself immersed in a mutual environment of joyful giving. The disabled child who pours out a gleeful cry of thanks — after having his horse help move the muscles he could never feel within his wheelchair — sends forth a shock wave of love within his parents and his instructors as, in time, they see this same child begin to walk for the first time!



I have found spending time as a fellow rider quite powerful in opening conversation that leads to Christ. When I focus first on building a real relationship and authentic friendship with individuals who come and have, as Pope Francis mentioned, the smell of the sheep (or the horse!), our conversations will naturally move to questions about God, and sometimes will lead to a blessing, a prayer, or even a confession for that person on the horse trail.

But my own words can’t capture the beautiful descriptions many of the Equine Dreams family has shared with me about their own experiences of love, mercy, healing, and community that are “beyond the work of human engineering.” As one instructor explained, “God teaches charity through the simple power of the horse ... Equine Dreams is a place open to God’s back-door approach to the heart bearing gifts for the soul.”

Father Andy Davy, MIC, is pastor of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Illinois. Visit EquineDreams.org for more information. MH

THE 'RENOVATOR' OF THE MARIANS: BLESSED GEORGE MATULAITIS

By Br. Stephen J., MIC

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception honor Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz (1871-1927) with the title “Father Renovator” and devotion like that given to our Father Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701). Blessed George was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II 35 years ago on June 28, 1987, and his feast day is the day of his death, Jan. 27.

Why “Father Renovator”? On Aug. 29, 1909, Fr. George literally saved our Order from extinction by professing vows in the hands of the last surviving Marian, Fr. Vincent Sekowski (1840-1911). He made these vows secretly, even requesting Rome’s special permission to enter the Marians without making his novitiate, since the Russian Czar didn’t permit any non-Orthodox religious orders to accept novices.

Having made his vows, Blessed George, with Fr. Vincent’s permission, would re-write the Marian rule of life, adapting it not only to living religious life under persecution, but also to the modern world. Hence Blessed George’s title “Father Renovator.”

Growing up with the Marians

Blessed George knew the Marian Fathers all his life. Baptized in 1871 by our then-superior general, Fr. George Cesnas, he grew up in a Marian-run parish. George wanted to be a priest from his boyhood, but he was orphaned at age 10 and developed tuberculosis of the bone at 15. He never complained, but worked at the



family farm as best he could, although he much preferred to read and was a gifted student. In 1889, his cousin (a teacher) saw his talent and offered to pay seminary tuition, which George gladly accepted.

As a priest, Fr. George explored the Catholic Church's social doctrine, becoming both a sociology professor and an activist on behalf of workers and the poor. However, he also felt called to re-found the Marian Order. Two years after his secret vows, Fr. George requested a transfer to Fribourg, Switzerland, to continue studies and to erect a novitiate house outside Russian control. There he attracted capable priests for the Order.

Outreach and expansion

Father George crossed the Atlantic to establish religious houses near Chicago in 1913. However, while preaching a mission in Lithuania in 1914, he was stopped from returning to Fribourg by World War I. He remained near Warsaw (then occupied by the Germans), founding another novitiate and directing an orphanage for more than 200 boys. Father George himself often begged alms for the orphans from German soldiers, disregarding their curses and threats. He also founded two orders of sisters and helped 10 other orders revise their constitutions to follow the 1917 *Code of Canon Law*.

In 1918, Pope Pius XI appointed Fr. George the Bishop of Vilnius. There he maintained the Church's stability for seven years despite multiple governmental shifts

between Poles, Lithuanians, Russians, and Germans. When criticized for refusing to side with political factions, he simply replied, "My party is Christ and the Church."

Bishop George resigned from the see of Vilnius in July 1925, seeking to shepherd the growing Congregation of Marian Fathers, but in December, he was appointed Apostolic Visitor to Lithuania. He passed away on Jan. 27, 1927. His last words exhorted his confrères repeatedly: "Close ranks; sacrifice yourselves! Close ranks; sacrifice yourselves!"

