

Marian Helper

Spring 2026

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

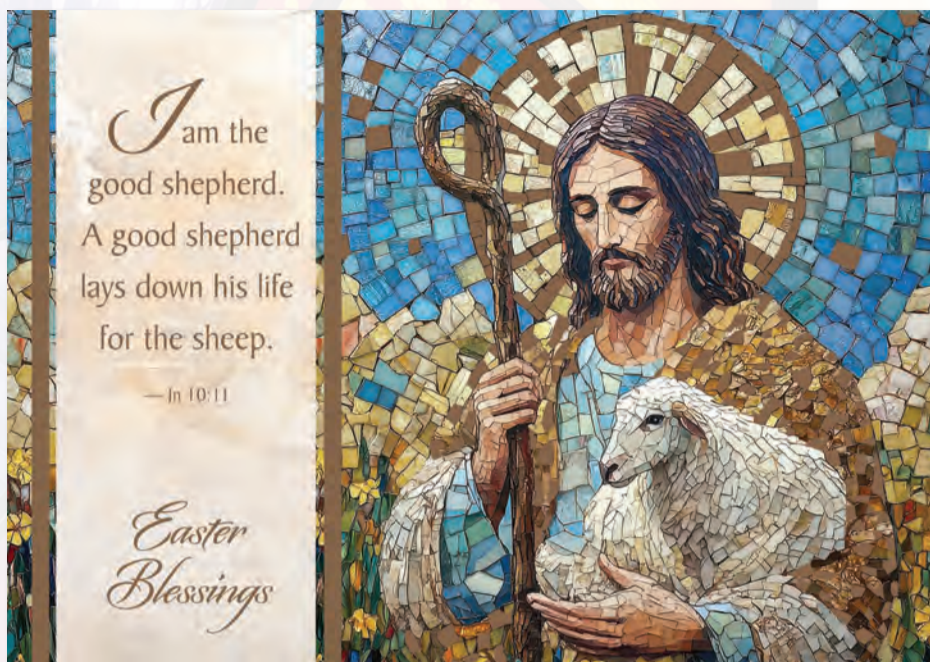
Marian.org



'O MY JESUS'

95 Years of Divine Mercy

SHARE THE GLORIOUS GIFT OF EASTER

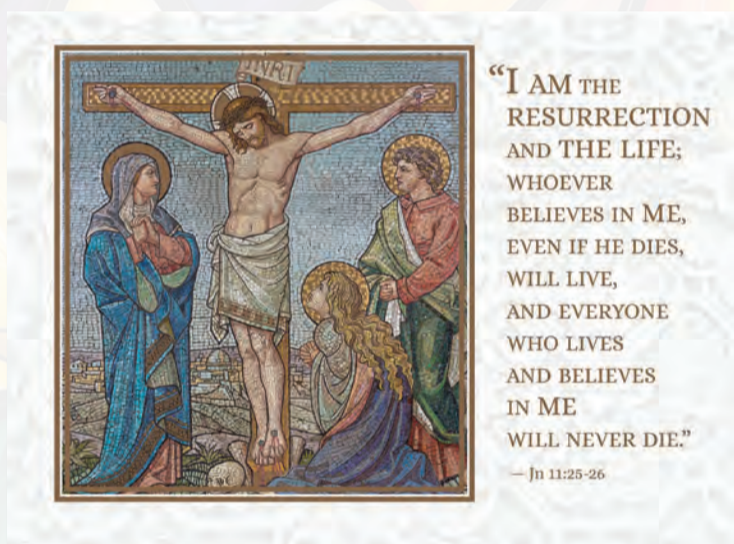


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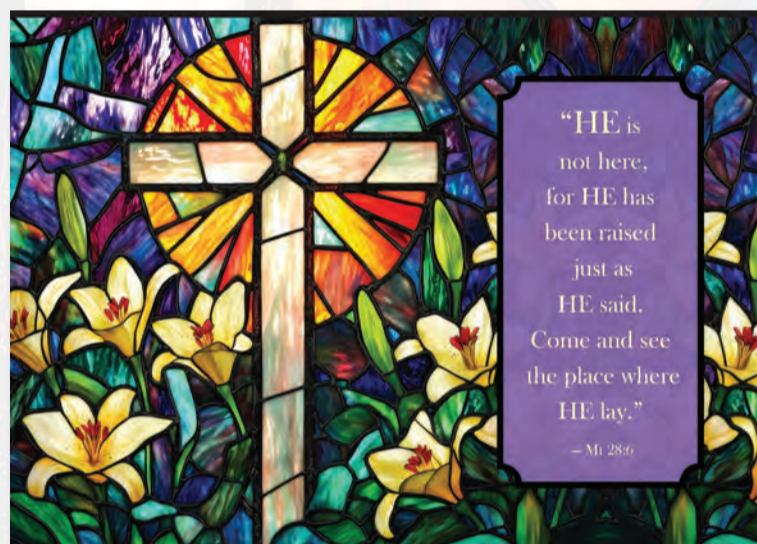
Three Masses on Easter:

Send your loved ones these exclusive cards to announce that they will be remembered in the three Holy Masses on Easter at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.



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GOLD FOILED



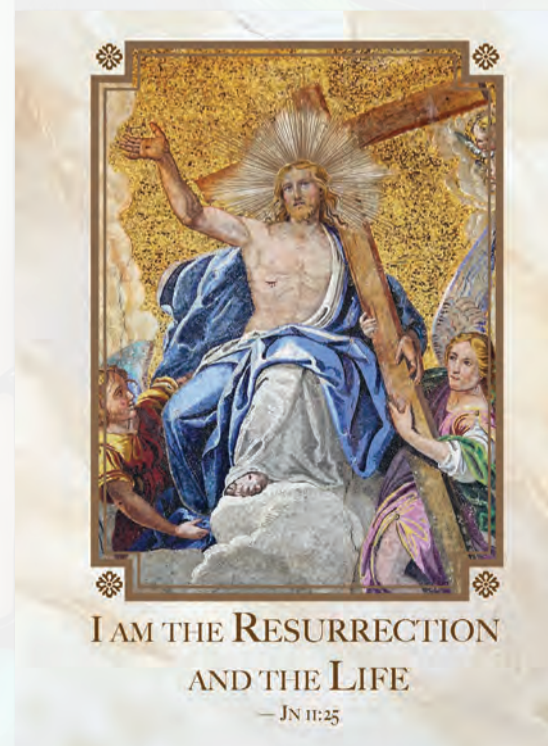
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SPOT UV

All Year: Have your loved ones remembered in prayer from this Easter to the next. They will share in the spiritual benefits of the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marian priests and brothers. Send one of these cards to announce your gift.

There is no charge for us to send you these cards. An offering is requested when you use the cards.

Enroll a loved one today!
1-800-462-7426
Marian.org/b69/eg



B69-AE26

EASTER ENROLLMENT

GOLD FOILED

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

Page 9 MERCIFUL JUBILEES

The Jubilee Year of Hope has ended, but for the Marian Fathers, 2026 is a year of twin jubilees. It's been 90 years since our Lord gave Sr. Faustina the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. And Feb. 22 marks the 95th anniversary of the appearance of Jesus to Sr. Faustina. Celebrate the twin jubilees by praying the Chaplet daily!

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On the Cover: Chapel of St. Jozefa, Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Kraków, Poland (PAWEL MAZUR/ALAMY)

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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 © 2026 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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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 1925, 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
- **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.*



UNDER GOD'S MERCY

In June 1926 the city of Chicago hosted the 28th International Eucharistic Congress. Even with a strong Protestant culture already in place, this event — where more than 850,000 people came together for the closing Mass — really highlighted how large and well-organized the Catholic community had grown in the United States.

Among the many people who attended the congress was Archbishop (now Blessed) George Matulaitis. Blessed George was already well-acquainted with the U.S. and the religious-friendly principles upon which she had been established. In his work of renovating and saving the Marians, Bl. George looked to the U.S. and the freedoms that she provided as a safe place where the Marian Fathers could expand and more easily live out their mission, unhindered by any anti-religious government pressures. When he returned to Chicago for his second visit in 1926, the community in America had steadily grown to 25 members.

But little could Bl. George have know how much his decision to expand westward was going to have on the history of the universal Church. For in 1939 another Marian from Eastern Europe would look to the United States as a place of refuge. It was Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, a Marian priest from Poland, who sought to escape the tyranny of the Nazis and the Soviet Communists. While prayerfully trusting in Divine Mercy, Fr. Jarzebowski made a vow to God that if he was able to make it to our shores he would promise to spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion for the rest of his life.

Providentially, he would arrive safely at the Marian House in Washington, D.C. where those Marians agreed to help him to fulfill his promise to the Merciful Savior. Years later, it would be Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC — who played a decisive role in the canonization of St. Faustina and in the establishment of the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday — along with other Marians from the U.S. who were instrumental in bringing the Divine Mercy message into

the mainstream of the Church's devotional life.

We see how important the U.S. has been to the development of the Marian Fathers and to their eventual work of spreading the message and devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Think of all the souls who have especially been touched and converted by learning the truth about God's unfathomable mercy or who have been drawn closer to Jesus by learning about the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By God's providence, the U.S. has played an indispensable role in all of it.

In light of this and since we will be celebrating the 250th birthday of the U.S. this year, we decided the theme for Divine Mercy Sunday will be "USA 250: One Nation Under God's Mercy." We appreciate that all the bless-

ings of our great country have come from God's unfathomable mercy. But because we are a nation made up of sinners, we also still need to recognize where we — as a country — fall short in serving Him so that we can repent and change as a country. For God and not military might nor economic power is the true protector and sustainer of a nation. God withdrew His protection and chastised the Israelites because they sinned and turned away from Him to the worship of idols. Unfortunately, there is a lot of idol worshipping occurring in our land today.

So as we look toward Divine Mercy Sunday and our nation's 250th birthday, we can reflect that, in these times, we don't just need to be one nation under God, but more specifically one nation under God's Mercy.

Fr. Joseph, MIC



HAND OF GOD

By Marian Friedrichs

In 2002, Jim Dotzler, a 27-year-old life-long Catholic, performed “the greatest act of trust in God” of his life so far when he picked up the phone to call a mental health hotline. Jim knew that no matter who his future therapist may be or what kind of treatment he may receive, he was sure to be told the one thing he most dreaded and needed to hear: He must stop drinking.



Jim graduated from James Madison University in 1997.

That was a frightening prospect, but Jim was certain that he could not fight this battle alone any longer.

As he made up his mind to call for human help, Jim’s heart called out to God, “If I can’t drink anymore, how are You going to calm me down?”

Angry with God

For so long, alcohol had been present in Jim’s life disguised as a solution. Jim suffers from hyperhidrosis, excessive sweating in his hands. As a student, Jim’s condition caused his hands to stick to paper and his handwriting to smudge, and he avoided shaking hands whenever possible.

Chronic anxiety made the sweating worse.

Jim had been raised by “loving, faithful Catholic parents,” and he prayed fervently for help. But at Mass, the priest’s prayer for God’s protection “from all anxiety” merely reminded Jim that he still was not healed, and that shortly he would be faced yet again with the Sign of Peace and expected to extend his cold wet hand to those around him.

Jim became angry with God, and being at Mass grew more and more intensely uncomfortable. Gradually, he stopped going.

Then, as a young teen, Jim discovered alcohol. When he drank, his hands would become warm and dry like other

people's, and he could finally relax. It seemed that the relief Jim had sought for so long in prayer could finally be his with the opening of a can or bottle.

Dangerous path

The discovery led Jim down a dangerous path, fraught with serious risks and increasingly powerful chemical dependence. Wanting to move forward in life, Jim was only stumbling in the dark, struggling to keep his footing. Finally, he found himself in the dust, unable to rise on his own.

When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, He seemed to step out of the shadows in her cell, bearing all light before Him in the rays of mercy that flowed from His Heart. Today, when Jim Dotzler contemplates the Divine Mercy Image, "I see the black hole I used to be in, and Jesus, the Light, coming to lift me out." Jim could only struggle helplessly in the trap of addiction until, he says, "Jesus came into the black hole of mental illness, blessing me, healing me."

Finding peace

First, there was the moment when Jim knew he had no choice anymore but to call for help. Next came the anguished prayer that was a challenge and a plea: "How are You going to calm me down?" And then, there was mercy.

One day, not long after making contact with a therapist, Jim came across the sung Divine Chaplet on EWTN. "This is different," he thought. "This is beautiful." This, he quickly realized, was God's response. *This* was how the Lord was going to calm him down. Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet gave Jim a kind of peace that no amount of drinking ever had.

Jim returned to full communion with the Church, this time "with an adult faith," fed by prayer and the Sacraments.

In 2006, he entered the seminary. During his two years there, Jim spent many hours in Eucharistic Adoration, where he especially loved to pray the Chaplet. "Jesus was remaking me every day," he recalls.



Jackie and Jim on their wedding day, 2009.

Jim could only struggle helplessly in the trap of addiction until, he says, 'Jesus came into the black hole of mental illness, blessing me, healing me.'

Circumstance, not identity

After Jim discerned that the priesthood was not his vocation, he felt called to the married state and began dating, but his hyperhidrosis continued to make him unwilling to touch other people. In prayer, however, Jim learned that his condition was not his identity but simply a circumstance. It was a cross designed to bring him closer to God, not away from human relationships.

Through a Catholic dating website, Jim met his wife, Jackie. Married since 2009, they are Marian Helpers who, with their three children, make an annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, from which the family has received "so much fruit."

Medication, therapy, diet, and exercise have helped Jim to manage his anxiety and greatly reduce the symptoms of hyperhidrosis. By far the greatest agent of change in his life, however, has been the power of God through the Divine Mercy devotion. "It's been life-changing," Jim says. "I don't even want to think about what my life would have been without it."

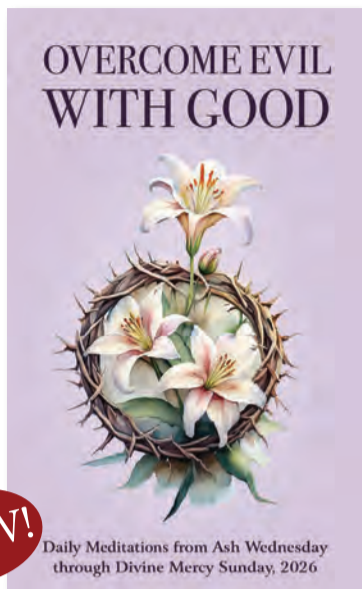
Today, Jim is eager to share the story of how Jesus came to his rescue and "to bring the Divine Mercy message to people who are experiencing what I was experiencing."

By testifying to the transformation Jesus has wrought in his life, Jim hopes to encourage others to find healing in a life nourished by prayer and the Sacraments and illuminated by the rays of Divine Mercy, which alone can penetrate the darkness of sin and light the sinner's way to Heaven. **MH**

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b69 or call 1-800-462-7426.

In the early months of the year, we pass from winter into spring, from Christmas to ordinary time before plunging into the long desert of Lent to purify and prepare ourselves to receive the graces of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. Here are some resources to help you make this pilgrimage.



OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD: DAILY LENTEN MEDITATIONS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY THROUGH DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, 2026

Lent is a pilgrimage through the spiritual desert on the long road to Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. Draw strength and encouragement for the journey from the Scriptures with this Lenten devotional. Read just one page a day to help prepare your heart to receive profound graces. \$6.95. **B69-LD26**

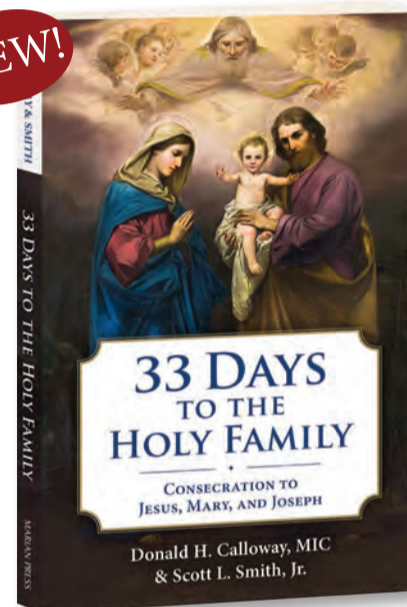
NEW!

33 DAYS TO THE HOLY FAMILY: CONSECRATION TO JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

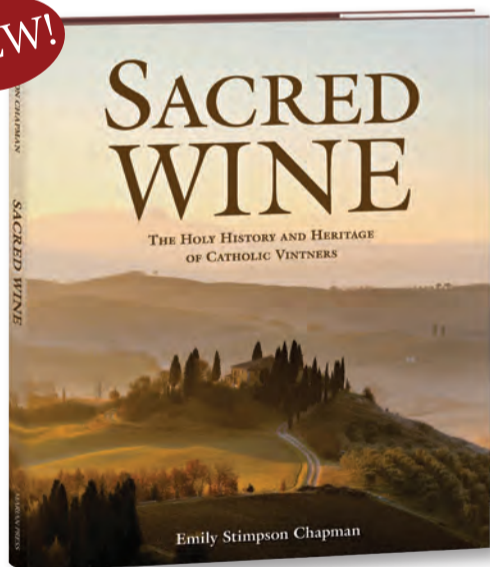
By FR. DONALD CALLOWAY, MIC AND SCOTT L. SMITH, JR.

The Holy Family serves as the pattern and model for marriage and family, demonstrating what these are, as well as the correct understanding of masculinity and fatherhood, femininity and motherhood, babies and children. God knew the great confusion and diabolical social messiness that would occur in modern times. This is why we need another 33 Day consecration book to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They're the blueprint and model for happiness and holiness. \$16.95. **B69-HF33D**

NEW!



NEW!



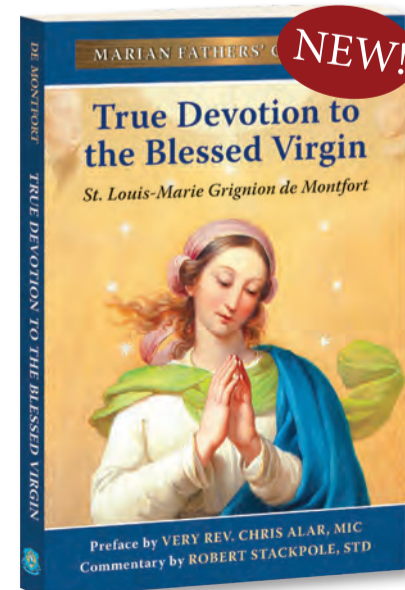
SACRED WINE: THE HOLY HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF CATHOLIC VINTNERS

By EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN

Here are the stories of 12 wineries in Italy, France, and Spain, many former or current monasteries, whose existence have been shaped by the Catholic faith. Hear the stories told about the cellars where the bottles age, and pray as the men and women who first grew the grapes once prayed, or still do! In each, the history first written by the Benedictines, Cistercians, Carthusians, Franciscans, and more, lives on. Hardcover, color photos. \$34.95. **B69-SWBK**

TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY: THE MARIAN FATHERS' EDITION OF TREATISE ON THE TRUE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, first published in 1843, is considered to be the greatest single book on the Blessed Virgin Mary ever written, and served as the basis for the international Marian Press bestseller *33 Days to Morning Glory*. Our Marian Fathers' Classic edition includes insightful commentary by Dr. Robert Stackpole designed to help you better understand St. Louis de Montfort, imitate its author's love for Our Lady, and allow its life-changing teachings to transform the way you live your Christian faith. To Jesus through Mary! \$16.95. **B69-METDM**





LIGHT FROM LIGHT

I recently had the honor of meeting Pope Leo XIV. I told him that the members of our Congregation and our Marian Helpers are praying for him. He said, “Thank you!” What a joy it was to speak with him in English, his native tongue! Let us continue to pray for him and for his important ministry as Vicar of Christ.

The next day, Thanksgiving, Pope Leo left Rome for an apostolic journey to Turkey and Lebanon. In Turkey, he observed the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which took place in 325 A.D. It was the first universal or worldwide council of bishops, which had been called for by the Emperor Constantine to decide on important matters along with the pope.

Christians had been persecuted in the Roman Empire since the time of Christ. Just 12 years before this Council, Constantine and another emperor had issued an edict that finally gave Christians legal status and relief from the years of persecution. In 380 A.D., Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire — quite a change.

The Council of Nicaea was convoked especially to resolve a major theological controversy of the time. There was a debate about the nature of Jesus. Was He truly God like the Father? One side asserted that only God the Father was eternal and that the Son of God had been created by the Father at some point. Was the Son therefore subordinate to the Father?

The legates of the pope at the time, Sylvester I, along with the bishops resolved the controversy at that first council by formulating the Nicene Creed. It was later expanded at the First Council of Constantinople in 381. We continue to recite the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed every Sunday during Mass.

Why is this important? It preserves Christ’s divinity. If Jesus was not truly God, how could He be our Savior? In the Creed, we proclaim that Jesus is “Light from Light, true God from true God.” We also proclaim that Jesus is not a

mere creature like us, brought into being out of nothing. Jesus Christ is “begotten, not made.” He is truly the Son of God. He is “consubstantial with the Father.”

Understanding the truths of our faith — about the Holy Trinity and about the humanity and the divinity of Christ— are things that the Church has been coming to understand

on a deeper level from the very beginning. Through the centuries, there have been heresies and, therefore, theological debates and councils needed to clarify matters.

In honor of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, Pope Leo issued an apostolic letter, *In unitate fidei* (*In the unity of faith*). He hopes that his voyage and the celebration of this anniversary will bring us closer to Christian unity, especially with the Orthodox Church. It is worth reading.

In it, he mentions another, longer document by the International Theological Commission: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour — the 1700th Anniversary of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325-2025).” This gives a synthesis of our faith and reminds us that the Creed is a wonderful resource for rediscovering the truths of our faith. The document is around 70 pages and would be wonderful for an adult formation group in a parish to read in stages and discuss together.

Our faith cannot just remain on the page; we must live it. Jesus is the model for each of us. We are called to live like He lived. We want to have a relationship with God the Father like Jesus and to offer ourselves for others as Jesus did for us.

Let us thank God for the great gift of our faith and revive in our hearts the fire of our love for Jesus Christ!



The Most Rev. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the Superior General of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome. Listen to his podcasts, including “Saint Faustina’s Diary in a Year,” on TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts and DivineMercyPlus.org/podcasts.

Live Lent well

The penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 — and a good companion on your spiritual journey towards Easter and on to Divine Mercy Sunday is *Overcome Evil with Good*, the 2026 Lenten devotional from the Marian Fathers.

The devotional contains easy-to-read, brief meditations for each day from Ash Wednesday through to Divine Mercy Sunday. Read just one page a day to help prepare your heart to receive profound graces. The daily meditations are written in a friendly voice, filled with everyday examples and packed with thought-provoking content.

The title is taken from the episcopal motto of Bl. George Matulaitis (1871-1927), the Renovator of the Marian Congregation. It's 100 years since Bl. George paid his last visit to the United States to view the fruits of his labors, a growing presence of Marian Fathers, especially in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C.

Goodness overcomes evil

The holy season of Lent is the Church's recognition that we, the Mystical Body of Christ, the People of God, are weeds as well as wheat; bad fish as well as good; sinners in need of sanctification.

There is a stark realism to the fact that our penitential seasons are annual. The Church presumes that we need to do penance for our sins. She doesn't wait for us to convert of our own accord, or repent, or be perfect before she gives us the medicinal tools of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. She just brings us, like any good mother would, to Lenten practices to get cleaned up on a regular basis.

Goodness overcomes evil. Why is that? Because goodness communicates being. In other words, something that is real. Evil is the absence of goodness and thus communicates nothingness. Goodness overcomes evil, then because goodness infuses something real into the empty space of evil. It's like filling a cavity in a tooth.

Goodness, which is communicated through every act of Divine Mercy, overcomes evil fully and finally at the end of time, completing a work of salvation that is rooted in Calvary, but that began in Genesis 3:15, with God's promise of a coming Savior. Goodness is the Christian path, as the Gospel makes plain, and as St. Paul made abundantly clear in the Letter to the Romans (and Bl. George professed): "Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good" (Rom 12:21; see also Rom 3:8).

