

Living Advent well • The Christmas gift • 'Mercy always shows up'

Winter 2021-22

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

marian.org



Now on EWTN!
'Living Divine Mercy'

More than a card — it's **Three Masses on Christmas**



Wish your loved ones a blessed Christmas with our exclusive cards. They'll be remembered in the three Masses on Dec. 25, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.



B52-SC211 MADONNA & CHILD

GOLD FOIL



B52-SC212 BABY JESUS

GOLD FOIL



B52-SC213 THREE KINGS

GOLD FOIL

Enroll a loved one today!
1-800-462-7426 • marian.org/b52/sc

Your offering helps support the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

Now on EWTN! 'Living Divine Mercy'

The new show “Living Divine Mercy” is airing on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. EST on EWTN, brought to the Church and the world by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception — with your help!

4 A call to heal, a call to serve

Donna Morrone, RN, of Chicago has used her gifts, talents, and education to be a healer, sharing her faith with those she meets every day at the hospital. Here's her story.

6 The Year of St. Joseph Ends — So What's Next?

On Dec. 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph will come to a close — but the challenge of living like St. Joseph will have only just begun. Here's what that looks like.

14 Our Lady brings it all together

Our Lady is at the heart of the Congregation of Marian Fathers and the Association of Marian Helpers. In these pages, you'll find stories written in light of her titles and roles:

16, Woman of the New Advent: Living Advent Well; **18, Mother of God:** The Christmas Gift; **20, Member of the Holy Family:** 'The Rosary and Divine Mercy got me through everything'; **22, Mother of Mercy:** Why us? **24, Ark of the New Covenant:** To be a 'Living Tabernacle.'

26 Pray, for Mercy's Sake

Prayer needs to be as common in our lives as breathing if we are to live happy, healthy, holy lives. It's amazing the difference prayer makes.

28 Fr. Tyler Mentzer, MIC, ordained

On Oct. 2, Deacon Tyler Mentzer, MIC, was ordained a priest by His Excellency, the Most Rev. William D. Byrne, bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts.

DEPARTMENTS:

3 Father Joseph Writes 4 Marian Helpers in Action 8 Father Joseph's Picks 9 Notes from Rome
31 Outstanding Helpers 33 Graces Received 36 From the Vaults

AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER:

Fr. Chris Alar, MIC — “Father Joseph, MIC”

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Dr. Joseph McAleer

DESIGNER: Andrew Leeco

WRITER, ASSISTANT EDITOR: Chris Sparks

AMH GENERAL PROMOTER:

Br. Andrew R. Maczynski, MIC

Vol. 78, No. 4 Winter 2021

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 © 2021 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: editorial@marian.org website: marian.org

WHO WE ARE



Marian Helpers Center

Stockbridge, Massachusetts
Headquarters and
publishing center for
the Association of
Marian Helpers.
1-800-462-7426

National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

(413) 298-3931
For pilgrimages:
(413) 298-1119
ShrineOfDivineMercy.org



Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our
lay ministries.
marian.org/ministries
1-866-895-3236

Evangelization Team

Invite the Marians
to speak at your parish.
(413) 298-1349
parishmissions@marian.org

Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs (HAPP®)

AllHeartsAfire.org
1-844-551-3755

Intercessory Prayerline

Send us your
prayer intentions.
1-800-804-3823
marian.org/prayerline

Websites

marian.org
TheDivineMercy.org
ShopMercy.org



Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

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 will now 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.



You Tube



Visit marian.org/social

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
- **Support a particular ministry:** marian.org/give
- **Create a memorial or tribute:** MemorialsOnEdenHill.org
- **Arrange a special gift** of stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: marian.org/PlannedGiving

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

When making your will ...

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is:

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

*Thank you
for your
support*

HELP US WITH THE ST. FAUSTINA PETITION

“**B**e apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary,” said St. John Paul II to the Marian Fathers back in 1993.

That’s exactly what we’ve been doing ever since our Marian brother, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, received Divine Mercy materials from Bl. Michael Sopocko, St. Faustina’s confessor, in the middle of World War II. We’ve been at the forefront of preaching Divine Mercy almost since the lifetime of St. Faustina herself. That’s why we’ve launched out into the deep and undertaken another great work of the New Evangelization to bring Divine Mercy to the world with our new show “Living Divine Mercy,” airing on EWTN on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. EST. Visit LivingDivineMercy.org to view past episodes.

In our cover story, we share with you what inspired this show. “Living Divine Mercy” is broadcast in over 100 countries and to over 400 million households, so it is a great new way to share St. Faustina’s message of mercy with a world ever more in need of it.

In fact, that providential timing is another reason why we Marians are renewing our efforts to ask the Holy See to name St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church.

Doctor of the Church? What does that mean? The Church defines a Doctor of the Church as someone of extraordinary holiness, a saint whose theological writings have been declared exemplary and beneficial for countless faithful worldwide in teaching the truth, beauty, and splendor of the faith.

Only a small number of saints have been given this privileged title, including Sts. Augustine, Catherine of Siena, and Thérèse of Lisieux. Key theologians, bishops, and cardinals agree that St. Faustina belongs among their ranks. Through her life and writings, millions around the world

have received the grace to trust in God’s merciful love, seek His forgiveness and healing, and bear witness to His mercy in their daily lives. Declaring St. Faustina a Doctor would magnify Christ’s redemptive mission to proclaim anew His infinite love and mercy for all humanity, and would amplify the message of Christ’s merciful love to a world wandering in the darkness of sin, unbelief, and suffering.

Please join with us in what I consider a divine task: a petition drive to encourage the Holy See to name St. Faustina the next Doctor of the Church. We have successfully appealed to the Holy See before when, in 1999, we led a petition drive to make Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast day of the Church. Millions of Marian Helpers sent in their signed petitions, which we then boxed up and sent off to Rome. Based on this outpouring from around the world, St. John Paul II, at the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000, declared Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast of the Church.

Please pray for this petition! Your help in petitioning the Holy See to declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church would magnify Christ’s redemptive mission to proclaim anew His infinite love and mercy for all humanity. Please help spread God’s Divine Mercy through St. Faustina by visiting TheDivineMercy.org/doctor to sign the petition. Also, invite others to do the same.

Can we successfully petition the Holy See to name our beloved St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church? With your help, we can!

May God bless you!

Fr. Joseph, MIC

“Father Joseph, MIC,” is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. The current director is Fr. Chris Alar, MIC.





A call to heal, a call to serve

By Marian Friedrichs

“**W**hat do we do with the gifts and talents God gives us?” Donna Morrone, RN, of Chicago has focused on that question throughout her adult life. Donna’s own gifts, talents, and education led her to be a healer; her heart, open to God’s promptings, led her to the hospital where she has worked since the late 1970s.

A devout Catholic, Donna attended St. Xavier College and, during her student years, worked at St. Francis Hospital in her hometown of Blue Island, Illinois. It was assumed that she would become a full-time nurse at St. Francis after graduating in 1975. Donna, however, discerned a calling to work with underserved populations in an urban setting. While doing an independent clinical rotation at a large secular university hospital, Donna realized, “This is where I’m supposed to be.”

It may seem that a faithful Catholic would feel out of place working in secular health care, but that has not been Donna’s experience. Donna’s faith is very relevant to her job; it has provided strength and meaning, not only for her, but to her patients, as well. While still a young nurse, Donna faced the AIDS epidemic. She recalls one

patient who, noticing the cross Donna wore around her neck, asked if she was Catholic. When Donna said yes, the man told her, “I used to be Catholic.” He then confided in her some of the sins that had brought him away from the Church and asked, “Do you think God will forgive me?”

“Of course He will,” Donna said. “You just opened up. I think He has already forgiven you.” They said the Lord’s Prayer together, and Donna noticed a change in him — a new serenity — that lasted throughout later visits. “I couldn’t cure his AIDS, but praying with him was a healing moment,” she says. “Hopefully it was part of his peaceful transition to eternal life.”

Today, Donna’s work involves calling patients after surgery to assess outcomes and quality of care. The countless conversations Donna has had over the years with patients of diverse backgrounds and circumstances have taught her that “most people are very spiritual.” It is not unusual for one of these phone calls to end with “God bless you” and a promise of prayer on both sides. Donna often prays a Rosary for patients on her way home from work.

In her colleagues as well, Donna finds opportunities to share thoughts about faith and to be uplifted by the good-

ness of her fellow healers. “I’ve had the privilege of working with the finest human beings and doctors,” she says. Donna has seen doctors discreetly taking money out of their own pockets to help patients buy food or medicine. She knows doctors and nurses who visit patients in their homes and nurses who pray with their patients before surgery. Donna has found that these colleagues, like so many of their patients, value spirituality. “If you took everyone who believes in God out of this hospital,” she says, “there wouldn’t be many left.”

Donna’s openness about her own faith has led to many heartfelt interactions with patients and staff. With non-Catholics, Donna says, “you can have meaningful, challenging conversations about topics like Purgatory.” With Catholics, Donna has found the blessing of shared ministry.

In 2015, Donna began volunteering at the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels, run by the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago. She helped with the food pantry and a weekly Bible study luncheon for senior citizens. When Donna told some colleagues about the Mission, they wanted to help, too, and began visiting the senior citizens’ gatherings to give talks on health topics such as breast cancer, diabetes, and stress reduction. At Christmas, they pooled funds to buy gift cards for the seniors. “I work with a very generous group of nurses,” says Donna.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, Donna worked at the Mission preparing and serving food to runners after the Chicago Marathon, some of whom ran to benefit the Mission. Two of the Franciscan Sisters ran in the marathon. The event marked Donna’s return to in-person service with the Mission. Because of COVID-19, Donna and her colleagues had not been able to serve at the Mission for over a year, but they continued to support the Franciscans’ work with prayers and donations. Donna is happy to be able to volunteer in person again. She has found the work revitalizing: “There is a joy there.”

In order to give so much of herself, Donna knows she needs to lean on God and constantly turn to Him. “It’s not always easy,” she says, referring especially to the stress and sadness of being a healthcare worker during a pandemic. “There have been times I’ve been burned out, and then I need to find out how I’ll get my energy back. You can’t drink from an empty well. You have to find a way to nourish your own heart and your own being.” Over the years, pilgrimages to Lourdes and Assisi have poured new strength and zeal into Donna’s soul. After one such pilgrimage, she let it be known at work that she had Lourdes water to give away. Many patients and staff members, both Catholic and non-Catholic, came to her and asked for some.

Through open discussion, through loving service, through small gestures like wearing a cross or promising a prayer, Donna shares her faith with those she meets every day. “Keep opening that door,” she urges others who want to share Christ with the world. “Maybe that’s how you’ll help someone.” MH

Farewell to longtime Helper

Cathy Chichester, a longtime Marian Helper and mother to two key employees at the Marian Helpers Center, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her children, on Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, after a protracted illness.



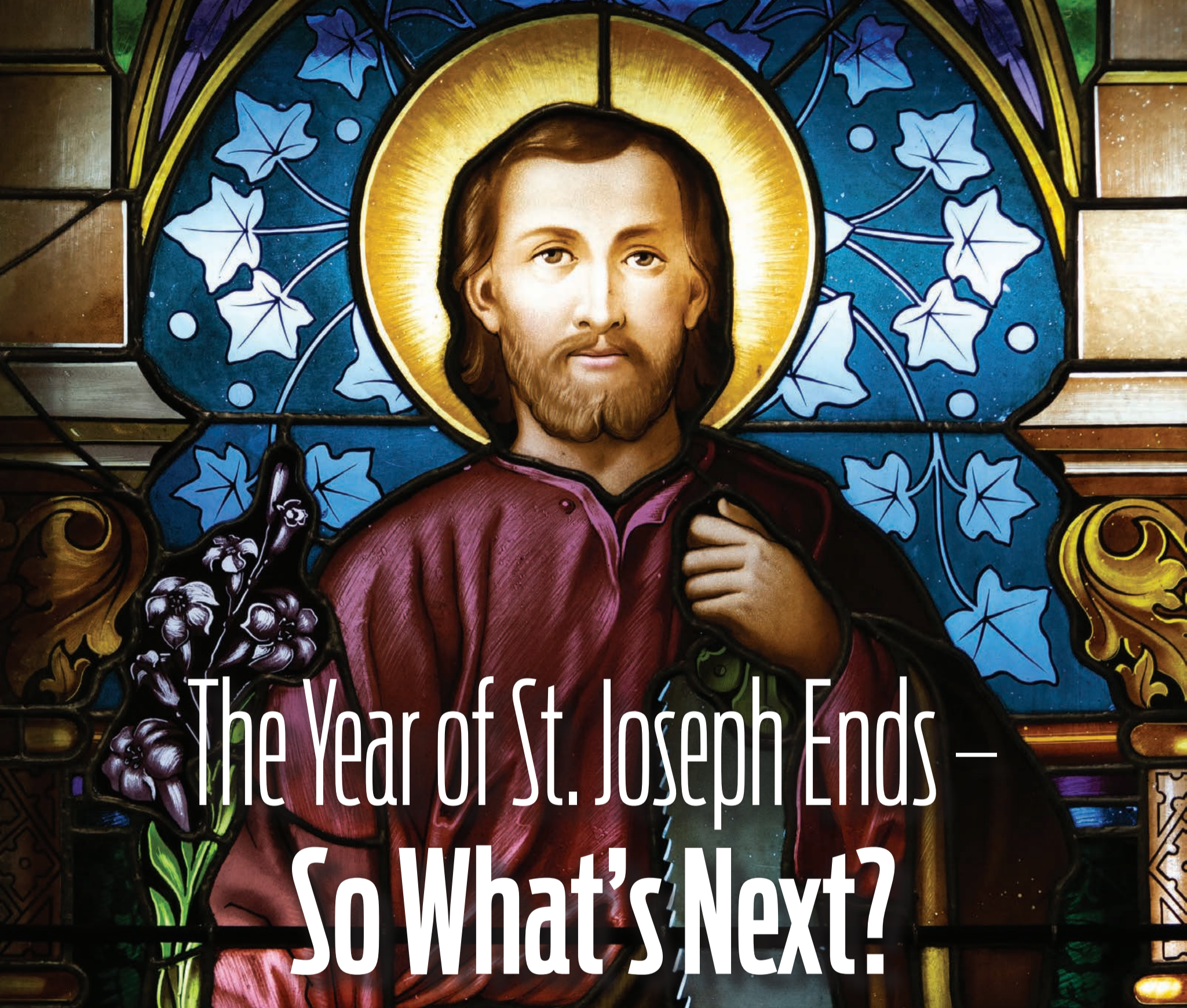
Cathy Chichester

Cathy was predeceased by her beloved husband, Timothy, and is survived by her children Ezekiel (“Zeke”), chief financial and marketing analyst at the Marian Helpers Center; Sarah, administrator in the Evangelization and Development Office for the Marian Fathers; Rev. Zachariah, a priest of the Diocese of Albany; Jeremiah; and Luke; as well as seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A cradle Catholic, Cathy’s parents were devout Catholics from Germany. Cathy first began volunteering on Eden Hill in the 1990s. She became an employee at the Marian Helpers Center in the summer of 2001, became prayerline supervisor in 2003, and was promoted to prayerline administrator in 2005. She served in that capacity for a decade, answering phones, receiving prayer requests, interceding for every sort of need, and overseeing a team of prayer warriors who helped bring Divine Mercy to the world in a remarkably powerful way.

She also volunteered to help with Divine Mercy Sunday, running the tent where pilgrims would light candles, asking for heavenly aid for their needs and intentions. Retiring in 2015, Cathy spent her final years with her family. “She was always praying for others, and continued with the Berkshire Prayer Warriors (a local prayer group) via email/text up to her death,” said Zeke.

Her contributions to the Congregation of Marian Fathers, to the Association of Marian Helpers, and to Christ and His Church were and are enormous. She will be missed. Please join us in praying for her, and for all Marians and Marian Helpers who have passed. MH



The Year of St. Joseph Ends – So What's Next?

By Chris Sparks

On Dec. 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph will come to a close — but the challenge of living like St. Joseph will have only just begun.

After all, St. Joseph's role was not one of self-satisfaction, of ease and plenty, of comfort and luxury. He wasn't even center stage. Saint Joseph is famously silent in the Gospels. He's not the star of the show; that would be his adopted Son, the Babe welcomed by Joseph when the angel comes to reassure him that to marry Mary is to do the will of God, and to raise this Son, the Son of God, is to do the will of God.

And so Joseph, quietly, did exactly that.



He did all of that, in fact — that whole, staggering, impossible task. He raised God.

He was father on earth to the Son whose Father is in Heaven, from whom He came and to whom He returned. On earth, that Son called Joseph “father.”

Pause before this mystery. The eternal Second Person of the Blessed Trinity recognized this silent workman, this quietly righteous Jewish man of the first century Middle East, as

His father.

And Jesus didn't mean that in some half-hearted sense. Not at all. Scripture quietly drops a quick glimpse into the staggering mystery of the father and the Son, the earthly

man raising the Divine Mercy Incarnate, at the conclusion of the Finding in the Temple:

He [Jesus] went down with [Joseph and Mary] and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart (Lk 2:51).

Think about that for a few minutes. Jesus was obedient to Joseph and Mary.

Joseph was true father to Jesus, though not by biology. And Jesus was true son to this man, which meant that the just and righteous Joseph must have been a model of manhood, as [Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC](#), explains in [Consecration to St. Joseph](#). In fact, the Church views St. Joseph as the greatest of all the saints after the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Which means we have an awful lot to learn from St. Joseph about what it means to love Jesus and Mary. We have before us in St. Joseph the icon of God the Father to God the Son, right down to Joseph's profession. Both the Father and the father were builders, creators, home-makers. Both God the Father and Joseph, the earthly father, were sustainers, protectors, providers. All things are held in existence by God the Father; all parts of a building are put in place by a builder, as Joseph was.

The silence of St. Joseph resembles the silence of God the Father — each is known to us only through the Son, the Word of God, the revelation of the Father and the father. Want to see the faith of Joseph? Look at the life and teachings of His Son. Want to hear the silent Joseph speak? Listen to his Son, for sonship essentially means being made in the image, after the likeness, of one's parents (see Gen 5:3). We can know St. Joseph by knowing the teaching of Jesus about what righteousness really looks like. Want to learn more about Joseph? Take a look at the parables told by Jesus; take a look at the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. Whatever Jesus in His human nature came to know of righteousness was in some fashion formed by the model of both His parents. Whatever Jesus came to know in His humanity of justice and mercy would, to some extent, have come from the Holy Family, as happens for all of us human beings.

So the Year of St. Joseph was really a mere foretaste

of what it really means to be a Christian steeped in Scripture and the life of faith, for Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is also, after some fashion, the image and likeness of St. Joseph. To be like Christ is to be like Joseph.

And Joseph summons us to Christian fidelity. He summons us men to be Christian gentlemen — with a strong emphasis on “gentle.” True strength, after all, is incredibly careful because it can cause damage incredibly easily. True strength, true toughness, goes along with great self-mastery, with courtesy and care for those who are weaker, with concern for the needs and well-being of one's neighbors. True manhood is best expressed in chivalry; in self-sacrifice for the beloved neighbor; in service, not domination.

LIVING AND LOVING LIKE ST. JOSEPH

- **Make (or renew) your consecration to St. Joseph.**
- **Be faithful to the duties of your state in life.**
- **Put God first, family second, self third.**
- **Know and love the Word of God. Spend half an hour reading the Bible every day.**
- **Make (or renew) your consecration to Jesus through Mary with [33 Days to Morning Glory](#).**
- **Be faithful to prayer and the works of mercy.**
- **Receive the Sacraments according to the precepts of the Church. If you can, go to daily Mass and make a weekly Confession.**
- **Be quick to listen and slow to speak.**
- **Love God and neighbor.**
- **Know your faith. Study the [Catechism](#).**

Saint Joseph was such a strong man that he could also be a silent one, remembered because of his faith, his righteous obedience to the divine will, and his love of God, which allowed God to safely be obedient to him. Joseph could have the docility and prudent wisdom to discern when an angel summoned him to go, and when to return. He could be chastely married to a woman infinitely greater than himself. He could be merciful to a Son who'd given His parents a scare, who'd disappeared from the family party and was found three days later in the Temple.

So as the Year of St. Joseph comes to an end, let us learn from St. Joseph what it means to be someone who loves Jesus and Mary. Let us learn the lessons of restraint, of gentility, of self-mastery and self-gift. And let us follow St. Joseph in serving Jesus and Mary faithfully, whole-heartedly, with generous love and righteousness, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. MH

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

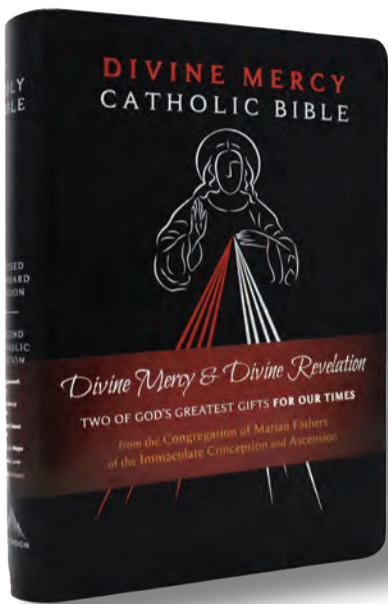
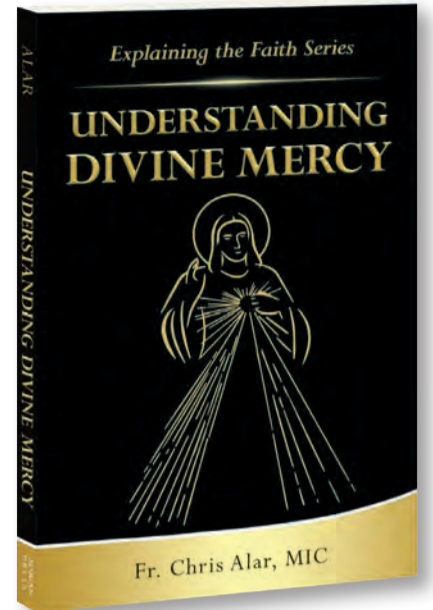
Visit ShopMercy.org/b52 or call 1-800-462-7426.