Focus on Christ and His Church

Blessed George's example encourages us to transcend politics by focusing on Christ and His Church. Here was a man of great courage who was also a peacemaker; a friend of workers who strove against their enslavement to ideologies; a consecrated religious who was also an excellent bishop. He made no secret of the source of his

abilities — his interior life with God, fueled with a half-hour meditation every morning.

In his "Instructions for the Marian Fathers," Blessed George actually asked his brothers to draw up two or three points every night to meditate on next morning. They would silently ponder these points of meditation when preparing for bed, waking up at night, and rising in the morning, putting all other thoughts second. They would make their morning meditation in the chapel, and later briefly examine the fruits of meditation, and how to improve future meditations.

Meditation is a beautiful way to detach from the world and attach ourselves slowly but surely to God. It is no wonder that Blessed George, practicing this day after day, became and acted more and more like Jesus.

Beatification miracle

Blessed George suffered great pain and had difficulty walking due to tuberculosis of the bone. The beatification miracle involved a woman who also had difficulty

walking: Adelaide Tamosiunaite from Lithuania. She was a teacher who rode a bicycle to school each day, but had to stop after the pain of varicose veins in her left leg became unbearable. Soon, her condition, which had affected her for 30 years, made it too painful for her to walk.

In 1974, at the age of 85, she became bed-ridden due to thrombophlebitis. Her condition was considered hopeless. She faithfully

turned to Servant of God George Matulaitis in a novena. One morning during the novena, she woke and realized that the pain and ailment had vanished.

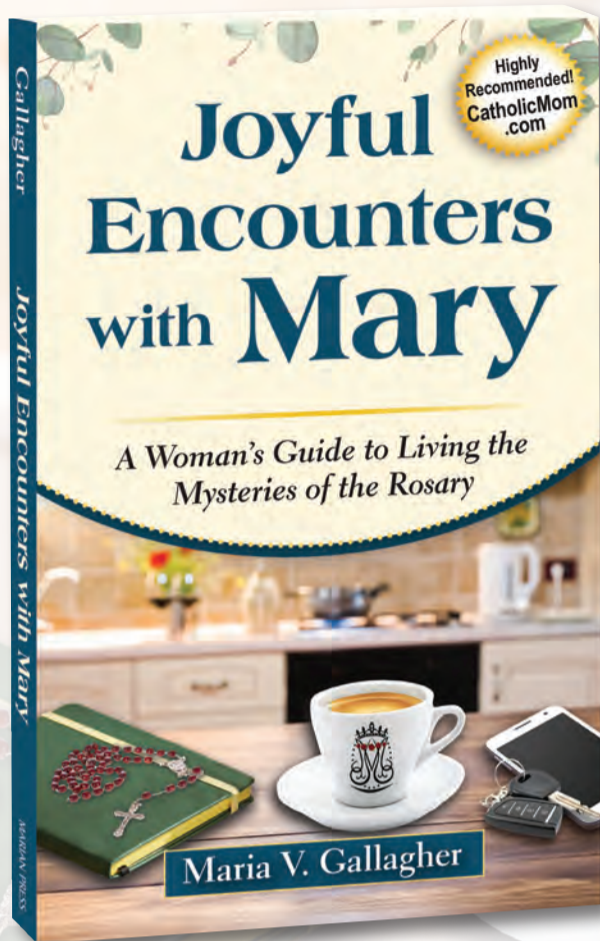
At the beatification Mass 35 years ago, Pope St. John Paul II captured the heart of this holy man when he said in his homily, "He was a shepherd full of courage and initiative. ... His only concern was always the salvation of the souls entrusted to his care. ... I wish to remind you of his zeal. ... In heroic degree he strove to be everything to everyone, deeply conscious of his pastoral mission, true apostle of unity, dedicated without reserve to preaching the gospel and the salvation of souls."

Blessed George, pray for us!

For a [Blessed George prayer card](#) (B54-CBGP), call 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: [Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC](#), Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org MH

Meditation is a beautiful way to detach from the world and attach ourselves slowly but surely to God. It is no wonder that Blessed George, practicing this day after day, became and acted more and more like Jesus.