Do not do evil so that good may come of it; do not use the tools of the devil to try to defeat the devil. As soon as you do, he has won a victory. Do not make the mistake of simple reaction, fleeing away from evil right past Christ Crucified into the arms of the opposing error. Keep your gaze fixed on Jesus, and stand with Christ and His Church. Do Works of Mercy, and defeat all evil.

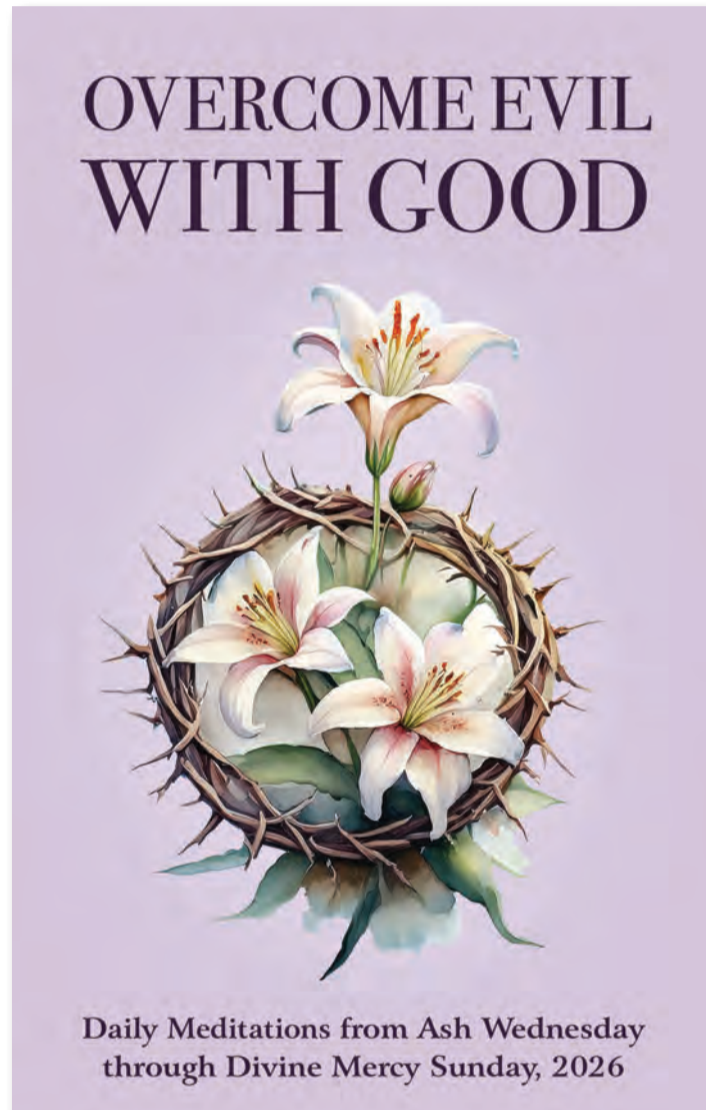
Virtue over vice

This Lent, abide in goodness; train in goodness; use this devotional to practice our faith. Practice virtue to overcome vice, to win against the world, the flesh, and the devil, in communion with Christ through prayer, Word, and Sacrament.

Saint Faustina received guidance from Jesus Himself on spiritual warfare:

Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart and, at the first opportunity, reveal the temptation to the confessor. Put your self-love in the last place, so that it does not taint your deeds. Bear with yourself with great patience. ... Shun murmurers like a plague. Let all act as they like; you are to act as I want you to (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1760).

Live Lent well. Live Lent with Jesus in Scripture and the *Diary*. Practice goodness and mercy, and overcome evil. MH



To order (Product code B69-LD26), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.

95 YEARS OF DIVINE MERCY

By Chris Sparks

We are in a year of profoundly significant anniversaries for the Divine Mercy movement and the Marian Fathers' Congregation. The beginning of the spread of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, according to the revelations of St. Faustina, came 95 years ago, on Feb. 22, 1931.



On that day, Jesus appeared as the Divine Mercy to St. Faustina in her room at the convent in Płock, Poland. With rays emanating from His Heart, He told her, **“Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world”** (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 47).

Significant date

The late Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, translator of the *Diary* into English and one of the great teachers of the devotion to the Divine Mercy, saw significance in the date of this appearance. February 22, 1931, was the first Sunday

of Lent, the designated Feast of Orthodoxy, celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Eastern Catholics of the Byzantine Rite to commemorate the return of icons to the churches and an end to the heresy of iconoclasm, the destruction of sacred images.

In other words, on the feast day devoted to sacred icons, Jesus' instructions to St. Faustina underscored the graces He makes available to us through the veneration of sacred images.

The Divine Mercy Image, given to the world through St. Faustina, is now one of the most recognized and venerated religious images in the entire world.

“To me, it speaks that Jesus wanted to initiate something

Continued on page 10

DIVINE MERCY AT 95

— that He wanted to touch us in our own time through St. Faustina to bring peace between the Orthodox Churches and the Roman Catholic Church,” Fr. Seraphim proposed.

How appropriate, just after the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and Pope Leo XIV’s visit to Turkey to join the Orthodox patriarchs in commemoration, to mark the anniversary of the Image as a step on the path to Christian unity!

Gift of the Chaplet

We are also in the midst of the 90th anniversary of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, received by St. Faustina on Sept. 13-14, 1935:

The words with which I entreated God are these: **Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us.**

The next morning, when I entered chapel, I heard these words interiorly: **Every time you enter the chapel, immediately recite the prayer which I taught you yesterday.** When I had said the prayer, in my soul I heard these words:

This prayer will serve to appease My wrath. You will recite it for nine days, on the beads of the rosary, in the following manner: First of all, you will say one OUR FATHER and HAIL MARY and the I BELIEVE IN GOD. Then on the OUR FATHER beads you will say the following words: “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.” On the HAIL MARY beads you will say the following words: “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.” In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world” (*Diary*, 475-476).

In subsequent revelations, the Lord made it clear that the Chaplet was not just for Sr. Faustina, but for the whole world. He also attached extraordinary promises to its recitation.

Lastly, we are approaching the 90th anniversary of St. Faustina’s final journey to Kraków, Poland, on May 11, 1936.

She would remain there until her death in 1938.

These anniversaries are a good reminder to all Marian Helpers and devotees of the Divine Mercy message and devotion that the next decade will be full of 100th anniversaries of the Divine Mercy message and devotion.



Earlier publications

Spreading the devotion

Although the “Renovator” of the Marian Congregation, Bl. George Matulaitis, died four years before Jesus first appeared to St. Faustina, he nonetheless played a crucial role in the spread of the Divine Mercy devotion. For it was Bl. George, in his role as Archbishop of Vilnius, who summoned a young priest of his diocese, Fr. Michael Sopoćko, home to Lithuania. He had been serving in Poland as a military chaplain. In 1933, Fr. Sopoćko was assigned as confessor to the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, where he met Sr. Faustina. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Divine Mercy Image reached the world first in the painting of Eugene Kazimirowski, completed in 1934, and in the preaching of Fr. Sopoćko in the chapel of Our Lady of the Gate of the Dawn in Vilnius in 1935, during an extraordinary Jubilee Year of the Redemption, with the completed Vilnius Divine Mercy Image by the altar.

Then the first prayer cards were printed in 1937 with St. Faustina’s direct input, and by the end of St. Faustina’s life, the first pamphlets and booklets. On Sept. 2, 1938, Fr. Sopoćko brought copies with him on a visit to her in the sanatorium, forgot to give them to her, went back, and saw her in ecstasy. This was shortly before she died.

Journey to America

It seems likely it was copies of those first prayer cards and pamphlets that Fr. Sopoćko would give to a Marian priest, Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, along with an explanation of the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, thus beginning the international spread of the message and devotion.

Father Jarzebowski made a remarkable international journey in 1941 from wartime Poland across the continents of Europe and Asia, across the Pacific Ocean, traveling from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, D.C., to his Marian brethren. From there, he worked with the Felician Sisters in Michigan and Connecticut to print more materials, some in Polish, some in English.

The Divine Mercy message and devotion began to spread, not just across wartime USA, but through military service members across the world, reaching the Pacific front, including the Philippines during the war.

Marian Press

For the past 80 years, the Marian Fathers on Eden Hill, through their publishing imprint, Marian Press, have printed and distributed literally millions of pamphlets, booklets, and prayer cards containing elements of the Divine Mercy devotion, including the Image, Chaplet, and Novena. By far the biggest selling booklet, even to this day, is The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion (Product code: B69-M17), published in 1981 and compiled by Fr. Seraphim; Vinny Flynn, first lay editor-in-chief for the Association of Marian Helpers; and Dr. Robert Stackpole.

The M17, as it is commonly called, was based on a number of iterations dating back to Fr. Sopoćko's first publications. During the ban imposed by the Holy Office (1959-1978) to stop the distribution of the writings of St. Faustina, these focused on the mercy of God according to Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterial teaching of the Church.

When the ban was lifted by Pope St. Paul VI in 1978, and Pope St. John Paul II was elected to the papacy a few months later, the Marian Fathers' materials went forth again. Interest in Divine Mercy and St. Faustina accelerated.

The *Diary* was translated into English and a dozen other languages, and in 2000, benefited from a double blessing: the canonization of St. Faustina, and the proclamation of Divine Mercy Sunday (Apr. 12 this year) as a universal feast for the Catholic Church.

Genealogy of Divine Mercy

So, there is a direct line from St. Faustina receiving the elements of the devotion, especially the words of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the M17 that many of you own today.

The essential elements of our proclamation — the Divine Mercy that is the “nucleus of the Gospel” (in the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his March 30, 2008 Angelus as the first World Apostolic Congress On Mercy was concluding in Rome), and therefore, the nucleus of all of history, of the created order itself — have always been Divine Mercy.

The revelations to St. Faustina have offered us specific devotions to get a handle on that nucleus, to receive the fulfillment of Christ's promises that those who seek would find, and that those who knock would open doors (see Mt 7:7-8).

The extraordinary promises involving Divine Mercy Sunday, the Chaplet,

and the Image, after all, are specific ways in which we can ‘seek and knock’ to access the infinite Mercy of God.

The materials have evolved over time; the heart has remained the same. Across the decades, the message and devotion to Divine Mercy has not changed. But the mediums through which we transmit this message and devotion — that has certainly evolved!

The movement began with prayer cards and pamphlets; it continues with those, but has added an award-winning TV show (Living Divine Mercy, now in its fifth season on EWTN), a livestreaming platform (DivineMercyPlus.org), websites (TheDivineMercy.org), and so much more.

Let us continue faithfully in this mission until all the world has heard and received the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

Let us continue, ‘til Christ comes again.

To order the M17 and a wide array of Divine Mercy materials, visit ShopMercy.org.

Across 9 decades, the message and devotion to Divine Mercy has not changed. But the mediums through which we transmit this message and devotion — that has certainly evolved!



‘THE PICTURE OF THE MERCIFUL CHRIST’

By Blessed Fr. Michael Sopoćko

Editor’s note: Ninety-five years ago, on Feb. 22, 1931, Jesus first appeared to St. Faustina Kowalska in her convent cell in Płock, Poland and told her, “**Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You**” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 47). Her priest-confessor, Bl. Michael Sopoćko, commissioned the artist Eugene Kazimirowski to paint the image under St. Faustina’s direction. That work of art is now known as the original Vilnius Image.

The Spring 1958 edition of *Marian Helpers Bulletin* published an article by Bl. Michael, “The Picture of the Merciful Christ,” describing the Image of the “Most Merciful Savior.” This was 42 years before the canonization of St. Faustina and the institution of Divine Mercy Sunday as a universal feast for the Catholic Church. We reprint it here to mark the 95th anniversary of the Image, and to honor Bl. Michael on his feast day, Feb. 15.



In all times sacred images were venerated in the Church, and its history points out that already in Christian antiquity it pleased God to shower special graces upon the faithful on occasion of the cult of images.

In the first centuries of Christianity, Syria had a famous statue of the Savior in Paneas. In France, the representation of the Blessed Virgin in Reims; in Italy, her statue in Loreto; in Switzerland, her picture in Einsiedeln; in Poland, the picture in Czestochowa, one of the three attributed by tradition to St. Luke; and many others have been famous for centuries on account of the miracles.