As you watch the new EWTN show from the Marian Fathers, "Living Divine Mercy," here are some other materials from Fr. Joseph to help you continue your formation.

UNDERSTANDING DIVINE MERCY

BY FR. CHRIS ALAR, MIC

The entire Divine Mercy message and devotion is summarized in one, easy-to-read book! Explaining the teaching of Jesus Christ as given to St. Faustina, *Understanding Divine Mercy* by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, has it all. Written in his highly conversational and energetic style, this first book in his *Explaining the Faith* series will deepen your love for God and help you understand why Jesus called Divine Mercy "mankind's last hope of salvation." \$14.95. **B52-EFBK**

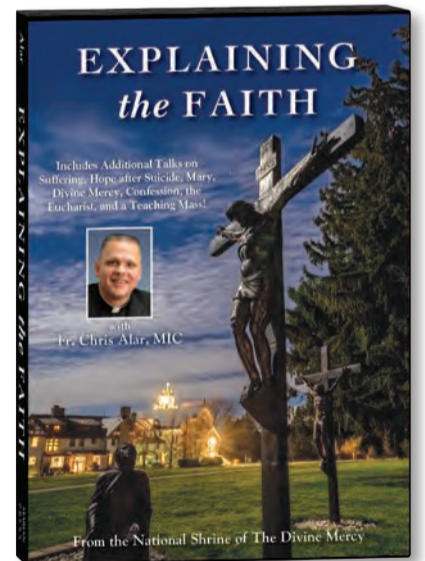


DIVINE MERCY CATHOLIC BIBLE

Many Catholics may not realize that Divine Mercy, a gift given to us by God, is interwoven throughout the Bible. *The Divine Mercy Catholic Bible* includes 175 Mercy Moments and 19 articles that explain how God encounters us with mercy through His Word and Sacraments. A perfect gift for friends and family to help them understand how Divine Mercy is a solidly biblical message and devotion. \$49.95. **B52-BIDM**

EXPLAINING THE FAITH DVD

Jesus' promise of Divine Mercy Sunday. Catholic devotion to Mary. Church teaching about suffering and suicide. Are you able to defend our faith when questioned about these topics and others? In this DVD series, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, offers his favorite 13 talks to address all of these topics and explains the Mass in a way you have never heard before. \$14.95. **B52-EXDVD**



LOVE AND MERCY DVD

The incredible true story of St. Faustina and the message of Divine Mercy is now documented in the critically acclaimed film "Love and Mercy: Faustina," which follows the incredible call of St. Faustina, designated by our Lord Himself as the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of His Mercy. The Lord told her: "You will prepare the world for My final coming" (*Diary*, 429). \$16.95. **B52-LAMDVD**



FOUR YEARS OF JUBILEE

The Marian 350th Jubilee celebrations extend for four years, from Dec. 8, 2019, until Dec. 8, 2023. Why so long? Well, we began at the end of 2019 to give ourselves a year of preparation for prayer and reflection in anticipation of Dec. 11, 2020, the 350th anniversary of the *Oblatio* (or “self-offering”) of our Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701). We trace the origin of our Congregation to that date on which he made his religious vows. He didn’t yet have any followers or a religious house, so we consider that the charismatic beginning of our history.

Our Jubilee will finish on Dec. 8, 2023. That year marks the 350th anniversary of the approval of our Congregation’s first religious house. For a time, 1673 was considered the founding year. When Bishop Jacek Swiernicki made a visitation of the religious house on Oct. 24 of that year, there was one other Marian in vows and two other candidates. This marks the approval of our Congregation on a diocesan level. The extended Jubilee allows us to contemplate the founding of our Congregation from the inspiration that our Founder received from God to the more concrete beginning of a religious house with members.

The theme of 2022 is “On the Paschal Path,” meaning we are on the road to the Cross. During this year, we will contemplate the way that our Congregation has suffered through the years and what we can learn from it. In the course of our history, there have been Marians who have been martyred, put in prison camps, and persecuted. The Congregation has been suppressed and almost became extinct twice in our history. God willing, this will be reflected on during an academic symposium in Warsaw, Poland, running March 7-11, 2022.

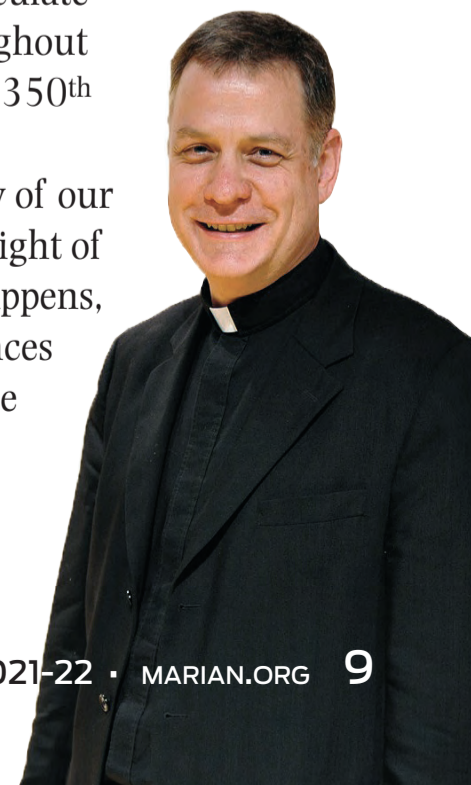
Then we are planning a meeting of young Marian priests and brothers from around the world at our Shrine in Lichen, Poland, to take place July 9-20, 2022. It will give them a chance to meet each other, pray together, and discuss our charism. We are also planning meetings (called “conventions”) to take place in our provinces and

vicariate in the fall to reflect on the theme of the Paschal Path.

In 2023, the Marian general chapter will take place in Rome in February. This meeting takes place every six years, during which we elect a new superior general and his council. The theme of the year is “On the Charismatic Mission.” Our mission is to always proclaim Christ to the world according to our charism — inspired by the mystery of the Immaculate Conception — a sign of God’s desire to save all people. We also do so by praying for the souls in Purgatory and by assisting the diocesan clergy in their pastoral work.

During the general chapter, we will entrust the Congregation to our immaculately conceived Mother in the Basilica of St. Mary Major. During the Jubilee, we can continue to gain jubilee indulgences by visiting the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and other designated churches. We are also seeking to found chapters of the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception in our parishes throughout the world in thanksgiving for our 350th Jubilee.

Only our Lord knows how many of our planned events will take place in light of the pandemic. No matter what happens, the Lord will not skimp on the graces that He pours out on us during the Jubilee!



Father Joe Roesch, MIC, is the vicar general of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome.



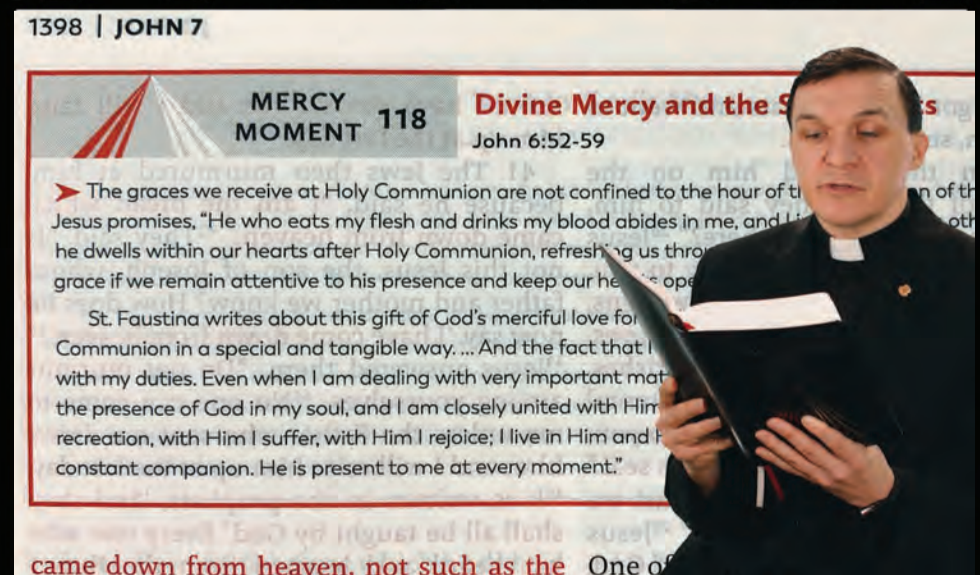
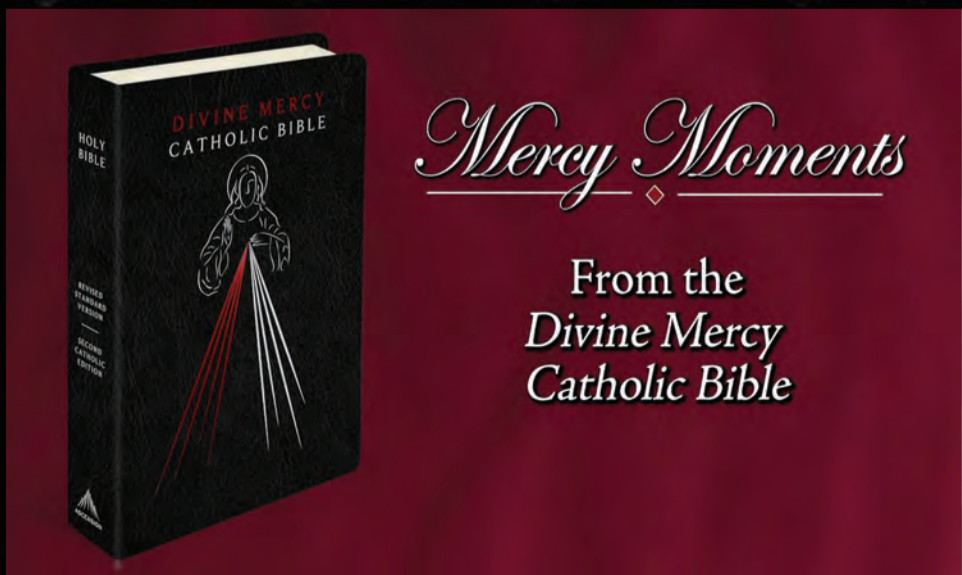
Now on EWTN!