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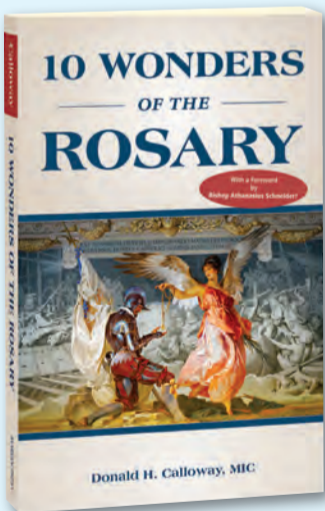
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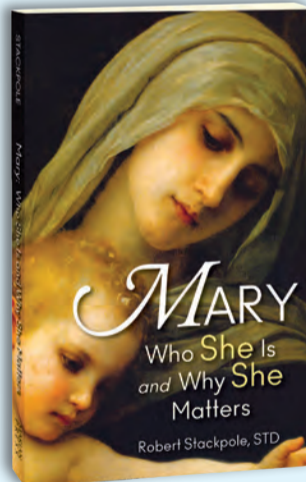


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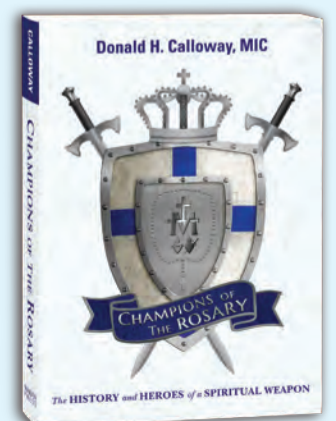


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Look for ‘Mary Moments’

By Maria V. Gallagher

The memory is etched in my mind like a carving on an old, solid oak tree. I was in my bedroom, on my cellphone, eager to tell my friend Selena of my pregnancy.

The response was not what I had expected.

“I’m pregnant, too!” she said, and I could picture her smile as I heard her cheery voice.

We were hundreds of miles apart, but we were closely connected — by our pregnancies, by our hopes for the future, and by our faith. She was the first to offer me a remedy for my morning sickness (really all-day sickness): graham crackers (that ended up being my go-to morning snack during the course of my pregnancy).

Joys multiplied

In Selena, I found a pregnancy buddy who offered me support and unconditional love during the most memorable time of my life. Joys multiplied, and crosses seemed to be cut in half, with Selena only a phone call away. As an older mother, I felt like Elizabeth, with Selena ministering to me as Mary had cared for her cousin.

We ended up giving birth just three days apart, with Selena going into labor ahead of me. God blessed her with a lovely girl she named Jane, while God granted me the privilege and honor of becoming mother to a sweet gal I named Gabriella.

Soul sisters

Selena and I were girlfriends, but more importantly, we were soul sisters, striving to be the best Catholic mothers we could be. We commiserated over breastfeeding struggles, diaper deluges, and mountains of laundry. We were joyful comrades in both motherhood and the Church and shared stories of our babies’ developmental milestones.

I call these “Mary Moments”: grace-filled opportunities to share the Gospel in a concrete way. Over the years, as our babies have grown, our hearts have also swelled with the love of Jesus and Mary that we share.

Mary Moments are precious because they help to

strengthen our connections not only with other women on earth, but with Mother Mary in Heaven. They fill us with joy because we know we are helping other women achieve their potential. The ability to serve is a phenomenal gift, and research in the area of positive psychology indicates it can even help alleviate a case of “the blues.” In giving of ourselves to others, we solidify our own sense



‘We were hundreds of miles apart, but we were closely connected — by our pregnancies, by our hopes for the future, and by our faith.’

of self-worth. We can imagine the Blessed Mother smiling above us as we pursue Mary Moments here below.

We also need to recognize that Mary Moments can occur in the aftermath of a woman’s grief following the loss of an unborn child to miscarriage. Special attention also needs to be paid to women who have undergone abortions. And Mary Moments can occur when women serve as spiritual mothers in reaching out to other women.

Excerpted from Joyful Encounters with Mary: A Woman’s Guide to Living the Mysteries of the Rosary by Maria V. Gallagher, just published by Marian Press. To order, please visit ShopMercy.org/b54 (Product code: B54-JYMY) or call 1-800-462-7426.

