

Divine Mercy Weekend 2026 • USA Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Summer 2026

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

Marian.org



Our Lady of Walsingham,
Patroness of England

Our Lady of Medjugorje,
Queen of Peace

MISSIONS WITH MARY

New outreach in London and Medjugorje



Mary,
 you are the
 consolation that
 God gives me,
 the fortification
 of my feeble
 strength, the
 enrichment of
 my destitution,
 and, through
 the power of
Christ,
 the freedom
 from my chains. ...
 Mary, Undoer
 of Knots, pray for us.

MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS PRAYER FOR YOU
 (GOLD FOIL) **B70-PF26**

GIVE A PROMISE OF PRAYER

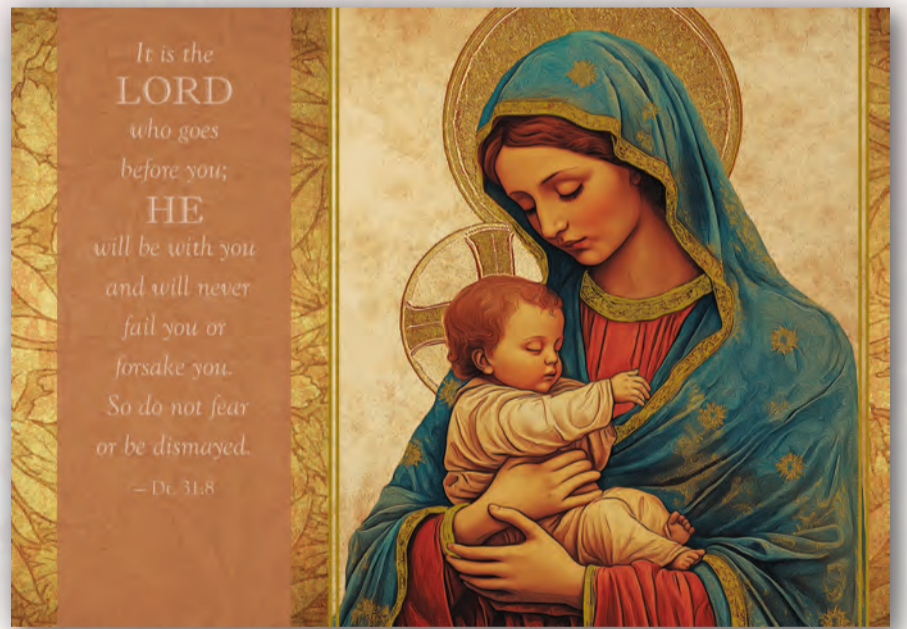
By enrolling loved ones in the Association of Marian Helpers, they will share in the benefits of the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marian priests and brothers.



Father Chris explains
 the benefits of enrollment.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE BIRTHDAY
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MADONNA & CHILD SYMPATHY
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Your offering supports the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

Our American Province of the Marian Congregation has expanded across the Atlantic, with two new missions in Europe: The Marian Centre for Catholic Life, outside London, England, and the English-speaking Chaplaincy at Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We pray for the evangelizing success of our Marian priests stationed overseas and invite the intercession and protection of the Blessed Mother in both countries (as she is portrayed on our cover): Our Lady of Walsingham and Our Lady, Queen of Peace.

20 London Calling

22 Hail, Queen of Peace

10 Uniting the World in Prayer

For 30 years, the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline has engaged and inspired countless callers.

11, 16 Divine Mercy Weekend 2026

It was one to remember, with perfect weather and an all-star roster of speakers and ministers.

14 Open the Door to Your Heart

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday Mass at the Shrine.

18 Central Park

Please join our Urgent Appeal to build a parking lot for the convenience of our disabled pilgrims.

24 Summer at the Shrine

Special events are scheduled in the months ahead, the perfect time to make your pilgrimage.

25 Sacred Heart, USA

As our nation is consecrated to the Sacred Heart, Dr. Robert Stackpole praises the devotion.

28 This Land is Mary's Land

A new travel book for America's 250th by Peggy Stanton reveals Catholic shrines coast-to-coast.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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WHO WE ARE



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ShrineOfDivineMercy.org



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Intercessory Prayerline

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1-800-804-3823

Marian.org/prayer

Websites

Marian.org

TheDivineMercy.org

ShopMercy.org

DivineMercyPlus.org



Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Established in 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.*

LINCOLN'S FAITH

I grew up in Fern Creek, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville. A mere 60 miles south of Fern Creek is Hodgenville, famous for being the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. For most of my life I have not appreciated the fact that I share the same home state as the 16th president of the United States. But that has now changed.

Let me explain.

In the last issue of the *Marian Helper* I announced the theme for this year's Divine Mercy Sunday: "USA 250: One Nation Under God's Mercy." I was inspired to research the history and meaning of the phrase "under God."

My studies took me into the core of American history.

I understood that the phrase "under God" was a common expression that was used all the way back during the Revolutionary War era. Its usage then was to place man's efforts under God as the primary cause so that man would be tempered in his tendency toward prideful self-reliance.

As the fragility of the Union increased, people began to have the sense that not only human instrumentality needed to be placed under God, but so did the United States as a nation. It was Abraham Lincoln who, during his Gettysburg Address, first used the phrase "under God" in relation to our nation. Towards the end of that address he wrote, "... that this nation, under God, may have a rebirth of freedom ..."

That statement seems so simple that it's easy to take for granted. But within it was contained Lincoln's deep and developing Christian faith. