

Summer 2023

# Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

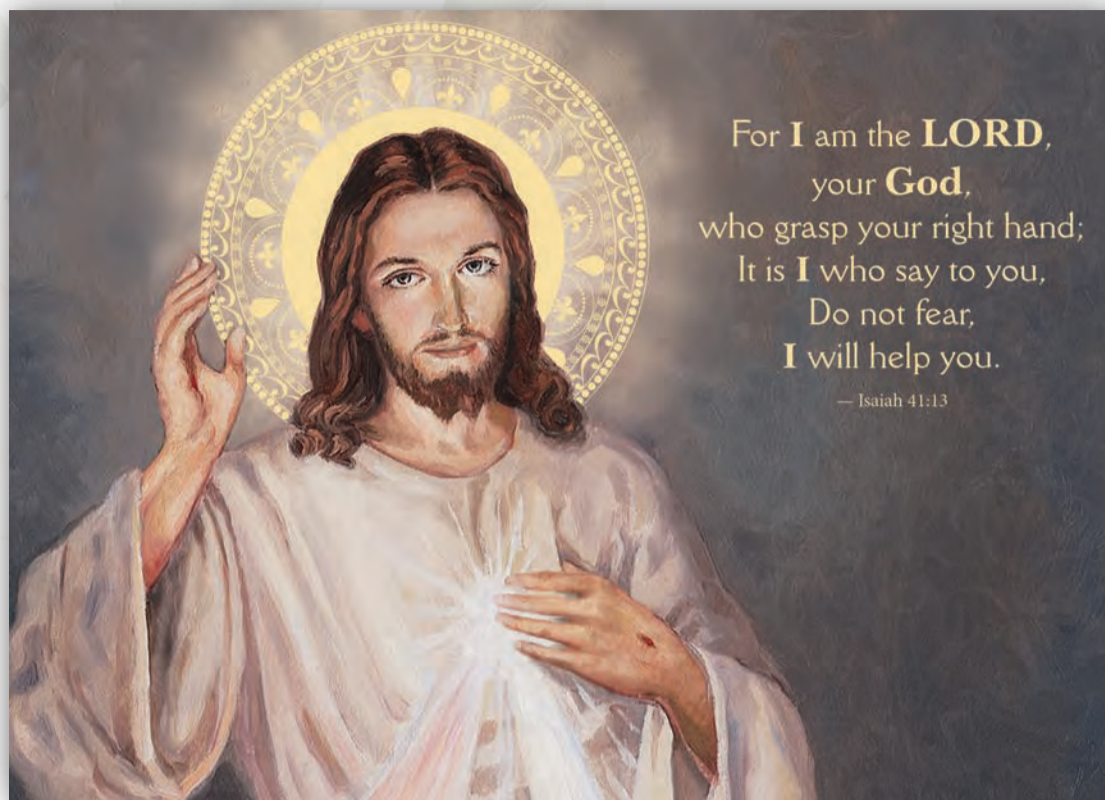
## IN THE FOUNDER'S FOOTSTEPS



Father Joe,  
Superior General  
of the Marians

  
PRO CHRISTO ET ECCLESIA  
SAINT  
STANISLAUS PAPCZYŃSKI

# GIVE A PROMISE OF PRAYER



For I am the **LORD**,  
your **God**,  
who grasp your right hand;  
It is **I** who say to you,  
Do not fear,  
**I** will help you.  
— Isaiah 41:13

**DIVINE MERCY (GET WELL)**  
**B58-GC23**

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# A NEW GENERAL

On Feb. 10, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, was elected the 40<sup>th</sup> Superior General of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In its 350-year history, only four other Marian priests from the United States have served as Superior General, most recently the late Fr. Mark Garrow, MIC (1999-2005).

## 11 'Generally' speaking

## 12 'Inspiring and humbling'

## 14 'Continue to respond creatively'

## 6 Divine Mercy Weekend 2023

Fully open for the first time in three years, thousands came — and the weather was glorious!

## 17 Shining merciful light in Ukraine

Thanks to Marian Helpers, surgeons now have lanterns to use when the electricity is cut.

## 18 A new vision atop Eden Hill

The Marian Fathers have launched a capital campaign to build a new monastery and chapel.

## 20 Mother of Merciful Love: Our Lady and St. Faustina

The greatest saints, like St. Faustina, have always turned to our spiritual mother for help.

## 24 Preaching the Eucharistic Lord!

A Eucharistic Revival is under way across the country, and all are invited to participate.

## 27 Divine Mercy, Divine Providence

Father Allen Alexander, MIC, shares a “Godincidence” during a parish mission in Michigan.

## 28 Mass at the Pentagon's 'Ground Zero'

Father Jim McCormack, MIC, recalls a liturgical celebration held inside an enemy target.

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**On the cover:** The 40<sup>th</sup> Superior General of the Marian Congregation, the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, stands beside the statue of the first Superior General, St. Stanislaus Papczyński (1631-1701), at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

### AMH Director/Publisher:

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### MISS MISSION STATEMENT

Marian Helper is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation. Marian Helper is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association. Printed in the USA with ecclesiastical approval. Copyright © 2023 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: [editorial@Marian.org](mailto:editorial@Marian.org) Website: [Marian.org](http://Marian.org)

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



## Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

## Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

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

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

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



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



You Tube



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## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION THROUGH US

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

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To help you start or even complete your will for free online, visit [Marian.org/will](http://Marian.org/will).

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*Thank you for  
your support*

# OUR 'NEW' EVANGELIZATION

What a joy it was to welcome thousands of pilgrims to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Weekend, April 15-16. It's been three long years since we last hosted a fully-open celebration, and as you will see in this issue of *Marian Helper*, it was a magnificent, grace-filled weekend, months in the planning and flawlessly executed by our hard-working Marian priests and brothers, intrepid employees, and a loyal army of 600 volunteers.

It was also wonderful to reunite with our new Superior General, the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, and host the Divine Mercy Sunday pre-show on EWTN. It felt like old times!

One of the topics we touched upon was how much has changed since our last EWTN broadcast in 2019: mainly, our enormous media efforts online, which I call our "new" evangelization.

When COVID struck and churches were closed, many of us worried about the long-term effects of the Catholic faithful being denied the opportunity to gather as a community for Mass and the Sacraments. But almost on cue, we Marians responded online, working to create new opportunities for the faithful to spiritually participate in the prayer, worship, formation, and fellowship of our Marian Family.

This was truly the Holy Spirit in action. We had already taken the first steps to livestreaming the daily Mass, Rosary, and Chaplet from the National Shrine, and were producing videos for our Marian Helpers on the web. Here was an even bigger opportunity to respond to the growing need. As usual, God can bring a greater good out of even the worst tragedies.

I don't think anyone could have anticipated the response from viewers around the world. Here's a number for you: Since January 2020, we have had 83 million visitors to our YouTube channel (Divine Mercy), and even more if you add our pages on Facebook.

It's incredible to think of the number of lives that are touched and inspired by our community life shared online. We receive hundreds of letters, emails, text

messages, and online comments daily. People write and say, "Father, after watching your talk, I went to my first Confession in years." "I have returned to the Church." "I have decided to pray the Rosary daily."

My Saturday talks, "Explaining the Faith," have been very popular. "Living Divine Mercy," our EWTN program airing Wednesdays and later available on YouTube, is produced here at the National Shrine. The global reach of EWTN has enabled us to potentially reach hundreds of millions of souls. Our podcasts are also very popular, especially those created by Fr. Roesch.

All of our content is now easily accessible on a brand new website, DivineMercyPlus.org. This digital platform houses a huge library of original Catholic content from the Marians, assembled in one easy to access and navigate place.

You know you can always rely on the Marians to tell the truth about our faith. Sadly, we live in a world dominated by cancel culture. If attempts are made to block our efforts online, know that you can find all of our programming on DivineMercyPlus.org.

Truly, our "new" evangelization efforts are bearing good fruit. But we don't do it alone. As Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz once wrote, "Lay men and women could do so much good ... , once they have been instructed and educated in matters of faith and better informed about the needs of the Church."

So together, let us continue to build up the Church, the Body of Christ, one soul at a time!

Fr. Joseph, MIC



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"Father Joseph, MIC," is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. The current director is the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, interim Provincial Superior of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province in the United States and Argentina.



# Human love and Divine Mercy

By Marian Friedrichs

“**L**eo, why don’t you go up and get the ‘cookie’?” Tasya whispered to her fiancé, Leo Marinak, in the back pew of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam, Massachusetts.

They had been attending Mass together for a while now, usually arriving late, always sitting in the back. Now, as the faithful filed up for Holy Communion, Tasya wanted to know why Leo never followed them.

## ‘It’s a Sacrament’

Early in their relationship, the couple had been pressured by family to break up on account of their religious differences — she was a Muslim, he a lapsed Catholic — but instead, they had become engaged in 2014. No wedding date was set, but one day in 2017, Tasya had suddenly asked Leo whether he would want to get married in the Catholic Church. Leo said yes.

“Then,” Tasya replied, “we should start going.”

Now, Leo explained to her in a whisper, “It’s not a cookie. It’s a Sacrament, and you’re not supposed to receive it if you’re in mortal sin.”

“Oh,” said Tasya. “How do you get rid of that?”

“I have to go to Confession.”

“Then you should go.”

Leo knew she was right. “This is the Holy Spirit,” he thought, “speaking through Tasya to me.” He told her he would go soon. But he didn’t.

## Addiction struggles

Leo had never meant to turn away from God. He and

Tasya had begun an impure relationship, however, and when he was alone, Leo struggled with a pornography addiction. In the past, he had confessed these sins and truly wanted to stop committing them, but it was hard. Eventually, knowing he would fall into his impure habits again, Leo thought, “What’s the point of going to Confession?” Then, knowing he could not receive Holy Communion, he had decided there was not much point in going to Mass, either.

Leo filled his Sundays with hobbies and community service, hoping that by wearing the Brown Scapular and doing good works, he could be saved.

“I was lying to myself,” he admits, “throughout the whole experience” — even after Tasya had urged him back through the church doors.

One night, a few weeks after that whispered conversation in the pew, Leo searched YouTube for something to watch before bed. A video of an artist’s depiction of hell caught his attention. It was already 11:30 p.m., and Leo didn’t expect to finish the 45-minute video, but it looked interesting, so he clicked the play button.

## Panic attack

Before Leo finally managed to finish the video two hours later, he had the first panic attack of his life.

“I started to see, one by one, all my sins,” he says. “No torment can compare to not having God. If God is pure love, pure happiness — take all that away, and what do you have?” The answer, of course, is hell, and Leo decided he was ready to do anything to avoid going there.