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— St. John Vianney

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PRAYING FOR CHANGE

While she is humble, Maggie has a clue about how to save the world. Maggie says, “If people don’t start turning back to God and praying, nothing will change.” This is exactly what our Lord told St. Faustina: “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 300).

Maggie admits that she has had many struggles in her life. That might be why she’s convinced that “it’s so important to treat others with respect and to try to understand where they are in their lives. God loves every person, even if they have done bad things.”

This conviction inspired Maggie to start sending a daily text message to her children to remind them that they are connected to each other. The message often encourages small acts of kindness, volunteering, and, of course, prayer.

Along with prayers for an end to the war in Ukraine, Maggie frequently asks them to pray for the sick, for the deceased, and for family unity.

Maggie also treasures her connection with the Marian Fathers, which started at the beginning of the pandemic when she discovered the daily livestream of the Mass, Chaplet, and Rosary from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. She’s very happy that they continue to stream these services on YouTube, Facebook, and TheDivineMercy.org.

The pandemic also brought her back to praying the Rosary, which she learned as a child. She recalls how her parents would pack her and her siblings in the car to go visit her grandparents, and her mother would lead them in praying the Rosary. “It helped keep everyone calm.”

Today, driving and praying still go together. Each time she gets behind the wheel, Maggie folds down the visor and prays the prayers for protection she has taped there. If her sister is with her, they then pray the Rosary as they drive along.

There are other ways that Maggie followed her mother’s example. Like her mom, when she retired, she

volunteered to serve as a Eucharistic Minister and bring Holy Communion to the homebound and people who are in the hospital or nursing homes.

“Mom struggled financially,” she explains, “but she managed to make gifts to support seminarians. After she retired, I was concerned that she would run out of money because of the cost of her care, but God took care of her.

“For many years, it was not possible for me to donate. And now, with the price of everything going up, you have



Maggie P adds her prayers to the Marians’ daily livestream of the Mass on YouTube.



to pick and choose what you can support. I’m very happy I can help my parish and the Marian Fathers.”

Maggie is also happy that she found a way to arrange a gift that does not cost anything now: She named the Marian Fathers as one of the beneficiaries on her retirement plan. This allows her to use the account during her lifetime. Then, if there is anything left, it will go to the beneficiaries she has named, including the Marian Fathers to support their mission to help souls turn to God with trust.

Visit Marian.org/will if you would like to use our online tool to create a plan for your beneficiaries or explore other free tools to create your estate plans. And always feel free to contact me if you have questions.



Ellen Miller is director for Special Gifts. Contact her at helpers@Marian.org; (413) 298-1380; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit Marian.org/PlannedGiving

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Tumors have shrunk

I wanted to let you know what Venerable Casimir Wyszynski has done for a friend of my friend from our Divine Mercy Cenacle. On Oct. 2, my friend told me about her friend, a mom with two kids, who was told she had two tumors on her brain. We immediately started to pray for her friend to Venerable Casimir and have been praying to him since then. Today, on the last day of his Novena at the Shrine, we found out that her friend's tumors had shrunk, and they now know she does not have brain cancer! Thank you, Venerable Casimir, for your gracious intercession!

— MR, email

I got four job offers

During the summer of 2020, I was out of work and had been out of work for almost 10 months. When I received my *Marian Helper* magazine, I turned to the section on "Graces Received" and took a few minutes to read the letters. There was one about a woman whose son received a job offer after being out of work 13 months. After reading that, I started saying the prayer to Venerable Casimir each and every night. Shortly after that, within 10 days, I started getting job interviews. Within 2 weeks, I had four offers. I was shocked because the prior 10 months I had only two interviews. I continue to say this prayer every night before I go to sleep.

— MR, Richmond, New Hampshire

Son gets job after almost two years

My son had been searching for a new job for almost two years, attempting to get out of the bartending

business. Even with a four-year degree in economics, he couldn't land an interview because bartending was his only job experience. A few months ago, I saw "Graces Received" for Fr. Casimir where two prayers were answered related to employment. I began praying the prayer at the bottom of the page to him twice a day. Recently, I had a dream that my son was offered a position. Two days later, he shared that he had had a phone interview for a good job. Within 24 hours of that call, he had a second video interview and an offer of employment. Thank you, Fr. Casimir!

— LE, Muskegon, Michigan



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

Young man spared prison

I prayed to Servant of God Casimir for a young man. He was involved in a three-car accident where a woman died. He was being prosecuted for DUI and manslaughter. I asked Fr. Casimir to intercede for everyone involved in the accident. The day he was in court to hear the charges, it was announced that all charges had been dropped. Even the judge was surprised and asked the prosecutor what had happened. I

know that God helped with the intercession of Venerable Casimir.

— MP, Modesto, California

For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B54-BCWP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org

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

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

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

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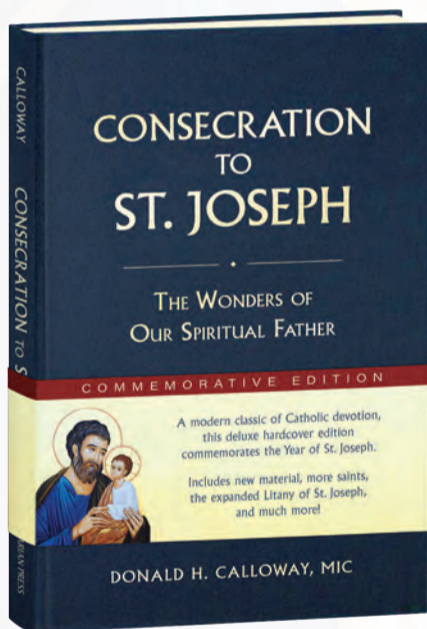
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WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT ABORTION?

By Chris Sparks

Terrified voices fill the airwaves lately, worried that abortion may be outlawed in the United States (we certainly hope so). It's a good moment to remind ourselves: Why is the Catholic Church so starkly opposed to the "popular" or "progressive" view on abortion?

I'm glad the Church has been so staunch on the issue of abortion. I believe her teaching to be true, and I hope that the logic of the position reaches as broad an audience as possible, because I believe that we have legalized the killing of innocent human beings, and it needs to stop.

I base my reasoning on the fact that there's no essential difference between the child in the womb and the child out of the womb. In fact, the flow of bioethics seems to have confirmed my stance — namely, that if you support abortion, there is no clear reason to oppose infanticide.

A 2011 paper in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* titled "After-Birth Abortion: Why Should the Baby Live?" took the notion to its logical conclusion, defending the claim that infanticide (termed by the authors of the paper "after-birth abortion") ought to be considered morally acceptable whenever abortion is accepted by society, including in cases of economic hardship. Incredible!

Forgivable sin

A multitude of objections are often raised against the Church's position. Let's take a quick look at some of these.

"Do you believe that abortion is forgivable?" Yes, absolutely. There's no such thing as an unforgivable sin, other than despairing of God's forgiveness. In other words, God can and will forgive you for every sin — unless you don't let Him forgive you. God loves every woman who has ever had an abortion, just as He loves every abortionist and clinic worker, just as He loves me and you, and every

other human being for whom He died. God loves you absolutely.

"What about abortion in cases of rape and incest?" The child did not rape, and the child did not commit incest. Don't kill an innocent child for someone else's sin.

"Doesn't a woman have the right to control her own body?" Yes, but this right is not without accompanying

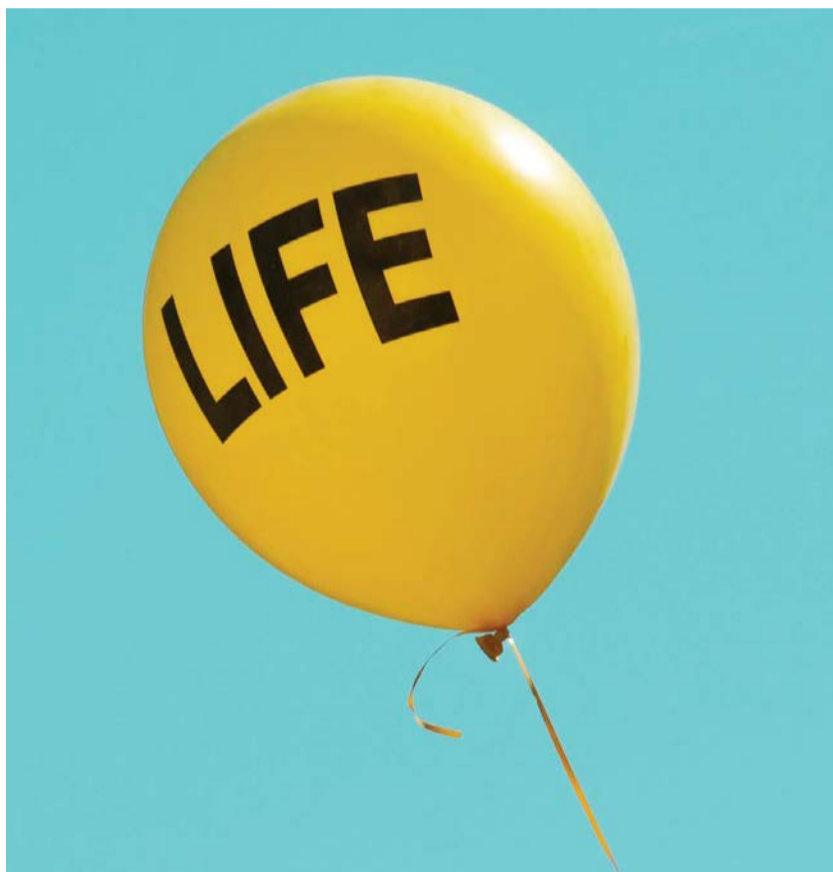
responsibilities. A woman does not have the right to destroy herself by anorexia or bulimia. A woman does not have the right to commit suicide. A woman has an obligation to love herself as the person with dignity and value that she is. She has a responsibility to be a good steward of her body, and she has the responsibility to be a good mother to the children she conceives, even if that means putting the children up for adoption or letting them live with relatives.

Destroyer of peace

"If you don't like abortion, don't have one." That's like saying, "If you don't like hiring hit men, don't hire one!" For the sake of society, we have to oppose the taking of innocent human life. Once such taking of life is accepted as normal, the effects on a society are wide-ranging and very dangerous. Mother Teresa made this plain in her acceptance speech when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, saying, "I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion."

Again, God can and will forgive someone who has procured an abortion or performed an abortion — a person can go to Confession and have all his or her sins forgiven. There are many mitigating circumstances that can reduce or remove a person's culpability for an abortion, but abortion remains wrong.

Adapted from How Can You Still Be Catholic? 50 Answers to a Good Question by Chris Sparks (Marian Press; Product code B54-BCBB).



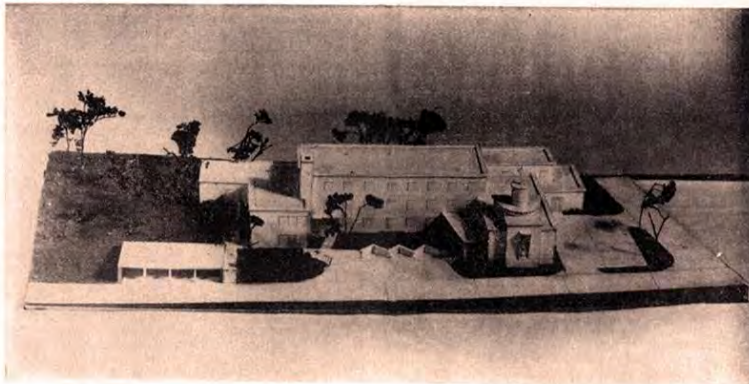
From the
VAULTS

NEW MARIAN SEMINARY

Good News

Ever since the "House of Studies" was opened in Washington, D. C. our clerics lived in three small frame-houses, ill-equipped and hardly suitable for that purpose. But we did the best we could. Over the years, we prayed and hoped that a better place could be found.

Finally God rewarded our confidence and patience. In 1958 we acquired a piece of property next to the campus of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., a short walk away from the magnificent National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



Heart to Heart

You, our Marian Associates, are what we call our dear Marian Helpers Family. Every day—morning and evening—we especially pray for all of you. And during the year on many occasions we have Masses offered for the intentions of our Marian Associates.

Because this NEW SEMINARY PROJECT is so important to us, we know that you will help make this project a FAMILY affair.

Building Project

We are now happy to announce that plans are completed for the construction of our new Home for our clerics. If all goes well, it won't be long before our new Seminary starts taking shape.

We Need Your Help!

With the building project going full steam ahead you know what that means. A lot of work, worry and headaches to meet our payments on schedule. We are confident that God will bless our efforts and prayers, and will inspire our friends, benefactors—our great Marian Associate Family—to join us in this big job. We need all of the help we can get. Anything you can give us, big or small, will be gratefully appreciated. Here is your big chance to take an active and personal part in constructing a new Seminary. By your help you can provide this unique and special "gift" to our future priests—a new Home for them during their seminary years.

Suggestion

Suggestion

You could set up a little piggy bank at your home and encourage *all* the members of your family to pitch in—from the youngest to the oldest. The younger children could give up a movie, soda or ice-cream and put that money into the piggy bank. Your boy perhaps has an after-school job delivering papers, a clerk in a store, . . . encourage him to share his pennies with God. The teen-age set could give up a pack of cigarettes or that new rock-'n roll record for the young men who give up all of that to follow Christ. Any loose change you have from your weekly pay-check, or in your purse or pocket—put that into your piggy bank. Even such little offerings do add up. For instance, 5¢ a day, for three months adds up to \$4.50. We are counting on your help. So, please don't disappoint us. "Therefore, if you . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Good Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke XI, 13)

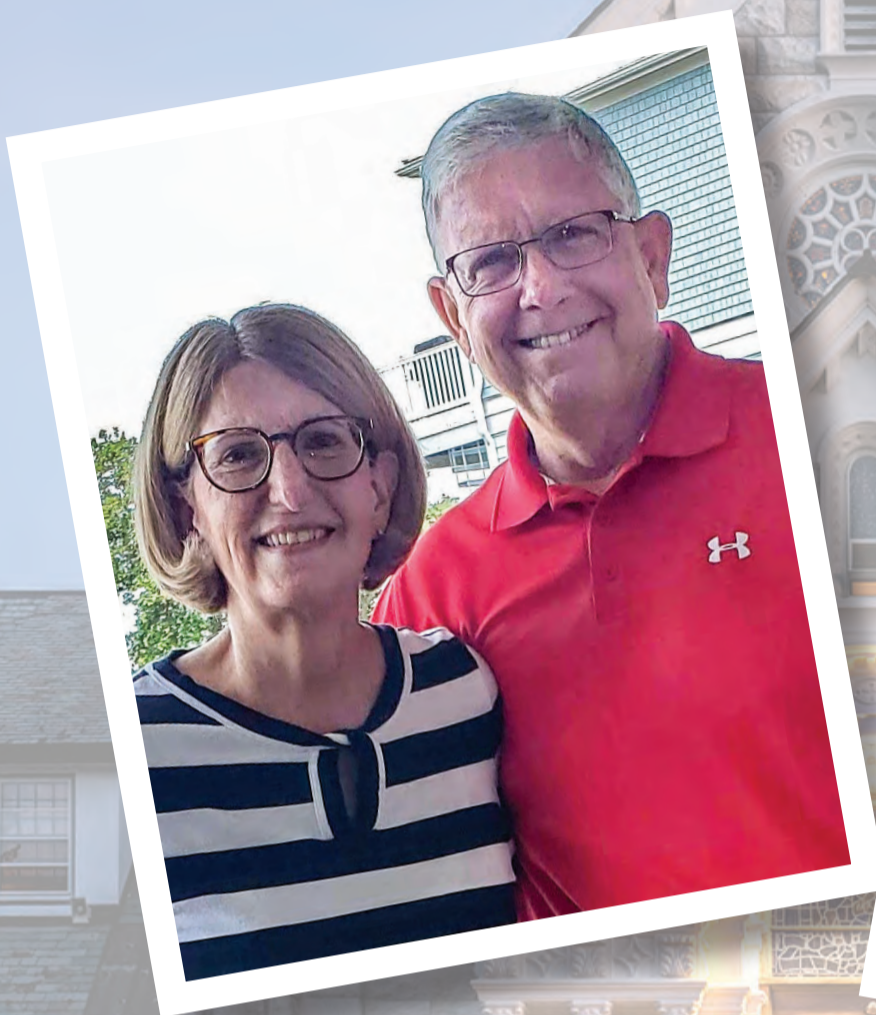


... piggy bank at your home and of your family to pitch in—from the younger children could give m and put that money into the ap has an after-school job de- store, . . . encourage him to share teen-age set could give up a pack ck-'n roll record for the young at to follow ou have from n your purse



Sixty-one years ago, fundraising took creative forms, as this solicitation from the *Marian Helpers Bulletin* of January-March 1961 illustrates. It is uncertain how many Marian Helpers took up the idea of a home piggy bank — nor how many teens gave up their cigarettes (smoking was big back then) and vinyl records (now making a comeback!). But the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, DC, was indeed built — dedicated on April 26, 1962 — and is in use today, forming the next generation of Marian priests.

Live the call!



Janet and Bob Scanlon, Marian Helpers:

In supporting the Marians, Janet and Bob are excited to play a part in their mission of spreading the good news of Divine Mercy so others can learn about and experience life full of God's mercy and love. The little chapel in the Marian Fathers' Brookeville, Maryland facility was the start of Janet's new spiritual growth. "Participating in a cenacle group study opened my eyes to St. Faustina, the Divine Mercy message, and the Chaplet," Janet said. "This devotion and our friendship with the Marians have given us immense comfort and solace."

Brother Steve C., MIC:

As I sat in the Adoration chapel of my home parish in 2013, the voice of the Lord was unmistakable as He invited me to consider the priesthood. After that initial call, I understood that the Lord was also inviting me to a deeper relationship with Our Lady and to work with her to save souls. The Marian Fathers is where I have been able to discover and embrace both of these aspects of my vocation. Please pray for me and my vocational journey.

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:
Sept. 2-4
Nov. 25-27
Dec. 2-4

Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
Visit: marian.org/vocations

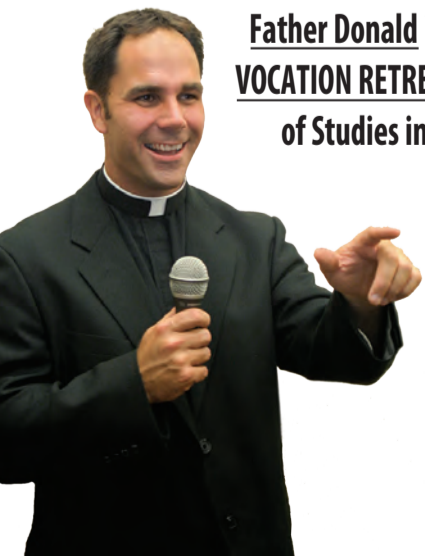
Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Vocation Director
Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception
350 Belleview Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952

Support

Want to help the seminarians?

We have more than 30 men preparing for religious life and the priesthood.

To donate, visit marian.org/give/seminarians or call 1-800-462-7426.





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or call 1-800-462-7426.**

Our Lady, Bless America!

Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, was declared the official Patroness of the United States of America 175 years ago by Pope Blessed Pius IX. Honor her protection of our great land by displaying this canvas image of "Our Lady, Immaculately Conceived," one of the most beautiful paintings of the Blessed Mother, commissioned by the Marian Fathers in 1782 and recently restored to its original vibrant state. This image is printed and framed in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and is available as a 10" x 18" gallery wrap, or with a gold or black frame.

GALLERY WRAP: B54-WW10GW \$24.95

BLACK FRAME: B54-WW10BF \$39.95

GOLD FRAME: B54-WW10GF \$49.95