

Winter 2023-2024

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

The Marians' longest-serving employee has now retired. Charlie Parise, "looking" at his former self and the late Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, on our cover, clocked up 55 years of loyal service in the Marian Press print shop of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. What a legacy!

8 Join the Confraternity!

A chapter of the worldwide Confraternity of the Rosary has been established at the Shrine.

9 Peace in our time?

First Ukraine and Russia, now Israel and Palestine. As wars rage on, what can we do to help?

12 New habit, new deacon

Newly-ordained Dcn. Stephen Castellano, MIC, wears the newly-restored white habit.

13 'Let's get it done!'

The campaign to build a new Marian monastery and chapel on Eden Hill is gaining momentum.

18 Heavenly light in darkness

War has come to the Holy Land, but the ray of hope continues to shine from Bethlehem.

20 Jesse's legacy

The tragic miscarriage of a Holy Innocent has unexpected results for a grieving family.

22 Picturing St. Joseph

There's a new graphic novel on the "Terror of Demons," drawn by a talented artist on an iPad.

24 Kidnapped in Mexico!

All hope seemed lost — until the Divine Mercy Image in the victim's wallet was revealed.

26 'Jesus is looking at you now'

Father Andy Davy, MIC, and his pilgrims were among the million-plus at World Youth Day.

29 Rosary ready for takeoff

When his flight was delayed, Fr. Fidele Malanga turned to prayer — and attracted a crowd.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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WHO WE ARE



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Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

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

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

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



Sign-up is easy: Visit MICPrayers.org



You Tube



Visit marian.org/social

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION

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

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

Free online help for your will, visit Marian.org/will.

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

MY FAREWELL

This will be my last column as Fr. Joseph, MIC. The next issue of *Marian Helper* magazine will have a column written by the new Fr. Joseph, MIC, to be announced soon — he's a good man and a solid priest. I know you will be in excellent hands with him at the helm of the Association of Marian Helpers.

Of course, I'm not leaving you; I'm merely stepping aside as Fr. Joseph to concentrate on serving the Marian Fathers in the United States and Argentina as provincial superior. I'll still be based at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, just in a different role. Next year I will mark my 10th anniversary as a Marian priest, and I am excited to be "turning the page" and embarking on a new adventure.

I'd like to give a shout out to all our Marian Helpers. Father Joseph, MIC, is the director, but can't do the job without all of you, those of you flung far across the map as well as those who work at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge.

I'm reminded of my ordination as a deacon on Sept. 21, 2013, the feast of St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist. It was written about right here in *Marian Helper*. In the article I thanked Marian Helpers for their prayers and support. "We owe everything to you," I said. "Each priest, after he is ordained, offers his first Mass for a special intention. Mine will be offered for all our Marian Helpers." And I did just that, on June 1, 2014!

I took up the position of Fr. Joseph, MIC, right after my ordination, and it has been an incredible journey. I couldn't in my wildest dreams have predicted what would come, including an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy; a global pandemic; and my election as provincial superior.

In this time, I've written

two books (*After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You* and *Understanding Divine Mercy*); done more than 150 "Explaining the Faith" talks; launched our weekly EWTN program "Living Divine Mercy," now in its third season; and much more. In fact, many of you have been there at the parish missions, gone on the pilgrimages, and made the conferences or congresses a success.

My final year as "Fr. Joseph" has reminded me how much the message of Divine Mercy has spread across the globe.

I've been to Samoa, for the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy; Australia; New Zealand; the Solomon Islands; and the Philippines, where I was blessed to give a retreat to all 850 bishops and priests. The Divine Mercy is on fire there!

I've traveled to Ireland, twice; Northern Ireland and London; Rome for our General Chapter; and British Columbia, Canada. I've spoken at conferences from Florida to South Carolina to California. Wherever I go, I have been inspired by the fervency of the faithful, the desire to learn more, and the commitment to transmit the faith and the Divine Mercy message.

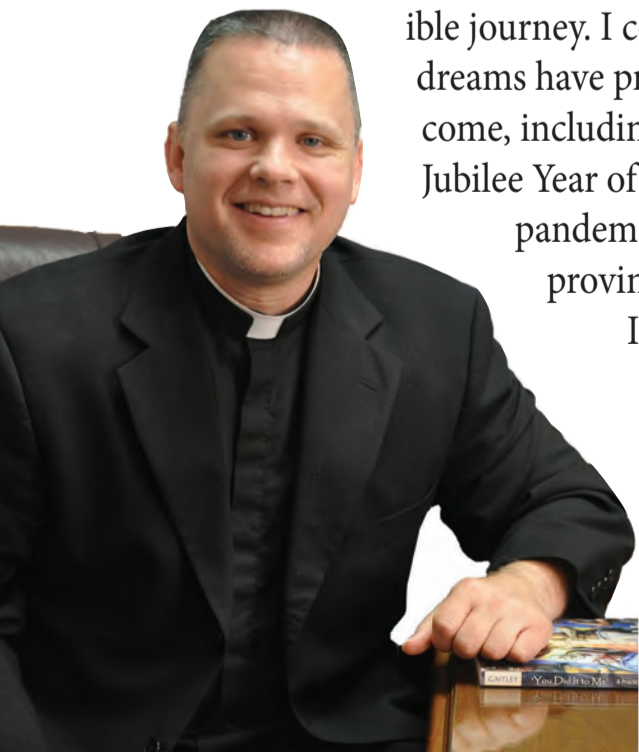
It's thanks to you that these past 9 ½ years have been a success, building on the hard work and sacrifices of my predecessors and Marian Helpers across the decades. Thank you.

Please pray for me, and I promise I'll be praying for you.

May the Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception be our health and our protection!

Fr. Joseph, MIC

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





A LOVE THAT ENDURED

By Marian Friedrichs

Daniel Clough recently moved from his home state of New York to Virginia, but the increased distance from Massachusetts will not stop him from serving as volunteer director in the Adoration Tent at the annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration in Stockbridge. Daniel cherishes Eucharistic Adoration because “it’s just you and God. His Mercy is coming forth from the Eucharist.”

Daniel’s devotion to the Eucharist and Divine Mercy is a gift he received from his parents, Ken and Joanne Clough, who were dedicated volunteers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy for many years. Joanne passed away in March 2018, after 56 years of marriage; Ken followed her in April 2023.

While they lived, the couple bore witness to God’s mercy to nearly everyone they met. Their gratitude for His many blessings would not let them keep silent.

Faith and family

Joanne was always devout. She pursued spiritual union with God as a Third Order Carmelite, advocated for the unborn, and faithfully raised a large family in a small house filled with love. Joanne did not drive, but when she was home alone with the children, she often walked them to the church



Ken was delighted when Daniel brought him his Divine Mercy Sunday volunteer hat and lanyard in the hospital.

a mile from their home so they could visit the Blessed Sacrament. Daniel remembers his mother teaching him and his eight siblings that “you need two things — Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary.”

Ken’s journey was different. Ken was not raised Catholic, and although he attended Mass with his wife and children, “he didn’t really buy into it,” says Agnes Bourque. As coordinator of volunteers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, Agnes got to know Ken well during the final two years of his life. He told her about experiencing chest pains while on a trip to Italy in the late 1990s. Back home, doctors discovered that one of Ken’s arteries was 90 percent blocked; in the hospital, he promised God to start going to daily Mass if he lived.

“He kept that deal,” says Agnes.

Mary Kay Volpone, provincial coordinator of the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception at the National Shrine, also remembers Ken’s eagerness to share his conversion story. Ken told Mary Kay that much of his resistance to Catholicism stemmed from his reluctance to confess his sins to a priest. When he finally converted and received the Sacraments, Ken “was overjoyed that God accepted him and loved him in spite of his past,” Mary Kay says.

Daniel witnessed that joy. “You could see the change when he started receiving the Sacraments,” Daniel recalled. “He was more calm, happier.”

Pondering in her heart

Joanne was more focused on the interior life than Ken was, but she was still warm and open, especially when given a chance to help others grow closer to God. Ken told Mary Kay that, in his volunteer work, he aspired “to do what Joanne did, to be able to talk to people and share, because he saw how much comfort she gave to people.” Mary Kay remembers the couple as an excellent team: “They learned so much from each other. I think Joanne was put in Ken’s life to help him get to Heaven.”

Even the different circumstances in which Ken and Joanne left this world seem to correspond, somehow, with the distinct ways they lived in it. On March 2, 2018, while Joanne was at home with Ken and speaking to Daniel on the phone, her heart failed. It was a First Friday, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, and earlier that day she had been to Mass. It was a snowy day, Daniel says, “but that never stopped my mother from going to church. You could usually find her in church, praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament.”

In the ambulance, Joanne’s heart restarted. (“She always prayed for people in ambulances,” Daniel recalls. “It makes you wonder if someone prayed for her.”) Joanne never regained consciousness, but for six days she was visited by priests and all of her children in her hospital room. Joanne died on March 8, at a moment when only Ken was at her side, talking to her and holding her hand.

Five years later, as Ken lay dying of cancer, “all he talked about was the Shrine,” Daniel says. Ken was very disappointed not to be present on Eden Hill for the Feast of Mercy. Daniel served in the Adoration Tent as usual, and when he visited his father afterward, Ken eagerly asked how everything had gone. “He wanted to make sure things were done the right way. He was dying of cancer, and all he wanted to do was go help other people.”

Ken was delighted when Daniel brought him his volunteer hat and lanyard in the hospital. After Ken died, the hat and lanyard were placed in the casket with him.

“Love has to spread and grow,” Daniel says. The friends and family of Ken and Joanne Clough remember them as a couple whose love spread and grew within and beyond their home.

“Their charity kept increasing,” explains Daniel. “In Heaven, it won’t stop increasing.” Through their prayers, Daniel believes, his parents will continue to draw souls closer to God. “They’re not going to stop helping people just because they died.”

Visit ShrineOfDivineMercy.org/volunteer to honor the Cloughs by taking up the work they loved.

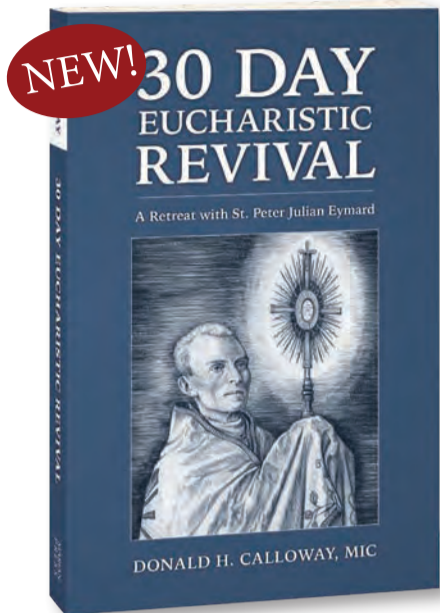


“Their charity kept increasing,” says Daniel Clough of his parents, Joanne and Ken. “In Heaven, it won’t stop increasing.”

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b60 or call 1-800-462-7426.

As we complete our November remembrance for the Holy Souls, we enter the season of Advent to prepare ourselves for Christmas. Here are some great Christmas gifts that will help share the faith!



30 DAY EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL:

A RETREAT WITH ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD

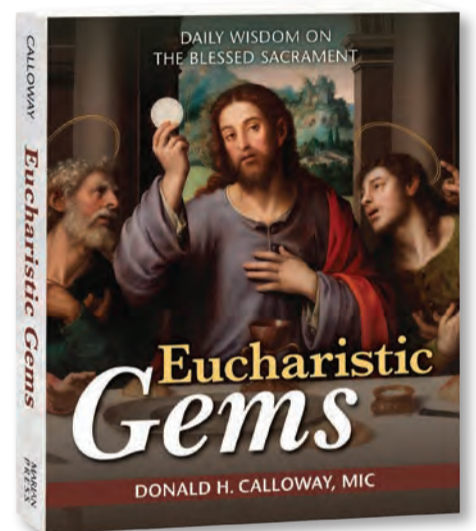
BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC;

Several popes have referred to St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868) as “the Apostle of the Eucharist.” But when it comes to worldwide recognition of his extraordinary life, as well as the many amazing things he did to foster a greater love for the Blessed Sacrament, most Catholics are unfamiliar with him and have never heard his name. Join Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, on a *30 Day Eucharistic Revival* intended to help you, your children, your grandchildren, and all future generations rediscover and experience a revival of belief in the Real Presence, especially during the period of National Eucharistic Revival in the United States. \$15.95. **B60-ECHR**

EUCHARISTIC GEMS: DAILY WISDOM ON THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

BY FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC

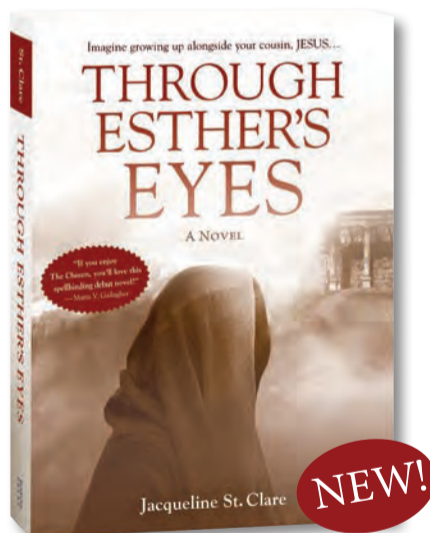
Eucharistic Gems is an aid to the Eucharistic Revival currently under way in the United States. What better way to make sure there always remains ongoing fruit from the Eucharistic Revival than to have a book that offers timeless quotes on the Eucharist — 366 quotes, in fact — from popes, saints, blesseds, venerables, and servants of God. *Eucharistic Gems* is intended to be a book that can be read and re-read for years to come, and keep the Eucharistic Revival ever in our hearts. \$13.95. **B60-EUGM**



THROUGH ESTHER'S EYES: A NOVEL

BY JACQUELINE ST. CLARE

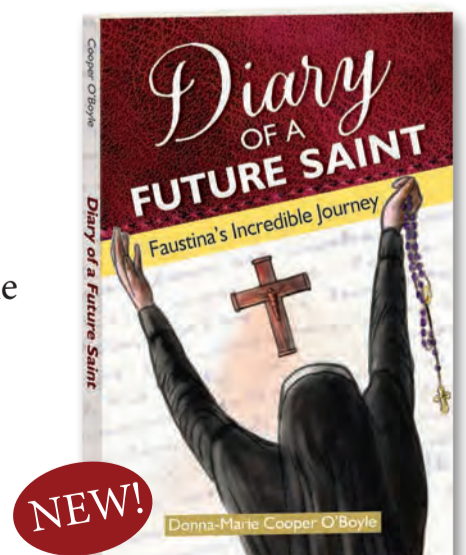
When Esther falls in love with Lazarus of Bethany, she thinks that her role as a woman will be complete with their marriage and children. This extraordinary first novel, in the style of “The Chosen,” is a sweeping saga of first-century Palestine and the life of Jesus of Nazareth, as seen through the bright green eyes of His fictional cousin, Esther. You may know the Gospel story and how it ends, but you will be enthralled seeing the power and the glory unfold anew, *Through Esther's Eyes*. \$17.95. **B60-TEBK**



DIARY OF A FUTURE SAINT: FAUSTINA'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

BY DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE

Born Helena Kowalska, a simple Polish peasant farm girl at the dawn of the 20th century, Faustina was chosen by God to teach the world about His unfathomable Divine Mercy. She went on to become one of the world's most popular saints. Befriend this lovable, down-to-earth saint through the work of celebrated author Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, a master storyteller who presents St. Faustina's life in this page-turning novel for all ages. \$15.95. **B60-UNST**





STRENGTHENING IDENTITY

It certainly has been an eventful year for me! I began the year in January attending the funeral of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI here in Rome. In February, I was elected the 40th superior general of our Congregation. Since then, I have travelled to the United States, Poland, Lithuania, and Rwanda. A trip to the Philippines is scheduled for later this year.

We Marians are approaching the conclusion of our 350th jubilee celebrations of our founding. One unforgettable grace of the jubilee is the approval, during our general chapter meeting in February and then subsequently by the Holy See, of our Marian priests and brothers having the right to wear the white habit once again. Our Founder, St. Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary (1631-1701), wanted us to wear a white habit as a sign and symbol of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Our Congregation wore that habit for over 200 years until we were forced to live clandestinely at the beginning of the 20th century because of religious persecution. For the next 100 years, we did not wear our religious habit. It has always remained part of our patrimony.



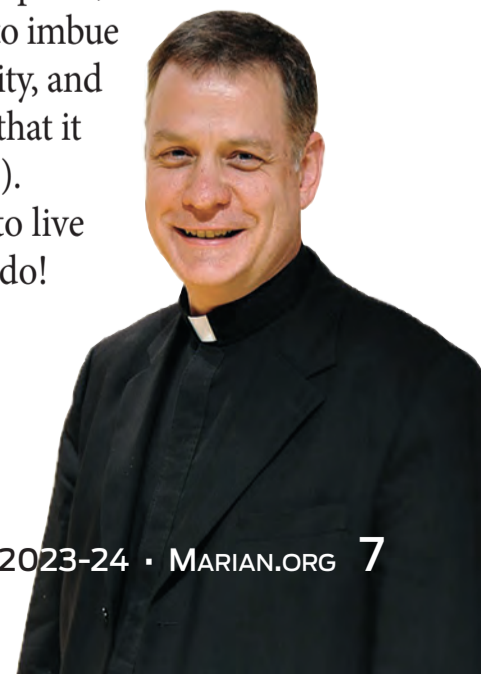
During the general chapter meetings held every six years, the idea of returning to the wearing of the habit was often discussed but never approved until this year. Perhaps it was a grace of the jubilee that it was accepted this year as our solemn garb to be worn especially on our Marian Community feast days. Since those who entered during the last century have not worn a habit thus far during their religious lives, the Holy See recommended that we give the option to our members either to wear the habit or to continue to wear what they have been wearing thus far during their religious lives. The habit will be given to all those who profess their perpetual vows, and all those already in final vows will have the option to wear the habit.

It might seem a bit confusing at times to see different Marians wearing different religious garb. However, the Church moves slowly. We will see over the course of time what God had in mind by this change that He inspired during our general chapter meeting. I believe this change will help to strengthen our Marian identity and deepen our understanding of our religious charism, which has the mystery of the Immaculate Conception as its essence.

This mystery teaches us that God ardently desires the salvation of everyone! He saved Mary in an extraordinary way through the Immaculate Conception, which we celebrate on Dec. 8. He saves us through the ordinary means of the Sacraments. As our Marian Constitutions state, “From her conception, free from sin and full of grace and filled with the gratuitous love of the Holy Spirit, she is the fruit of the paschal victory of Christ and the first partaker of the redemption.”

Mary teaches us how to follow her Son. “By this mystery above all, Mary urges the confreres to trust in the unlimited fruitfulness of the work of the redemption, to avoid all sin, to love purity of heart, to imbue life fully with divine grace and charity, and to so build up the Church in unity ‘that it be holy and immaculate’” (Eph 5:27).

Please pray that we will be able to live out our charism as God calls us to do!



The Most Rev. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the superior general of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome. Listen to his new podcast, “Venerable Casimir and Our Lady,” on TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts and DivineMercyPlus.org/podcasts.

JOIN THE CONFRATERNITY!

By Chris Sparks

Fittingly on Oct. 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (also called Our Lady of Victory), a chapter of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary was established at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

“The Rosary Confraternity is a great way to share in the prayers of others praying the Rosary,” says Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, Shrine rector. “It’s a great way to be placed under the protection of Our Lady as we fight the spiritual battles of our times. What a wonderful way to be connected to all the other shrines throughout the world where the Rosary Confraternity is established!”

Enrollment easy and free

Enrollment is free and easy, via a link on ShrineOfDivineMercy.org.

What is required? Each member of the Rosary Confraternity promises to pray 15 decades of the Rosary each week and to include the other members of the Confraternity (in general) around the world in their intentions. This is the sole obligation of membership, and does not bind under pain of sin.

In addition to the graces included in praying the Rosary, Confraternity members enjoy:

- The special protection of the Mother of God.
- A share in the prayer of the countless Confraternity members around the world.
- A share in the prayers, Masses, and apostolic works of the entire Dominican Order.
- The intercession of the entire heavenly court.
- Various plenary and partial indulgences.

The Rosary Confraternity is a collaborative effort of the National Shrine and three organizations: the Dominican Province of St. Joseph; the Mother of Mercy Messengers, an official apostolate of the Marian Fathers; and the Coalition of Eucharistic and Marian Apostolates (CEMA). Their focus is on a three-fold effort to promote participation in the Confraternity of the Rosary, Marian consecration, and Divine Mercy Sunday.

Storied history

According to best-selling author and Mariologist Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary was founded by St. Dominic (ca. 1170-1221), who is most famous as the founder of the Order of Friars Preachers, or Dominicans.



“At various times it was described as the Confraternity of Prayer, the Confraternity of the Rosary, the Sodality of the Rosary, or even the Society of the Rosary,” explains Fr. Calloway in his Marian Press book *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon*.

One of the greatest benefits of membership is that all members include the intentions of all other members along with their own with each Rosary they pray.

“They form a union of hundreds of thousands of the faithful throughout the world who, along with their own intentions, include the intentions and needs of all its members,” explains the Dominican Fathers’ website for the Confraternity in the United States. “As St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, said, ‘If anyone has the happiness of being in the Confraternity of the Rosary, he has in all corners of the world brothers and sisters who pray for him.’”

Unity of prayer

“You definitely want to participate in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary and be part of this worldwide movement of prayer in the Church,” says the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior. “It’s uniting pilgrims and shrines, and Eucharistic and Marian apostolates, together to magnify the efforts to reclaim our families, our churches, and our nations for Christ, and to promote peace around the world. Please join us!”

Visit ShrineOfDivineMercy.org/RosaryConfraternity to enroll in the Confraternity.

MH



PEACE IN OUR TIME?

By Chris Sparks

First, Ukraine and Russia. Now Israel and Palestine. Such terrible suffering. Such awful destruction and violence. So many innocent civilians put in harm's way by history, or by greed, or by political maneuvering. What, in the end, can we do?

The foundation

I know people are so sick and tired of empty words that, whenever someone suggests prayer these days, they are tempted to scorn and scoff. And indeed, prayer has been abused by those who wanted to avoid having to act.

It's an easy thing to promise someone that they'll be in your prayers. It's harder to fulfill your commitment. Harder still to abide in the patient perseverance that world-changing prayer can often require of us. Hard to watch and wait and pray seriously, to make prayer a habit and a way of life rather than a verbal shield to deflect having to think about tragedy or take action to prevent the next such tragedy.

Prayer is the foundation of all other efforts, though. Real prayer, honest prayer, persistent prayer makes possible the victory of goodness in the world because God is a gentleman; with divine generosity and courtesy, He never forces or compels a positive response from His creatures.

God is the source of free will because God is love and truth, and so will be pleased by nothing less than true love from persons made in His image and likeness.

Evil is the consequence of free will being misused. The fall of the devil with his angels contributed to the fall of our first parents. Those falls set the stage for everything else — for human beings born with an inclination to evil; for physical illness and death; for a world at war with us, and neighbors turning on neighbors, and brothers stabbing each other in the back. Those falls disrupted the ordinary easy transparency of the created world to the light of Heaven.

By Christ's coming, His self-sacrifice, the Sacraments, and grace, and prayer, the world once again invites in that

light of Heaven. The sanctity of the saints leaves traces on the world around them — that's why we have relics, and stories of extraordinary miracles, and works of mercy beyond what human nature alone can achieve.

It's that same light of Heaven that we welcome into the world with our prayers, and when we offer up suffering. The light of Christ courses through the Body like sap from a vine to the branches (see Jn 15:5), and wherever it's allowed to shine out into the world, good things happen.

Path to peace

The path to peace has been laid out for us again and again across the last century, in the teachings of the popes and Vatican II, in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, and in apparitions to saints and mystics.

Continue to say the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, to obtain the peace of the world and the end of the war, because only she can obtain it — Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, July 13, 1917.

And how would Our Lady obtain peace in the world? We do know the ultimate end of all her efforts: bringing us all back to Jesus, the Divine Mercy Incarnate.

Jesus said to St. Faustina: **“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy”** (*Diary*, 300; see also 699).

Please pray for peace. If you can, pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world. A chapter of the Rosary Confraternity has just been established at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, with some extraordinary promises for membership. Please enroll! Details at left.

The Rosary itself has some incredible promises attached to it. If you haven't already decided to take it up, please let the terrible events of these past weeks be your encouragement. MH

ON EDEN HILL



Vietnamese Day on Aug. 26 attracted a large group of pilgrims to Eden Hill, all attired in colorful costumes. The archway reads, “Welcome, guests! God’s mercy never ends. God’s mercy is unmatched.” That’s true in any language! Bishop Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut, celebrated the Mass.



Father Dan Cambra, MIC, was the keynote speaker at the 13th annual Mercy for Souls Conference, held on Sept. 9 in the National Shrine. The theme was, “Trusting Jesus: A Post-Pandemic Response to, ‘I am with you always ...’ Mt 20:28.”

“It is important for us to aim higher, as St. Maximilian Kolbe would say,” Fr. Dan told the assembly. “Aim for Heaven, because you wouldn’t want to aim for Purgatory and miss.”

Fore! The 27th annual Slice of Heaven Charity Golf Classic was held on Sept. 11 at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, raising \$30,000 in scholarships for Marian seminarians and St. Agnes Academy in Dalton, Massachusetts. This year’s honorees were Megan and Brian Duquette, both graduates of St. Agnes and PTO president and chair of the school board, respectively.





Proudly displaying Our Lady of Czestochowa are pilgrims from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stamford, Connecticut, at the annual Polish Day at the National Shrine on Sept. 16. Under sunny skies, pilgrims recited the Rosary in Polish, and attended a bilingual Mass at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine, celebrated by Fr. Andrzej Gorczyca, MIC.

Hundreds of pilgrims visited Eden Hill on Oct. 5 to celebrate the feast day of St. Faustina. A highlight was a talk by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, author of the new Marian Press book, *Diary of a Future Saint: Faustina's Incredible Journey*. Donna-Marie described the deep devotion St. Faustina had for the Eucharist, and offered St. Faustina as a model for us in this time of the National Eucharistic Revival.



Bishop William Byrne of the Diocese of Springfield led the Eucharistic Procession closing the week-long Rosary Congress at the National Shrine. For seven days and seven nights, Oct. 7-13, volunteers spent time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and prayed the Rosary hourly.

“The National Shrine is a true powerhouse of God’s love and mercy,” Bishop Byrne said in his homily. “In a special way, I’d like to thank those here who devoted themselves and committed time to be in the presence of the Lord this week. The gift that you have given the Church is greater than you will ever truly understand in this life.”

NEW HABIT, NEW DEACON

By Dr. Joe McAleer

Deacon Stephen Castellano, MIC, achieved three firsts over the summer: he became the first Marian in this province to receive the white habit, and — in personal firsts — professed perpetual vows and was ordained to the transitional diaconate.

“I am very excited to take this first step in the Sacrament of Holy Orders and, God willing, to be ordained to the priesthood next year,” Dcn. Stephen says. “I am so grateful to our Marian Helper family for their prayers and support, not just for me but for all of our seminarians.”

Vows and habit

On Aug. 16, during Marian Week, then-Br. Stephen professed his perpetual vows during Mass at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. The Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, superior general, invested him with the white habit, recently revived by the Marian Congregation after a 100-year hiatus.

“Honestly, receiving the white habit is like a dream come true,” Dcn. Stephen says. “The color white highlights in a very specific way our charism, which is the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. The habit is a sign to the Church and to the world of who we are.”

Diaconate ordination

On Sept. 2, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Dcn. Stephen was ordained to the transitional diaconate by the Most Rev. Roy Edward Campbell, Jr., auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington.

As a deacon, he will continue to reside at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C., and assist the Marian



priests there in their ministries.

Growing up close to church

A native of Montgomery Village, Maryland, Dcn. Stephen, 32, is one of seven children of Ellen and Anthony (Tony) Castellano. He credits the foundation of his vocation to his parents, and an upbringing steeped in the Catholic faith.

“When I was 7 years old, we moved next door to the church St. John Neumann,” Br. Stephen recalls. “I grew up physically close to the Church and in time became more spiritually tied to it.”

Attending the parish youth group during high school had a big impact. “It was a very good way to be immersed in the faith during my formative years,” he says. “We had great catechesis, but also a lot of fun.”

Years later, then-Br. Stephen, like all Marian seminarians, had to take on a pastoral ministry assignment during his theological studies. He was encouraged by his formators to return to St. John Neumann to minister to that same youth group.

“It was fascinating to go back now as a leader, to see the new generation and observe how the Lord works in young souls,” he says.

Deacon Stephen joined the Marians in 2018. “It has truly been a total joy from day one,” he admits. “The time has flown by.”

MH

#GIVING
TUESDAY

Nov. 28, 2023

Join the
Together for Christ
campaign and help build
our new Monastery
and Chapel!

A special
challenge
this year!

Visit [Marian.org/GivingTuesday](https://www.marian.org/GivingTuesday) or call 800-462-7426.

‘LET’S GET IT DONE!’

Capital campaign gains momentum

By Chris Sparks

Progress in the “Together for Christ and His Church” campaign for the Marian Fathers is bringing the vision of a new monastery and chapel into sharper focus.

The latest news is very encouraging!

- More than 9,300 donors have stepped forward with gifts.
- Nearly 300 donors have made multi-year commitments to the project.
- Another 300 donors have made second, third, or more gifts.

Thanks to the prayers and support of Marian Helpers we’re on our way to meeting our goals!

Important stage

“We are at an important stage for the campaign and project,” said Ben Davis, director of mission advancement for the Marian Fathers. “As we close in on the initial fundraising goal, we are advancing construction planning. This also means receiving updated pricing, which has increased from initial estimates in 2020. Raising the next \$2.2 million by year-end will allow us to lock in costs and move to the construction phase in 2024.

“Pilgrims throughout the summer and fall have been excited to learn more about the project, especially after seeing the ‘vintage’ buildings currently used as residences for our religious community,” Davis explained. “Seeing Marians together during Marian Week and other events helped donors realize the importance of the new residence to the community.”

Take Bob N., for example. He admits he was essentially only a “Sunday Catholic” when he had an epiphany in his faith caused by reading about Medjugorje and St. Faustina, and watching EWTN and Fr. Chris Alar’s talks online. A visit to Eden Hill, not far from his home, made him realize the



Evelyn F. from California (near right) committed to the “campaign this spring when she heard about the project, making an initial gift and pledging support for the next four years. In October, she and friends Arsie and Rolie made an annual pilgrimage to Eden Hill. She saw the site of the new monastery, and decided to advance her future gifts. Her comment was, “Let’s get it done!”



Jeannette B. (center) from Florida participates remotely in devotions from the National Shrine, including Fridays and First Saturdays. In June, she made her first trip to Eden Hill as part of a Marian pilgrimage organized by Dr. Bryan Thatcher of the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. Following the visit, she added to her commitment, and is starting a Divine Mercy cenacle at her parish.

buildings were way too small for all the work the Marians were doing. So, Bob decided to use the skills he developed as a stockbroker for over 48 years to work at accumulating funds for the Marians to get the project started.

There are many more epiphanies out there, Bob believes, but too many people are still unaware of the “great project” about to start atop Eden Hill. “Spread the word!” he says.

Visit [TogetherForChrist.org](https://www.TogetherForChrist.org) to learn more and to sign up to contribute to the campaign.

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In the early 1980s, Charlie Parise oversees the collating of *Roze Maryi*, the quarterly Polish-language magazine.



WITNESS TO HISTORY

Fifty-five
years in
the MHC

By Dr. Joe McAleer

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Oct. 7, 1968, was the first day of work for Charlie Parise at the Marian Helpers Center (MHC) on the campus of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. “I remember that day as if it was yesterday,” Charlie says. “I didn’t think anybody would stay around this long.”

But Charlie did, for 55 years, until his retirement this year as manager of the Marian Press print shop.

Bursting with memories and stories, Charlie, 72, is a kind of living time capsule of Marian history, a witness to big achievements, major news, and incredible graces. When he joined the MHC in 1968, the Divine Mercy message and devotion were still under an

ecclesiastical ban as a result of faulty translations. He was with us in 1978, when that ban was lifted by Pope St. Paul VI. He was with us when the Diary of St. Faustina was first published in English in 1987. (You’ll see his name in the preface).



Charlie watched Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, when he posed for the artist Walter Skemp for a new Divine Mercy Image. He was around when the beatification and canonization of St. Faustina took place, when the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy took place, and when the Marian Founder St. Stanislaus Papczyński was canonized.

“I’ve been blessed,” he says.

Go-getter

In 1968, Charlie was 17 and in his final year at a technical high school in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. “Jobs were scarce,” he recalls, “but our printing teacher kept an eye out for openings. He saw an opening at the Marians, and I applied. I worked full-time for my final year of high school.”

Charlie started out helping wherever needed, mostly making boxes. “At that time the print shop worked six days a week, Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. I made \$1.60 an hour. We had a half-hour for lunch.” At 10 a.m., everything stopped for a coffee and donuts break.

“A little lady named ‘Mrs. Sam’ [Catherine Samul] had one of those 100-cup urns on a trolley in the hallway,” Charlie remembers. “As she filled a Styrofoam cup, she often had an empty one between her teeth. We all tried not to get a cup with teeth marks on it!”

There were 12 workers in the print shop when Charlie started. Not long after he arrived, he says, fate intervened.

“I was always a go-getter, going 100 miles an hour and speaking my mind,” he says. “I was mesmerized by the printing machines. I’d never seen anything like them. One day, I peeked around the corner and watched the guy running the folder. The machine was making a funny noise. No one could figure out the source. I walked over and said, ‘I think it’s right there.’ And it was.”

Charlie reported immediately to Br. Francis Horkey, MIC, who oversaw the print shop. He graduated from making boxes to running the cutter and, before long, the presses themselves.

“In those days, before the ban was lifted, we were running anything related to Mary, such as the PR2,” he says, referring to the product code for the “Pray the Rosary Daily” pamphlet, still very popular. “We also did huge fundraising appeals and mailings.”

Vote of confidence

After 14 years as a pressman, Charlie was promoted to manager of the print shop by then-director Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, also the legendary first “Fr. Joseph” when the Association of Marian Helpers was founded in 1944.

“Looking back, it was a big vote of confidence in me, as I was still in my 20s,” Charlie admits. “There were some Marians who were not happy, as a Marian had always run



On his 25th anniversary, Charlie receives a plaque and a handshake from Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC. Below, Fr. Walter Pelczynski, MIC, founder of the Association of Marian Helpers, inspects color proofs with Charlie on the new Mann Roland Press.



the print shop and the other departments.” His responsibilities came to include overseeing pre-press and composition, as well as maintaining the archives for a time and handling the printing of the *Marian Helpers Bulletin*.

He remembers “Father Pel” as kind but serious, and careful about expenses. “He would have the maintenance guys take the bag out of the vacuum cleaner and empty it to check for paper clips or rubber bands,” he says.

“Once I asked him if I could purchase some notebooks. ‘Now Charles,’ he said — he always called me Charles. ‘We don’t want to be buying notebooks. Come with me.’ And we found this closet way upstairs covered in dust, and inside were some notebooks.”

Off to the races

When the ban was lifted in 1978, it was literally off to the races. “That was a big deal,” Charlie says, remembering the excitement of Fr. Seraphim. “We went upstairs and emptied all the closets of stuff that was printed about Divine Mercy before the ban and had been stored for 20 years. Now it could be brought out and distributed.”

The election of the first Polish pope in history later that same year added to the momentum.

“All of a sudden we didn’t have enough print capacity,” Charlie says. Expansion was on the cards, and technology improved with computers. Charlie oversaw the purchase of a new press, the biggest single expenditure on equipment in the Province’s history.

He worked closely with Fr. Seraphim on the design and composition of the first English-language edition of the *Diary*.

“It was a challenge,” he admits. “We had to take photographic prints of each page and put them in order on sheets. We printed 3,000 copies of that first edition.”

Today, literally millions of booklets, pamphlets, and prayer cards continue to be produced in the MHC print shop. Of the largest and most consistent jobs, the “How to Pray the Rosary” pamphlet shares top billing with the “M17,” Fr. Seraphim’s booklet *The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion*. “It’s



“There have been times when we just could not get a machine working, and I called a Marian in to bless the equipment — and it always helped.”

not unusual to print a quarter-of-a-million at a time,” he says.

Stories abound about the helpful role of the Holy Spirit over the years. “There have been times when we just could not get a machine working, and I called a Marian in to bless the equipment — and it always helped,” Charlie says.

Making a difference

Charlie leaves behind a dedicated print shop team, including his younger brother Joe, who is Press Operator III. Joe joined the MHC in 1981, which means he has 13 years to go until his 55th anniversary!

In retirement, Charlie will spend more time with his wife of 49 years, Jane, and his two grandchildren. There’s also his favorite pastime: car racing.

Looking back, Charlie says he will miss the people the most. “I’ve made good friends here, my co-workers as well as the Marians,” he says. He’s also

proud of the work the print shop has done for evangelization.

“Father Walter always spoke of ‘the printed word of God,’” he recalls. “For everyone who works here, it’s more than just a job and a paycheck. It’s humbling when you think of the millions of items we have produced and sent around the world, and the work that was done in tough times and challenging circumstances. It makes you feel good that we’ve all made a real difference.”

MH

THANK YOU AND GODSPEED!

Congratulations to five other employees at the Marian Helpers Center who retired this year after many years of service:



CHRISTINE MOUNTAIN
SENIOR DATA ENTRY
OPERATOR
46 YEARS



STEPHEN HAMBERG
MAIL INSERTING
SUPERVISOR
45 YEARS



SUSAN BOOTH
ASSEMBLER
ORDER PACKER
33 YEARS



DAVID LEFAVE
COMPUTER DESKTOP
ADMINISTRATOR
33 YEARS



MARY CLARK
VIDEO PRODUCTION
MANAGER
10 YEARS



The Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, visited the Philippines from July 28–Aug. 7, offering talks to thousands of people around the nation on the theme, “Deepening the Message of Divine Mercy.” Among the highlights was the invitation to give a retreat (right) to 850 Catholic bishops and priests in the country. Father Chris was even invited by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. (above), to bless the entire nation of the Philippines.



From Oct. 5-11, Fr. Chris toured Ireland and the United Kingdom, speaking to record crowds on Divine Mercy. In Ireland and Northern Ireland, he was hosted by Veritas, the publishing partner of Marian Press, which distributes Fr. Chris’ two books, *Understanding Divine Mercy* and *After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You*. In London (shown here), Fr. Chris visited the church of Our Lady, Mother of the Church in Ealing for his first Divine Mercy Retreat, hosted by the Divine Mercy Apostolate (DivineMercyApostolate.co.uk).



An artist's view of the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, with the star (bottom left) marking the site of Christ's birth.

HEAVENLY LIGHT IN DARKNESS

By Chris Sparks

Advent is coming, with its final act set in Bethlehem. We all imagine the setting: a cold Christmas night with a brilliant star overhead; the simple manger with animals and shepherds gathered around as the Word was made flesh and our world was changed forever.

I paid my first visit to Bethlehem this year, on a Holy Land pilgrimage with my parish the week after Divine Mercy Sunday. It was a blessed experience throughout, but one lived in the context of a beautiful Middle Eastern springtime with flowers blooming everywhere.

It's a stark contrast to the terrible suffering unleashed by Hamas' invasion and hostage-taking that began on Oct. 7, the Jewish feast of Simchat Torah (the joy of the Torah, or the Word of God) and the Catholic Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

As I write this, it's the early days after the attack, while Israel is still preparing its ground invasion. I shudder to think what further suffering is coming for the innocent civilians of Israel, Palestine, and the wider Middle East. It makes my memories of my pilgrimage all the more precious now.

Cracks and corners

My pilgrimage group partook of the hospitality and expertise of Palestinian and Israeli Christians, visiting shops that sold Rosaries and devotional art made from the wood of the trees of Bethlehem, and visiting as well the churches that have stood for centuries, long since built, rebuilt, renovated — churches where cracks and corners reveal art or architecture from ages past, where the changing hands of Jews, Christians, or Muslims have left their mark.

I have touched the stone where it is said that Mary lay, visited the spot where, tradition tells us, the shepherds were tending their sheep when the angel came. I have been to the key spots of the Incarnation now.

Each time, I was amazed at the beauty of the land, the blessedness of the country, and yet this land hasn't been fully, properly at peace since long before Christ ever walked the earth. This land, where God walked, where the devil tempted Him as well as those who persecuted Him — this land means too much, now, to both Heaven and hell for there to be full, true peace till the coming of Christ Himself, I think.

And yet in the midst of all those struggles, when you come to the holy place, when you touch the stone or stand in silent prayer before the tabernacles of the churches, you realize that the true peace, the peace of the Prince of Peace born in Bethlehem that long ago time, is there. It's in the very rocks, in the land and the water, in the air — because this land is holy. It was sanctified long ago by a native son who was the Son of God, and all the devil's rages can't make that mark go away.

Jesus our Host

I was there in Bethlehem, and Jesus knew I would be there one day. He knew all of the pilgrims that would come, would visit this town named after Him. He loved us all to

life, and sustained us on our journey; He hosted us in Bethlehem, just as He hosts us in the cosmos, in His Father's house, in the Church and the world.

The little Child was the bedrock on which the manger was set. He rested in the manger, and sustained the star that shone overhead. The little Child is the Lord of life, of light, of all things, and it is by His gift that we make little statues of Him, and celebrate Mass at Christmas, and come home to Him again and again in Confession, in Mass.

In Hebrew, Bethlehem means "House of Bread," and in Arabic, Bethlehem means "House of Flesh." How appropriate for the birthplace of Jesus, who was Bread from Heaven and the Lamb of God, who would be our Eucharistic Lord, really, truly present with us under the appearances of bread and wine down till the end of the world. The home of the sons of David, of Joseph and Jesus after him, was long ago prepared for the coming of this special Son, in the workings of Divine Providence.

I was in Bethlehem in the spring. In the eyes of God, I'm there still, for He gazes on time from eternity. When I go before

the judgment seat, some part of that judgment will see me in Bethlehem, visiting the place where the Judge was born. Forever and into eternity will be that memory, that reality, that pilgrimage. Forever a part of my life, and so a part of me, and of the Mystical Body of Christ of which I am a member.

At every Mass

The same can be said of all of us every Christmas. Every Mass we attend is a participation in eternity; every Mass offered for another, a work of mercy that will be attested to as part of our judgment. Every Mass, we stand at Calvary, and in the House of Bread, the House of Flesh. Every Mass is part of every other Mass, and of the life of Christ. Every Mass is a participation in the grace that comes from Jesus Christ, from His Incarnation. Every Mass is part of the gift of God, given to us in a special way at the first Christmas, the first Noel.

You can share that gift even with those who don't believe by enrolling their names in our three Masses at Christmas. Allow the divine fire from outside of time to touch their lives, their minds, their hearts. Allow Jesus to enter the Bethlehem of their hearts and bring a star that will lead them to God.

Welcome the Child Jesus into the dark and cold of the modern day, and it will be as it was in Bethlehem, in Roman-occupied Judea — hope against hope; a light shining in the darkness, and the darkness not comprehending it. Pray for peace in the Middle East. Ask our Lord's help and Our Lady of the Rosary's intercession for their earthly homeland, and the spiritual homeland of us all.

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We invite you to send us your intentions for the Three Christmas Masses on Dec. 25 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Visit [Marian.org/b60](https://www.marian.org/b60) to have your intentions remembered.



The Shrine of the Holy Innocents on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Jesse's legacy

From a tragedy, family blessings

By Laurie Robinson



Amanda and Ryan Layman had their marriage blessed in the Catholic Church this year.

December 28 is the feast of the Holy Innocents, marking the attempt by Herod to murder the infant Jesus by ordering the massacre of all boys in Bethlehem and vicinity, two years old and younger (see Mt 2:16). It's an especially poignant day of remembrance in the Christmas Octave for parents who have lost a child, either born or unborn.

At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the walls of the Shrine of the Holy Innocents (above) are covered in tiles etched with the names of children, gone but not forgotten. In the center is the focal point for prayer: a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness

of the Unborn (feast day: Dec. 12).

Marian Helpers Amanda and Ryan Layman of New Carlisle, Indiana, know the pain of losing a child to miscarriage. But they also know that, from the depths of despair, God's mercy can offer healing — and unexpected blessings.

Growing family

By February 2022, Amanda and Ryan had been blessed with six children, two boys and four girls. The youngest was one year old; the eldest, 11. Amanda was overjoyed to be pregnant again, and was in her 12th week.

Then disaster struck. Amanda suffered a massive hemorrhage and was rushed to the hospital. It's where medical staff saved her life, but announced she had lost her son. She named him Jesse.

The blood loss, as huge as it was, seemed only a trickle compared to the flood of grief experienced from miscarrying Jesse — and the fear that he had died without receiving the Sacrament of Baptism.

"I was feeling very empty on the inside," Amanda recalls. "I searched for answers. I found that, even within the Roman Catholic Church, few folks talk openly about miscarriages. Some websites caused me to fear that my baby was not in Heaven."

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1261), "As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children which caused him to say: 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,' allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism."

Comforting visions

Although born and raised Catholic, Amanda became a Baptist when she married Ryan in 2009. Their children were raised in the faith, but Amanda and Ryan were disenchanted and simply going through the motions.

"We began staying home on Sunday mornings to simply read the Bible and sing hymns," she recalled.

All that would change in the aftermath of the miscarriage. "I was very sad and did a lot of praying," Amanda said. "Jesus and Mary answered my prayers."

Amanda claimed she experienced two visions while sleeping, one of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and one of Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

"Mother Mary was beautiful beyond description and dressed in white," she explained. "She consoled me and gave me the assurance that Jesse was in Heaven."

Two nights later (again, she says, in her sleep), Jesus visited Amanda in a vision, with two rays — one red and one pale — radiating from Him. "He talked to me, heart-to-heart, though I felt so unworthy of His attention," she said. "But He kept persevering in the conversation, comforting

me that everything was OK with Jesse."

Coming home

Remarkably, at the time of the vision, Amanda said she did not know that it was a replica of the Divine Mercy Image.

"I had grown up Catholic, but the devotion to Divine Mercy had not yet taken hold in my childhood parish," she said. "It wasn't until I saw an Image of the Divine Mercy on the altar of our current church that I realized the connection."

She searched online for everything she could find about Divine Mercy. She was especially blessed by the information she found from the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge. As



The Layman family has grown to seven children!

a result of their guidance, she began praying the Rosary and a Divine Mercy Chaplet every day, and eventually returned to the Catholic Church.

Even though Amanda had returned to the Church, Ryan resisted that for himself. "In his own search for meaning in all our struggle, Ryan began listening to teachings by Fr. Mike Schmitz and Fr. Chris Alar," Amanda said. "He really loved Fr. Alar, and he has been instrumental in bringing Ryan home to the Catholic Church."

Ryan, a local police chief, completed the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) and joined the Church at the Easter Vigil this year. A few weeks prior, they had had their marriage blessed — and Amanda gave birth to their seventh child, a healthy daughter, Ellie!

Helping others

A surprising fruit of her renewed Catholic faith is Amanda's desire to help minister to other mothers who are experiencing miscarriages.

"If the Lord leads me, I really want to start a program that offers women resources from a Catholic perspective," she said. "There is so much out there on abortion, and so little on miscarriage. Nobody talks about it, and many women feel left alone. I want to change that."

To learn more about healing from the effects of a miscarriage, visit Marian.org/miscarriage.

To learn more about the Shrine of the Holy Innocents at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and how to memorialize a loved one, visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org MH

PICTURING ST. JOSEPH

By Chris Sparks

Already in its second printing, *The Chaste Heart of St. Joseph* is one of the fastest-selling books from Marian Press in recent years. It is also one of the most unique: a hardcover graphic novel for all ages written by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and illustrated in color by Sam Estrada. The novel depicts Fr. Calloway at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, telling the story of “The Ultimate Superhero” to a visiting family, describing St. Joseph protecting the Holy Family, his many titles, and sharing his apparitions at holy places around the world.

Marian Helper sat down with Sam Estrada to reveal the artistry behind this remarkable work.

How did this unique publication come about?

In 2020, I read Fr. Calloway’s *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. After praying to St. Joseph more to help me find my future spouse (which I did!), I found myself speaking to St. Joseph very much like a friend. Eventually, I was approached by Fr. Calloway to draw this wonderful saint, and miraculously, my first draft became the cover (above) of the book! Honestly, that has never happened before.

After discussing some options, Father and I decided the fastest way to accomplish this 80+ page book was to have a shared document between us. He would do a simple sketch of a scene on a piece of paper, write the dialogue, take a picture, and upload it into the cloud. Once I added my sketches and speech bubbles, I would upload it for him to approve or suggest things to edit. Some panels were faster than others, but I would say, overall, it was an amazing collaboration!

How did you decide on using the National Shrine as a backdrop?

It was Fr. Calloway’s idea. It’s a breathtaking and familiar place for him, with a beautiful side altar to St. Joseph. He imagined a scenario where a family would approach him



there after Mass to learn more about St. Joseph.

I quickly realized how many scenes would involve the Shrine, and knew I could not draw it from scratch every time. I resorted to some 3D modeling software, which allowed me to capture multiple angles of the Shrine with a simple move of the virtual camera and render some lighting. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to model such a magnificent church in 3D!

You depict St. Joseph as a young and vigorous man. What inspired you?

Of course, Fr. Calloway’s defense for a young St. Joseph



No paper and pencil for this graphic artist: Sam Estrada uses a stylus, iPad, and assorted software.

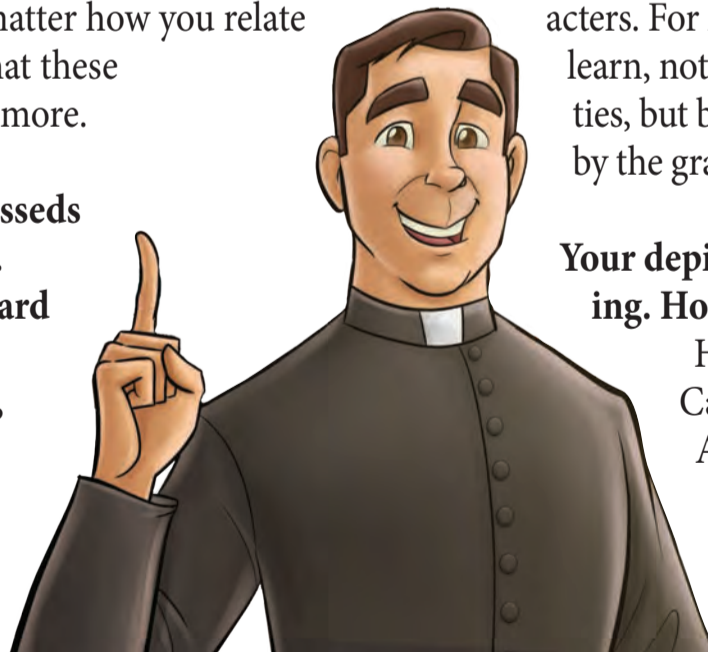
in his book was a big inspiration. But I also think it was my own relationship with St. Joseph that blossomed after my consecration, which inspired me to draw him in the way you see in the novel. I have been approached by multiple people who have said that my depictions of St. Joseph reminded them of a loving father. No matter how you relate to him, as a friend or father, I hope that these depictions will help you to go to him more.

You draw many other saints and blessed in the novel who were devoted to St. Joseph, such as St. Peter Julian Eymard and Blessed Basil Moreau, and illustrate holy places such as Knock, Ireland, and Zeitoun, Egypt.

My depictions of the saints, blessed, and places were based off of real photos or illustrations I was able to find online. Although I drew them in my cartoon style, my goal is to always try my best to retain the dignity of such holy people and places.

Growing up, I was influenced by secular comics and cartoon shows. I would often draw the Teenage Mutant Ninja

Turtles or Batman, which were very popular at the time. Once I started learning more about my faith and saints, like St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Joan of Arc, I thought, “These are the real superheroes!” It was then that I started drawing the saints more than the fictional comic-book characters. For me, their stories are essential for us to learn, not just because they have amazing abilities, but because we should strive to be like them, by the grace of God.



Your depiction of Fr. Calloway (left) is amazing. How challenging was that?

Ha-ha! Well, unlike St. Joseph, Fr. Calloway’s character took some time. After about 100 sketches in, I felt like I was finally satisfied with something. I sent some sketches to my mom, who is a fan of Fr. Calloway, and she gave some more suggestions for changes and additions. So it took a bit of

time, but I think it looks like him! And I think he likes it!

To order The Chaste Heart of St. Joseph: A Graphic Novel (Product code B60-JOEG), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.



KIDNAPPED IN MEXICO!

A true story of a Divine Mercy rescue

By Marian Friedrichs

It was autumn, 1997. In a few months, December would bring its festivities to Mexico City, including fireworks at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Robert (not his real name) was looking forward to it. As an American Protestant working in Mexico, he admired the sincere piety of the many devout Catholic Mexicans who would make a pilgrimage to the Basilica, often walking from many miles away to approach, some on their knees, the sacred image of Our Lady preserved on St. Juan Diego's *tilma*.

Robert knew that images can influence faith. One day, his Catholic wife had tucked a Divine Mercy card into his wallet (above), telling him, "Carry Jesus with you." Robert had never heard of Sr. Faustina or the Divine Mercy message. "But I did enjoy looking at this beautiful and calming image," he admits, "Jesus with a serene countenance and dazzling rays flowing out from His Sacred Heart above the words, '*Jesus, en Ti Confio*' (Jesus, I trust in You)."

Rosary, interrupted

Although not Catholic, Robert regularly attended Mass and prayed the Rosary with his family. During the Rosary one evening, Robert's thoughts wandered to the party he and his wife planned to attend. As his wife began the third decade, Robert interrupted to tell her they needed to go, or they would be late. Rather than leave the Rosary unfinished, his wife told him she would stay home.

Robert stepped outside and hailed a taxi. It was a green Volkswagen Beetle (at right), a familiar sight on the streets of the Mexican capital.

A few minutes into the ride, the driver pulled over at a roadside store and told Robert he was going to buy cigarettes. Robert had been sitting in the car alone for a few minutes when he was suddenly slammed onto the floor by two men who had burst through the doors on either side of him. Robert's legs and hands were tightly bound with his own belt and tie; a weapon was pressed into his back; and the men screamed that if he tried to get up, they would kill him.

They blindfolded Robert and started rifling through his wallet, kicking and punching him, and shouting demands for his bank PIN to use his ATM card.

And then, unexpectedly, a hush descended on the vehicle. Something had changed. In a subdued tone, one of the thieves asked Robert, "What is this card? Are you a Catholic?"

Though Robert could not see what his attacker was holding, he knew. It was the Divine Mercy Image.

Amid terror, peace

The shouting and pummeling stopped. The thieves drove Robert around the city, stopping at ATMs to make withdrawals from his bank accounts. After a while, Robert felt the car bouncing over a mountain road. About an hour later, it stopped and the thieves got out, leaving Robert with an armed guard while they stashed their spoils and waited for midnight, when they would be able to attempt more withdrawals. The guard never said a word.

Robert lay, still bound and dazed, on the floorboards. In the new quiet, he inhaled the serene fragrance of pine. Beneath the edge of his blindfold, he caught glimpses of moonlight.

"A peace came over me," Robert recalls. "I imagined that maybe this was a hillside like Tepeyac where Juan Diego once walked, and where the Virgin appeared to him, presenting him with fragrant roses. Surely Jesus and Mary were here."

Comforted, and reconciled to whatever might happen, Robert finished praying the Rosary.

Midnight came, and with it the thieves. After the final withdrawal had been made, the thief who had asked Robert about the Divine Mercy Image told him ("sounding almost

sorry," Robert thought), "Just treat this as a bad night. Go home and take a hot shower and forget this ever happened."

The men unbound Robert and even helped him out of the car. "Run," they told him, "but if you turn around, we'll kill you." Robert ran.

Roadside Shrine

Robert could tell he was in a bad neighborhood, dark and remote. He could make out only one small light, and he hurried toward it. As he got closer, Robert saw that the light came from a *casita*, a type of roadside shrine common in Mexico. This one was a glass box containing only a light-bulb and a statue of Mary.

Robert fell to his knees, thanking God and Our Lady that he was alive. Alone in a dangerous part of town, miles away from his home, Robert says, "Never had I felt so safe ... I was home with the Virgin."

After he finished praying, Robert knocked on the door of a house that turned out to be the only one on the street with a telephone. He called his boss, who came to get him with an armed police officer.

By the grace of God, Robert made it home to his wife and children in safety that night. Two years later, he made it all the way home to the Catholic Church.

Since that night, Robert has never left his Rosary unfinished. His family still prays it together daily, along with a daily Divine Mercy Chaplet.

God's presence

Robert's kidnapping turned into a dramatic demonstration of God's presence, but he wants to remind people that in the ordinary tasks of ordinary days, God is always just as powerfully present.

Robert and his family now live in the southeastern United States, but he has returned to Mexico City more than once since 1997. With gratitude, he remembers "a lot of pious people in Mexico who taught me so much about the Faith." During his trips there, he never fails to visit Our Lady at her Basilica.

And no matter where in the world he goes, Robert carries copies of the Divine Mercy Image in his wallet — one to keep, and the others to give away.



**"What is this card?
Are you a Catholic?"
Though Robert could not
see what his attacker was
holding, he knew. It was the
Divine Mercy Image.**



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

‘JESUS IS LOOKING AT YOU NOW’

Jesus himself is looking at you now, he who knows you and reads your innermost being; he looks into your heart, he knows your joys and sorrows, your successes and defeats. And he says to you today, here in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day: “Do not be afraid! Do not be afraid! Be encouraged!”

— Pope Francis, Aug. 5, 2023

By Chris Sparks

An estimated 1.5 million people of all ages gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6, 2023, for the 15th World Youth Day, and the Marians were there.

Father Andy Davy, MIC, led a group of young people from St. Mary Parish in Plano, Illinois, accompanied by now-Dcn. Stephen Castellano, MIC, and Br. Alex, MIC.

“This was my third World Youth Day, and as expected it was extraordinary,” Fr. Andy recalled. “Journeying with young people from practically every country on earth, we allowed the Lord to speak to us through the various adventures of joy, hardship, providence, and faith. It was an unforgettable time with some very special brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Now based at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he is the new director of postulant formation, Fr. Andy reminisced about the experience.

Crucial moment

“This World Youth Day could not have happened at a more crucial time for a post-COVID world of youth that really have regressed in certain very basic human and social aspects,” he observed.

“There are fears today among young people that my generation didn’t have to experience, and so many heightened areas of uncertainty,” Fr. Andy continued. “This gathering was an opportunity for youth of the Church to rise up, discovering from the Light of Christ who they are, and that they are unconditionally loved, and then go forth with that love to a world that has lost its identity and is trying to figure out, ‘Who am I?’”

Father Andy noted the affinity with the Virgin Mary (see Lk 1:39-40). “We are to imitate Mary’s becoming awake, rising up, going with haste to a broken humanity that needs the



Father Andy Davy, MIC, shepherded a group from Illinois to Portugal for World Youth Day, where he concelebrated Mass with Pope Francis (below).

Light of Christ,” he explained. “Our Lady was clearly there with us in Lisbon, in the background, pushing people to embrace the suffering Christ.”

Papal inspiration

The highlight of any World Youth Day is Mass and catechesis with the Holy Father.

“There were three words that Pope Francis had in his final homily: ‘shine’ (a shining that doesn’t put the spotlight on ourselves, but it’s a shining forth); ‘listen’ (listening to Jesus, listening to Him in the Gospel); and then ‘be not afraid,’” Fr. Andy recalled. “It was a lovely recapitulation of and return to St. John Paul II’s witness and teachings, especially since the Church’s World Youth Days are some of the richest part of the legacy of St. John Paul the Great’s pontificate.”

Father Andy went on to describe how one of Pope Francis’ most touching moments came when he was just being a father figure.

“He spoke directly and plainly to the kids, saying, ‘I know that you guys are doubting yourself; that you have these big dreams, but you look and say, “What’s the point? I can’t add anything,”’” Fr. Andy related. “Pope Francis responded to those fears from his own heart, as a father as well as speaking on behalf of Christ.”

“I loved my experience because I was able to realign my priorities in life, which is doing everything in the glory of God and striving for holiness,” said Genesis Barajas, a member of Fr. Andy’s group. “Encountering youth from all over the world inspired me to trust in our Lord in a joyful way, even in the difficult moments in our daily lives. It was especially beautiful hearing their different voices in different languages!”

Fatima connection

Part of the World Youth Day events took place at Fatima, site of the world-famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin

Mary to three shepherd children in 1917. Two of the three children are canonized saints; the third, Sr. Lucia dos Santos, is a Venerable Servant of God and needs only an approved miracle to be beatified.

“In Fatima, we were able to go to the tombs of the two saints and venerable,” said Fr. Andy. “And we went to all the different apparition sites there.”

He reminded his group that the Marian Fathers have been present and ministering in Portugal off and on for

centuries, beginning in the time of Ven. Casimir Wyszyński (1700-1755). In fact, today the Marianos run the Essence Inn Marianos Hotel (emarianos.com), just around the corner from the shrine.

Father Andy served as one of the speakers for some of the English-language morning catechetical talks, concelebrated Mass with different bishops in the mornings (with Dcn. Stephen as master of ceremonies), and was one of the many priests concelebrating the closing Mass with Pope Francis.

Next stop: Seoul

The next World Youth Day will be held in Seoul, South Korea, in 2027, a choice that looks to the future, according to Fr. Andy.

“The South Korean Catholics are very deeply devoted,” he commented. “It’s a central place, so that the Philippines, Japan, China, India, Malaysia — all of Asian Catholicism can attend. God willing, our Marian Family will be there, as well!” MH



FROM MATTHEW TO MARK

By Sara Beth Meyer

As we approached the year 2020, I pondered a life of clarity, the 20/20 vision that comes from seeing with eyes of faith. I even wrote an article about it; then the whole world recoiled into quarantine, confusion, and even despair.

Drawn to the simple joy of the Gospel, I started getting up early to read and reflect, before the rest of my large household began stirring. Meanwhile, my friend, Allison Hsu, MD, was finding similar moments of solace, painting the beauty of the world around her. We communicated online and agreed to collaborate creatively.

Over the next several months, *The Gospels for Little Ones* emerged: rhyming quatrains accompanied by vibrant watercolor illustrations.

Perfect timing

During a time of paper shortages and supply chain uncertainties, Marian Press miraculously released *The Gospel of Matthew for Little Ones* in time for Advent 2022, when Liturgical Year A began (featuring Matthew's Gospel).

As we approach Liturgical Year B, Allison and I are thrilled to see the release of *The Gospel of Mark for Little Ones*. Containing many of the same stories (Feeding of the 5,000; Transfiguration; etc.), this *Little Ones* volume takes a much closer look at our Lord's Passion. In fact, Holy Week is the focus of the entire last third of the book. In reflecting on the difficult realities of our Lord's sacrifice in the midst of betrayal and denial, the rhyming verse and engaging illustrations share the truth with gentle, steadfast faith so essential to catechizing the youngest and most precious in God's Kingdom.

Early feedback has been very encouraging. One grandmother stopped me after Mass and said that she had bought both *Matthew* and *Mark*; then her granddaughter began reading them on the way home and proclaimed them her favorite books! Allison and I have heard from young families who are eager to collect all of the *Gospels*.

After attending a faith formation session for parents where I shared catechesis strategies and read *Mark*, one

homeschool mom e-mailed me, "The books are amazing, and truly a gift. We need the full set!"

Truly, with the release of first *Matthew*, and now *Mark*, Allison and I are often met with the question, "When is the next one coming out?"

"It rhymes!"

One unexpected blessing has been the universal appeal of the *Little Ones* books. As Jesus calls His followers to be little, we have seen that humble,

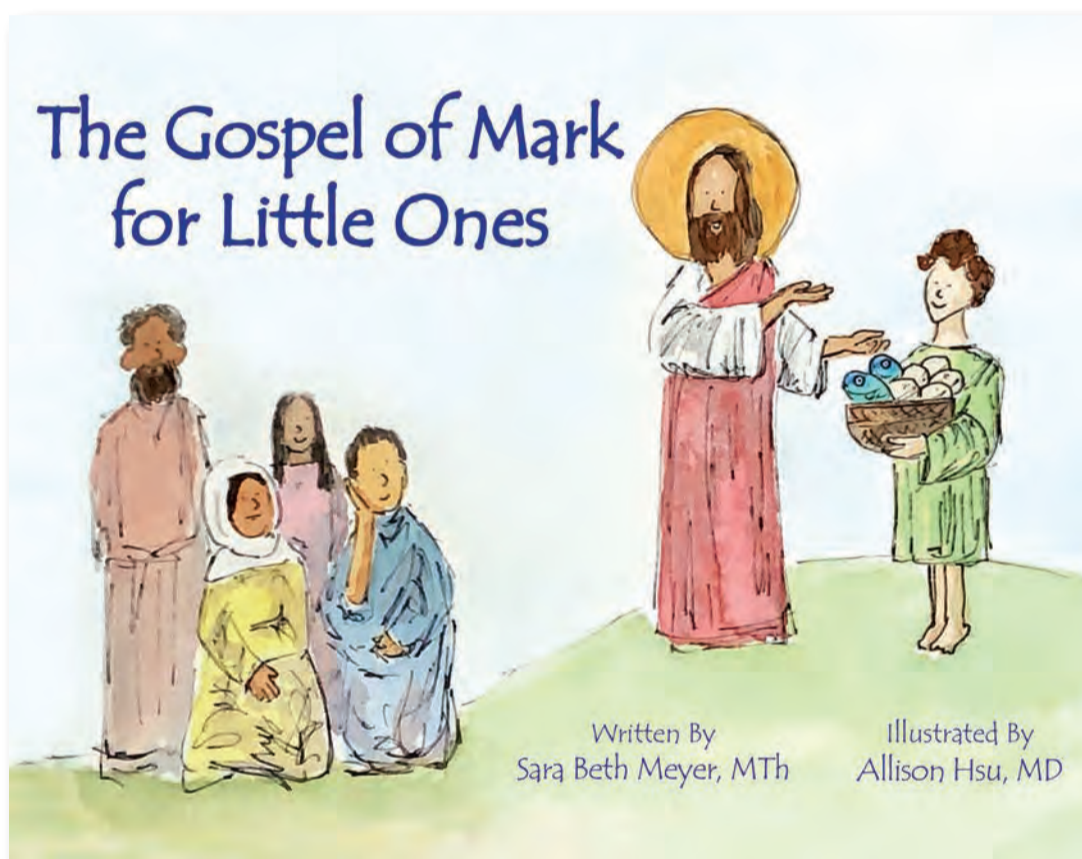
open hearts of all ages have delighted in this particular telling of the Gospel message.

This summer, I was blessed to read one of the books aloud to my husband's Methodist grandmother, 97 years young. After the first page, a broad smile spread across her face as she exclaimed, "It rhymes!" She continued to smile and laugh with pure delight throughout the reading, hearing the Good News that she had known all her life told in a surprising new way.

Allison and I hope you help spread the Good News and the good works of the *Marian Fathers* by ordering and sharing several copies of the books with loved ones near and far this Christmas season.

May we all remain "little," enlarged only by the Divine Love and Mercy of Jesus Christ!

MH



To order *The Gospel of Mark for Little Ones* (Product Code: B60-MRKB) visit ShopMercy.org/b60 or call 1-800-462-7426.

ROSARY READY FOR TAKEOFF

When the Rosary is said in common, it is far more formidable to the devil, because in this public prayer it is an army that is attacking him. He can often overcome the prayer of an individual, but if it is joined to that of others, the devil has much more trouble in getting the best of it.

— St. Louis Grignon de Montfort



By Fr. Fidele Malanga, MIC

I would like to share a true story about the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the power of the Holy Rosary when prayed with faith and unfailing trust.

In 2014, I was part of a group of pilgrims going to Rome to attend the historic canonization of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII on April 27. On April 22, we were waiting for our flight at Charlotte International Airport. Instead of leaving on time, our flight was delayed for four hours.

Once the four hours had passed, we were told that the flight would be delayed once again for two more hours. As you can imagine, all of the passengers grew impatient, grumbling, and complaining, myself included.

Spiritual 'air'

Suddenly, I was inspired to suggest that we pray the Rosary together, thinking about the words of St. Louis de Montfort and of St. Padre Pio, who said, "The Rosary is a strong weapon to overcome Satan."

I pulled the Rosary out of my pocket and called to the other pilgrims, "Passengers to Rome, come close and gather together!" Almost one hundred people gathered around me!

I asked the crowd, "Do you have your spiritual weapon? If so, quickly take out your Rosary!" We began to pray the Rosary together, gathering in groups of 10 or 15.

We were just about to finish the first decade when there was a surprise announcement: "Passengers to Rome, the plane is now ready to fly." Our additional two-hour delay had vanished, and turned into a mere 10 minutes of boarding and loading onto the plane. It was a heavenly consolation, truly miraculous. We praised God and sang a Magnificat in thanksgiving!

Resolve to pray

During the flight to Rome, a retired army general approached and joined me in conversation. He told me his life story, especially how he had stopped praying the Rosary in college. The moment we had just experienced in the airport moved him, and he told me that he was resolved to pray the Rosary with his wife, and encourage his children and grandchildren to pray their Rosary every day, too.

Let's resolve to pray the Rosary every day, especially trying to do so with other people, in groups both big and small. The power of the Rosary and the efficacious prayers of the saints truly work miracles in our lives. MH

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OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

“**M**ay all our thoughts, desires, and longings be directed toward that one goal: to bring Christ everywhere, to restore all things in His Spirit, to glorify the name of the Catholic Church in every place.”

— *Blessed George Matulaitis,
Renovator of the
Marian Fathers (1871-1927)*



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PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

I love hearing stories from our Marian Helpers about how they became familiar with Divine Mercy and the Marian Fathers. As a new Catholic, I find them inspiring. I'm also inspired by the creative ways our Marian Helpers find ways to give. I always assure folks that prayers for our priests and seminarians are precious and always appreciated, too!

One group in Middletown, New Jersey, came up with a beautiful way to help our Marian seminarians. Their generosity allows us to give these men the best education and preparation we can, and we are grateful for their efforts!

Divine Mercy Society

The Divine Mercy Society of the Parish of St. Mary, Mother of God Church has been going strong for over 20 years. As a society, they meet each month to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the Rosary, and benediction and veneration of St. Faustina's relic as they honor the memory of Vatsala Gopinathan, the woman who founded their group.

"Our motto is, 'Merciful like the Father,'" says member Debbie Schneider. "We are encouraged and inspired by Pope Francis to know the face of God's Mercy and show the face of mercy to the world through our words and actions."

As a society, they have a "Prayer Warrior" list that reminds them to pray for priests, members of the parish, and their families. They also distribute a prayer card teaching "How To Pray The Chaplet," as well as Rosary beads to those in the local hospitals.

Here's where their creativity comes in! Because they know how much the Church is in need of holy priests, they created a "Pennies to Educate a Seminarian" campaign. When Debbie first told me about this, I immediately thought of what Jesus said about faith — that we only need to have faith the size of a mustard seed — and we can do great



The Divine Mercy Society of the Parish of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Middletown, New Jersey, raised \$1,000 in pennies for the Marian seminarians.

things! It sounds so easy! Such a small thing yielding such amazing results!

Small change, big donation

That's exactly what happened when the Divine Mercy Society launched their campaign. They set up a container at each Mass, collecting pennies and any other spare change that folks wanted to drop in.

"Initially, our goal was to help with the Marian House of Studies near the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, but our fundraising efforts were curtailed with the pandemic," Debbie explains.

Pandemic or not, the society kept the faith! Those pennies have added up to \$1,000 for our Marian seminarians, and the Divine Mercy Society continues their support with prayers.

Supporting Marian seminarians, the priests of tomorrow, amounts to an investment in eternity itself!

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

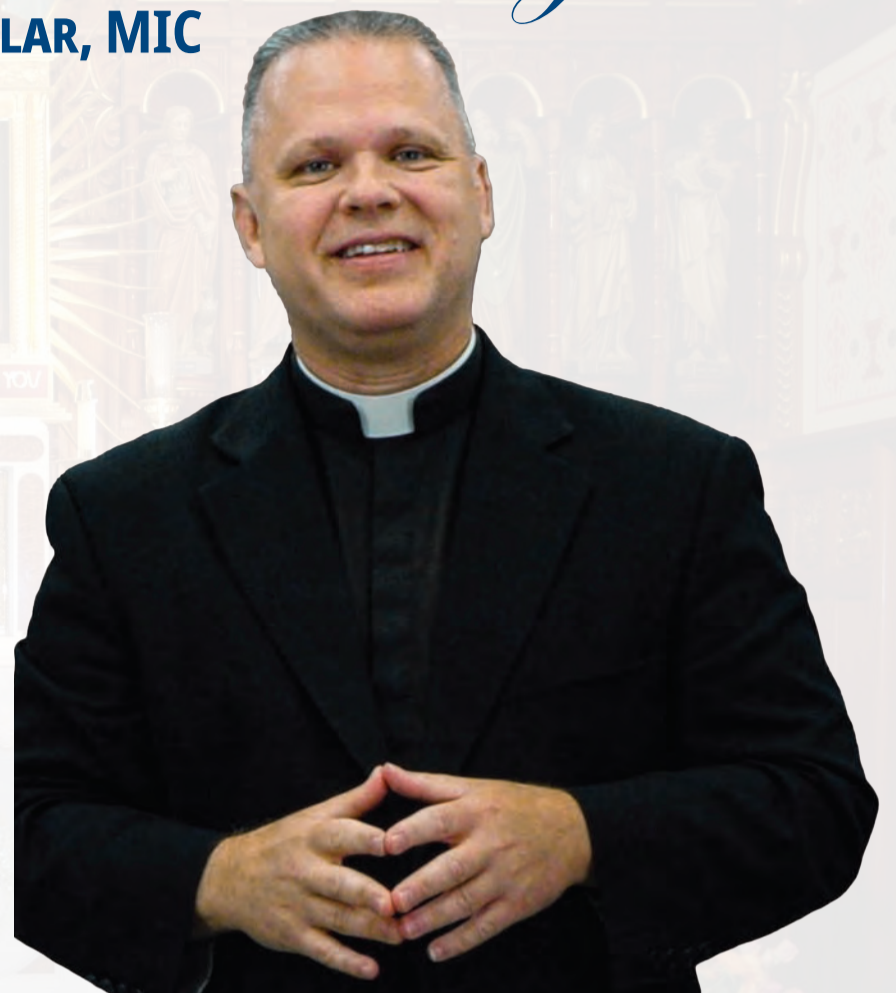


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GRACES RECEIVED

Cousin is cancer-free

I believe my cousin received a miracle through the intercession of Venerable Casimir Wyszyński. My cousin was diagnosed with cancer, and the initial prognosis wasn't very good. I started praying to Venerable Casimir for her complete healing.

She had treatments and surgery, which were necessary. She texted me the other day and said three of her doctors told her she is cancer-free!

Thank you for your intercession, Venerable Casimir!

— LS, email

Positive results after mini-stroke

Thank you for encouraging us to share God's goodness and answers to our prayers and the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszyński.

In April, my friend went to the hospital with potential symptoms of a transient ischemic attack (TIA, a mini-stroke). I asked Fr. Casimir to intercede for flawless test results. After the test, my friend's doctor said his results didn't show any impacts/issues associated with a TIA.

At this point, the cause/issue is indeterminate; nevertheless, I'm thankful for Fr. Casimir's prayers and God's care, regardless of the exact issue my friend was dealing with.

— AL, email

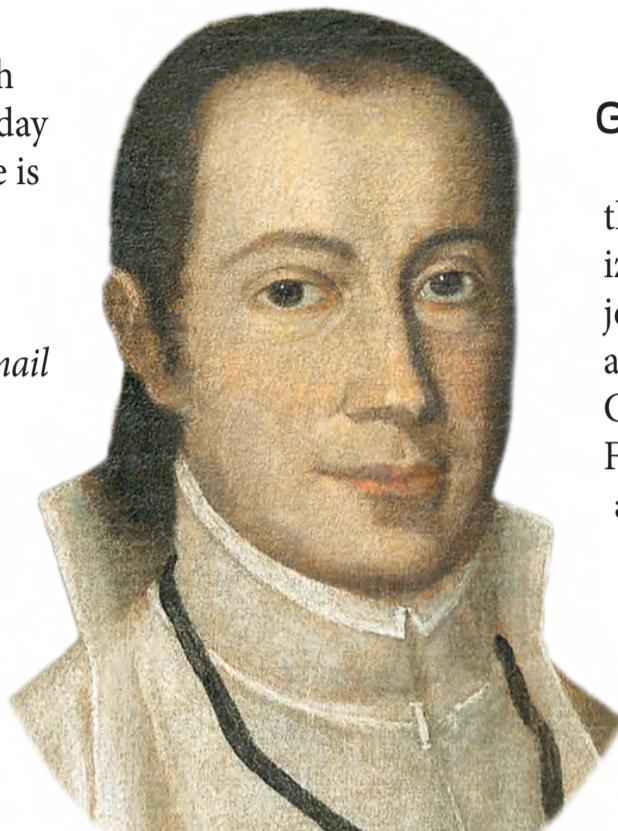
Daughter gets dream job

I am writing about a grace received through the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszyński. My daughter, who got laid off from her job last October,

finally landed one a week ago. She replied to an ad for her "dream" job and was hired the same day!

I pray daily to Venerable Casimir, and I believe he has interceded for this special grace. I continue to pray for his intercession.

— YP, Rockport Massachusetts



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

Grandson gets job offer

My grandson graduated from college three years ago. He trained for a specialized job in law enforcement, but his dream job never materialized — until a week ago. Daily prayers to Venerable Servant of God Casimir, Our Blessed Mother, and St. Faustina for many, many months brought about the job offer he has been hoping for.

I am so very thankful for their intercession and prayers of gratitude will continue daily for all their help.

— MT,

Brick, New Jersey

Grandson finds mental peace

I started praying to Venerable Servant of God Casimir Wyszyński for two intentions. One

has been granted to my grandson, for mental peace. I will keep praying for the second intention.

Thank you for your intercession, Venerable Casimir!

— JS, Bourbonnais, Illinois

For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B60-BCWP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org

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

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

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

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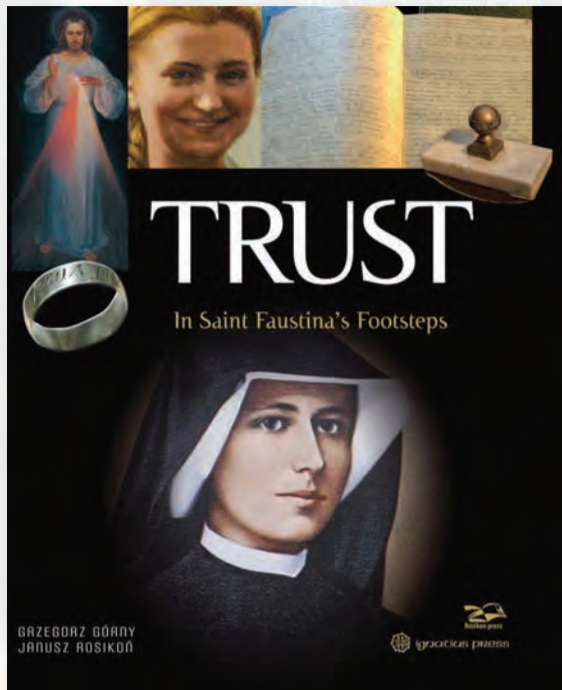


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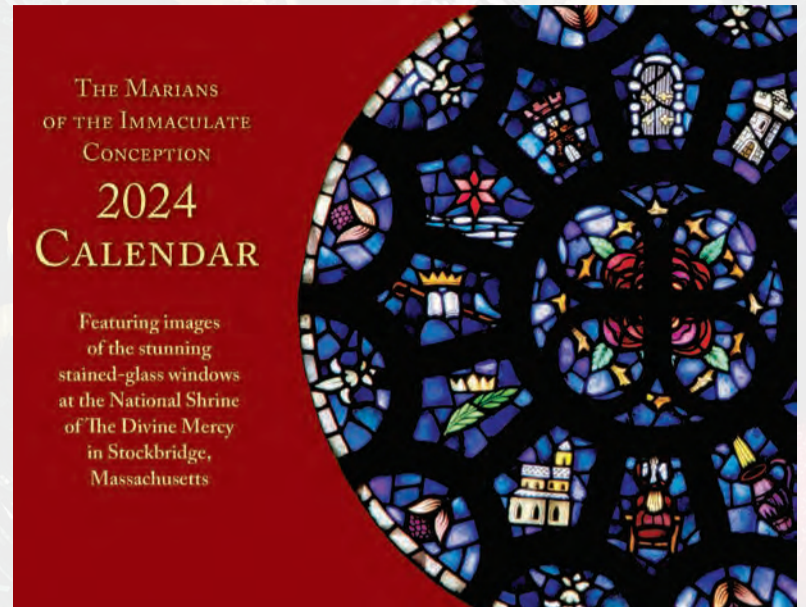
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The amazing story of St. Faustina — one of the greatest Christian mystics of the 20th century — and her devotion to Divine Mercy, which has become the fastest spreading religious devotion in the world. Every page includes gorgeous photographs and illustrations that help tell the story about God's immense love for us. Author Grzegorz Gorny and photographer Janusz Rosikon visited all the key locations connected with St. Faustina's life! Hardcover, 290 pages. [B60-TRUST](#) \$31.95



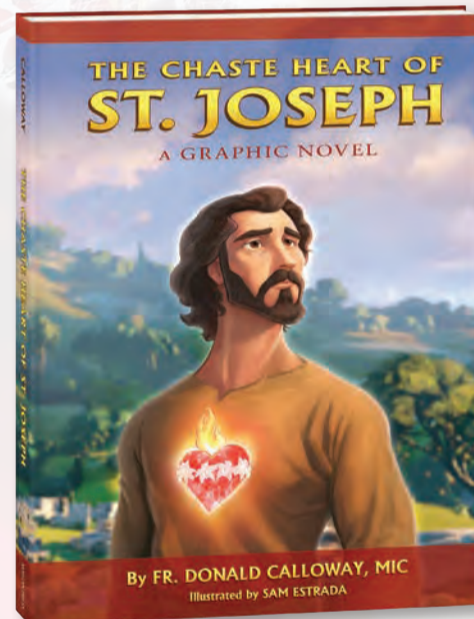
2024 Calendar

The Marians of the Immaculate Conception bring you this exclusive 2024 calendar, featuring beautiful stained glass windows from around Eden Hill, home of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, 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". [B60-CAL24](#) \$12.95



The Gospel of Mark for Little Ones

In *The Gospel of Mark for Little Ones*, readers of all ages are invited to journey with Jesus from the Baptism in the Jordan to the Resurrection on Easter morning. Told in delightful rhyming stanzas and beautiful watercolor illustrations, the Gospel message comes alive and remains Good News for all to enjoy. [B60-MRKB](#) \$19.95



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By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC; illustrated by Sam Estrada

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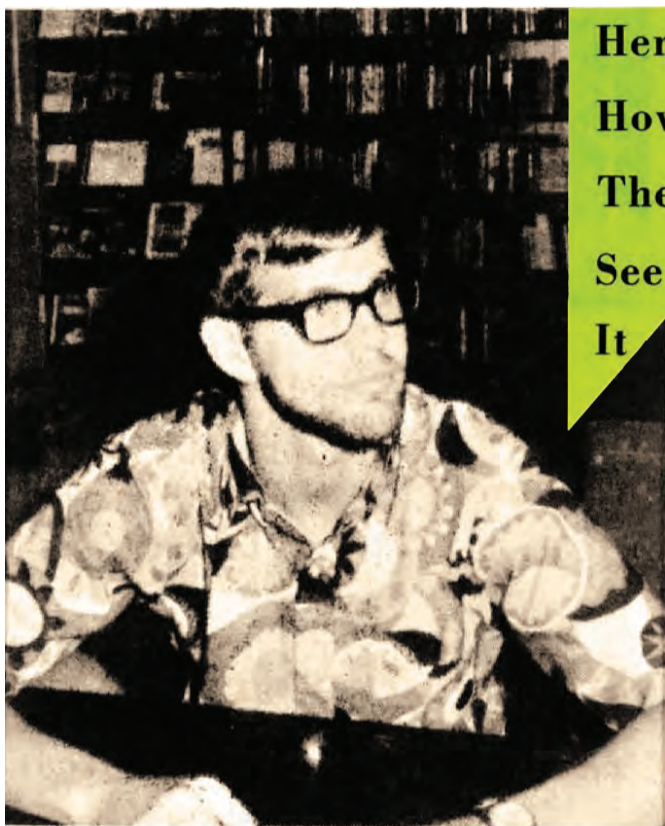
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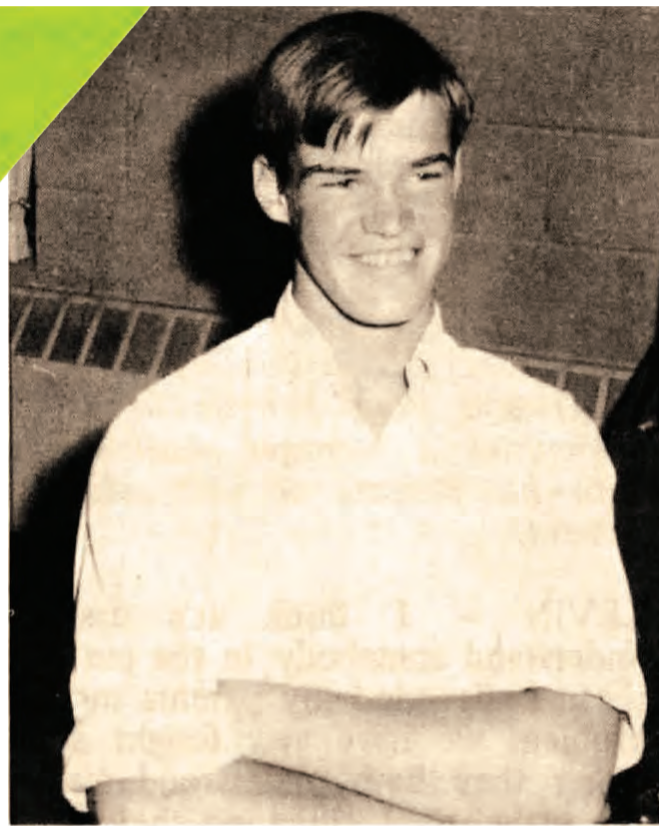
Postage costs may vary for online orders.

From the
VAULTS

When Charlie Parise was hired in Oct. 1968, *Marian Helpers Bulletin* published an interview with two of his fellow 17-year-olds, Kevin and Mark, who had worked at the Marians' vocation camp on Eden Hill over the summer. Their comments about life were, the *Bulletin* wrote, "sometimes startling, sometimes naïve, but always revealing."



Here's
How
They
See
It



"I think parents understand their kids except that after they understand them they want to change them and that's where the whole problem comes in."

"My parents? They've raised me the best they could. And, in fact, I think they raised me well."

The most important things on teenagers' minds, Mark said, were "Girls. Life. What are you going to do when you grow up. Things that are bothering you at the moment." Morality, Kevin said, can be gauged from a teen's record collection. He admitted, however, "What you do as a teenager dictates what you will do as an adult."

If they could change anything about the world, what would it be? "I'd change some people. Make them more considerate," Kevin said. "You go into a city and people just walk by." Mark liked Christmastime best: "You would hear so many Merry Christmases and it made you feel real cool to be with all those people, thousands of them."

On God, Mark said, "Teenagers are confused about a lot of things and religion is one of the things." And Kevin added that teens don't think about death: "There are too many good things to think about. It's not that immediate. You can sit around all day and think about a car accident and that gets you nowhere. That doesn't do any good. Natural death is so far off."

Pray for us!

Please pray for our Marian men in formation as they
in turn remember you in prayer for your support!

Br. David, MIC; Br. Joshua, MIC; Br. Michael, MIC;
Br. Joseph, MIC; Br. Christopher, MIC; Br. Mike, MIC;
Br. Jacob, MIC; Br. Harrison, MIC; Br. Jeff, MIC;
Br. Joseph, MIC; Br. Elliott, MIC; Br. Ryan, MIC;
Br. Patrick, MIC; Br. Alexander, MIC; Br. Stephen, MIC;
Br. Stephen, MIC; Br. Christopher, MIC; Br. Ruben, MIC.

Novices: Paul, Nate, Alex, Philip, Mark.

Postulants: James, Austin, Thomas, Andrew.



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:
Jan. 26-28
Feb. 9-11
March 1-3

Learn more

Email: vocations@Marian.org

Visit: Marian.org/vocations

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

**Marian Fathers of the
Immaculate Conception**

**350 Belleview Boulevard
Steubenville, OH 43952**

Support

**Want to help our
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