Resolved to go to church the next day, Leo tried to calm himself down by watching a movie, but quickly shut it off and began praying the Rosary. Finally, Leo fell asleep in the arms of the Blessed Mother.

The next morning, Leo was in the pew for First Saturday Mass. After Mass, he made his Confession, completed his penance, and rejoined the faithful for the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

## Everything changes

From that morning, everything changed. Leo re-proposed to Tasya; the couple committed themselves to chastity and set a wedding date — May 18, 2019. The wait of 408 days was extremely difficult, but the couple began attending

Mass more frequently, including on First Saturdays, and discovered “the graces that the Blessed Mother gives are just unfathomable.”

Leo purged his life of triggers that might lead him back into his pornography addiction. When a friend invited him to join the Knights of Columbus, Leo accepted — “if you’ll help make sure I never lose my faith again and never stop going to Confession.”

One day in church, Leo found a pamphlet about St. Faustina’s visions of Purgatory, hell, and Heaven. “It brought me right back to that night” when he had resolved to amend his life, he recalls, and inspired him to pray the Chaplet regularly.



In 2018, Tasya expressed interest in attending the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA); Leo offered to go with her. At the classes, Leo was reintroduced to Church teachings he had learned in long-forgotten Catholic school lessons and discovered more truths of the faith, as he and Tasya delved into the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to find answers to their questions. When Tasya received the Sacraments at Easter Vigil 2019, she took Faustina as her Confirmation saint.

## ‘End up smiling’

Today, as a married couple, Leo and Tasya remain active in the life of their parish, attending weekly Eucharistic Adoration and serving as lectors. Leo is a fourth degree Knight and a member of the bishop’s honor guard. Tasya works for the Diocese of Springfield, helping to recruit new priests.

Before the birth of their son, Milo Paul, in 2022, the couple suffered three miscarriages, an experience that led them to service in St. Zeli’s Hope, a ministry to parents who have lost children.

Leo still wears the Brown Scapular; he wants to encourage every Catholic to wear it and to pray the Rosary daily. In his work at a family-run heating and air conditioning business, Leo freely discusses faith and prayer with his boss, co-workers, and even clients. They share what God has done for them and always “end up smiling.”

As he reflects on God’s merciful intervention in his own life, Leo can’t help smiling through tears himself.

“I don’t know why it happened, but it happened,” he says. “It can happen to anybody.”

MH



On April 15-16, more than 15,000 people journeyed to Eden Hill for the annual Divine Mercy Weekend celebration, held on the grounds of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

# ONE GLORIOUS WEEKEND



Processing into Mass with Bishop Bernard Shlesinger are (from left) Deacon Timothy Childers, MIC; Fr. Jonathan Inskip, MIC, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Shrine Rector Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC.



Divine Mercy  
Weekend Conference



Divine Mercy Sunday  
pre-show



Divine Mercy Sunday  
Mass

By Chris Sparks

“Today, we celebrate the love of God, the Word made flesh, the Risen Lord come to save, the Divine Mercy which restores life and hope to a troubled and uncertain world,” said the Most Rev. Bernard Shlesinger, III, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, during his homily for Divine Mercy Sunday. He raised two key points: “First, an invitation — and we must RSVP — to trust in and receive His mercy as we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy, and gaze upon the Image of the Divine Mercy. And second, we are all called to be missionaries and heralds of the Divine Mercy and instruments of God’s peace.”

On April 15-16, more than 15,000 people answered Jesus’ invitation to trust in and receive His mercy at the annual Divine Mercy Weekend celebration held on the

grounds of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

## ‘Mercy means healing’

“Divine Mercy is something I’ve been aware of for, I’d say, 15 years,” said first-time Mercy Weekend pilgrim Mike Ciko of Our Lady of Bistrice Church in Lackawanna, New York. “Mercy means healing inside and out, being at peace with the world and those around me and in it, and trying to find Christ in everything.”

The Divine Mercy Weekend Conference, held in the St. Faustina Center on April 15 and headlined by the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, and Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, drew an overflow crowd of hundreds of pilgrims. The Divine Mercy Vigil Mass was celebrated by Shrine Rector Fr. Matthew Tomeny,



Under sunny skies, pilgrims waited patiently for Confession, a requirement along with Holy Communion to receive the extraordinary graces promised by Jesus on the Feast of Divine Mercy.



On Divine Mercy Sunday, Bishop Bernard Shlesinger thanked the Marian Fathers “for your warm hospitality, for your vocation, for helping lead this great apostolic work of St. Faustina and, of course, of Our Lord, and for bringing the Divine Mercy to the world.”



Lights, camera, action! Hosting the pre-show on EWTN live for the first time since 2019 are the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, and the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC.



Left, pilgrims had the opportunity to spend time with our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration tent.

MIC, and the homilist was Fr. Allen Alexander, MIC.

On Sunday, the field show before Holy Mass included a great overview of Divine Mercy from soon-to-be-ordained Deacon Timothy Childers, MIC. He was followed by Fr. Calloway, who spoke on St. Joseph as Protector of the Eucharist, and Marian Press author Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, who offered key insights from *St. Faustina*, the Secretary and Apostle of Divine Mercy.

## Jesus’ promises

Throughout the weekend, pilgrims had the chance to go to Confession, adore Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and attend Holy Mass. They responded to Jesus’ promises about the Octave Day of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday: **“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a**

**refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners”** (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 699).

It was appropriate that Tax Day got moved from April 15, and instead Divine Mercy Saturday was a day of debts forgiven, sins erased, and souls set right with God through Confession and the Vigil Mass. April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday, would in other years be celebrated as the Feast of St. Bernadette Soubirous, the visionary who bore witness to Our Lady identifying herself as the Immaculate Conception, and through whose faithful obedience the healing waters of Lourdes are a gift from Heaven to the world.

And it was somehow right that April 16 is the birthday of the late Pope Benedict XVI, the founder of the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy, who gave us all the mandate of going forth as “witnesses of God’s mercy, a source of hope for every person and for the whole world.”

MH



Proudly displaying a traveling Image are Ignacio Gomez and Maria del Rocio Cervantes from Stamford, Connecticut, married 35 years and originally from Puebla, Mexico.

Hats off to Connie Gallego of Lee, Massachusetts, on her 23<sup>rd</sup> Divine Mercy Weekend as a pilgrim and volunteer! “There’s something that brings you back every year. It’s divine!” she said. “The devotion, the love, the affirmation that something greater than us exists here. I do it for God — it’s a deal that I have with Him!”



First-time pilgrims Larry and Mary Ann Luckow of Casper, Wyoming, married 40 years, are loyal viewers of the Marians on YouTube and EWTN. “Divine Mercy means everything to us. ‘Jesus, I trust in You’ is all you need,” said Mary Ann.

A warm welcome to pilgrims was offered by long-time volunteers Fran Schmidt of Albany, New York, and Ellyn Ihrig of Becket, Massachusetts. “People have to come here because the peace of God is here,” Fran said.



The Turpin Family drove 14 hours from Hammond, Indiana, for Divine Mercy Sunday, their first time at the National Shrine. “I heard on my heart, ‘You need to go there. You need the strength for what’s coming.’ It’s just love of God, love of Jesus Christ, for all of us,” said mom, Aurora.



“God brings a greater good, even out of immense evil. That’s Divine Mercy,” said Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, to an overflow crowd at the Saturday conference in the St. Faustina Center. And Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, reminded listeners of the intercession of St. Joseph. “He is so untapped — he is a reservoir of grace. Go to St. Joseph right now for mercy!”



The multi-generational Huvahiv Family, Filipino-Americans from Queens, New York, proclaimed together, “Jesus is our Rock!”



The Sisters of Mary Immaculate of Nyeri, Kenya, are annual visitors. “We look forward to sharing the godness of God with other people,” said Sr. Ann.

First-timers Yolanda and Jerry Garcia traveled from San Fernando, California. “There’s a lot here — you feel it in your heart just coming up the hill, and once you get here, your eyes just open up,” Yolanda said.

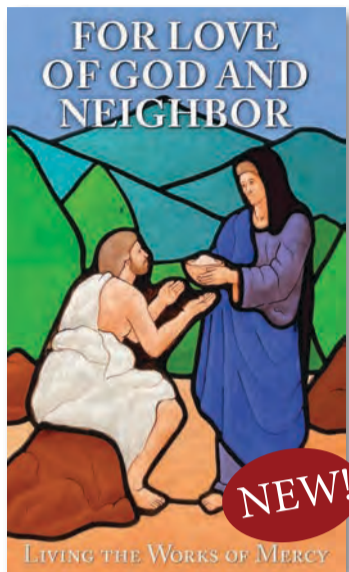


Father Chris visits with Mary and Janet from Ottawa, Canada, first-time visitors to the National Shrine. Mary is originally from Uganda, and Janet from Rwanda.

## FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

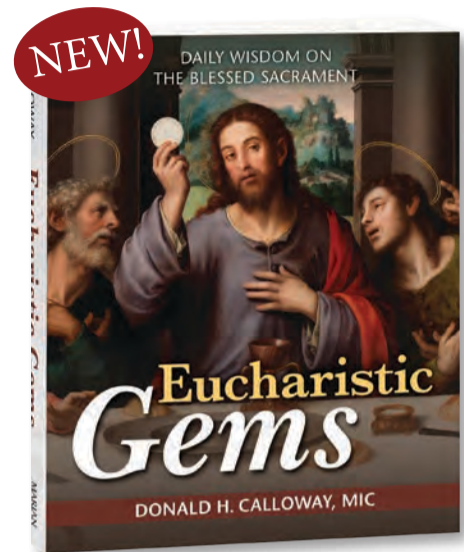
Visit [ShopMercy.org/b58](http://ShopMercy.org/b58) or call 1-800-462-7426.

Summertime is a great season to pick up a book and bring your faith with you to the beach! Listen to the wisdom of Christ and His Church, even when you're on vacation. Here are some excellent options for you and your family.