‘Peace be with you’

To such images belongs also the picture of the Most Merciful Savior. It represents Our Lord as He appeared in the Cenacle on the day of His Resurrection and instituted the Sacrament of Penance in the following words: “Peace be with you’ ... He therefore said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.’ When He said this, He breathed upon them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they shall be forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained’” (Jn 20:19-23).

The picture represents Christ in a walking position clothed in a long white garment, girted with a girdle. The gaze of Our Lord’s eyes is somewhat lowered (as on the Cross). With His left hand He slightly draws aside the garment in the vicinity of His Heart, from Which spring forth two rays, the red ray on the left (of the person looking at the picture), the pale (color of water) on the right. These rays signify the Blood and Water which flowed from the opened side of Jesus on the Cross. From that time on they gush forth from the Divine Heart of the Savior in the form of graces purifying the soul from the stains of sin (in the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance) and of lifegiving graces (in the Sacrament of the Altar [Eucharist] and all other remaining). They shield the soul from the just anger of the Heavenly Father.

Whoever lives in their light; that is, whoever duly avails himself of the benefits of the Christ-instituted Sacraments, particularly the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance (which are symbolized by the pale ray), and that of the Altar (the red ray), him the just hand of God will not touch.

His Mercy endures forever

This picture is a perfect illustration of the Holy Gospel for Low Sunday [the Second Sunday of Easter, or Divine Mercy Sunday] and a visible commentary on the liturgy of that day. It explains the anthem sung by the Church during Eastertime as the priest sprinkles the congregation with holy water before solemn Mass: “*Vidi aquam* — I saw water coming forth from the right side of the temple, alleluia: and all to whom it came were saved and said: alleluia, alleluia.

Give praise to the Lord, for He is good: for His Mercy endureth for ever.” This temple is Christ from Whose open side flows the water of inexhaustible graces purifying the soul from sins in the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance.

The picture explains also the Introit and the Epistle of the Low Sunday Mass. The Introit tells us that man must be born in the waters of Baptism to a new supernatural life, and reborn again by the Sacrament of Penance. The Epistle relates to us the testimony of the Three in heaven (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) and of the three on earth (the spirit, water, and Blood which left the dead Body of Christ on the Cross).

‘The picture represents the infinite Divine Mercy and arouses the faithful to its imitation by personal works of mercy. “Jesus, I Trust in Thee!” instills into our souls trust in God in difficulties, hope and courage amidst dangers, and renders the soul magnanimous in its service to God.’

Sacramental reminders

Thus, as we gaze upon the picture, we are reminded of Holy Baptism with all its salutary effects, and of the Sacrament of Penance and the words of absolution which proclaim to us God’s reconciling Mercy. It also recalls to our mind indulgences which are an extra-sacramental remission of the temporal punishment, and likewise it reminds us of the Sacrament of Holy Orders instituted during the last Supper and completed by Our Lord after His Resurrection when He appeared to the Apostles in the Cenacle and granted them the power of absolution to be exercised in the Sacrament of Penance.

Therefore, this picture represents to us the deepest mysteries of Easter: imparting to the Apostles the Holy Spirit Who henceforth will operate in the Church, rule it, regenerate sinners to a new life, anoint prophets, and apply the merits of Christ’s sufferings and death to individual souls.

The picture represents the infinite Divine Mercy and arouses the faithful to its imitation by personal works of mercy. The ejaculatory prayer inserted beneath the picture: “Jesus, I Trust in Thee!” instills into our souls trust in God in difficulties, hope and courage amidst dangers, and renders the soul magnanimous in its service to God. MH

Chaplet Challenge

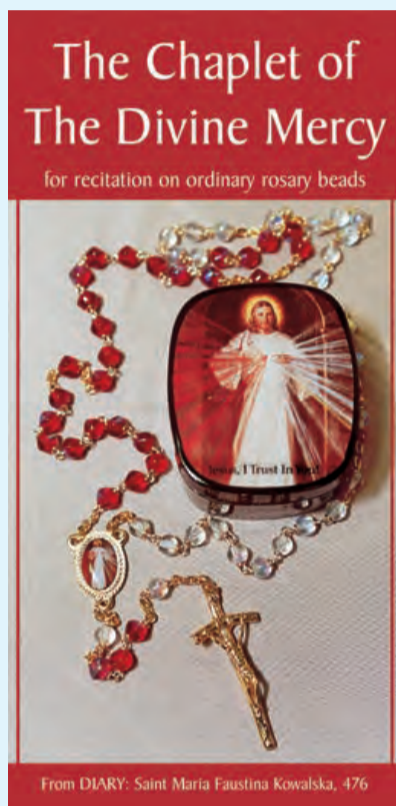
In the last issue of *Marian Helper*, Father Joseph, MIC challenged readers to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet daily, and invited those who have a prayer routine to send in stories of graces received. We share a few here. Please send yours to editorial@Marian.org, and keep praying, especially during this year marking the Chaplet's 90th anniversary!

Richard writes: I've prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy nearly every night, offering it for others in need. One evening, as I began the Chaplet, I had a vision of a man lying in a hospital bed, reaching out to me. I didn't understand what it meant, so I ignored it. This happened again.

On the third night, I remembered how St. Faustina, in her *Diary*, wrote of souls who appeared to her asking for the Chaplet. She prayed for them, trusting that Jesus would show them mercy.

I prayed the Chaplet for that man. After that night, I never saw the vision again. I don't know who he was. But I believe Jesus heard the prayer. I believe He stood between that soul and the just Judge, just as He promised. And I believe that mercy reached someone who needed it most.

Meaghan writes: I pray the Chaplet every day. At work, I started to excuse myself during the Hour of Mercy to pray in a closet. One day the manager caught me. "Meaghan?" he said. "What are you doing hiding in the closet?" I was crouched on the floor and looked up and hesitantly said, "Praying?" He is not a religious person, but he was very interested and began asking a lot of questions. He told me that if it



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is important to me, he can accommodate my 7 minutes to pray. Now, if I don't hide away right at 3 o'clock, he comes over to me, shows me his watch, and says "Go, get out of here!"

Another day, he asked how the Rosary worked. The Rosary I use is very special to me and has its own story, which I told him. It has been touched to many relics so that also began a discussion on relics.

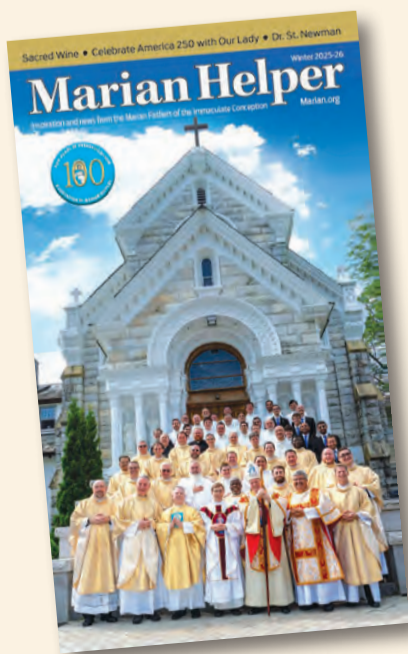
He and his family do not go to any church. The questions that he asks me, though, are very encouraging, and it all began because of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Ralph writes: I began praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after listening to Fr. Chris Alar speak about it and other priests speaking about St. Faustina. Lately I find myself praying it more often than the 3 o'clock hour: in the middle of the night, a few minutes before

3 a.m., or shortly after.

There is a certain peace, stability, and clarity that I feel, especially with all the noise, the bombardment of information, and distractions that surround us. I am very grateful for that grace and pray that Our Lord and His Blessed Mother will help me with the appropriate grace to help others in my path.

MH



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INDEPENDENT PHOTO AGENCY/ALAMY LIVE NEWS

Pope Leo XIV during his 'digital visit' to the United States via video link with the young people of the National Catholic Youth Conference.

WHITE SOCKS & WORDLE

Pope Leo meets the youth of America

In an unprecedented virtual event, Pope Leo XIV spoke to 16,000 Catholic high-schoolers at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 21, 2025. Speaking over a live video link from the Vatican, the Holy Father answered questions on a variety of topics, occasionally injecting humor, such as when he revealed, “I only wear white socks” (a nod to his favorite baseball team, the Chicago White Sox) and “I use a different word for Wordle every day. So there’s no set starting word, in case you’re wondering.”

Continued on page 16

POPE LEO XIV

Here are excerpts from the Pope's conversation, responding to questions on topics such as mercy, friendship, participation, and navigating AI.

How can we accept God's mercy when we've fallen short?

The truth is that none of us is perfect. Saint Paul teaches that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He tells us that in his Letter to the Romans. Because of original sin, we sometimes do the opposite of what we know is right. But there's good news. Sin never has the final word. Whenever we ask for God's mercy, He forgives us...

For example, we all know the story of the prodigal son: that son who made terrible choices and yet, when he came home, his father ran to embrace him. Jesus also called Himself the Good Shepherd who searches for the lost sheep. Even on the Cross, He forgave the Good Thief and prayed for those who crucified Him.

We may struggle to forgive. But God's Heart is different. God never stops inviting us back.

How can we give our worries to God and feel close to Him?

To entrust our struggles to Jesus, we have to spend time with Him in prayer. We have to have a relationship with Him. In quiet, we can speak honestly about what is in our hearts. During Eucharistic Adoration, you can look at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and know that He looks at you — and He looks at you with love...

Giving our problems to Jesus is something we can do, we need to do, again and again. Each morning we can invite Him to be with us during the day. Each night we can talk with Him about our day. And remember also Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother. She understands what we go through, and she prays for us.

There's a powerful way to ask for her help, and that's praying the Rosary. Through her intercession and with all the saints praying for us, we can confidently place everything in God's hands, knowing that He always hears us. He's always with us.

How can we communicate better with others?

Scripture says that faithful friends are like a strong shelter and a treasure. I hope you are forming friendships like that, even during this conference — friendships rooted in

faith, rooted in love for Jesus.

Whether it is a trusted adult or close friend, it's important to speak honestly about what you feel, what you think, what you experience. Honesty will help you put your feelings into words. And honesty will allow Jesus to work through the people that He has placed in your life.

At the same time, remember that the Lord invites us to grow through our challenges. Many young people say, "No one understands me." But that thought sometimes can isolate you. When it comes, try saying, "O Lord, You understand



me better than I understand myself." And trust that the Lord will guide you.

In a world of distractions, how do we stay focused during prayer?

It depends on the distraction, actually. But sometimes the best thing to do is to follow the distraction for a moment, see why it's there, but then to turn back and to remember why you're there and why you're in prayer.

And to say to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I'm distracted right now. I know You understand" — but not to allow yourself to be taken too far away, especially during prayer, because there are all kinds of temptations and all kinds of distractions, but there's only one Jesus Christ. And we really need to give our time also in prayer to Christ.

How should we use technology wisely? What about Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

There's a saint who was recently canonized who I'm sure all of you have heard of: St. Carlo Acutis. He's a great example. Carlo was skilled with computers, and he used that talent. He used it to help people grow in their faith. He also spent

time in prayer in Eucharistic Adoration. He taught others, and, very importantly, he served the poor.

He even set time limits for himself, allowing only a certain amount of time each week for leisure on his electronic devices. Because of this discipline, he found a healthy balance and kept his priorities clear.

My friends, I encourage you to follow the example of Carlo Acutis. Be intentional with your screen time. Make sure technology serves your life and not the other way around. ...

As you all know, probably better than I do, AI is becoming one of the defining features of our time ... AI can process information quickly, but it cannot replace human intelligence ... It cannot offer real wisdom. It misses a very important human element: AI will not judge between what is truly right and wrong. And it won't stand in wonder, in authentic wonder before the beauty of God's creation.

So be prudent; be wise; be careful that your use of AI does not limit your true human growth. Use it in such a way that, if it disappeared tomorrow, you would still know how to think, how to create, how to act on your own, how to form authentic friendships.

Remember, AI can never replace that unique gift that you are to the world.

How is the Catholic Church preparing for the future?

When we face challenges or worries about the future, it might be good to remember that promise that Jesus once made to Peter, when He said, "The gates of hell will not prevail against the Church." Jesus will always protect, guide and love His Church...