'Living Divine Mercy'

“Wow! You knocked it out of the park!” wrote Kathy M. from Oklahoma. “May God continue to bless your efforts with this EWTN partnership! Powerful and very understandable! Thank you!”

“I would like to be one of the first ones to congratulate all of Marian Fathers and seminarians on the great initial show at EWTN,” wrote Maribel R. “It’s very uplifting. Looking forward to the coming Wednesday shows! God bless you all and thanks again. We all need to hear more of God’s Divine Mercy.”

What are they talking about? The new show “Living Divine Mercy,” airing on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. EST on EWTN, brought to the Church and the world by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and EWTN — with your help!



SAINT FAUSTINA'S

DIARY GEMS

WITH FR. JOE ROESCH, MIC



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, 91)



Thanks to your prayers and contributions, the Marian Fathers were able to swiftly respond to the changing conditions of the global pandemic and begin livestreaming in earnest from Eden Hill. Across the world, hundreds of thousands of people tuned in to spiritually participate in the Masses, talks, and devotions that the Marian Fathers maintained even through the heart of the lockdowns and other emergency measures taken by the public authorities in 2020 and 2021. The success of that livestreaming and the investment in the necessary equipment to produce those videos opened the doors that led to the new show.

Flying into the storm

Former wrestler that he is, Director of the Association of Marian Helpers Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, isn't one to back down from a challenge.

EWTN wants a show on Divine Mercy from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception? No problem.

Weekly? No problem.

As the world continues to grapple with a pandemic? No problem.

And make it fresh, something not seen before in Catholic broadcasting? Again, no problem.

"This is unlike any Catholic show we have seen," said Fr. Chris, host of the new show. "No other place have we seen

a Catholic show that blends multiple segments." Various episodes of the show will include a teaching segment; a segment with readings from the Bible; a segment with readings from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*; a "Meet a Marian" segment, featuring different members of the Marian Fathers; and a "Living Divine Mercy" segment about people putting Divine Mercy spirituality into practice.

Equipping the faithful

The unique blend of elements was very important to Fr. Chris. He explained that this show puts together Divine Mercy teachings with real examples of people living them "so that those who are viewing the show can see this is really possible; I can really live Divine Mercy. I can be the hands and feet of Jesus' mercy here on earth."

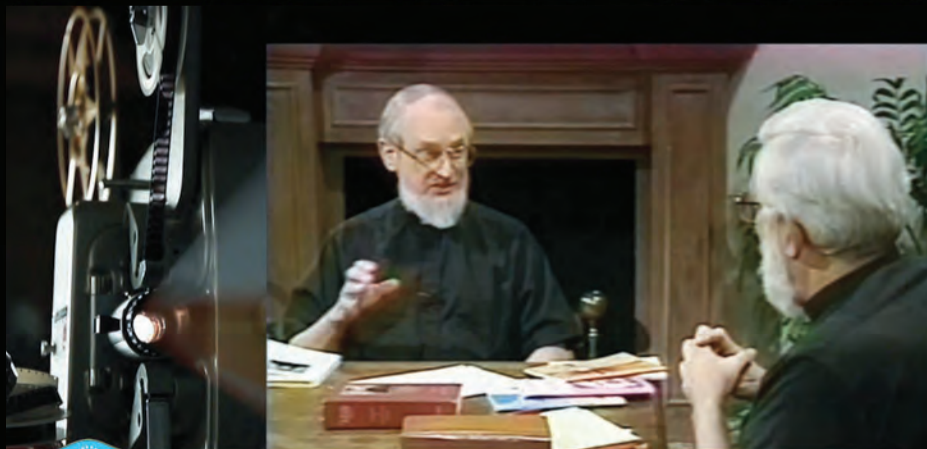
And all of this work was inspired by the Marian charism.

"The founding charism is proclaiming the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, praying for the Holy Souls, and assisting parish priests where the need is greatest," said Fr. Chris. "All fall under the umbrella of Divine Mercy."

Now is the time of mercy

"Why all this now? Because man has lost his way, and the only way back is going to be asking for mercy for what we've done," stated Fr. Chris, author of the bestselling book *Understanding Divine Mercy*. "We are so far gone right now

FROM THE
MARIAN
ARCHIVES



Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC

From the Marian Archives



MEET A MARIAN

Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek



Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC
Provincial Superior, Marians of the Immaculate Conception

that only God's mercy is going to allow us to be reconciled back to Him. We can never justify ourselves — only God's mercy can do that. This is why Scripture says, 'Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more' (Rom 5:20).

"Our last three popes have been 'mercy popes,'" he continued. "Pope Francis declared the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Benedict XVI established the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy. Saint John Paul II beatified and canonized St. Faustina, and put Divine Mercy Sunday on the universal liturgical calendar of the Church. Saint John Paul also said that Divine Mercy is the most important message of our times.

"Well, this is a time of sin, as Pius XII said, noting that mankind's more sinful today than he was even at the time of the Flood," Fr. Chris continued. "What is God's answer to that? Well, if mankind's more sinful now, he needs more grace than ever. And so that's why God is giving us this time of unprecedented mercy.

"This is the heart of the show. Please, we beg you — if you do nothing else in your life, seek God's mercy. Ask for God's mercy because He's offering it to us right now in a way that is overabundant, undeserved, and unconditional. But Jesus said, after the time of His mercy will come the time of His justice (see *Diary*, 848, 1146), so let's not be unprepared," Fr. Chris said.

All hands on deck

That mission of proclaiming Divine Mercy to the world motivates the staff, as well as the Marians involved.

"I'm inspired by the opportunity to share the message with as many people as possible," said executive producer Mary Clark. "It may sound hokey, but I truly believe that the Lord 'called' me to work with the Marians so that I could help attract more souls to His mercy. To me, the message of Divine Mercy tells us how God truly feels about all of us. He loves every one of us unconditionally and wants us each to live with Him eternally in Heaven. We can't begin to fathom

the depths of His Mercy toward us. The devotion helps us to practice the message and live it in our own lives.

"Broadcasting through EWTN gives us a massive audience to which we can bring the message and show some examples of how to live mercy every day," she concluded.

Some of those examples have included the powerful story of Kim Marchese, owner of Building the Kingdom of God Catholic gift shop, who tragically lost her husband and one child in a car accident. Her remaining child has since become a Marian seminarian.

Another couple, the parents of Dominik Pettey (whose story we published in the Spring 2018 issue of *Marian Helper*), shared how they'd lost their teenage son, but through his funeral, bore witness to Divine Mercy in front of a great number of people. "It was an incredible witness of hope in the midst of suffering," said Fr. Chris. And there're plenty more great stories and bits of wisdom to come.

The fundamental goal, said Fr. Chris, is to raise awareness about the promises and the power of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. Certain reactions come up all too often, such as, "What is it? It's so confusing. It's just a Polish thing."

"Jesus said that recourse to his mercy is the last hope for salvation (*Diary*, 998), and this is for everybody, especially today," Fr. Chris concluded.

Because this message is so important, we're turning to you, our Marian Helpers, for help. The show airs on EWTN. If you don't get EWTN on cable, you can stream "Living Divine Mercy" live on EWTN.com at 6:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday night or 24 hours after it first airs on demand on our website LivingDivineMercy.org

Spread the links on social media. Share the show with your friends, your prayer groups, your parish, and your neighbors.

If you would like to receive emails to know when new episodes are available, sign up at MICPrayers.org for this and other resources.

MH



Sign Our Petition

to make St. Faustina
a Doctor of the Church

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/doctor

#GI♥ING TUESDAY

Join us as we continue our evangelization efforts through our EWTN series *Living Divine Mercy*.

Visit marian.org/givingtuesday or call 800-462-7426.



Fr. Chris Alar
as he discusses
Our Lady of
Guadalupe,
Patroness of
Life, the history
and the
tilma image.

OUR LADY BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER

Our Lady is at the heart of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Her Immaculate Conception was an inspiration to St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), the Marian Founder, at the Congregation's establishment in 1670.

Throughout the Congregation's lifetime, she has always had it in her stewardship and maternal care. Our Lady is a touchstone, a source of unity and focus for the religious life and efforts of the Congregation in service of Christ and His Church.

And Our Lady, with her Son, is the goal and end of the Congregation, its unifying heart, the model and guide for all their efforts to serve Christ and His Church. Mothers are the heart of the family, after all. She leads us all to her Son, the Divine Mercy Incarnate. She loves and cares for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Her exceptional privileges and the power of her intercession emerge from her service, from her love for God and neighbor, and are used for love.

So as we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Solemnity of Christ the King, Advent, and the Christmas season, it seems appropriate to allow Our Lady to stand at the center of our coverage in this issue. The Blessed Mother has one particular title that's of special importance to the entire Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province, consisting of both the U.S. and Argentina: Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Under that title, Our Lady is the Patroness of the Americas, the Star of the New Evangelization, and Patroness of the Unborn. Our Lady of Guadalupe is in the vanguard of the Church's efforts in overcoming the culture of death, bringing the Light of Christ to this present darkness (see Eph 6:12), and allowing the Gospel to spread and win all hearts for God.

So as we explore the ongoing life of the Congregation and the Association in this winter season of 2021,

we thought we'd do it through the lens of Our Lady. In these pages, you'll find stories written in light of her titles and roles: a discussion of living Advent well; celebrating Christmas by giving to our loved ones the greatest possible gift, a gift made possible by Our Lady's consent to the will of God; a look at some Marian Helpers living their faith; the connection between Mary's maternity and the Divine Mercy; how St. Faustina's love for the Eucharist resembles Our Lady's love for her Son; and more.

Our Lady stands at the center of this issue of the magazine, not just because she's so crucial to the Congregation, but because she's crucial to the Association of Marian Helpers, as well. We certainly assist the

Congregation of Marian Fathers through our prayers, our donations, and our good works, but we are also called to be helpers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, assistants to the Queen of Heaven and Earth. That means Marian devotion should be a part of our daily lives.

Our Marian devotion can be something as simple as a daily Hail Mary; as rich as the daily Rosary, especially for peace in the world; or as full as total consecration to Jesus through Mary, using books like 33 Days

to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

It means we know her, and continue to find her in Scripture, in the teaching of the Church, in the writings of saints, Doctors, and learned, orthodox theologians. It means we know her to be our sister in Christ and friend, as well as mother — that she in her humility has a full and complete love for each and every one of us, including the sinners, *especially* the sinners.

It means we love her in return.

It means we *remember* our Mother, reaching out to her through prayer and the approved devotions given us through the Church. Just like any mother, she will offer special care and help to her sick, wounded, or needy children. Jesus told us, "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy" (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, 723). How true that must be for Our Lady, as well!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

MH

Our Lady of Guadalupe is in the vanguard of the Church's efforts in overcoming the culture of death, bringing the Light of Christ to this present darkness (see Eph 6:12), and allowing the Gospel to spread and win all hearts for God.

**WOMAN OF THE
NEW ADVENT**

LIVING ADVENT WELL

By Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC

I remember going to Sunday Mass during Advent as a young boy, waiting in anticipation as a new candle was lit on the Advent wreath each week, because I knew in my heart that Jesus was coming soon as a little baby at Christmas. As a priest, I still look forward to the First Sunday of Advent when we light the first candle which signals the beginning of the Advent season.

I love the rich meaning of the Advent wreath, which is made up of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. Traditionally, there are three violet candles and one rose candle. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, and its color anticipates our Christmas joy, announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon of the Liturgy: “rejoice,” or in Latin, “gaudete.” That is why the Third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, and the priest traditionally wears rose-colored vestments.

In order to better prepare our hearts and live this Advent well, we should turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary and ask her to intercede for us and accompany us on our Advent journey. Our Lady was there for the first Advent, of course, and then for the intermediate Advent of the conversion, salvation, and sanctification of her spiritual children. Finally, she will be there for the final Advent of the Second Coming. Pope St. John Paul II said, “In this journey of expectation and hope that is Advent, the Ecclesial Community is identified more closely than ever with the Most Holy Virgin. May it be she, the Virgin of expecta-



Father Angelo
Casimiro, MIC

tion, who helps us to open our hearts to the One who, by His coming among us, brings the priceless gift of peace to all humanity.”

We need to adopt Our Lady’s practice of pondering the things of God in our heart. During Advent, try to set aside some time each day to read a few verses from the Bible, especially from the Gospels. Saint Jerome said that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. One of the ways the Lord speaks to us is through Holy Scripture. Choose a Scripture verse that has a special meaning for you, and meditate on the words until a particular word or phrase hits you. That may be the Lord trying to speak to you.

Another way of living Advent well is by going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The best Christmas gift you can ever give yourself is to go to Confession, especially if you haven’t gone for a while. I like to describe Confession like this: If we take the time every day to bathe and clean our bodies, then it’s just as important that we also take the time to go to Confession and clean our souls. When you confess your sins and the priest gives you absolution, you’re starting anew. Not only are you forgiven your sins,



but God also gives you the grace to help you resist temptations and not sin again. Remember that God's mercy is bigger than any sin you can ever commit.

During Lent, we usually fast from good things like chocolate, soda, or movies. In the season of Advent, it's also good to make some sort of sacrifice for the Lord. It doesn't always have to be something material. Maybe it could be giving up complaining, gossiping, or talking badly about other people. Or maybe you can give some of your time or resources to help other people who are in need. That is what Mary did when she found out that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist. There are many people who are alone and lonely at this time of year, especially in nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters, and prisons. The Church always encourages doing corporal works of mercy because when we serve others, we are serving Christ Himself.

Another way to prepare for Advent is to have a forgiving heart. The Lord forgives our sins in Confession; shouldn't we forgive others, as well? It goes against our fallen human nature to forgive someone who has hurt us, and so that is when we need supernatural help. Life is too short to carry around grudges. Unforgiveness hardens your heart. If you have a hardened heart, then you cannot love other

people. And if you cannot love other people, how can you love God?

One final suggestion: If you aren't already going to daily Mass, try to go one other time during the week in addition to Sunday Mass. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, since we truly receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

The same Jesus who humbled Himself by coming to us as a little baby on Christmas Day continues to humble Himself by coming to us during Mass in the bread and wine that is changed into His Body and Blood.

In the Filipino culture, during Advent we observe "Simbang Gabi" (meaning "Night Mass"), which is a devotional nine-day series of Masses celebrated during

the final days leading up to Christmas. In the Philippines, the Simbang Gabi Masses are held daily from Dec. 16 to 24 at different times from as early as 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. In the U.S., the Masses are held at other times in the evening.

Following the example of the Blessed Mother, let us keep our hearts and minds recollected this Advent season. Let us wait with an expectant kind of longing, knowing that Jesus will soon come into our hearts, as we once again wait in darkness for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the World.

MH



In the Filipino culture, during Advent we observe "Simbang Gabi" (meaning "Night Mass").

© ERVIN MALICDEM, 2016



THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Chris Sparks

Christmas is the feast of God being born into the human family. The Creator took on the nature of a creature, and became one of us, and dwelt among us. That would have sounded shocking to those who lived before the Incarnation, and continues to sound amazing to those who come to believe it for the very first time.

The Christmas season is a time of divine nearness, of the separation between God and man dissolving and passing away. Christmas is a time of special grace and mercy, of special access to the Light of the world, of the Love that

created the stars and the Star of Bethlehem. It's the celebration of the God who made the world and accepted to have hands that could not even reach out of the manger, for He was wrapped in swaddling clothes.

God accepted powerlessness for our sake. He accepted unfathomable nearness and closeness for our sake. For nine months, God had been living in Mary's womb, undergoing all the normal growth and maturation of any member of the human family. And Christmas is the feast of His entry into the wider world — only what an entry! A family uprooted from their home to take part in a census levied by the Roman oppressors; St. Joseph, a member of the royal house of David, but with absolutely no earthly power or privilege as a result of that royal blood; Mary, a woman who came quite close to losing her earthly husband as a result of her unique pregnancy; a Holy Family whose first home together is a place to keep animals, where Mary must give birth.

The shadow of the Cross is cast over Christ's earthly life from the very earliest moments, but He chose that, accepted that, so that the light of His divinity could enter into human history from the very first moments of our existence (see *Catechism*, 460). He came so that we might have life. He came so that we might have grace. He came so that we might all be saved.

And the pinnacle of that union, as Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, tells us, comes at the Mass. All the other Sacraments have a natural home in the Liturgy of the Church, in our earthly participation in heavenly worship. All the grace of God comes to us through Jesus, and Jesus comes to us most fully and completely in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith (*Catechism*, 1324).

So the greatest gift you can give to anyone is the Eucharist, is Jesus Himself, especially in the context of the Mass.

Every Mass is a little Christmas, in some sense — every parish church is a “Bethlehem,” a House of Bread. At every Mass, Jesus, the Bread from Heaven, is given for the

life of the parish and the world. Most parishes have images of Joseph and Mary to either side of the main altar, the spiritual manger where the Bread from Heaven is consecrated and from which it is drawn for the life of the world. The tabernacle lights hang like little stars of Bethlehem, showing us the way to the Christ Child, to the Bread from Heaven. We who are lowest and greatest in this world,

the shepherds and the wise men, all gather around these mangers, these altars, in the Bethlehems of our churches all across the world.

One of these Bethlehems is the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. There, the Marian Fathers will offer three Masses on Christmas. If you fill out the attached envelope and send in your prayer intentions, the Marian Fathers will pray for you and your intentions at these Masses. You will be giving the greatest of gifts to anyone whose name you send in, and applying the greatest of graces to whatever situation or need you mail to us.

The Mass is the pinnacle of the prayer of the Church. All other

devotions draw their spiritual light, the graces that they transmit, from the Mass, the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our faith, of our Catholic lives. So send us your deepest needs, the names of those who are most resistant to grace. Send us the situations and the problems that cause you most worry, that make it hardest to trust. Send us especially those loved ones who've passed away, either through this terrible pandemic or through any of the other natural disasters or tragedies of past years.

Let's bring everything to Jesus, the Light of the World, for “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5).

MH



We invite you to send us your intentions for the Three Christmas Masses on December 25 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Visit marian.org/b52 to have your intentions remembered.

SPOUSE OF
ST. JOSEPH



‘THE ROSARY AND DIVINE MERCY GOT ME THROUGH EVERYTHING’

By Marian Friedrichs

“Let’s pray the Rosary.” Lisa Jaime of Carrizo Springs, Texas, and her seven siblings grew up hearing these words often from their mother, Francisca Guerrero Salgado. Francisca loved the Rosary and taught her children to love it, too — encouraging them especially to turn to Our Lady whenever they found themselves in trouble or in need. “The Rosary is like a bouquet of flowers I take to our Blessed Mother,” Lisa says. “Every prayer is like a rose going up to her.” Every October, Francisca enlisted her children’s help to hold “Rosary Rallies.” They would gather as many friends and family as they could and pray the Rosary together — usually outside, because there were too many people to fit inside the house.

Lisa became a catechist at the age of 18, and she has always urged her CCD students to pray the Rosary. “It’s the Blessed Mother who brings us to Jesus,” she says. “What mother wouldn’t go and do what her son or daughter needs?”

During a particularly difficult time for the Salgado family, Mary provided for their needs and brought them closer to Jesus by leading Lisa to the Divine Mercy devotion. In 2010, Lisa and her husband and son moved in with her parents so that she could take care of her father, Joaquin, who had cancer. Although Lisa’s brother Juan and his two daughters had also moved into the home to help with Joaquin’s care, Lisa did not think she should leave her father to attend a presentation by the Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) in Poteet, Texas. Some of the other siblings stepped in, however, to make sure Lisa could go.

At that event, Lisa heard the Divine Mercy message for the first time. “That’s all it took,” Lisa says. “I picked up that devotion. I couldn’t stop telling everybody about it.” When she returned home, Lisa taught the Divine Mercy Chaplet to the mother who had

taught her the Rosary so many years before. Francisca grew to love it as much as Lisa did, and the Salgados added the devotion to their regular family prayers.

As the family learned to approach Jesus’ Merciful Heart through the Chaplet, they never stopped drawing closer to Mary’s heart through the Rosary. On the night Joaquin died, Lisa and her mother called the hospice nurse, who was delayed in coming. During his lifetime, Joaquin had served the people of Carrizo Springs in various roles, including as city councilman, mayor, and county commissioner. He was known for his concern for the poor and generosity to anyone in need. When word of his passing spread, a crowd immediately began to gather. Not sure what to do with a houseful of people as they waited for the nurse to arrive, Lisa and Francisca looked at each other and said, “Let’s pray the Rosary.” Amidst a throng of neighbors and friends, waiting by Joaquin’s side, they did.

Seven years later, Lisa found herself once again accompanying a loved one through cancer. Her husband, Richard, was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer in

November 2017, just months after their only son, Richard Anthony, had graduated from high school. Before he died on May 8, 2018, Richard suffered greatly. When he could not sleep at night, Lisa would pray the Chaplet with him. In Richard’s final hours, family and friends sat by his side to read Scripture and pray. The Divine Mercy Chaplet was the last prayer they said. When it was finished, Lisa’s sister-in-law told her Richard was gone.

Grieving the loss of her husband, Lisa still had the care of her mother, a dialysis patient. The family never stopped praying together. Even on the nights when Francisca came home exhausted from her treatments and Lisa and Juan urged her to go straight to bed, Francisca insisted, “Let’s pray the Rosary.”

Francisca passed away in April 2019, but Lisa heard her mother’s voice echo a year later from the mouths of her two teenaged nieces. Juan, also a dialysis patient, had contracted COVID-19 and needed to go to the hospital, but no space could be found for him. Lisa was worried, but Juan’s daughters simply said, “Let’s pray the Rosary.” After an anxious night of waiting and praying, Lisa received a phone call early in the morning that a

hospital bed had opened up for Juan. His daughters’ response to the news was, “Let’s pray the Rosary again.” Juan eventually recovered.

Today, Lisa works as bookkeeper for her parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and also serves as a hospice chaplain. Patients’ family members often ask her to lead them in the Rosary by their loved one’s bedside or at the funeral home. Lisa has led groups to Marian consecration with 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. In June 2021, with the help of her prayer friends Eduardo and Miriam of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Lisa made a pilgrimage to the churches in San Luis Potosi. Her future plans include returning to Mexico to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City and, at home, starting a bereavement support group.

People often ask Lisa how she has endured her losses and continued to face life with joy. She tells them, “The Rosary and Divine Mercy got me through everything. Pray: ‘Jesus, I trust in You,’ and really believe it in your heart; mean it with your mind and your soul.

“Mercy always shows up at the point we need it.” MH

“The Rosary and Divine Mercy got me through everything. Pray: ‘Jesus, I trust in You,’ and really believe it in your heart; mean it with your mind and your soul. Mercy always shows up at the point we need it.”



Father Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, speaks at the opening ceremony for the Polish boarding school the Marians started in Herefordshire, England, in Sept. 1951. Father Jarzebowski was the pastor and lead teacher at the school.

WHY US?

EXPLORING GOD'S
INTENTION IN
CHOOSING THE
MARIANS TO
SPREAD
DIVINE MERCY

By Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD

Did you ever wonder why God chose the Congregation of Marians to be, in a special way, one of the principal agents of the propagation of the Divine Mercy message and devotion throughout the world? After all, we (and in “we,” here, I am including both the Marian Fathers themselves and all the lay associates and apostolates who assist them in the fulfilment of their charism and mission) seem at first glance an unlikely bunch for the task: not especially numerous, not financially well-endowed, and up to 40 years ago or so, not even very well known outside of Poland or Polish immigrant communities. So *why* us?

Lest anyone harbors any lingering doubts on the subject, let's be clear that God really did choose the Marians in a special way for this task. Pope St. John Paul II confirmed this special vocation in the charge he gave to the Congregation in 1993: “Be apostles of Divine Mercy, under the

maternal and loving guidance of Mary.” This call from the Lord is also clear from the history of the Congregation. In Poland in the spring of 1940, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, while fleeing capture by the Nazis, was entrusted with the task of spreading the message and devotion by St. Faustina's

spiritual director, Blessed Michael Sopocko. Father Jarzebowski vowed that if he was able to reach his fellow Marians in America, he would devote the rest of his life to the spread of the devotion. And the Lord took him up on his promise: The Merciful Jesus delivered him safely through Lithuania, communist Russia, and fascist Japan — much of the way without proper travelling visas! After his arrival in the United States of America, he made good on his vow and, with the help of Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, established the Mercy of God Apostolate on Eden Hill in 1944. Surely, we can see the hand of Divine Providence at work here!

Since then, there have been decades of tireless labor by the Marian Fathers and their lay associates — especially by the late Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC — establishing the U.S. National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts; translating St. Faustina's Diary into numerous languages and spreading it throughout the world; and successfully petitioning the Holy See for the beatification and canonization of Sr. Faustina, as well as for the establishment of the annual Feast of Divine Mercy. "The proof is in the pudding," as the old saying goes: One of the reasons we know God chose us to undertake this mission is simply the fact that (with the help of divine grace every step of the way) we have been able to do it!

A close look at the Marian charism explained in the 17th century by the Founder of the Marians, St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), lifts the veil for us so we can at least begin to see what God was up to here. That charism originally focused on three things: devotion to Our Lady's Immaculate Conception; prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; and assisting pastors, especially helping them to educate their parishioners in the truths of the Catholic faith. Well, according to the Catholic Tradition (especially in the writings of two great Doctors of the Church, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas), what is the supreme attribute of God, and the very heart of our faith? The Merciful Love of God. And according to the Catholic faith, what does Mary's Immaculate Conception manifest above all? The Divine Mercy: God reaching out to her and blessing her from the first moment of her existence, without any merit or deserving on her part at all — an act of sheer grace, flowing from the merciful Father into her heart to prepare her for her unique mission as the Mother of the Savior. Finally, what is one of the principal works of mercy and

compassion that any Catholic can perform? To offer prayers and sacrifices for the Holy Souls undergoing purification in Purgatory, for they are unable to help themselves.

In short: Divine Mercy is the hidden theme behind every aspect of the original charism of the Congregation of Marians. Today, of course, spreading Divine Mercy is an explicit part of the Marian charism, as established by the general chapter of the Congregation in Rome in 2000.

Still, let's not forget the obvious: The Marians are not — and never have been — the most numerous, well-connected, or in any other *worldly* sense, *impressive* religious order in the Church. No doubt that is also one of the main reasons why the Lord chose us to help lead the most important mission in the Catholic Church in our time. As St. Paul put it in his First Epistle to the Corinthians:

Inspired by Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, who was from his home parish and founded the Association of Marian Helpers; Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, who brought the Divine Mercy message to America; and other Marian Fathers, the late Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, knew in high school that God was calling him into the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He worked for 20 years as vice-postulator for Sr. Maria Faustina's canonization cause.



For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to the flesh, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth ... but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:26-27).

Of course, the very same thing could be said about St. Juan Diego, whose feast is Dec. 9: He was a man of no great wealth, education, or social standing. Yet it was precisely his weakness and humility that made him a docile instrument in the hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast is Dec. 12. And just like Juan Diego, the Marians and their associates continue to carry out their mission as apostles of Divine Mercy by leaning on Mary's prayers and promises every step of the way. Our Lady said to St. Juan Diego: "Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?"

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us — the Marian Fathers and all their associates — that we might fulfill the mission given to us with complete trust in your never-failing maternal love, and the merciful Heart of your Son!

MH

ARK OF THE NEW COVENANT

TO BE A 'LIVING TABERNACLE'

SAINT FAUSTINA AND OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE SHOW US THE WAY

By Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD

The ultimate goal of the life of every Christian, of course, is to make it to Heaven at our journey's end: forever immersed in the light and love of God, for the Father's glory and for our salvation, for the joy of the Heart of Jesus and in fellowship with all the angels and saints. But what do we need to do to get there? What do we need to achieve with the help of divine grace in this present, earthly life that can best prepare us for the next?

Simply, we are to become Christ-bearers: living tabernacles in which the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus forever dwells, and from which He can radiate His grace to others (see Eph 3:17-19; Col 3:26-27; Gal 2:20).

That seems a pretty tall order: How can we possibly undertake such a tremendous interior transformation? The truth is, we can't — at least, not without the direct and miraculous help of the Merciful Jesus. The Catholic faith, however, tells us that our Lord has given us all the help we need, especially in the Holy Eucharist. It is above all through devout reception of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that we welcome Him into our disordered hearts and let Him reorder, heal, and sanctify us so that our hearts become His eternal dwelling place. We are to be made by Him into living, breathing, walking, and talking tabernacles, bearing His light and life within us wherever we go, and to all we meet. Jesus promised: "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (Jn 6:56-57).

Jesus told St. Faustina that to accomplish this within us is the deepest desire of His merciful Heart:

I desire to unite Myself with human souls; My great delight is to unite Myself with human souls. Know, My daughter, that when I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. ... When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls (*Diary*, 1385 and 1074).

Moreover, St. Faustina had a deep faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament that makes all this possible:





Indeed, so deeply was she united with Jesus through the Holy Eucharist that she could write in all honesty these astonishing words in her *Diary*, entry 1302:

Today I have come to understand many of God's mysteries. I have come to know that Holy Communion remains in me until the next Holy Communion. ... My heart is a living tabernacle in which the living Host is reserved.

Surely St. Faustina was exaggerating! How could someone really become a "living tabernacle" in such a way as to enjoy a *never-ending sacramental communion* with our Eucharistic Lord?

Jesus has told a number of His saints that He looks not so much on what we do for Him in His service, or even what we are capable of doing. What matters to Him most is the purity and intensity of our desire to love Him. Thus, if there is a soul who ardently longs to be continually united with Jesus in the most intimate, sacramental way, He takes that pure desire as a prayer of the heart, and pours into that soul all the graces of Holy Communion at every moment.

If one is still tempted to doubt that all this is possible, we need only recall the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the image of herself that she gave to the world in Guadalupe. From the Annunciation onward, Mary had the Christ Child in her womb, and so her body was literally a living tabernacle. When she journeyed to visit her cousin Elizabeth, it was the Church's first Eucharistic procession: She carried the divine Child within her, as in a monstrance, and graces radiated from her to the heart of Elizabeth, and even to the unborn child, John the Baptist, in her womb (see Lk 1:39-45). Similarly, the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe depicts her with a black band around her waist and a four-leaf flower on her gown, symbolic of her being with child. It is as if she was saying to the world, "I am still just as intimately united with my Son, body and soul, as I ever was, and always will be; as my heart is now totally united with His in Heaven, so my body and soul remain in complete communion with Him at every moment; I am a living tabernacle."

On the road to Heaven, and in the mystery of Heaven itself, this is our destiny, too, if only we are willing to open our hearts to receive it.

Robert Stackpole, STD, is the director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy and the author of a number of books, including Mary: Who She Is and Why She Matters (Product code B52-MBK). MH

Jesus, there is one more secret in my life, the deepest and dearest to my heart: It is You Yourself when You come to my heart under the appearance of bread. Herein lies the whole secret of my sanctity. Here my Heart is so united with Yours as to be but one (1489).



PRAY, FOR MERCY'S SAKE

By Chris Sparks

One of my earliest memories is lying in my bed at night being led in bedtime prayers by my mom. She would show me how to make the Sign of the Cross, talk me through the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, and then give me a kiss and say good night.

Over the years, I developed the habit of turning to those prayers if ever the darkness got too deep, initially as a child in a dark room alone, but as time passed, as a teen and an adult, as well. I'd pray whenever the going got rough in my day to day life, in my studies, or in my work. Indeed, one habit I've developed is to ask for prayers whenever I feel my concentration is scattered to the four winds, the ideas for stories are dry, or in any way, I've just hit a wall in my writing. I also learned that I absolutely need to have a habit of prayer. It's like eating, sleeping, or breathing: If you wait to do it until you're in a crisis, you've waited much too long. Prayer needs to be as common in our lives as any basic bodily function if we are to live happy, healthy, holy lives. It's amazing the difference prayer makes.

I've also learned from some great teachers the extraordinary importance and power of prayer. Read the lives of the saints for any length of time, and you'll see that they all talked to God on a regular basis. Some, like St. Faustina Kowalska, also talked to the angels and saints fairly regularly, as well.

Those conversations were an indispensable part of their relationship with the Communion of Saints, with the whole rest of the Body of Christ. Without those prayers, they could not have lived the lives of extraordinary love and heroic virtue that elevated them head and shoulders

above their contemporaries and eventually caused the Church to canonize them as saints.

Why is prayer so necessary in our lives?

Well, Scripture and Tradition tell us that from the beginning of time, we were meant to live drawing on the strength of grace as well as nature. God created Adam and Eve in the state of grace, bringing Adam to life with His own breath; that is, with His own Spirit. Eve shared that same supernatural life with Adam before the fall. Living our lives according to our state of nature, then, means living lives full of grace, full of God's life and love animating us, full of divine strength.

Humans are not made to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps or to be stoic in the face of trials. We are made to imitate Jesus, the New Adam and the one who reveals man fully to man's self, as St. John Paul II taught in his encyclical *Redemptor Hominis* (*The Redeemer of Man*, 8). Throughout Jesus' ministry, He would frequently spend long hours in prayer, often by Himself, but also within sight of His disciples. It was witnessing Jesus in prayer that caused one of them to say, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples" (Lk 11:1). And He taught them the Our Father.

Prayer is an indispensable element of the Christian life, and so, of course, an indispensable part of living the Divine Mercy message and devotion. Saint Faustina transmits

through her *Diary* many calls from Christ for prayer, most obviously in the Chaplet He gives her and the Novena He asks her to pray. Indeed, prayer is one of the greatest works of mercy open to us. Jesus told her, “Many souls ... are often worried because they do not have the material means with which to carry out an act of mercy. Yet spiritual mercy, which requires neither permissions nor storehouses, is much more meritorious and is within the

grasp of every soul” (*Diary*, 1317).

With all of that in mind, let me share with you a prayer that I’ve written. As you may know, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have been in the forefront of spreading the Divine Mercy message and devotion for more than 60 years, and they’ve been assisted by many Marian Helpers. That work has only been made possible, though, by much prayer across the decades.

PRAYER TO THE PATRONS OF THE MARIAN CONGREGATION AND THEIR ASSOCIATED WORKS

Patrons of the Marian Fathers and the Association of Marian Helpers, we ask you to come between the Marian Family and all evils — the world, the flesh, and the devil. Be our first line of defense against the forces of hell. We know that some measure of suffering is unavoidable in the Christian life, and that here below we will inevitably face some measure of spiritual combat. But we beseech you, patrons of the Marian Congregation and the Association of Marian Helpers, be our first line of defense. Let the suffering and spiritual warfare that befalls us be governed by the divine love and mercy in which you live and move and have your being, not by the malice of the devil.

Come between us and the devil. Come between us and the forces of hell. Be our protectors and our guides through the traps and snares of hell, our sure help and consolation in the midst of suffering and desolation. Pray us safely home to God as we seek to serve Christ and His Church, all under the mantle of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of the Church.

Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, Universal Patron of the Church and Terror of Demons, pray for us.

Saint Stanislaus Papczynski, pray for us.

Blessed George Matulaitis, pray for us.

Marian Martyrs of Rosica, pray for us.

Venerable Casimir Wyszynski, pray for us.

Saint Faustina Kowalska, pray for us.

Blessed Michael Sopocko, pray for us.

Saint John Paul II, pray for us.

All you holy men and women, patrons of priests, consecrated religious, the Church, and of the Marian Congregation and all their affiliated works, pray for us.

Please take on yourselves the spiritual combat faced by the Marian Fathers, the Association of Marian Helpers, and all their affiliated apostolates, ministries, families, friends, and good works.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

We ask this through the Divine Mercy of the Father, Rich in Mercy, who brings us all together into the Mystical Body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit, one family, for ever and ever. Amen.

I ask you to be merciful to us, and offer up this prayer for the Marian Fathers, Marian Helpers, and all our many apostolic labors. May it be a source of blessing for you, as well.

Pray this prayer for us every so often, please. Help us to continue to help the Church and the world receive the

message and devotion of Divine Mercy, and to prepare all of us for the Lord’s final coming (see *Diary*, 848; see also 635, 1146, 1588).

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! MH



Fr. Tyler's ordination



Fr. Tyler's first Mass



FR. TYLER MENTZER, MIC, ORDAINED!





On Oct. 2, the Feast of the Guardian Angels, Fr. Tyler Mentzer, MIC, was ordained by the Most Rev. William D. Byrne, bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts. It was Bishop Byrne's first time ordaining anyone to the priesthood.

Throughout his adolescence, Fr. Tyler, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, served at the altar at his parish, encouraged by his parents, Robin and Valerie Mentzer. But he only ever thought about the priesthood in passing. "I was scared of it at the time," he said. "I imagined that it would be something for someone who prayed all day and was hyper pious."

Tyler went to Philadelphia University where he studied architecture and played baseball. There, he took his faith more seriously.

He joined the Marians in 2015 and hasn't looked back. "From that moment on," he said, "our Lord and Our Lady kept reconfirming this call to the Marians in my heart."

Father Tyler will serve at St. Patrick Parish in Yorkville, Illinois, and St. Mary Parish in Plano, Illinois. Please pray for him and for all our men in formation!

MH



The world needs holy priests to help renew our hearts,
renew our Church, and renew the world.

Support the Campaign
for Holy Priests today!
Visit marian.org/vocsupport
Call 1-800-462-7426

MARIAN FATHERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

2021 CAMPAIGN FOR
HOLY PRIESTS 2022

GIVE A TAX-FREE GIFT FROM YOUR IRA ... IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

Make a qualified charitable distribution to the Marian
Fathers and

- Reduce your taxable income
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution
- Support our work to lead souls to Jesus through Mary

Visit marian.org/QCD or call Ellen Miller
at (413) 298-1380 for more information.



Sandra Pavoni (center) gathers with her group of Third-Order Carmelites on the fourth Saturday of every month.

COUNTING ON JESUS AND MARY

Spreading Divine Mercy is second nature for Sandra Pavoni from Greenfield, Massachusetts. Whenever she sends a greeting card, she inserts a Chaplet prayer card. If a friend is struggling, she gives them a packet including the Diary of St. Faustina and various Divine Mercy pamphlets and prayer cards.

She explains, “Thanks to our retired pastor, Fr. Timothy Campoli, who established the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration for all the parishes in the deanery and Perpetual Adoration at Blessed Sacrament, many of us know how powerful God’s mercy is. Every Wednesday, we have a Divine Mercy Holy Hour for the sick and dying led by Don and Betsy Grybko. We want to share this message with everyone, so they can experience God’s power. Some of those helped, we may never know.”

Sandra’s most moving experience involved someone she has known her entire life — her brother Dave. When he joined the Air Force as a young man, Dave fell away from the Sacraments. Some 60 years later, he contracted an incurable blood disease.

When Dave entered hospice, Sandra immediately got on a plane to Florida so that she could be with him and pray the Chaplet at his bedside. He could not speak, but when Sandra asked him if he would like to see a priest, he squeezed her hand. She explains, “Having a priest give him the Last Rites was an answer to prayer. My brother was able to have a Catholic funeral with full military honors. It was beautiful and especially consoling to his wife.”

She gratefully acknowledges, “Divine Mercy and the prayers of many fellow parishioners and my Secular Carmelite brothers and sisters saved my brother.”

Sandra also discovered that even though Dave had fallen

away from the Church, he always carried a scapular medal. Did Mary arrange the timely visit from his sister and call to a priest? Sandra believes she did.

Sandra is faithful to her calling to pray for others. She also wants to help others by financially supporting charities that help people grow closer to God. She says, “I’m willing to make a sacrifice. I have a small pension and a small IRA. When I reached the age when I had to start taking a required minimum distribution (RMD), I read up on it. I found out about the option of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), and the more I got into it, the more I liked it.

“It’s easy to do. I check with the charity, like the Marian Fathers, to confirm their legal name and tax ID number, and then I submit a request to my IRA custodian to issue a check directly to the charity.

“The distribution can count toward my RMD, but it is not taxed, so I save on my taxes. This actually makes it possible for me to give more!”

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/eadm/praying to learn more about praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the sick and dying.

Visit marian.org/QCD or contact me to learn more about making a qualified charitable distribution.



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



DIVINE MERCY ART

Top Quality Religious Art ... at Merciful Prices!

NOW FEATURING:

- TIGHTER WRAPPED CORNERS;
- MUSEUM QUALITY CANVAS, WOOD, AND INKS;
- HANDMADE IN STOCKBRIDGE, MA., HOME OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY.



Jesus, I Trust in You

B52-PV10GW

- MANY SIZES AVAILABLE
- FRAMING OPTIONS
- AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND POLISH

Shipping for 10" x 18" images: \$10 for one image, \$2 for each additional image to the same address. Cost may vary for online orders.



B52-PIM10GW



Jesus, I Trust in You

B52-PB10GW

Starting at
\$24.95

ORDER NOW:
DIVINEMERCYART.ORG
OR CALL 800-462-7426



Deacon Matthew Tomeny, MIC, helps assemble 10" x 18" canvas images.

GRACES RECEIVED

Son found a new job

I'd been praying intensely for my adult son regarding a job situation, which was becoming pretty desperate. I felt an urge to pray to Fr. Casimir for his intercession.

The next day, our son got an interview and, the day after, he was hired. He started his new job on the following Monday. Thus far, it seems like a good, stable job — he really likes it and likes the staff there.

I don't think it was a coincidence that I received that article, prayed to Fr. Casimir, and had prayers answered. I feel Fr. Casimir was interceding for my son, and we are so thankful.

— AL, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Tumor hasn't grown in two years

I am writing to you today as I have been asking Venerable Casimir Wyszynski to intercede for me. I have a recurrent cancer of my trachea. I had surgery five years ago and it came back in 2019. My latest scan results show the tumor has not increased. I had 20 radiation treatments in 2019. I am very stable now and I am positive that Fr. Casimir is interceding for me. I will keep praying for his canonization.

— MB, Martintown, Ontario, Canada

Healthy baby born early

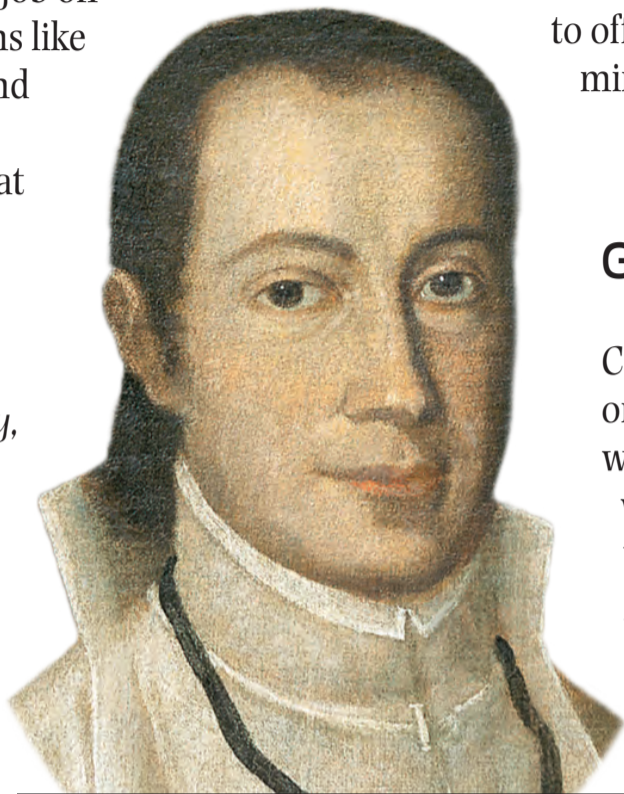
I have a prayer card for the Venerable Casimir. I started praying to him this past summer. I prayed for him to intercede on behalf of my daughter. She was expecting her second baby and started having problems with her

pregnancy. She was due Nov. 26 and delivered Oct. 4, St. Francis of Assisi's feast day.

She was told to maybe expect abnormalities since the ultrasound showed possible birth defects. When he was born, the doctor exclaimed, "He's perfect."

I feel thankful to Venerable Casimir, and I want to offer praise and thanksgiving for this miracle.

— DM, Prospect, Connecticut



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

Grandson got a job

I started praying to Servant of God Casimir three months ago to intercede on behalf of my grandson. I prayed he would get a job. He's a teenager, and he would just pass his days in his room. I wanted him to go to college when he graduated from high school, but he didn't go. I wanted him to do something so he would get out of his room. He would put in applications but was never hired. Then we received *Marian Helper* magazine in the mail, and I noticed people were praying to Fr. Casimir, and their prayers were being answered. I prayed for his intercession for three months and then my grandson got

a job. I thought, "It's a start. At least he's out of his room." I'm so thankful for Fr. Casimir's intercession. Prayer works!

— MSV, Corpus Christi, Texas

For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B52-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, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: graces@marian.org

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

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 ...

Order your 2021 Christmas cards

FREE SHIPPING
on two or more boxes.

Available in each exclusive design or as an assortment. Get a box of 10 deluxe cards for just \$13.95 plus p&h, while supplies last.

FOR AN ASSORTMENT, USE **B52-XCA21**



MADONNA & CHILD
B52-XC212

BLUE FOILED



LAMB OF GOD
PREMIUM CARDSTOCK

B52-XC211



SONG OF ANGELS
GOLD FOILED

B52-XC213



STAINED GLASS HOLY FAMILY
B52-XC214

SPOT UV



NATIVITY AT THE CHAPEL
B52-XC215

SILVER FOILED

Order now: Visit ShopMercy.org/b52 or call 1-800-462-7426.

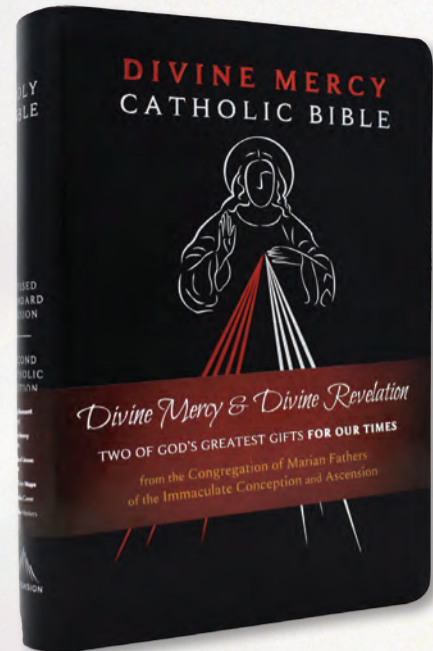
All prices are in United States funds. Free shipping, continental U.S. only. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders.

Prayerful Gifts for Christmas Giving



National Shrine of The Divine Mercy 2022 Wall Calendar

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception bring you this exclusive 2022 calendar, featuring the beautiful grounds of Eden Hill and prayers for each month of the year. Calendar includes "How to Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy." Measures 8 1/2" by 11". **B52-CAL22 \$12.95**

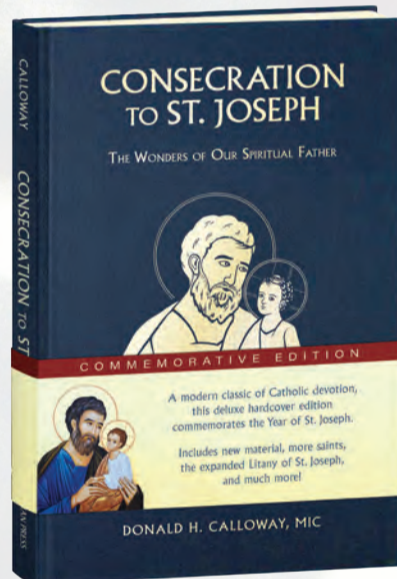


Divine Mercy Catholic Bible

Many Catholics may not realize that Divine Mercy, a gift given to us by God, is interwoven throughout the Bible. The Divine Mercy Catholic Bible includes 175 Mercy Moments and 19 articles that explain how God encounters us with mercy through His Word and Sacraments. Leatherbound, 1,712 pages. **B52-BIDM \$49.95**

Consecration to St. Joseph Commemorative Edition

An expanded edition of one of the most popular and best-selling Catholic books in recent years, this premium hardcover edition of *Consecration to St. Joseph* includes a new foreword from Fr. Calloway, 3 ribbons for marking pages, papal additions to the Litany of St. Joseph, more quotes from saints and blesseds about St. Joseph, Fr. Calloway's letter to the pope requesting a Year of St. Joseph, full-color artwork, and lots of other special new material. This will definitely be a keepsake to treasure! 380 pages. **B52-HCJO \$39.95**



Marian Helper Tote Bag

The new and exclusive Marian Helper tote bag! This roomy tote has plenty of pockets to keep you organized, and a zippered closure to keep your things safe. Sturdy polyester construction will stand up to frequent use. Purple and grey print. Bag imprint reads, "Do not fear or be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go" (Josh 1:9). 18 3/4" x 14" x 4 1/2". **B52-TMHG \$12.95**



Divine Mercy Blanket

This woven tapestry blanket would make a great gift or a stunning addition to any home décor. Perfect as a throw or wall hanging, this blanket is woven from 850g cotton/polyester fiber. Machine washable. Measures 50" x 60" with 2" fringe on all four sides. **B52-WARM \$49.95**

Order toll-free: 1-800-462-7426

Shop online: ShopMercy.org/b52

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

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
\$0.01-\$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.



**Unique “Porcelain on Steel” Madonna
To be exhibited at Mercy Shrine
Was Displayed at Smithsonian Institute.**

A madonna painting in a unique medium, porcelain enamels baked on a steel sheet, will be exhibited at the Shrine of the Mercy of God during Marian Week, beginning at 8 p.m., August 19, through August 26th.

One of the first works of religious art of its kind, it was exhibited during September and October, 1955, in a special display of ceramic arts at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

It is the work of James J. Carey of Hanson, Mass., and was baked in one of the largest ovens then extant for this purpose. The artist donated the painting to the Mercy of God Shrine after the termination of the Smithsonian exhibit.

In a letter to the Marian Fathers, custodians of the Mercy of God Shrine, Mr. Carey explains the origin of the picture:



The Shrine of the Mercy of God in the 1950s. The image of Our Lady was exhibited at the Shrine of the Mercy of God, which was located in Eden Hall (the original Chapel in the main house that is now currently used as the library).

From the depths of the Marian Helpers Center on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, emerges this issue’s treasure from the past. This image of Our Lady and the Christ Child is truly unique. An undated article from around 1956 found with the image explains why:

“... For several years I had been experimenting with porcelain enamels on steel and after successfully executing other subject matter I felt that the medium would be extremely well adapted to church art and architecture. Its glass-like glowing quality makes it ideal for a place of show or meditation and its lasting quality is excellent for outdoor shrines.

“The Marian year [1954/1955] provided the inspiration actually, the Blessed Mother herself, for I felt a strong desire to create something lasting to venerate her greatest moment. To this aim I went to the extreme of not showing her Blessed Son but just the light of His love on her face. This, I felt, would portray how completely She fitted God’s plan. The pleasure showered down from the Father in Heaven is accomplished with a beam of light to the head of Mary from above right in the picture. The simple abstract background was another feeling of losing all but the figure of our Blessed Mother.”

MH



▶ Marians in Formation
Make, Renew Vows

Live the call!



Come join our mission to spread the message of Divine Mercy, devotion to Mary Immaculate, and prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Attend a retreat

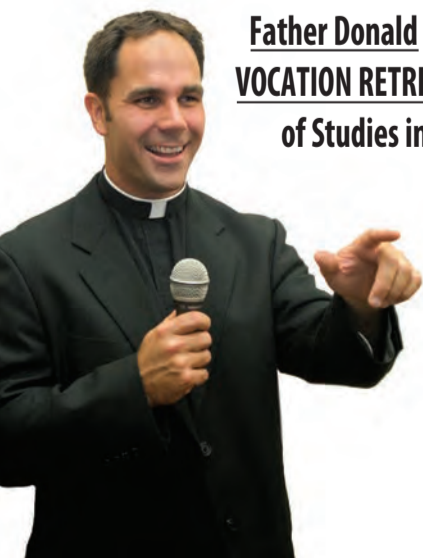
Father Donald invites you to attend a **VOCATION RETREAT** at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio.

The next retreats will be:

Nov. 26-28

Feb. 4-6

Feb. 11-13



Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org

Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806

Visit: marian.org/vocations


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

Support

Want to help the seminarians?

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

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

A young child, possibly a boy, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. He is wearing a red and gold vestment over a white shirt. He is standing at a table covered with a white cloth. On the table, there is an open book, a small golden chalice, and a larger golden chalice covered with a white cloth. The scene is lit from the right, creating a strong shadow on the table.

**FAITH: INHERIT IT.
LIVE IT. PASS IT ON.**

Everyone needs an up-to-date will. Whether you're 18 or 80, it's the best way to make a plan, get peace of mind, and protect what God has blessed us with. Take 20 minutes today to write your will with our free online tool.

Visit marian.org/will or contact Ellen Miller at EMiller@marian.org or (413) 298-1380.