### **FOR LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR: LIVING THE WORKS OF MERCY**

At the end of time, we'll be judged on whether or not we put mercy into action — so says Matthew 25:31-46 (see also *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742). This booklet introduces you to the Church's traditional list of corporal (physical) and spiritual works of mercy, as well as offering insights into the works and people who've put them into practice. \$3.99. **B58-WOMT**

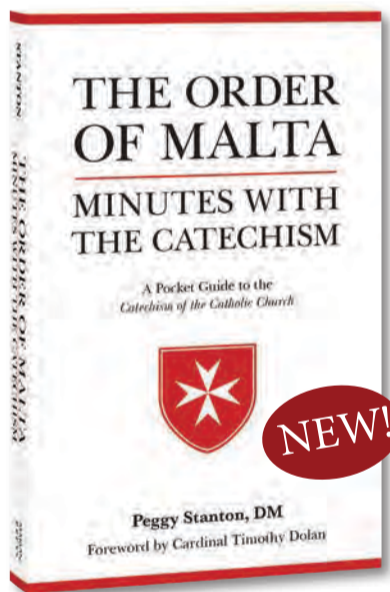


### **EUCCHARISTIC GEMS: DAILY WISDOM ON THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

### **THE ORDER OF MALTA MINUTES WITH THE CATECHISM**

By PEGGY STANTON

For more than a decade, Dame of Malta and veteran journalist Peggy Stanton produced, wrote, and broadcast "The Order of Malta Minute with the *Catechism*," a syndicated series of one-minute radio segments that sought to inspire Catholics by familiarizing listeners with the teachings of the Catholic Church, explaining what Catholics believe. Now Stanton's nearly 260 scripts are published. The Minutes offer text-size teachings distilling the essentials of doctrine in the *Catechism* and offering a handy guide when readers are questioned about WHY they believe WHAT they believe. \$16.95. **B58-OMTK**



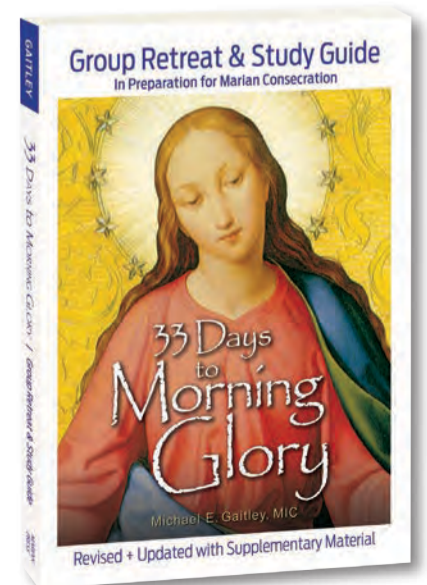
By FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

*Eucharistic Gems* is an aid to the Eucharistic Revival currently under way in the United States. What better way to make sure there always remains on-going fruit from the Eucharistic Revival than to have a book that offers timeless quotes on the Eucharist — 366 quotes, in fact — from popes, saints, blessed, venerables, and servants of God. *Eucharistic Gems* is intended to be a book that can be read and re-read for years to come, and keep the Eucharistic Revival ever in our hearts. \$13.95. **B58-EUGM**

### **33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY: GROUP RETREAT & STUDY GUIDE**

By FR. MICHAEL E. GAITLEY, MIC

The international bestseller *33 Days to Morning Glory* is presented in a new expanded study edition designed specifically for group retreats. Supplementing the original text for each of the 33 days leading to Marian consecration are thought-provoking questions to answer and discuss in a group setting. This new volume also provides exclusive access to retreat videos posted on [DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org), to enrich the consecration experience and encourage group discussion. \$24.95. **B58-3DRC3**





# 'GENERALLY' SPEAKING

I arrived in Rome to serve in the administration of our Congregation in May of 2005. I spent six years as the Second General Councilor and then 12 years as the Vicar General. Now, as many of you may have heard, there has been a change in my life. For two weeks in February of this year, we held our General Chapter meeting. During the meeting, I was elected the 40<sup>th</sup> Superior General of the Congregation, so I have become a successor of our Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński, and of the Renovator of our Congregation, Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, the 27<sup>th</sup> Superior General.

There is a point in our Constitutions that says that, “supreme and immediate power in the entire Congregation is exercised in an ordinary manner, by the Superior General with the assistance of his Council and, in an extraordinary manner, by the General Chapter.” So the General Chapter, during the two weeks that it met in February, held “supreme and immediate power” in the Congregation. The decisions made by the General Chapter need to be carried out by myself and my General Council.

So, what does a Superior General do?

Our directory says that I should frequently consult my General Councilors in regard to matters pertaining to the Congregation. It also says that I should frequently communicate with other Superiors, especially those who are in charge of provinces and general vicariates. I am also called upon to issue directives when needed, and to address letters to all of the confrères as necessary.

Our Constitutions also state that I should visit all three Provinces and the many houses of the Congregation every three years. We have seven General Vicariates which we visit more often. I will usually travel with one of the General Councilors on these visitations. I can also designate my General Councilors or someone else to make a visitation.

I am called upon to make sure that the plans of the Congregation are faithfully accomplished, and that apostolic works for the good of the Church of Christ make progress. Some decisions are to be made collegially by the General Council in which each vote has equal weight. If

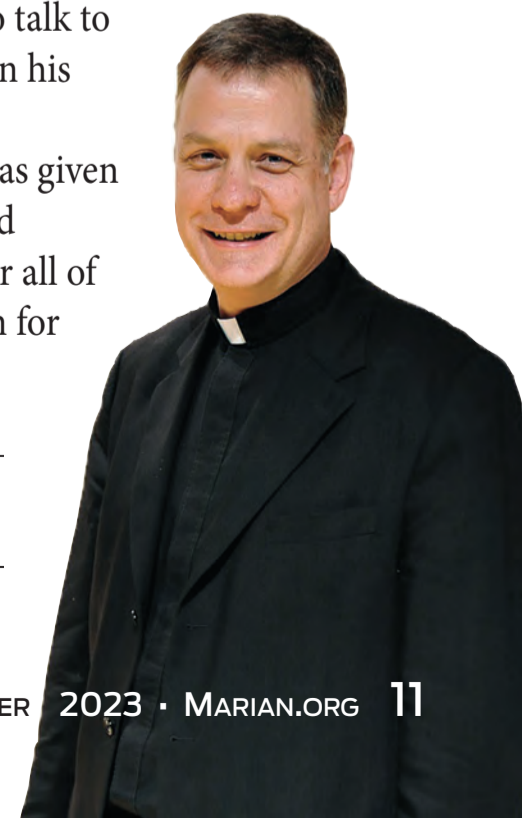
the vote goes against what I think, I can't overrule it. Some matters are decided with the consent of the General Council. I can make other decisions after consulting my General Councilors.

Our rule states that I must regularly send a brief account on the state and life of the Congregation to the Apostolic See. I should also appoint for myself a monitor, someone who should watch over my manner of life and who should, if necessary, admonish me. I think that this is a very good rule. All Superiors should have such a monitor. It reminds each of us that none of us is above the law.

I ask for your prayers as I take on this new office for the next six years. The good news is that, if God asks us to take on an office, the Holy Spirit will give us the grace to carry out our work.

Some people have asked if my life will change much as I move from being the Vicar General to the Superior General — from the second-in-command to the one in charge. Some things are very similar. However, I have noticed that some tasks have multiplied. When people call, they usually want to talk to the Superior General rather than his Vicar. The buck stops here.

I am very blessed that God has given me an excellent and experienced General Council. Please pray for all of us as we serve the Congregation for the next six years!




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The Most Rev. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the Superior General of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome. Listen to his podcast on the journal of Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, on [TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts](https://TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts) and [DivineMercyPlus.org](https://DivineMercyPlus.org).



PHOTO © VATICAN MEDIA

The Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, greets Pope Francis during the audience with Marian priests and brothers at the Vatican on Feb. 17, 2023.

# ‘INSPIRING AND HUMBLING’

Father Joseph Roesch, MIC, follows  
in the footsteps of the Founder

**O**n Feb. 10, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, was elected the 40<sup>th</sup> Superior General of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A native of Staten Island, New York, Fr. Roesch, 62, was ordained in 1992, and has served in Rome since 2005. For the next six years, he will oversee a Congregation of 500 Marian priests and brothers in 19 countries. *Marian Helper* sat down with the new Superior General to discuss the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

**You are our most prolific podcaster, known for “St. Faustina’s Diary in a Year” and recently reading from the writings of the Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński (1631-1701), and the Renovator, Bl. George Matulaitis-Matulewicz (1871-1927) — all available on [DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org). Both were Superior Generals. How does it feel to be following in their footsteps?**

It’s awesome, and truly humbling. What an inspiration to follow these holy men and try to keep things going. But I know we’re not doing it alone. We have God’s grace, and we have their intercession.

The nice thing about doing these podcasts and reading their words again is discovering how much we can still learn from them today. They both suffered a lot, and both lived the Paschal Mystery like Christ, and so they can help people like us. Their lives are a great example. They give us hope that our own sufferings won’t last forever, if we persevere.

**Blessed George’s command was to go out in the world and serve where the need is greatest. What does that mean to Marians today?**

We certainly don’t have to travel very far today to see that the needs are so great. Right here in our own country people don’t know their faith, don’t know God, and are trying to live their lives without God.

We had interesting conversations during our recent General Chapter about the expanding geography of our Congregation. The central place used to be Europe, and then we spread to the United States and South America. Now we’re in Africa, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines. We had delegates from all of these places, and they could see the bigger picture. It was eye-opening for many. There are lessons to be shared and learned.

My hope is that our Marian priests and brothers, wherever they are, whether they’re in parishes or shrines or other ministries, are doing everything they can to get people to know God and know and live their faith. God has a plan for each of us. As Marians, we should not limit ourselves, but see where the Lord is calling us to use our talents and do everything we can to spread the faith.

**How do you promote unity among a far-flung Marian Congregation?**

In 2026, we’re going to have a *Conventus*, an international meeting, to talk about vocations. Father Mark Garrow, when he was Superior General (1999-2005), had a similar gathering in Fatima on vocations, and the need is still there. While we do well in one place, other places are suffering.

In Europe, for example, vocations are not as strong as they used to be, but in places like India, they are booming.

Poland remains our unifier; it’s our patrimony and, as a province, still has the largest number of Marians. Our Polish priests and brothers serve all over the world. And pilgrimages to the tomb of the Founder, and the holy places and shrines associated with our heritage, will always be a source of inspiration for us.

Our 350<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration, which concludes this year, has been a blessing, even though some of our international meetings were cancelled due to COVID. We distributed

retreat books every year containing conferences for each month. It gave us an opportunity to reflect on our charisms. Maybe our three-year jubilee was meant to be on a smaller scale. Our Founder lived during times of war and plagues, and Bl. George lived during times of war. We face similar challenges.

**What can our Province here in the United States teach the rest of the Marian world?**

Two things in particular come to mind. First, vocations are doing very well here, and our Congregation could learn from our methods and outreach. Second, our very effective promotion of the Divine Mercy message, especially harnessing the internet as a tool of evangelization, including livestreamed talks and social media.

The flip side of this is, the United States can learn from other parts of the Marian world, where there is a greater focus on our charism of the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, especially as Our Lady, under that title, is Patroness of the United States.