When we speak and listen to one another in a prayerful way, we can be confident that Jesus is walking with us, even when the path ahead is not clear. When our bishops speak, when they teach us, we also can listen to them and find guidance through what they offer to their diocese, to the local Church, and, united together, to the whole Church.

How can youth be part of the conversations about the Church?

If you want to help the Church prepare for the future, start by being involved today. Stay connected to your parish. Attend Sunday Mass. Join youth activities and say "Yes" to opportunities, just as you've done taking part in this conference; opportunities where your faith can grow.

The more you come to know Jesus, the more you will want to serve Him and His Church. One great way to build

up the Church is by sharing your faith, teaching the faith to others, helping others who need you. Teaching is often the best way to strengthen your own understanding. Deepen your prayer life as well. Spend time praying before the Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration.

Go to Confession regularly; other practices of prayer and reflection and reading God's Word. These practices help us hear God's voice more clearly. If you feel the Lord may be calling you to something specific, to some vocation, talk to your parish priest. Talk to another trusted leader. They can help you discern what God is asking.

So I invite you to reflect on these questions: What can I offer the Church for the future? How can I help others come to know Christ? How can I build peace and friendship around me? These questions are for today, and I believe your "Yes" will strengthen the Church now and in the years to come.

How can I make a difference in the world?

Many of you are ready to be generous, to help those you love, to work for something greater than yourselves. That is why it is not true that life is

only about doing what feels good to yourself, that makes you feel comfortable, as some people claim. Sure, comfort can be nice, but as Pope Benedict XVI reminded us, we weren't made for comfort. We were made for greatness...

Authentic witnesses of the Gospel can help heal and unite humanity. Jesus also calls His disciples to be peacemakers, people who build bridges instead of walls, people who value dialogue and unity instead of division. Please be careful not to use political categories to speak about faith, to speak about the Church. The Church doesn't belong to any political party. Rather, she helps form your conscience so you can think and act with wisdom and love.

As you grow closer to Jesus, do not fear what He might ask of you. If He challenges you to make changes in your life, it's always because He wants to give you greater joy, greater freedom. God is never outdone in generosity.

Dear friends, as you discern your vocation, trust Jesus. He knows how to lead you to true happiness. ... What greater gift can you offer the world than the gift of eternal life in Christ? What greater cause could you dedicate your life to than the Gospel?

The world needs missionaries. It needs you to share the light and the joy that you have found in Jesus.

The full transcript of Pope Leo's conversation is posted on Marian.org/NCR1.

'Many young people say, "No one understands me." But that thought sometimes can isolate you. When it comes, try saying, "O Lord, You understand me better than I understand myself." And trust that the Lord will guide you.'



"THE HOLY FAMILY WITH A LITTLE BIRD," BARTOLOMÉ ESTEBAN MURILLO, c. 1650. PUBLIC DOMAIN.

THE LORDSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH

In a special way, Pope Bl. Pius IX honored the Lordship of St. Joseph, whose feast we celebrate on March 19, a solemnity during the holy season of Lent. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, 1870, in his decree *Quemadmodum Deus*, Pius declared St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. He took this step because the venerable prelates of the whole Catholic world had petitioned him to do so.

The leaders of the Church were begging for St. Joseph's help as they faced such troublesome times when, the Holy Father wrote, "the Church is beset by enemies on every side, and is weighed down by calamities so heavy that ungodly men assert[ed] that the gates of hell have at length prevailed against her."

Two Josephs

Pope Pius IX was not exaggerating. Armies of Masons were laying siege to the Vatican from the north and south, attempting to trample the Church into dust, not understanding the greatness of the Holy Family. While shepherding the Church through a time of famine, pestilence, and war, Pope Pius IX invoked St. Joseph, as prefigured by Joseph of Egypt:

As almighty God appointed Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob, over all the land of Egypt to save grain for the people, so when the fullness of time had come and He was about to send to earth His only-begotten Son, the Savior of the world, He chose another Joseph, of whom the first had been the type, and He made him the lord and chief of His household and possessions, the guardian of His choicest treasures. ... [Joseph] most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life. ...

Joseph of Egypt prefigured a much greater Joseph, St. Joseph, who would bring his Son, the Bread of Heaven, to safety in Egypt. Both Josephs safeguarded bread for the whole world, but St. Joseph protected, not food which perishes, but "the living bread which came down from Heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever" (Jn 6:51).

Pharaoh gave Joseph great authority, and God likewise made St. Joseph "lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions" (Ps 105:21). Saint Joseph was made lord of the house

of Nazareth and ruler of all God's treasures, the greatest of these being Jesus and Mary. ...

Saint Joseph's Lordship is also based on the fact that the King of the Cosmos was, in a real sense, subject to him. "Jesus Christ our Lord," Pius IX wrote, "deigned to be reputed in the sight of men as the son of Joseph, and was subject to him." There, in the humble home of Nazareth, without guard or grand entrance:

[Jesus], whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life.

We invite you to send us
your intentions for the
St. Joseph Novena.
Visit Marian.org/b69
to have your intentions
remembered.

Three Hearts

The source of eternal life, which explorers would circumnavigate the globe in search of, the locus of all future pilgrimages, was unvisited, unsought, and unknown in the home of Joseph.

Pius IX's successor, Pope Leo XIII, wrote in his apostolic letter *Breve*

Neminem Fugit, "Those who are of noble birth," like St. Joseph, "may learn, from this Family of royal blood, how to live simply in times of prosperity, and how to retain their dignity in times of distress."

We consecrate ourselves to the Holy Family in order that we may be consecrated to the three Hearts of the Holy House of Nazareth: the Sacred Heart, the Immaculate Heart, and the Most Chaste Heart. Because of the sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful servant, we ask that St. Joseph would intercede for us, too, in times of trouble.

Excerpted from 33 Days to the Holy Family: Consecration to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC and Scott L. Smith, Jr. (code B69-HF33D), available on ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.

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HEADING INSIDE: When it snows outside and the temperature plunges, sensible people head indoors. That's the case with the construction crew at the new Monastery and Chapel on Eden Hill. With exterior work on the walls and roofs of the new Monastery and Chapel well advanced, attention now turns to the interior, where framing is under way, including inside the Chapel (below). This magnificent project is made possible by generous donations of Marian Helpers to the Together for Christ and His Church capital campaign. [Learn more at TogetherforChrist.org](http://TogetherforChrist.org). (PHOTOS BY BR. MARK FANDERS, MIC)



Divine Mercy Weekend, April 11-12

Planning is in full swing for the celebration of Divine Mercy Weekend, April 11-12, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. More than 15,000 people are expected to attend the annual event hosted by the Marian Fathers, who have promoted the Divine Mercy message and devotion since 1941.

Throughout the weekend, the 350-acre Shrine grounds are transformed into a small tent city, providing opportunities for Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Rosary, and perusing the Divine Mercy Gift Shop. On Saturday, the Mercy Weekend Conference in the St. Faustina Center features talks by Marian Fathers Chris Alar, Donald Calloway, and Mark Baron.

Both the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. on April 11, and the Sunday Liturgy at 1 p.m. on April 12, will be celebrated on Eden Hill at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.

The principal celebrant for the liturgy on Divine Mercy Sunday (broadcast live on EWTN) will be the Most Rev. David L. Ricken, Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. In 2010, two years after becoming bishop, Bishop Ricken issued a decree on the authenticity of the 1859 appearances of Our Lady to Adele Brice, paving the

way to the declaration of Our Lady of Champion as the only Church-approved Marian apparition in the United States (see page 24).

Preceding Divine Mercy Sunday Mass at 12 p.m. (and broadcast live on EWTN) will be our annual pre-show, hosted by the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, Superior General, and the Very Rev. Chris Alar, MIC, Provincial Superior. This year's theme is "USA 250: One Nation Under God's Mercy."

"We hope to see you on Eden Hill," says Fr. Chris. "But if you are unable to join us, please help your pastor and parish celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We have a host of useful resources available online at: TheDivineMercy.org/celebrate."

The Marian Fathers extend a warm invitation to come to Eden Hill to experience this annual celebration. Admission is free. Private vehicles do not need to register, but buses and groups larger than 15 people must register in advance. Details available now on ShrineofDivineMercy.org.

Admission to the Mercy Weekend Conference on Apr. 11 is by ticket only; \$5 admission. Seating is limited; register now at TheDivineMercy.org/MWC. The conference will also be livestreamed on DivineMercyPlus.org.



Bishop David L. Ricken

MH



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC: From his perch in the choir loft above the Shrine Chapel, Br. Ken Galisa, MIC, plays the organ during the daily livestreamed Mass at 9 a.m. ET. Thanks to generous contributions to the annual "Giving Tuesday" appeal, \$500,000 was raised to restore the 40-year-old organ. The restoration will start in the Fall and take 4-5 months and involve much-needed and long-overdue repairs, essential to extend its life span and ensure its peak performance for decades to come. (PHOTO BY JULIA ROSE)

TO JESUS, THROUGH MARY

By Fr. Chris Alar, MIC

I want to introduce you to one of the greatest Marian saints in the history of the Church: St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673-1716). He was born in a region of what today is France into a wealthy and powerful family, but set most of that aside to pursue his vocation to the priesthood and to a life as a Third Order Dominican. He was outstanding for his works of mercy and service to the poor, known in his own lifetime for extraordinary sanctity, love of God and neighbor, and preaching the Word of God.

Saint Louis stands out as another extraordinary contribution of the “eldest daughter of the Church” to Christ and His Church. He was and remains an exceptional promoter of devotion to Our Lady, she who is the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of the



Statue of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort in St. Peter's Basilica.

Church, and the Mother of Mercy. He's a great model of exactly the sort of Marian spirituality that my religious Congregation, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is dedicated to living and spreading.

Marian classic

That shared devotion to Our Lady is why Marian Press has just published a special edition of St. Louis' classic work, *A Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. This was the basis of our worldwide bestseller, *33 Days to Morning Glory*. If you're one of the millions who made their consecration to Mary using this book, then you'll want to go deeper and read the master work that inspired it.

Saint Louis wrote the book in the 1700s, but it was literally buried for a time, as were many Catholic writings and treasures during the French Revolution and the Terror that followed. The order St. Louis had founded, the De Montfort Fathers, rediscovered the manuscript in 1842, recognized it was the work of their founder, and proceeded to publish it in 1843.

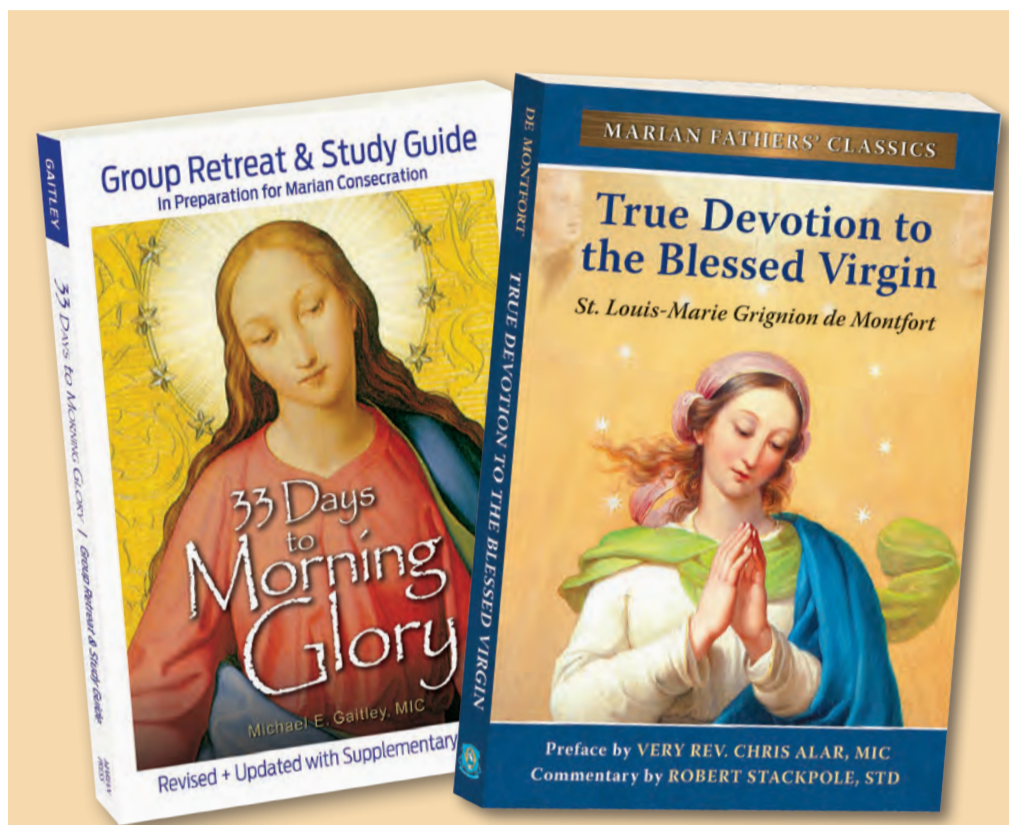
Since its rediscovery and publication, it has proven itself to be one of the greatest classics of Marian spirituality and theology in the treasury of the Church. Saint

Louis de Montfort's writings and life have formed saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa. In fact, just listen to what St. John Paul II had to say about St. Louis de Montfort: "Constantly aware of the presence of Jesus and Mary, his entire being was a witness to the theological virtue of charity which he desired to share with everyone. His deeds and his words had only one aim, to call people to conversion and to motivate them to live for God."

Insightful commentary

Our Marian edition of *True Devotion* uses the English translation of the original French by Fr. Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), an Anglican convert to Catholicism (and composer of the popular hymn "Faith of Our Fathers"). It includes insightful commentary by Dr. Robert Stackpole, director emeritus of the John Paul II Institute of Divine

Mercy, designed to help you better hear and understand St. Louis, to use this book, imitate its author's love for Our Lady, and allow its life-changing teachings to transform the way you live your Christian faith. If you do that, you will take part in the fulfillment of St. Louis' prophecy. What an incredible grace!



'If you're one of the millions who made their consecration to Mary using *33 Days to Morning Glory*, you'll want to go deeper and read the Marian Fathers' Classic edition of the master work that inspired it.'

To Jesus through Mary, after all, is a privileged path to Heaven, and to sanctity even in this lifetime on earth. Presenting this classic work to you now, offering you these extra tools to make or renew your total consecration to Jesus through Mary, fulfills in a powerful way our call to serve the Church where the need is greatest, as Bl. George Matulaitis (1871-1927), the Renovator of my religious Congregation, called for.

After all, St. Louis de Montfort said, "I feel a great desire to make Our Lord and His Holy Mother loved, and to go about in a poor and simple way, catechizing poor country people."

And the call to go to

Jesus through Mary is more urgent than ever. The world is so divided today, but as many theologians, saints, and scholars have said, Our Lady, who united God and humanity in her womb, bridging the greatest of all possible gaps, can unite us in one body with her Son.

That's why we've done more for Marian consecration than almost any other publisher. Our *33 Days to Morning Glory: Group Edition and Study Guide* (product code: B69-3DRC3) gives you everything you need to respond to St. Louis de Montfort's call to Marian consecration. Don't miss these graces! Please read and be transformed.

May Jesus, the Face of the Father's Mercy, bless you. And may Mary Immaculate keep you safe beneath her mantle.

To order True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin (product code: B69-METDM), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.

OUR OWN 'CHAMPION'

By Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle

During this 250th anniversary of our country, American Catholics can take pride in Our Lady of Champion, the only Church-approved Marian apparition in the United States of America.

On Dec. 8, 2010, Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin declared the 1859 apparitions to Adele Brice “worthy of belief,” where Our Lady appeared and “gave words of solace and comfort and a bold and challenging mission for the young immigrant woman.”

Six years later, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designated Champion, Wisconsin as a National Shrine. The site, formerly called Our Lady of Good Help, was renamed in 2023 to the “National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.” Thousands of pilgrims visit annually, seeking help, healing, and inspiration.

And in major news, on Dec. 28, 2025, Bishop Ricken issued an edict formally announcing a diocesan inquiry into the life of now-Servant of God Adele Brice, opening the visionary’s cause for canonization.

Chosen by Mary

As with all Marian apparitions, we are immensely privileged because our Blessed Mother chooses to stoop low to the earth to comfort, teach, and warn her children. Continuously praying for the conversion of sinners, Mary, at times, hand picks her helpers, as she did in rural Wisconsin.

The Queen of Heaven chose Adele Brice, born on Jan. 30, 1831, and who grew to be a cheerful, religious young lady, despite a childhood accident leaving her blind in one eye. On her First Holy Communion day, Adele promised the Virgin Mary that she would devote her life to becoming a religious teaching sister in Belgium.



However, her holy desire might as well have gone up in smoke because Adele's parents decided to move the family to America, along with other Belgian settlers. However, Adele's priest confessor reassured her that if our Lord wanted this for her, it would happen in America. In God's providence, her desired vocation would manifest in a most miraculous way!

Nonetheless, it was a tough life in a rugged and scary new land. The winters at their new settlement in Wisconsin were extremely harsh. Some settlers died due to the piercing raw sub-zero conditions. Adele and her family lived with other immigrants in the largest Belgian settlement of that time. Adele helped her parents by bundling up to ward off the freezing temperatures every day and carrying the family grain on foot to the grist mill.

Queen of Heaven

One day, while walking on a trail in the Robinsonville area (now Champion), Adele saw a bright light, which took on the form of a Lady dressed in dazzling white. The Lady was silent. She was a bit elevated and between a maple tree and a hemlock tree. She soon vanished and left a brilliant white cloud behind.

Adele wondered what this encounter could mean. She shared it with her parents upon reaching home. Her parents believed that she had seen something mystical and important — most likely, a Holy Soul from Purgatory in need of prayer.

A few days later, on Sunday, Oct. 9, 1859, Adele again saw the mysterious Lady between the trees. After Mass, Adele shared her two encounters with the priest. He gave her clear instructions to ask the Lady, "In God's name, who are you and what do you want of me?"

Adele saw the Lady for the third time and asked the Lady, who answered immediately, "I am the Queen of Heaven."

Adele's mission

Adele was then given a holy mission from the Mother of God! Mary said,

I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same. You received Holy Communion this morning and that is well. But you must do more. Make a general Confession and offer Communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to

punish them.

Looking at Adele, she asked, "What are you doing here in idleness while your companions are working in the vineyard of my Son?"

Adele could neither read nor write and asked, "But how shall I teach them who know so little myself?"

Our Lady answered, "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and how to approach the Sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you."

Our Lady's requests were simple but very necessary in forming the foundation of faith for children. She allayed Adele's fears, assuring her of her holy help.

Adele's father built a small family chapel on the site and Adele recruited her women friends to help her teach. Within a few short years after the apparitions, buildings were up and in use. People were helping and much evangelization work was being accomplished.

Great Fire

On Oct. 8, 1871, the Great Peshtigo Fire, considered the worst fire in U.S. history, was headed straight for the community! It threatened to destroy

everything they had worked so hard to build in order to serve the children.

Afterwards, a local priest, Fr. Peter Pernin reported, "After hours of horror and suspense, the heavens sent relief in the form of a downpour. The fervent prayers to the Mother of God were heard." He continued, "The convent, school, and chapel on the holy land consecrated to the Virgin Mary shone like an emerald isle in a sea of ashes."

For the next 25 years until her death on July 5, 1896, Adele and her lay women continued to teach and catechize the children. She is buried in the cemetery located near the Apparition Chapel on the grounds of the National Shrine.

Our Lady of Champion (feast day: Oct. 9), please pray for America!

To learn more, visit ChampionShrine.org.

Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle writes about Our Lady of Champion and other Marian apparitions in her book, [Our Life, Our Sweetness, and Our Hope! Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope with Mary](#) (Product code B69-POHB), available from Marian Press on ShopMercy.org.

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Sacred Heart & the USA

As part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Catholic bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration will take place on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 12.

“One hundred years ago, in 1925, in his encyclical instituting the feast of Christ the King, Pope Pius XI — drawing on the teaching of Pope Leo XIII — referred to the pious custom of consecrating oneself, families, and even nations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ,” explained Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Bishop Rhoades added that Pope Francis’ final encyclical, *Dilexit Nos (He Loved Us)*, “brought devotion to the Sacred Heart to the forefront of Catholic life as the ultimate symbol of both human and divine love, calling it a wellspring of peace and unity” and how “the Sacred Heart teaches us to build up in this world God’s kingdom of love and justice.”

In his first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te (I Have Loved You)*, Pope Leo XIV follows in his predecessor’s footsteps. He echoed his predecessor’s teaching, reminding the faithful that “in the poor and the suffering, we see revealed the very heart of Christ, his deepest feelings and choices, which every saint seeks to imitate.”

God bless the USA

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, author of *Sacred Heart Gems: Daily Wisdom on the Heart of Jesus*, was delighted by the news. His book offers reflections across the ages from popes, saints, blessed, and venerable mystics about the Sacred Heart — an ideal primer for Catholics of all ages.

“This news brings joy to my heart,” Fr. Calloway said. “I love the USA! I see this consecration as a way of praying for our country, exercising patriotism, and asking God to bless the USA, even as we pray in reparation for any offenses we as a nation have committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

“Many Catholics know that the Marian Fathers promote the Divine Mercy message and devotion, but not many know that the Marian Fathers are also very devoted to the Sacred Heart,” he continued, as evidenced in the promotion of the First Fridays devotion, for example. “My hope is that parishes and Catholic schools across the USA participate in the consecration and become more devoted to the Sacred Heart.”

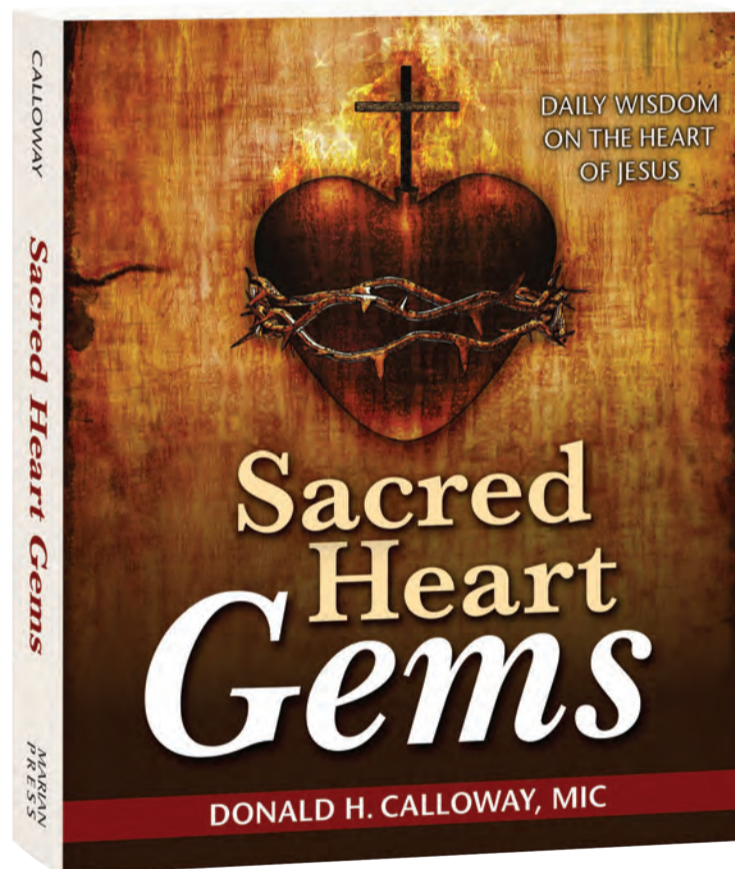
Prayer resources

The USCCB is preparing prayer resources, including a novena, for dioceses and parishes to engage Catholics in the run-up to the June consecration. Archbishop Alexander K. Sample, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, is heading the initiative.

A dedicated website is active now: usccb.org/we-hold-these-truths.

“As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life,” Archbishop Sample noted. “We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities.”

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To order (Product code: B69-SHGM), visit ShopMercy.org or call 1-800-462-7426.



At last year's Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference, Ron Sobecks, MD, professor of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Taussig Cancer Institute, Cleveland Clinic, paid tribute to his spiritual mentors, including Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, and the late, great teacher of Divine Mercy, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC. It was through their efforts that the Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy became an official apostolate of the Marian Fathers. (PHOTO BY CHRIS SPARKS)

'Mercy and Spirituality for Healthcare Professionals'

We need our healthcare professionals to be well trained professionally, but also well-formed to provide the sort of spiritual care all too often overlooked or disregarded these days. That's why the work of **Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy** is more vital than ever.

The apostolate, officially incorporated with the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, will be holding its **21st annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference** April 29-30, followed by a half-day retreat on May 1, at the **National Shrine of The Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Mercy and Spirituality

The theme of this year's conference is, "Mercy and Spirituality for Healthcare Professionals." Participants can register to join in person at the Shrine or virtually online.

"We will cover a range of topics addressing current challenges for healthcare professionals, while how to integrate compassion and spirituality will be presented by experts across disciplines," explains Nurse Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN, CCM-R, apostolate founder and organizer.

"Presentations are designed to give the health professionals unique opportunities to integrate their faith in their practice to enhance care outcomes. Healthcare professionals receive continuing education for their participation."



Body and soul

The Catholic Church in its many religious orders, ministries, and apostolates has been outstanding in the field of healthcare since Jesus was doing miracles of healing in the Middle East in the first century. That mission of mercy in healthcare is no less important now than ever before; in fact, in many ways, it has gained a new urgency.

"Spiritual awareness has gained increasing recognition as a vital dimension of healthcare, with profound implications for both patient well-being and the emotional resilience of health professionals," adds Nurse Marie. "Professional formation provides essential clinical skills, knowledge, and ethical standards necessary for effective healthcare delivery."

For more information and to register, visit TheDivineMercy.org/healthcare/conference.



MARKGMAUNO/WIKICOMMONS

ROSARIES ON ICE

By Jay Sorgi

Ed Morris misses his son-in-law. The National Hockey League (NHL) misses “Johnny Hockey.” But through one God-led brainstorm that the late Johnny Gaudreau (above) and his father-in-law put into action, the entire NHL may someday feel his presence through the Virgin Mary, the Rosary, and seeds that they have planted throughout the league through the simplicity of Rosary rings.

“Think of someone in your life that maybe planted a seed in your mind, and you developed it. You watered it, and you did something very good with it,” says Morris, a real estate executive and Catholic evangelist from Delaware County, Pennsylvania, just outside Philadelphia. He runs “Team Hope,” a prayer ministry of Catholic friendship.

“Johnny planted a seed in my mind. I watered it, and I’m

spreading it out to the entire NHL.”

Tragedy strikes

Often, such seeds of new life come through the hardest of pain.

A star player at Boston College, Johnny Gaudreau turned pro and played eight years as a left wing with the Calgary



Flames, and two years with the Columbus Blue Jackets. He was a seven-time NHL All-Star, and won the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy as the league's "most gentlemanly player." Johnny was an inspiration for fellow hockey players who were, like him, smaller in stature than most (he was 5-foot-9).

His promising NHL career came to a tragic halt two weeks after his 31st birthday.

On Aug. 29, 2024, Johnny and his brother, Matthew Gaudreau, were killed while riding their bicycles. A drunk driver struck them in Salem County, New Jersey (where they grew up), on the day before their sister's wedding.

Johnny's wife, Meredith, was carrying their third child, Carter, at the time. Morris now helps Meredith take care of Carter, born on April 1, 2025, along with Johnny and Meredith's daughter Noa and son Johnny, Jr.

Team Hope

Morris has run Team Hope, a ministry of Catholic friendship that builds prayer and personal support networks among individuals throughout Philadelphia and South Jersey. He has spoken at numerous "Man Up" men's Catholic ministry conferences throughout the region.

It's not hard for Morris to plant seeds of God's love in others' lives, just as he did when he gave his son-in-law a Rosary ring, blessed by Pope Francis.

"I didn't know what he would think of that. Did he think his father-in-law was goofy? I don't know. But I gave it to him, and he took off for Calgary for his ninth season."

While in Calgary during the season, Johnny sent his father-in-law a picture of the Rosary ring on his red Calgary Flames athletic bag (shown at left).

"How happy was I? This is my daughter's husband. He had faith. He planted a seed in my mind. I knew who he was now, a young man of faith. I was so happy. He planted a seed with me."

Rosary rings

When Johnny was killed, numerous teammates from the Flames and Blue Jackets joined other friends in mourning his loss.

"Eleven of John's friends were there at the funeral," Morris recalls. "They are crying. They don't know what to say. I walked up to them and said, 'Thank you for being here. Can I tell you about your great friend, John?'"

"I showed them the picture of the Rosary ring on his Calgary bag. They're like, 'Wow. I didn't know about that. I didn't know he had that kind of faith.'"

Morris gave one of the Pope Francis-blessed Rosary rings to Matthew Tkachuk, now with the Stanley Cup champion Florida Panthers.

What photo soon comes Morris' way? That exact Rosary ring, gently located on top of a Florida Panthers bag.

Morris told the same story to Boone Jenner, the captain of the Blue Jackets, and Andrew Mangiapane of the Edmonton Oilers, who played with Johnny in Calgary and was a pall-bearer at his funeral. Both gladly accepted Rosary rings, and sent photos.

To date, Rosary rings blessed by Pope Francis have now found themselves within nine NHL locker rooms, which means the story of the Rosary has now reached more than a quarter of the NHL due to the vision of Johnny Gaudreau and Ed Morris.

Only the beginning

"Can you imagine if we get all 32 NHL teams?: A Pope-blessed Rosary on all 32 teams?" Morris says. "That's gold, and the NHL can be known as the most faith-filled professional sports league in the world."

He is brimming with confidence, and the NHL is just the beginning.

"I can do this for John. Why can't I take it to the NBA, the NFL, Major League Baseball? All I have to do is find one faith-filled person and get all the teams to do this."

Morris is dedicating his life to seed-planting for Christ. His work has spanned from helping drug-addicted individuals find recovery to creating events and digital prayer circles helping thousands in the Philadelphia area. At a recent prayer service, Morris challenged about 700 others to do the same.

"Whatever you're good at, how can you deploy it? How can you be part of the rescue mission? How can you do exactly what He wants you to do? We've got to get to work," he says.

"Take some initiative to do something good. Go plant a seed somewhere. Just go plant a seed. And let God take over from there."

Follow the web series, "*Fields Full of Grace: The Faith at Play*," on Marian.org/Fields-of-Grace.

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SHINE A LIGHT

Josie DeStefano has had a song in her heart for as long as she can remember. An accomplished pianist with a performing arts background, Josie is creative, tenacious, and always trusting that she'd find a way to use her God-given talent to help others. And now her original musical will have its world premiere this summer!

The effort is a family affair, and firmly grounded in their strong Catholic faith. Josie and her husband, John, are Marian Helpers whose devotion to Divine Mercy, First Saturdays, and the Rosary have been a guiding force in raising their three children and always finding ways to do something good for someone else.

For many years, Josie's passion for music took a back seat to marriage, motherhood, and work as an accountant and a piano teacher. Then her daughter, Gina, was cast in the 1996 U.S. premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *Whistle Down the Wind*. For months, the DeStefanos followed a grueling rehearsal schedule that took them from their home in the suburbs to the bright lights of New York City.



Amid the glitz and glamor of the Big Apple, Josie was so profoundly moved by the homeless people she saw on the streets of Manhattan. "I want to write a song that can feed people," she told John, and she did just that: "Soup Kitchens and Shelters."

After Gina's show closed in Washington, D.C., Josie kept writing songs and kept the faith that God would show her where to find her voice.

John shared Josie's passion. Embracing the Corporal Works of Mercy to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, they made it their mission to put their blessings into action. Together, they started writing a script to incorporate the songs that Josie composed. The story began to unfold. The whole DeStefano family got behind them, and now, nearly 30 years after that first note of inspiration, *Streetlight: A New Musical*, is set to make its world premiere in July!

Set in New York City, *Streetlight* follows the paths of

three people on a collision course: a driven Wall Street executive, a compassionate director of an overburdened city shelter, and a woman on the brink of homelessness. A single act of faith forces each to question who they are and what truly matters, and discover how, "even in the darkest

places, one act of kindness can be the light that helps us find our way home."

"*Streetlight* is about getting out there and being successful, but doing good with it," Josie says. Her favorite song, "In Another Place," is about regrets, surrender, hope, and trusting God.

The project has become a force of faith and family. The music director is Josie's nephew, Robert Buonaspina, who'll conduct a 30-piece orchestra for the show.

Her son John oversaw the logo and website design (StreetlightTheMusical.com), and daughters Gina and Jackie help with marketing and administration. Proceeds from the concert will benefit Island Harvest, a leading hunger-relief organization.

"All along, I said I'd only be able to do this if Jesus was walking with me," Josie says. "My daughter Jackie reminded me that we have to answer for the gifts God gave us. I wanted to do this now, while I still can."

Using time, talent, and treasure and turning them into good works. Imagine, like the DeStefano Family, trusting in Him, what you, too, can do!

As part of our Marian Helper Family, please join the Marian Fathers and help illuminate our world with faith, hope, and love.



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

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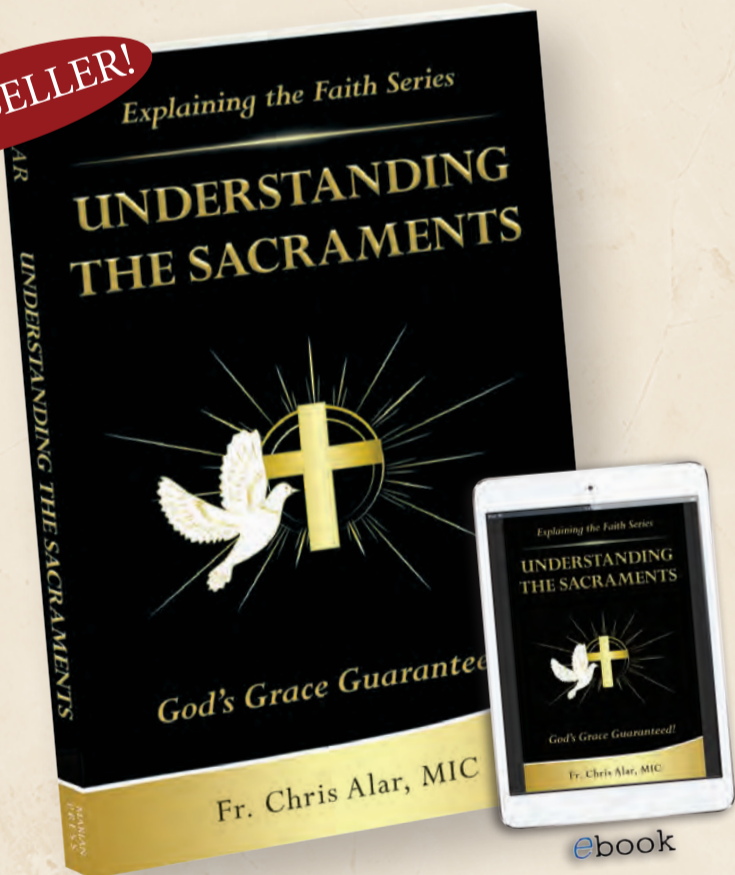
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GRACES RECEIVED

House sells after three years

I would like to share the intervention of Bl. George in selling my house. It has been on the market for three years and, after at least three brokers, nobody came up with a satisfactory offer.

I read the miracles that Bl. George has interceded for, and I started praying his novena. I am happy to share that, last September, my house finally sold. I attribute the efficacious intercession of Bl. George for the sale.

Blessed George will always be one of my intercessors from now on.

— MA, email

Daughters receive graces

Since the Spring 2023 edition of *Marian Helper*, I have been praying daily in petition to Bl. George for the healing of our younger daughter, who suffered nerve damage during childbirth resulting in partial loss of feeling and movement in her right leg and foot.

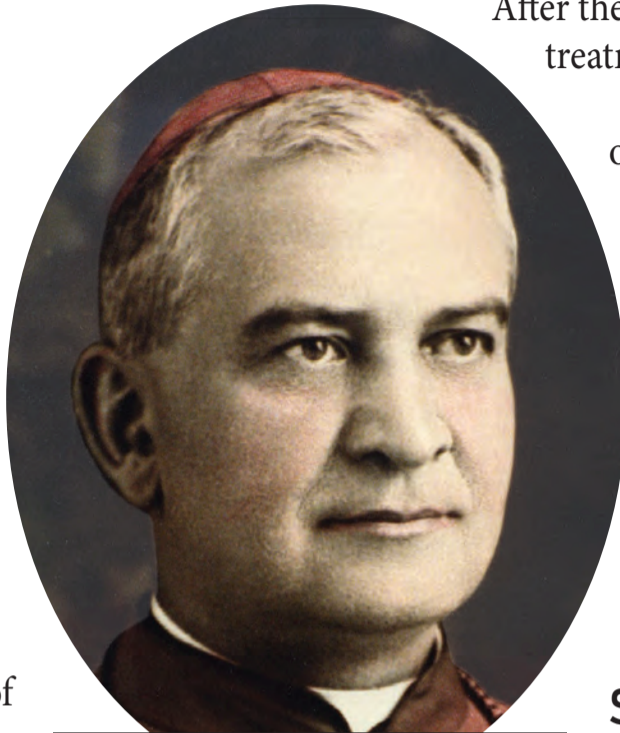
For the past year or so, I have also included in my daily petitions to Bl. George prayers for the full-time employment of our older daughter, who has never been able to find fulfilling, full-time work.

By God's grace, my prayers of petition have now changed to prayers of thanksgiving!

Our younger daughter improved dramatically during the summer months of 2025 to the point where she no longer wears a brace on her leg for balance and stability! And in September 2025, our older daughter, with her current employer, has gone from part-time to full-time employment with health benefits, doing work she finds very rewarding!

Thanks be to God! Thank you, Bl. George!

— GO, Peru, Illinois



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

Cancer has not returned

One year ago, my daughter was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer in her left breast. She required three surgeries to come up with clean margins after the lumpectomies.

After the surgeries, she had a total of 30 radiation treatments.

Two months ago, two lumps were found on the bottom of her right breast. I started daily prayers and a novena to Bl. George that the trouble with her right breast was not cancer. A mammogram showed that she has two cysts — not cancer as was feared. Warm compresses will reabsorb the fluid in the cysts and help with the pain.

I know that this intercession was due to the prayers and novena to Bl. George.

— NB, email

Son finally gets job

After a year of fervent daily prayer to Bl. George to help my son, Tom, get hired, it finally happened! Praise God and thanks to Bl. George for guiding Tom to this job at the market so he can finally gain self-esteem and pay his own bills.

— T.B., email

Son-in-law gets better job

After many prayers and novenas, my son-in-law has found a job. It's a better job than before and I believe it is thanks to Bl. George.

— LS, Cincinnati, Ohio

For a Blessed George prayer card (B69-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org.


Prayer for a Special Grace Through the Intercession of Blessed George

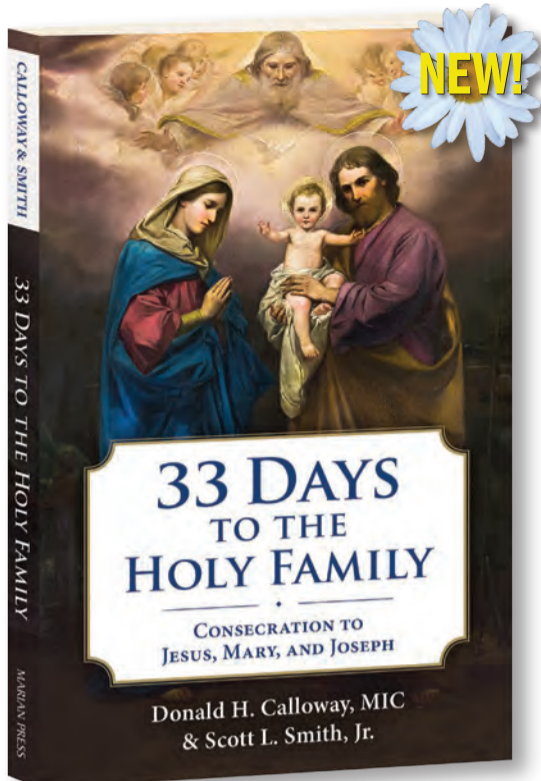
O God, our Lord and Father, You surround us always by Your care; receive our humble petition, and through the intercession of Blessed George, who suffered so much for Your glory and for the increase of Your Kingdom here on earth, grant me the grace (mention intention), for which I ask You with confidence, promising to live from now on with greater fidelity to Your commandments. Amen.

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

Bestsellers from Marian Press

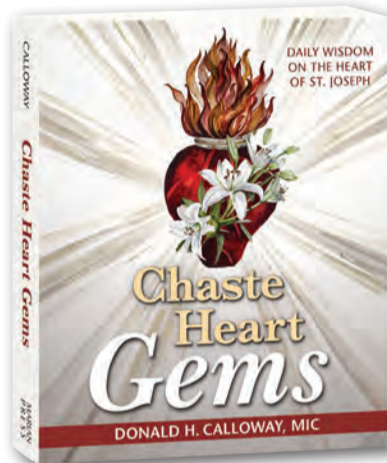
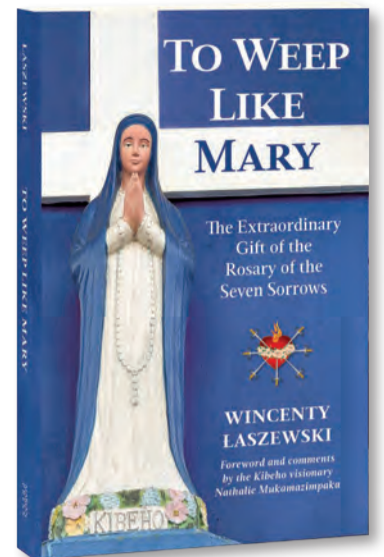
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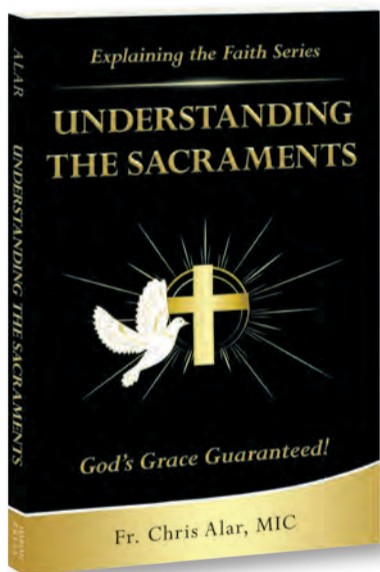
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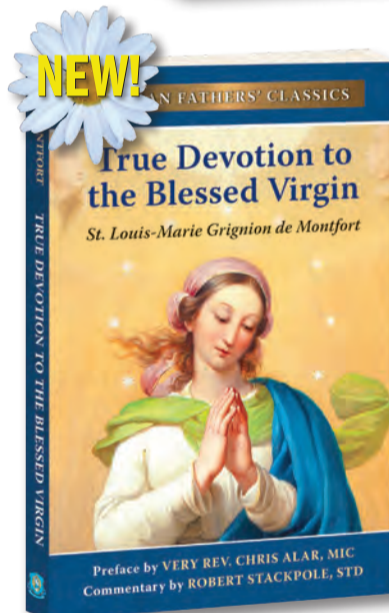


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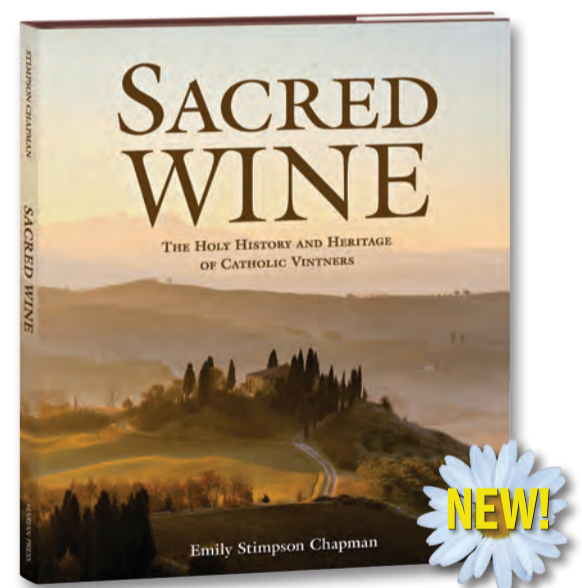
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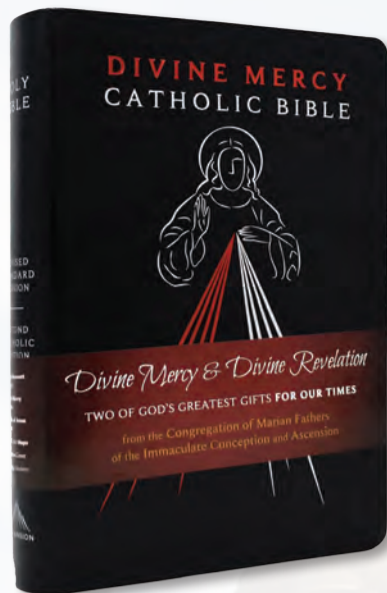
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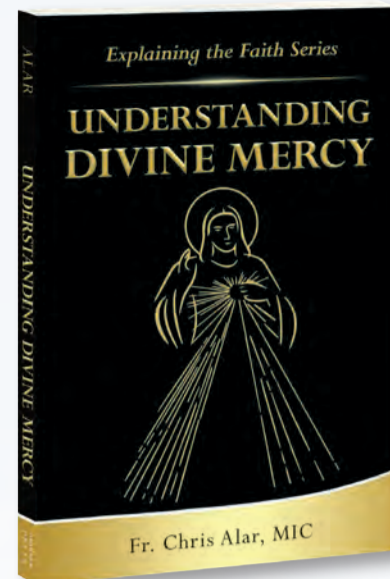


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From the
VAULTS



“A new Shrine has been added to the grounds of the monastery on Eden Hill,” reported Father Joseph, MIC, 65 years ago in the October-December 1961 edition of *Marian Helpers Bulletin*. “Below the field altar, hidden among the tall pine trees and maples of the dense forest towering on the hillside, overlooking the beautiful panoramic hills and valleys of the Berkshire mountains, stands a most unusual realistic replica of the ‘Massabielle’ Grotto of Lourdes.”

Construction began in 1958 to mark the centennial of the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous (the first one was on Feb. 11, today the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes), and was completed in August 1961 in time for Marian Week.

“At first glance, the viewer has an immediate impression that the artificial structure was chiseled from a rock on the hillside,” Father Joseph continued. “Only after close examination, one discovers the surprising truth!”

Today, the Lourdes Grotto, accessed on a path behind the Shrine Chapel, is a favorite spot on Eden Hill for quiet prayer and reflection, with the opportunity to light a candle of remembrance.

MH

EXTEND THE INVITATION!

Deacon Patrick Lynch, MIC, says:

I wouldn't be here today without Mr. Van Sise. I went to high school with his son Gregor. Mr. Van Sise invited my Dad and me to make a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. This is such a beautiful place, and God's grace is so abundant here. It was a real spark for my vocation and wanting to be a Marian. So thank you, Mr. Van Sise. It just shows how powerful one invitation can be. You never know where it leads.

David Van Sise says:

All thanks and praise come to God and His Divine Mercy for bringing Patrick to the Marians. A lot of people have been thanking me for Patrick's vocation and congratulating me on his diaconate. I had nothing to do with it. It was all God's work! Sometimes the Lord uses a sinner to help create a future great saint, and Patrick has a heart of gold. Please continue to support and pray for all the Marian priests, brothers, and seminarians.

Attend a retreat

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

The next retreats:
Feb. 27 - March 1
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Email: vocations@Marian.org

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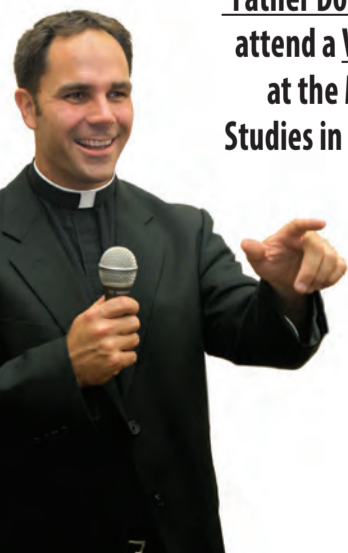
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