Many think it’s just about devotion to Mary. It’s a much deeper mystery, the idea of God wanting to save Mary in that extraordinary way in light of her vocation, and that God wants to save all of us in an ordinary way through the Sacraments. It’s about that gift of salvation that is available to everyone. Mary is the sign for us of that openness to the gift of God’s salvation.

**What is your biggest challenge as Superior General?**

I think the biggest challenge that we have is just to continue to grow in holiness. Do what we’re supposed to do, do what God’s asking us to do, and live the life that we’re supposed to live.

Please pray for me, and for all our Marian priests and brothers around the world, as we pray for all of you.

*Listen to Fr. Joseph Roesch’s podcasts on [DivineMercyPlus.org](http://DivineMercyPlus.org) and [TheDivineMercy.org](http://TheDivineMercy.org).*

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**“The biggest challenge is to continue to grow in holiness, do what we’re supposed to do, do what God’s asking us to do, and live the life that we’re supposed to live.”**



PHOTOS © VATICAN MEDIA

# ‘CONTINUE TO RESPOND CREATIVELY’

**O**n Feb. 17, 2023, Marian priests and brothers, gathered in Rome for the General Chapter, had an audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Following remarks from the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, the newly-elected Superior General, the Holy Father discussed the “treasure” of the Congregation’s spirituality, urging them to follow in the footsteps of their founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński. The two addresses are published here.

## The Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC:

Most Holy Father, the members of the General Chapter of the Congregation of Marian Fathers express their deep and sincere gratitude for this audience and assure Your Holiness of the constant and daily prayer of the entire Congregation for you and for your intentions. Every evening, in each of our communities, we pray that you will “guide the Church securely on the road to salvation.”

Today’s meeting is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the occasion of the Jubilee of the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our religious community. Indeed, on Dec. 11, 1670, our Founding Father, St. Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczyński, performed the act of *Oblatio*; that is, through the formula of the religious vows that he composed, he offered himself forever to God and the Immaculate Mother of the Lord.



The Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, greets Pope Francis.

Thus, he began the foundation of an Institute dedicated to the spreading of the mystery of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, almost 200 years before the proclamation of the dogma.



## Special moments

In accordance with our founding charism, we strive today to spread this mystery of Mary and see in it the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death. We strive to be prophets of the eschatological destiny of every human being, and we proclaim the Gospel in every possible way.

In the Jubilee of our Congregation, we are living special moments given to us by Divine Providence, especially the fact that, going back more than 100 years at a time of persecution, only one member of the Congregation remained alive. Today, we serve God and the Church in 19 countries around the world, and although we are not a large Congregation, we witness to Christ in the way of Mary, our Mother and Patroness, always the humble and little Handmaiden of the Lord. And we desire this to be our path.

Your Holiness, in these days, we are celebrating the 59<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. In it, we are exploring the great gifts of God's mercy contained in our Jubilee and in our history. We ask you to address a message to us, and we ask for your Apostolic Blessing for our service, according to our maxim: *Pro Christo et Ecclesia*.

## Pope Francis:

Dear brothers, good morning and welcome!

You are holding this General Chapter in the context of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of your Institute, that took place in Krakow in December 1670, by the work of St. Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary. We know that it was not an

easy beginning, due to the search for suitable companions and the long approval process, but St. Stanislaus did not give up, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

And precisely in order to cherish the legacy left to you by his tenacity, I would like to recall with you three major

features of his and of your spirituality, all marked by a lively ascetic and pastoral dynamism: love for the Virgin Mary, prayer of suffrage, and attention to the poor.

## Love for Mary

First of all, *love for Mary*. It is interesting to see what St. Stanislaus teaches regarding Marian devotion: he says that the principal veneration of Mary Immaculate is imitation of her evangelical life.

This is important, because true devotion to the Mother of the Lord is nurtured and grows through listening

to and meditating on the Word of God: Mary is the Woman of the Gospel (cf. Mt 12:46-50).

## Prayer of Suffrage

Second aspect: *prayer of suffrage*, which characterizes the eschatological aspect of your Congregation. Saint Stanislaus, however, inserts into this view of the ultimate horizon a special prayer for two large groups of the poor of his time: soldiers who fell in battle, and those who died of the plague.

Today it is needed for soldiers: they are falling everywhere! Just think that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, some 60 percent

**“Saint Stanislaus charted for your congregation paths of spirituality and action, well embodied in the concrete history of the men and women of his time. And it is important for you to ‘take up the torch’; continuing to respond creatively to the challenges that our age also presents.”**

Continued on page 16



of Europe's population was exterminated by epidemics and wars! It was then necessary to pray for the souls of the dead and for the comfort of families and communities, marked by grief and mourning for the loss of their loved ones (cf. Jn 11:35-36).

### Attention to the poor

And the third feature I would like to underline is *attention to the poor*, in particular in support of parish priests. The Marian Fathers thus contributed to responding to some serious problems of the time: the weakening of faith, especially among the humblest classes, the lack of priestly and religious vocations, and the state of poverty of a large part of the population (cf. Mt 9:35-38).

Dear brothers, St. Stanislaus charted for your Congregation paths of spirituality and action, well embodied in the concrete history of the men and women of his time. And it is important for you to “take up the torch”; continuing to respond creatively to the challenges that our age also presents. Do not be discouraged if you encounter opposition or difficulties. Think of the great trials that your religious family has faced over the centuries, for instance when at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was reduced to just one member! With God's help you have recovered, so that today you consist of approximately 500 religious, present in 19 countries throughout the world.

### Fidelity to origins

Let us recall, in this context, the figure of Blessed George Matulaitis (1871-1927), a Marian Father, priest, bishop, and apostolic nuncio in Lithuania, one of the key figures responsible for your rebirth. He was able to restore vitality

to the community, updating the Constitutions and promoting its work fearlessly, even to the point of having to act clandestinely and risking arrest, without ever giving up promoting charity and unity among religious and among the faithful.

I encourage you to keep fidelity to your origins alive in this prophetic attention to today. You have done so in recent times by including openness to the laity, the protection of life from conception to death, attention to the least, and support for families in difficulty — this is very important today, as the family is always in difficulty — among your pastoral priorities. ...

### Marian titles

I would like to conclude our meeting today by mentioning three Marian titles with which St. John Paul II invited you to venerate Mary Immaculate. Mary “Seat of Wisdom,” so that your witness to the Gospel may be firm and solid; Mary “Consoler of the Afflicted,” that the people of our time may find love and understanding in you, and may be drawn to God by your charity and selfless service; and third, Mary “Mother of Mercy,” that you may be rich in maternal compassion for the souls redeemed by the Blood of Christ and entrusted to you.

And on this, please, let us not forget God's style: closeness, mercy, and tenderness. God is like this: He is close, He is merciful, He is tender. This is our God. A religious brother, a priest, must be close, he must be merciful, forgive everything, and be tender, not aggressive; patient and charitable every day.

I wholeheartedly bless you and all your brethren. And please do not forget to pray for me. Thank you.

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# SHINING MERCIFUL LIGHT IN UKRAINE

By Chris Sparks

*I will make you a light to the nations — Is 49:6.*

**N**urse Marie Romagnano wears many hats. She's the founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. She's also been crucial in fundraising for the medical and humanitarian aid that the Marian Family is providing to the victims of the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Among that aid — including specialized medical equipment for bone fractures, head trauma, and much, much more — one particular contribution seems especially fitting, coming from the Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers: light.

## Let there be light!

“You've got to have light to help to find people, to do surgery, to do whatever you have to do,” said Nurse Marie. “I became aware of the problem when the grid was attacked and all the power went out in Ukraine. Doctors were doing open heart surgery on babies with flashlights. And the more information that I received, it was perfectly clear to me we had to do something about it, and do it fast.”

So Nurse Marie contacted LuminAID, founded by two grad students, Anna Stork and Andrea Sreshta. “We designed an inflatable solar lantern that could pack flat to be cost-effectively distributed after disasters,” they explain on their website. “The simple, rechargeable lantern is lightweight, easy to use, and serves as a safer alternative to hazardous candles or toxic kerosene for people without stable access to electricity.”

For the past decade, LuminAID has worked with humanitarian partners across the world. That now includes the people served by the Marian Family's aid efforts.

“It was unbelievable,” Nurse Marie said. One of the founders, Andrea, called her back. “I told her what we

needed, and I told her the budget, and she said fine. I explained our situation and how we're focusing on the medical aid to those that are injured.”

In the end, Nurse Marie was able to purchase 1,900 of the LuminAID lanterns.

With help from Project C.U.R.E. (a humanitarian organization with long-standing ties to Dr. Bryan Thatcher and the works of mercy done by the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy), Nurse Marie was able to find a way to get those lights to the right hands in Eastern Europe. But that wasn't all.

“From the funds from the Marian Helpers Center, I was able to purchase not only the lights, but also other specialized medical supplies,” explained Nurse Marie, including turnout kits, compression bandages, and anything that the paramedics might need on the scene.

## The difference you make

The assistance from the Marian Helpers has made a real impact on the ground.

“One time in particular, one of the Marians contacted me and said, ‘Marie, the paramedics

in Kharkiv are out of medical supplies,’” Nurse Marie recalled. “This is especially distressing because the Marian Fathers have a parish in Kharkiv, and that was actively being attacked.

“It just so happened that our shipment arrived the next day with specialized equipment,” she said. “And it's all thanks to Marian Helpers and the support that Project C.U.R.E. and the Marian Fathers are able to work to get this distributed. The need continues.”

*Please visit [Marian.org/Ukraine](https://www.marian.org/ukraine) to make a donation for Ukraine relief. One-hundred percent of funds received are sent directly to those in need through our Marian priests in Ukraine and Poland.*

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**This magnificent aerial view of Divine Mercy Sunday Mass on April 16, 2023, offers a perspective of the location of the proposed Marian monastery and chapel (in the field marked by the red X) on the campus of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.**

# A NEW VISION ATOP EDEN HILL

By Dr. Joe McAleer

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

And your support is invited.

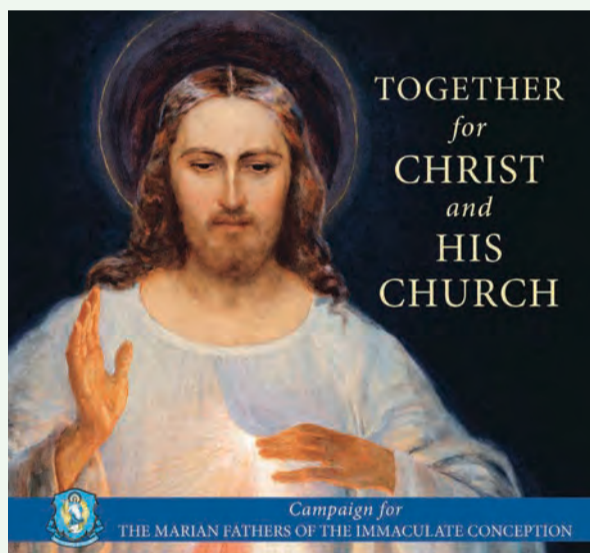
“Most people are unaware that our Marian priests and brothers live in five different buildings on our campus,” explains the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior. “Some of these structures are more than 100 years old and badly in need of repair.” The Shrine house, for example, was built in the 1880s and lacks efficient plumbing, electrical wiring, and insulation. The latter is deeply felt during the frigid Massachusetts winters.

Moreover, when Marians from across the country visit, they sleep on cots in common areas, due to the lack of living space. Bathrooms are shared by many, and the dining room can only accommodate 20 at a time, with 35 Marians on campus. Accessibility for the disabled is limited in these older buildings.

## Religious in community

“The present situation is not conducive to religious life,” Fr. Chris adds. “We are meant to live in community and pray, worship, and meet together. The new monastery and chapel will be a great blessing to our lives as Marians of the Immaculate Conception.”

The growing number of vocations to the Marians is another factor. “We are blessed with many fine young men seeking to become Marian priests and brothers,” Fr. Chris notes. “When our postulants and novices come to Eden Hill for spiritual direction and events, we have no place to



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

accommodate them. A new monastery will solve this problem — which is a very good problem to have!”

Construction is expected to begin next year. The project was evaluated over a period of two years through personal interviews and focus groups, and an e-survey was conducted during a feasibility study by Ruotolo Associates.

Once the new monastery is built, two of the current residential buildings will be renovated and re-purposed as retreat houses.

“Many people have also asked about the prospect of building a new National Shrine with facilities to accommodate the growing numbers of pilgrims,” Fr. Chris says. “It’s certainly on the horizon for us. But first, from a budgetary standpoint, we must prioritize the very real needs of our Marian priests and brothers.”

## Investing in our future

“We invite all of our Marian Helpers to participate in our “Together for Christ Campaign,” Fr. Chris concludes. “While our home is much more than the building and rooms in which we gather, this campaign is a way to invest in the future of the Marian Fathers. It will not address all of our needs, but is another step to making our Marian Community, and its life stronger by caring for our gifts, and giving a return to God in gratitude.”

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# Mother of Merciful Love: Our Lady and St. Faustina

By Dr. Robert Stackpole

**T**he greatest saints of the Church have always turned to the compassionate Heart of our spiritual mother for help and solace on the road to Heaven.

For example, several times the Blessed Virgin spoke about her maternal tenderness to the great Apostle of Divine Mercy, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. As recorded in her *Diary*, Mary told her, “Know, my daughter, that although I was raised to the dignity of Mother of God, seven swords of pain pierced my heart” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 786). On another occasion, Our Lady said to her, “I know how much you suffer, but do not be afraid. I share with you your suffering, and I shall always do so” (*Diary*, 25).

Throughout Faustina’s life, Mary taught her that she is our true mother who understands our joys, sorrows, and needs better than anyone.

## Complete trust in Mary

As a result, St. Faustina placed her complete trust in Mary right from the start, a childlike trust that knew no bounds. In the early pages of her *Diary*, for example,

Faustina consecrated her whole being to Mary, entrusting her life to Mary with these words:

O Mary, my Mother and my Lady, I offer you my soul, my body, my life and my death, and all that will follow it. I place everything in your hands (*Diary*, 79).

Later, when she went to the Shrine of Mary in Czestochowa in Poland to pray there before the great icon of Our Lady, St. Faustina wrote:

The Mother of God told me many things. I entrusted my perpetual vows to her. I felt that I was her child and that she was my Mother. She did not refuse any of my requests (260).

Toward the end of St. Faustina’s life, Mary again encouraged her to place complete childlike trust in her by speaking to Faustina these tender words: “My daughter, at God’s command I am to be, in a special and exclusive way your Mother; but I desire that you, too, in a special way, be my child” (*Diary*, 1414).

## Heavenly intercession

Saint Faustina's childlike trust in Mary was especially evident in times of great suffering. It was then above all that she placed herself in the arms of her mother Mary and entrusted herself completely to Mary's tender care and heavenly intercession. For example, Faustina prayed:

Mother of God, your soul was plunged into a sea of bitterness; look upon your child and teach her to suffer and to love while suffering. Fortify my soul that pain will not break it. Mother of grace, teach me to live by [the power of] God (*Diary*, 315).

As her physical and spiritual sufferings increased, St. Faustina again entrusted herself to the care of the Mother of God, and found strength through meditating on Mary's own patience and courage:

O Mary, today [probably it was Good Friday] a terrible sword has pierced your holy soul. Except for God, no one knows of your suffering. Your soul does not break; it is brave, because it is with Jesus. Sweet Mother, unite my soul to Jesus, because it is only then that I will be able to endure all trials and tribulations, and only in union with Jesus will my little sacrifices be pleasing to God. Sweetest Mother, continue to teach me about the interior life. May the sword of suffering never break me. O pure Virgin, pour courage into my heart and guide it (*Diary*, 915).

## Before Holy Communion

Whether in times of sorrow or of joy, again and again the Blessed Virgin Mary was the one St. Faustina turned to for help in living in close union with Jesus Christ. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Mother of God often appeared or spoke to St. Faustina right before Holy Communion, as if Mary's special task was to prepare Faustina for receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (see, for instance, *Diary*, 449, 597, 608, 846, 1414). As Faustina wrote:

I am spending this time with the Mother of God, and preparing myself for the solemn moment of the coming

of the Lord Jesus. The Mother of God is instructing me in the interior life of the soul with Jesus, especially in Holy Communion (*Diary*, 840).

This is precisely what we should expect. Jesus says to us in the Book of Revelation (3:20): "Behold. I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." So at each Holy Communion, Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks — but He will not force His way in. As He said, He waits for us to "open the door" and let Him in of our own free will. We may think to ourselves: "Of course I will let Him in; I will welcome Him and accept Him as my Lord and Savior every day of my life, and at every Holy Communion."

## Open the door

Sadly, however, it is not as easy as that. The door of the human heart is heavy with pride; the hinges, rusted by our doubts; the latches, chained by our fears. It is not so easy to swing such a door open, even if we want to do so. And that is another reason we have such need of Mary, our Mother of Mercy. She is always ready to help us by her prayers to open the door of our hearts to her Son.

We, too, can come to know and cherish Mary, as St. Faustina did, as our spiritual mother who intercedes for all our needs. Relating to Mary in this way was not just a special privilege given to the saints; it is open to all the People of God.

Father Peter John Cameron, OP, humorously sums up this truth in his book *Mysteries of the Virgin Mary*: "Adam was the only man in history

who did not have a mother. God saw what a mess it got him into, and made sure that that never happened again. As a result of Adam's sin, God would save humankind, and salvation would have a mother." Indeed!

*Robert Stackpole, STD, is the director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy and the author of Mary: Who She Is and Why She Matters, available on ShopMercy.org/b58 (Product Code: B58-MBK).*

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**"O Mary, my Mother and my Lady, I offer you my soul, my body, my life and my death, and all that will follow it. I place everything in your hands" (*Diary*, 79).**



# GO FORTH in defense of Life!

*Editor's note: June 24, 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of the overturning of the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision known as Roe v. Wade, but the pro-life fight in this country is far from over, as the battle rages on, state-by-state. In the following excerpt from her new Marian Press book Mercy's Power: Inspiration to Serve the Gospel of Life, Maria V. Gallagher offers an action plan to jump-start the pro-life movement at the grass-roots level, with practical advice for people of all ages.*

**W**hen my seventh-grade teacher and school principal, Mrs. Clark, recruited me for the pro-life movement, I had no idea that calling would take me to the corridors of power, from state capitols to the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. With my life touched by “The Master’s Hand,” I have had the opportunity to witness a pro-life bill I had lobbied for signed into law ... see strongly-committed pro-life individuals sworn into office ... and share smiles and an outpouring of joy with people saved from abortion.

Living out the Gospel of Life has brought a sense of peace and purpose to my life that I had hardly dreamed possible. I have found that the cause of promoting life is a noble endeavor which leaves a legacy of love behind.

## Spiritual Action Plan

In order to be effective ambassadors for the cause of life, we must remain ever close to our Creator. We cannot hope to help with the business of saving lives unless our own lives are models of Christian witness.

Consequently, it can be helpful to have at the ready a “spiritual action plan” that will power our works of mercy. This blueprint for holiness will enable us to become, with God’s grace, the wounded healers our culture desperately needs. An effective spiritual action plan could include: a Morning Offering prayer, daily Rosary, daily Mass or Spiritual Communion, regular Confession, a weekly Holy Hour, and group prayer and study with other pro-life advocates. It is critical for us to connect with other people on our journey of faith.

With your spiritual action plan in place, it is time for you to discover your own path to living out the Gospel of Life. But how do you find your way? My experience as a pro-life advocate in Pennsylvania has given me insight into how ordinary citizens can achieve life-saving results:

**Step One: Self-Evaluation.** The journey may begin with an evaluation of your skills and talents. Whether your skill set involves writing letters to the editor, crafting fundraising appeals, or knitting caps for newborn babies, your contribution is vital to the success of pro-life advocacy. No matter what your particular gift, the pro-life movement can use you!

**Step Two: Form a Connection.** It is vital that you form a connection with a group such as a state affiliate of National Right to Life (find yours at [nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates](http://nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates)). The group can provide you with legislative alerts which

will let you know when critical bills are coming up for a vote. The alerts will enable you to contact your state lawmakers so that you can urge them to pursue pro-life policies and to oppose measures which threaten innocent human life.

**Step Three: Volunteer!** The best way to serve as an Ambassador for Life is to volunteer. Perhaps you can help out with activities such as marches and rallies. With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, grassroots action at the state and local level has become all the more important. If you are a specialist in a particular field, such as the law, health care, or even accounting, you can also make a world of difference by volunteering your services to a worthy pro-life organization. In addition, community-based pregnancy care centers are always looking for people who can donate their time. Whether you engage in counseling or sorting baby clothes, designing newsletters or distributing diapers, you will be contributing mightily to helping to save precious lives.

### Step Four: Educate Yourself.

I have to say that, working in the pro-life movement, I learn something new every day. Whether it involves the latest medical breakthrough in saving premature babies or pilot programs to help pregnant women and their families succeed, new information comes

my way on a regular basis. Connect with trusted online sources such as National Right to Life News Today ([nrlc.org/news](http://nrlc.org/news)), [CatholicNewsAgency.com](http://CatholicNewsAgency.com), *National Catholic Register* ([ncregister.com](http://ncregister.com)), and [CatholicMom.com](http://CatholicMom.com). It is important to realize that you cannot hope to educate your family, your friends, and public officials unless you have first educated yourself. The better informed you are, the more powerful will be your witness to the beauty and sanctity of life!

The fall of *Roe v. Wade* has launched a new era in the pro-life movement — one that relies more heavily on community engagement and involvement. With the aid of motivation, enthusiasm, and dedication, we can go forth and bring about the change that will save lives, transform hearts, and revitalize our world.

Miracles can and will happen, if only we cooperate with God’s loving plan for humanity.

*To order Mercy’s Power: Inspiration to Serve the Gospel of Life by Maria V. Gallagher, visit [ShopMercy.org/b58](http://ShopMercy.org/b58) (Product Code: B58-MPOW).*

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# PREACH THE EUCHARISTIC LORD!

By Chris Sparks

“Holy Communion assures me that I will win the victory; and so it is. I fear the day when I do not receive Holy Communion. This Bread of the Strong gives me all the strength I need to carry on my mission and the courage to do whatever the Lord asks of me. The courage and strength that are in me are not of me, but of Him who lives in me — it is the Eucharist” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 91).

The Catholic Church in the United States has embarked on a multi-year, nationwide Eucharistic Revival, and all of the Marian Family ought to join in!

The campaign was launched last year on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (or Corpus Christi). The first year invites diocesan staff, bishops, and priests to what Pope Francis has described as “a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ” — particularly the transforming power and mercy of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

The second year, which begins this June, will foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through Eucharistic Adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit.

## Pilgrimages

In 2024, one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history, from the four corners of the U.S., will precede a July Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. The pilgrimages will begin in San Francisco; at the tomb of Knights of Columbus founder Bl. Michael McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut; at the U.S.-Mexico border near Brownsville, Texas; and in the Diocese of Crookston at the headwaters of the Mississippi. Each route will end in Indianapolis. The pilgrimages will include processions in cities and towns along each route.

The Vatican has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year with the motto “Pilgrims of Hope.” This year of special grace providentially coincides with the Eucharistic Revival’s national year of mission. Pope Francis believes the 2025 Jubilee will “contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust.”

## Marian preacher

Father Andy Davy, MIC (above), pastor of St. Mary’s Parish in Plano, Illinois, has been appointed one of the official preachers for the Eucharistic Revival. He was selected on the suggestion of the Most Rev. Ronald A. Hicks, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, due to his work with young adults in hosting different retreats.

“There’s more than 50 of us from different religious communities and different dioceses,” explained Fr. Andy. “The Eucharistic Preachers are called with different styles of preaching, different gifts to help facilitate different conferences, retreats, and convocations.”

Following the 2019 Pew Report that said 69 percent of Catholics don’t believe in the Real Presence, the Most Rev. Robert Barron, bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Evangelization, along with his

brother bishops, had a real epiphany, Fr. Andy explained. “We need to focus on helping our people discover Jesus again in the Most Blessed Sacrament, to fall in love with Him in the Eucharist, because if we don’t get that, then all the other things don’t really matter.”

In his introductory video for the National Eucharistic Revival, Fr. Andy shared a beautiful moment from his childhood.

“One of the earliest memories that I have as a child is connected to the Eucharist. When I was about five years old, I have this memory of being at Mass. I was the bouncy kid that would kind of hop around from one place to another in the pew.

“My mom would grab me and say, ‘Andy, Jesus is coming.’ I was like, ‘Where? Where?’

“And she pointed to the priest as he was getting ready to say those words of institution and said, ‘There is where He’s going to come. When you see the priest lift up the Host, I want you to say, ‘My Lord and my God, I love you.’”

And I just have this real little memory of seeing that Host raised, and then seeing my dad who was sitting next to me, and watching his eyes lock on to the Eucharist and bow his head. I remember in my little heart and my little voice saying, ‘My Lord and my God, I love you.’

“There was something that I can remember as being awe-inspiring, that I met Jesus in that moment.”

## To awaken

As of this writing, Fr. Andy is scheduled to preach youth conferences in Illinois and Missouri, “to awaken,” he said, “a deeper love and longing for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. To help people discover that when we have renewed eyes, renewed vision, renewed Eucharistic sense, that there is no place that you would rather be on Earth than at Mass, and no place you would rather be in extending the joy and the longing of the experience of Mass as in Adoration.”

“If we’re able to help people anchor themselves into that truth, then we’re anchored in that identity of being in the Father’s arms, where we’re hearing, ‘You are My beloved son; I delight in you,’” Fr. Andy explained. “Then we can go forth with that deep sense of being Spirit-filled evangelizers because we’re anchored in the very love of God, in His promise to us. It gives us the courage to go through whatever difficulties, sorrows, and crosses, so that Christ can be proclaimed, Christ can be lived.”

To learn more about the National Eucharistic Revival, visit [EucharisticRevival.org](http://EucharisticRevival.org).



# A repast of peace

By Novice Josh

**V**aroooom! Varoooom! Varoooom!  
The vacuum cleaner rolled across the scarlet carpet of the religious house as I systematically made my way along the main hallway. It was Friday afternoon, and I was responsible for cleaning the second floor.

As I worked, I felt God drawing me into prayer. “*Kecharitomene*,” I murmured in my heart. “*Kecharitomene*.”

## Gentle puffs of oxygen

The graces of the day began flowing right away that morning, meditating with religious artwork. Now, as I vacuumed the hallway, I felt warm joy, affection, and gratitude welling up within me again. Longer verbal prayers would have gotten in the way; the heart needed only very simple prayers to feed its affections, like gentle puffs of oxygen on a flame already lit.

“*Kecharitomene*,” I kept saying. “*Kecharitomene*.” I felt immersed in the Holy Spirit.

In the original Greek New Testament, at the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel said to the Virgin Mary, “*Chaire, Kecharitomene, ho Kyrios Meta sou*” (Lk 1:28). “*Kecharitomene*” is a perfect passive participle of the verb “*charitoo*,” which means “to grace” or “to peruse with grace or favor.” Biblically, *Charis* and *Charitoo* indicate divine grace that sanctifies souls and makes them holy.

Although the Bible also refers to Jesus and St. Stephen as “full of grace,” the manner in which Gabriel uses “*Kecharitomene*” to address Mary is special, for he uses it as a title or a name. Biblically, God’s naming a person is always important.

Gabriel does not use her name, “Mary,” when addressing her, and in translations that say, “highly favored one,” the word “one” should be put in brackets, for it is not in the original text. She is simply “*Kecharitomene*,” “Full of Favor/Grace,” to the angel.

The word “*Kecharitomene*” indicates a past action (having been filled with grace) with a complete and enduring result (completely filled with grace now, as well). The angel’s exact words were, “*Chaire* (rejoice), *Kecharitomene* (Full of Grace), *ho Kyrios Meta sou* (the Lord is with you).”

Dr. Robert Stackpole notes that, thus, the most accurate translation of the angel Gabriel’s salutation to Mary would be: “Hail, transformed-by-grace-one, the Lord is with you!”

These words’ importance is underlined by Mary’s immediate reaction. When shepherds saw an angel at Jesus’ birth, they were filled with fear. However, Mary was filled with fear by “the saying,” not the sight. The next verse says, “But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be” (Lk 1:29).

She had reason to be troubled. The extraordinary gift of grace indicated by the angel’s greeting is unique in human history, constituting the gift Catholics call “the Immaculate Conception.” The Immaculate Conception prepared Mary to be mother of Jesus, who is God. Only Jesus had more grace on Earth than “*Kecharitomene*,” His mother.

The Holy Spirit was moving again in me, flooding my heart with happiness through this Greek word that “greatly troubled” Mary when Gabriel called her by it. “*Kecharitomene ...*” Soon, I was just repeating, “Thank you.” The grace Mary received was certainly not for her alone, nor even for Jesus alone! She also received this grace to give it to us.

## Blessed through cooking

That evening, the Holy Spirit returned while I was making supper. I felt deepening peace despite the fact that the meal was running late and there was a risk that we’d keep the community waiting.

I had to literally run between the kitchen and the dining room carrying dishes of food, but interiorly, God gave me peace free from anxiety.

The meal was delicious and on time, and everyone we served was very happy. The Lord took care of everything, and although I was only able to sit down for my own supper while everyone else was finishing, I was already well-fed on a delicious repast of peace.

Follow the formation journey of Novice Josh, a seminarian at the Marian House of Studies in Washington, D.C., in “*Novice Notes*,” posted every Friday on [Marian.org](http://Marian.org). MH



# DIVINE MERCY, DIVINE PROVIDENCE

By Fr. Allen Alexander, MIC

A few of my most favorite things to do as a Marian priest are to spread Divine Mercy; connect with and inspire youth; visit family; and make new friends.

On a recent trip to St. Mary's Parish in Lake Leelanau, Michigan, for a men's retreat and Lenten mission, I was able to do all these things and more. I am extremely grateful to God and His people for this wonderful experience.

I would like to share some of the many "Godincidences" (I don't believe in coincidences; only "Godincidences") with you.

## Small world

When Peter and I first started working on scheduling some parish missions for me this year (I have been developing my skills in my recently-acquired role as retreat master at the Immaculate Conception Center in Putnam, Connecticut), my ears perked up when he said that there was a pretty long-standing request from a parish in the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan. I began thinking, "I wonder where in the diocese it is, because I have family in the area?" When he told me it was in Lake Leelanau, I started laughing.

"My grandma graduated from St. Mary's School, and I am related to at least half the people in the town!" I exclaimed. "If the dates work out, let's book it."

Well, the dates did work out, for a parish mission, a men's retreat, and a school visit. I was super excited because not only would I get to spread Divine Mercy, but I would also get to encounter men seeking to grow in their faith and share with students that it was my faith, and especially the Divine Mercy message, that I encountered in high school that helped me find meaning in my life during a critical stage.

When I arrived, my cousins Jim and Madeline picked me up at the airport. They always pick my brain about the latest things going on in the Church, the family, and the world.

The next day, I met up with the pastor, Fr. Ben Martin, and enjoyed a Lenten fish fry. Boy, was it good!

As is typical for our parish missions, I preached at St. Mary's weekend Masses and gave evening conferences, with Confession available beforehand each night. The talks

were recorded and posted on the school's Facebook page. I was also able to spend time with the students during school hours. I visited classrooms; gave a presentation on the Shroud of Turin; had lunch with the kids; played volleyball and chess; listened to their perspectives; and answered questions. I was impressed with the high level of integration that I experienced there. The Catholic faith indeed permeates the whole curriculum.

## Memory shared

While I was impressed with all the students' work, one piece particularly caught my attention.

As many know, in the *Diary* of St. Faustina, Jesus tells her to **"Paint an image according to pattern which you see ..."** (47). One student was excited to show me that she had done just that. Willa Lampe, a sophomore foreign exchange student from

Cologne, Germany, who at first struggled to paint anything at all, showed me her beautiful rendition of the Vilnius Divine Mercy Image. I blessed her work; the art teacher, Deb Shutt, got a couple good photos; and we all gained a memory to share forever.

While at the parish and school, I was reminded of how Divine Mercy and Divine Providence are at work in every place and at every time. I am extremely grateful to everyone, especially Fr. Martin, Tom Alflin, Maria Putt, and Michael Wiggins.

To inquire about having a Marian priest visit your parish for a mission, contact Peter James: [peterjames@Marian.org](mailto:peterjames@Marian.org) or (413) 298-1303.



MH



UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS), PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

# MASS AT THE PENTAGON'S 'GROUND ZERO'

By Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC

**M**ost of us are familiar with the term “Ground Zero,” referring to the site of the former Twin Towers of the World Trade Center where, on that fateful day, Sept. 11, 2001, Islamic terrorists flew commercial airliners into them, destroying the towers and killing thousands of people.

But there’s another Ground Zero that was attacked that day. About 30 minutes after the two planes had struck the Twin

Towers, a third plane, American Airlines Flight 77, struck the Pentagon. Those who died there — both employees in the building and the passengers on the plane — numbered 189.

Intriguingly, the term Ground Zero had been used for decades prior to the 9-11 tragedy to describe a particular feature of this five-sided office space: the courtyard (above) in the center of the largest office building in the world, where 25,000 people work.

## Soviets and hot dogs

As the story is popularly told among employees, during the Cold War, it was discovered that the Soviet Union, using surveillance aircraft or other techniques, had observed a significant number of high-ranking military personnel (a.k.a. “top brass”) walking in and out of a building at the center of the courtyard. They assumed that that building must, therefore, be a very important office.

For that reason (and perhaps also that it was the center of the Pentagon), it was said that the Russians had their missiles targeted at that precise location at the center of the courtyard. Thus, if a war with Russia were ever to happen, the building at the center of the Pentagon would be a primary target. Hence the name Ground Zero.

But the real significance of that building was much more humble and, consequently, a cause for ironic mirth. Far from being a top-secret office, it was in fact a hot-dog stand, and all the high-ranking military personnel who entered and exited were not there for top-secret meetings, but because they liked hot dogs!

## Marian chaplains

The Marian Fathers, based out of their house of formation in Washington, D.C., have been serving as contract chaplains at the Pentagon since 2007. The reason that the Pentagon calls upon civilian priests instead of their own military chaplains is that the military priests are often traveling or in meetings and are, therefore, not available on a consistent basis to celebrate Mass and to hear Confessions.

Last year, I was privileged to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass at the Pentagon. Rather than holding Mass in the small memorial chapel, we normally celebrate in the auditorium, which can accommodate about 200 people.

Due to regulations that still limited the size of indoor gatherings, it was announced that Ash Wednesday Mass would be held in, of all places, the center courtyard — Ground Zero. The altar would be set up on the permanent stage located along one wall, which is sometimes used for honors ceremonies and other events.

As Mass was about to start, I pondered the significance of the location: the prime target of our nation’s enemies. As Catholics, however, we know that the real battle is a much more significant one — not against flesh and blood, as St. Paul says, but against principalities and powers (see Eph 6:12). We are fighting a battle for souls.

The ultimate Ground Zero was not the Pentagon or the World Trade Center. It was Calvary, where Jesus freely accepted death on the Cross and rose from the grave

**‘The ultimate Ground Zero was not the Pentagon or the World Trade Center. It was Calvary, where Jesus freely accepted death on the Cross and rose from the grave victorious over sin and death.’**

victorious over sin and death. And that mystery — that battle — is what we enter into at every Mass, which makes present for us Christ’s saving death and Resurrection.

Standing at the Pentagon’s Ground Zero, about to celebrate Mass there, knowing the significance of that place during the Cold War, and knowing the significance of the Mass and the cloud of witnesses surrounding us, made me appreciate even more what I was about to do and the awesome power of the priesthood. I was aware that I was about to step directly into the enemy’s crosshairs and to boldly make Christ and His victory present in that very place: Ground Zero.

The readings that day and every Ash Wednesday were significant. In the first reading from Joel, the Lord pleads, “Return to me with your whole heart ... [R]eturn to the LORD, your God” (Joel 2:12-18). How fitting! That very day, employees were returning to work for the first time in several months.

And all of the Catholics gathered there for Mass were also returning to the Sacraments, receiving Christ again in the Eucharist, after having to go without His Eucharistic Presence for so long due to COVID.

If Americans are sometimes characterized by their perseverance in the face of opposition and their willingness to turn tragedy into triumph, we as Catholics look to the ultimate model: our Lord Jesus Christ, who, by His Incarnation, entered into the darkness of our world and won the victory over sin and death, turning the greatest evil, the Crucifixion, into the greatest good for us, the Resurrection.

## Fighting for Christ

I was very aware in that Mass, as I pronounced the words of consecration, that Christ was coming, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, into Ground Zero. And with me were 200 people, standing without fear in that very public place that was once the target of Soviet missiles and the flightpath of terrorists. In that Mass, as in every Mass, whether we knew it or not, we were all in Satan’s crosshairs, spiritually speaking, as each of us welcomed the Lord into the interior “Ground Zero” of our hearts. Through Confession and the Eucharist, the Lord transforms Satan’s target into His sacred dwelling place.

That day, as I held up the Host at the consecration, I looked out over the sea of people and thought how good and fitting it was to be bringing Christ into that place and that, together, we were fighting for Him in the battle against evil, the battle for souls!

*Father Jim McCormack is the Marian director of formation, based at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C. To learn more about Marian vocations, visit [Marian.org/vocations](http://Marian.org/vocations). MH*

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

— St. John Vianney

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# IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST

**M**y parents, Jim and Mary Kennedy, spend their days working on their recently-purchased land in a small town in East Texas, making trails, building a house, and volunteering at their next-door parish. These two native Houstonians recently decided to retire from jobs in education at one of the first charter schools in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. One may be wondering how two people who always lived in large cities could leave it all behind without a second thought.

It is all about trust in God's plan, something they learned to do since first meeting in high school nearly 45 years ago.

A few months into dating, my grandad discovered that Mary and Jim had more in common than just being fellow parishioners; they unknowingly received their First Communion and Confirmation together! When the time came to discern marriage, it only made sense to add one more Sacrament to the list. My parents were married in 1984 and have five children.

## They were hooked

Fast forward to 2020. The pandemic which turned everyone's world upside down caused them to take stock of what God wanted of them. They watched the "[Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told](#)" and renewed their trust in God's plan for them. Soon after, they began watching Fr. Chris Alar's "[Explaining the Faith](#)" series on [YouTube](#). The video they watched first was "[Best Marian apparitions: Einsiedeln, Walsingham, Ransom.](#)" They were hooked and began sharing it with all our family.

Along with the [podcasts](#) and [live-streaming content](#) from the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine, they are now devoted to saying the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#) daily.

"The [Divine Mercy message](#) has changed our lives in ways we never expected," my mom says. "We had seen ourselves retiring and living in the same house we purchased over 32 years ago. However, at Easter of 2021, we both had the same



feeling, an interior calling of sorts, to live a more peace-filled life. The next week, we contacted an agent and trusted in the Lord to find us the perfect plot of land. He not only gave us what we asked for but gave us much more. Our next-door neighbor is Jesus! He is waiting for you to TRUST Him."

My parents recognized that the Lord may even ask for a favor in return and bless more people through it. For Christmas of 2020, they gifted me a framed [Divine Mercy Image](#). I fell in love with it and knew that I needed it in my home. I asked for nothing else that year.

## Bucket list item

Over the course of the next two years, my parents witnessed my love for Jesus and the Catholic faith blossom. So much so, that I checked off a bucket list item, visiting the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#) last fall. There I stumbled upon Fr. Alar, who not only gave me a tour, but asked if I would be interested in working for the Marians. After prayerful discernment, I left an incredible position in Naples, Florida and never looked back!

The content that our Marian Fathers produce via literature, the Internet, in person, and on television was instrumental in leading my family and me to the Divine Mercy message. Your support is vital to our mission! Visit [Marian.org/give](#) to find out the many ways in which you can help spread the Divine Mercy message!

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Jacqueline (Jacqui) Kennedy is a donor relations officer for the Marian Fathers. Contact her at (413) 298-1390; [jkennedy@Marian.org](mailto:jkennedy@Marian.org); or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit [Marian.org/give](#) to learn more.

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## GRACES RECEIVED

### Marriage saved

My husband and I received graces for our marriage. We were on the verge of separating due to increasing tensions. We made a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in October 2022 and learned about Fr. Casimir. I asked for the grace to be united despite marital differences. One month later, we discovered a deeper unity to our Lord and each other. Difficulties remain but we are strengthened by the intercession of Fr. Casimir and are more committed to staying together.

— CJ, email

### Daughter accepted to new school

My daughter started a new school, but the teachers and students were picking on her and causing her much distress. I started praying for Fr. Casimir's intercession, asking for help in finding a good school for our daughter next September. In my head, I heard a voice say, "Apply to the charter school." That was not even on my list! Despite the limited number of spaces, my daughter was selected. Thank you, Fr. Casimir, for your intercession.

— MO, email

### Found the perfect used car

I was driving a car that was old and falling apart. But my funds were low, and purchasing a new car was impossible. I began a novena to Fr. Casimir for a reliable, quality used vehicle, as I knew mine did not have long to go. On the seventh day of the novena, my car died on my way to work. It was a test of faith. But God granted me a miracle in connecting me "randomly," through uncommon avenues,

with a car, not yet for sale, but part of an estate. It was, indeed, the perfect scenario for me. If that were not enough, the seller quoted a ridiculously low price, and a collection was taken for me, which covered all transitional ownership expenses. Sentimentally speaking, the car is a beautiful Marian blue, and I noticed that the symbol for the Lincoln car brand happens to be an elongated cross in a rectangle! I owe thanks to both Fr. Casimir Wyszynski and Our Lady, because they teamed up to obtain a very real blessing for me.

— MM, email



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

### Foot pain healed

I was having serious difficulties walking due to pain in both feet. I went to a doctor who said that my foot problem could not be fixed. I was quite upset because I had to go to a business conference, which was being held on a cruise, in just two weeks. I started to pray daily to Fr. Casimir Wyszynski to intercede for my foot pain. A week before the trip, I met with the cruise's fitness instructor, who was very helpful. He had me try new shoe insoles. He also worked with

me to readjust my gait. After a week, my walking problem improved significantly. I can now walk easily without instability and pain. Thank you, Fr. Casimir, for your intercession.

— BC, email

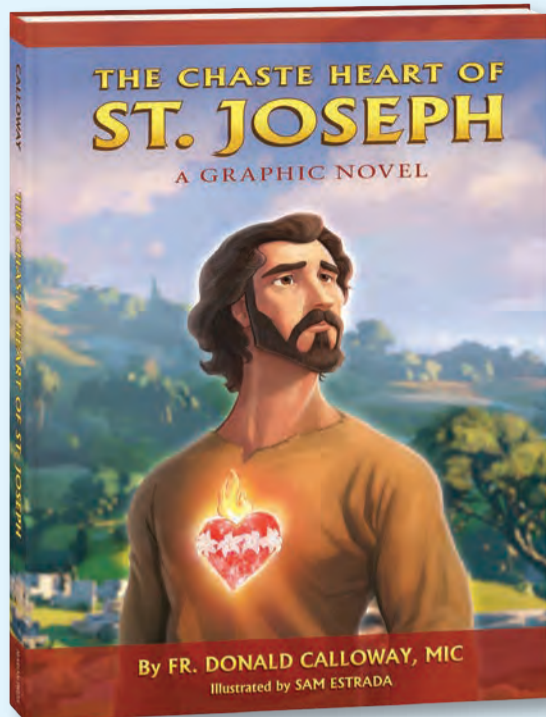
For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B58-BCWP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org

## 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 ...*

# New from Marian Press

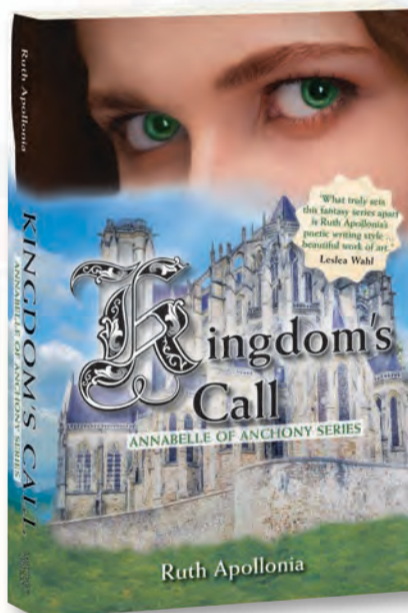
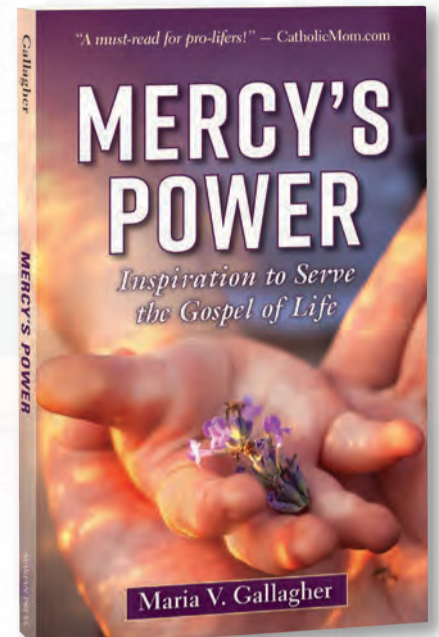


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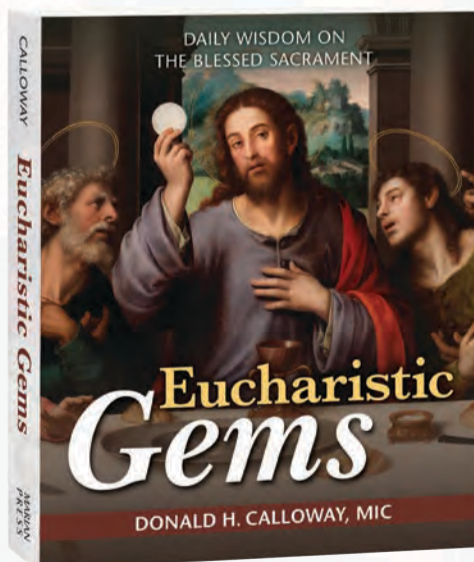


## Kingdom's Call: Annabelle of Anchony Series Book 3

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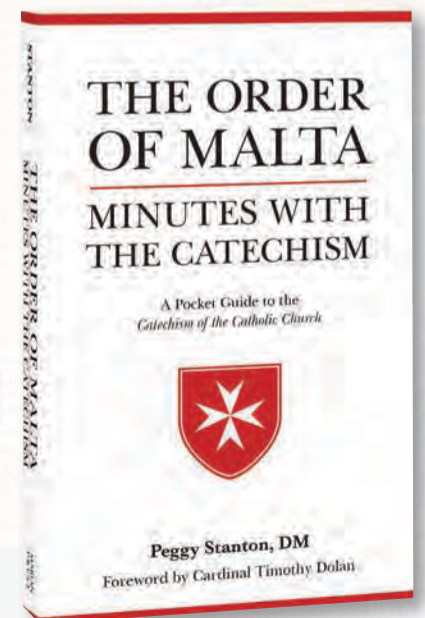
## Eucharistic Gems: Daily Wisdom on the Blessed Sacrament

*Eucharistic Gems* is an aid to the National Eucharistic Revival currently under way in our country. The specific time-frame set aside by the bishops will come and go, but the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will always remain in the tabernacles of Catholic churches around the world. What better way, then, to make sure there always remains an on-going fruit of the Eucharistic Revival than to have a book that offers timeless quotes on the Eucharist — 366 quotes, in fact. Compiled by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, *Eucharistic Gems* is intended to be a book that can be read and re-read for years to come, and keep the Eucharistic Revival ever in our hearts. Paperback, 272 pages. **B58-EUGM \$13.95**



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### Holy Family Figure with Filigree Tree

This stunning Christmas statue features the Holy Family robed in red and ivory in front of a gold filigree tree with a large gold star at the top. Made of resin and hand-painted. Measures 8" x 12 1/4" tall.

**B58-FTFX** ~~\$64.95~~ **\$49.95**



### Holy Family Figure with Arch

Display this intricately detailed depiction of the Holy Family on a table or mantle as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Features a thatched arch scene with cardinals and flowers. Measures 10" tall.

**B58-WAHF** ~~\$32.95~~ **\$29.95**



### LED Swirl Holy Family with Arch

A beautiful arched design with carved details and illuminated globe featuring the Holy Family. LED lights shine brightly as the glitter swirls. Measures 12" tall. USB powered or takes 3 AA batteries (not included).

**B58-RCHF** ~~\$98.95~~ **\$78.95**



### Embroidered Nativity Scene Stocking

A neutral palette and a peaceful Nativity scene combine to create this Christmas stocking detailed with a cozy white cuff and pom-poms. Made of polyester. Spot clean only. Measures approximately 18" long.

**B58-STOK** ~~\$15.95~~ **\$12.95**



### Snowflake Cardinal 'Merry Christmas' Ornament

The ornament features a pair of richly-colored cardinals perched on a red glitter circle under the words "Merry Christmas," superimposed against a decorative white snowflake. Measures 5 1/2" tall and comes with a ribbon for hanging.

**B58-SFLA** ~~\$6.95~~ **\$5.95**



### Nativity Cross Faith Stone

A beautiful expression of faith, this standing Nativity cross figure features the sentiment "Joy to the World" along with sculpted depictions of the Holy Family, shepherds, Magi, Bethlehem, and the Christmas star. Measures 4 3/4" tall.

**B58-JOYC** ~~\$12.95~~ **\$9.95**

## Order Info

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

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

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

## Checks payable to: Association of Marian Helpers

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

Postage costs may vary for online orders.

From the  
VAULTS



Over the years, Marian Fathers have met the Pope in the Vatican on many occasions.

Above, on July 12, 1963, Pope St. Paul VI granted an audience during the General Chapter. Father Walter Pelczynski, MIC, founder of the Association of Marian Helpers, is kneeling at the left hand of the Holy Father.

At right, on Dec. 5, 1956, Ven. Pope Pius XII greeted Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC (center) and his mother, Victoria. Father Seraphim had been ordained to the priesthood just seven months earlier.

Below, on April 2, 1959, Pope St. John XXIII “blessed all the Marians and their works” during a private audience with Fr. Ceslaus Spovic, MIC, and Superior General, the Most Rev. Stanislaus Skutans, MIC.



# Live the call!



## Connie W., Marian Helper:

Hi... My name is Aoife. I am 3 years old. I'm writing this for my Grandma to tell you the very special reason she was called to support the vocations of the Marian Helpers. In 2011, one of the seminarians asked for prayer requests to place in the chalice before his first Mass. My Grandma's prayer request was "for a suitable Godly wife for my son." God smiled! That wife is my Mommy, and my Grandma's son is my Daddy, and I am God's smile!



## Brother Elliott, MIC:

My time with the Marians has been tremendous! I first encountered the Marians as a student at Franciscan University. The Marian brothers studying there were so friendly to me. I went on a "Come and See" retreat and discovered a strong community doing their best to strive for holiness. I was greatly impressed by the sincerity and genuineness of all the Marians. While on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, I saw the great work the Marians were doing for the Church. I was naturally drawn to the Marians' life of prayer, community, and charism. Please pray for me!

## 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:  
Aug. 25-27  
Sept. 8-10  
Oct. 20-22  
Nov. 24-26

## Learn more

Email: [vocations@marian.org](mailto:vocations@marian.org)  
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806  
Visit: [marian.org/vocations](http://marian.org/vocations)

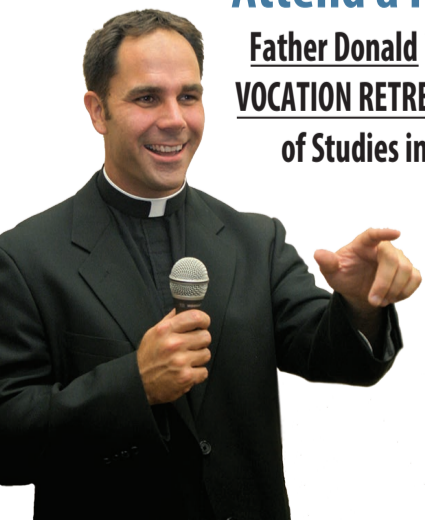
Write: **Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**  
**Vocation Director**  
**Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception**  
**350 Belleview Blvd.**  
**Steubenville, OH 43952**

## Support

### Want to help the seminarians?

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

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





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*and* **HIS CHURCH**  
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**Your support of our campaign  
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of building a new monastery  
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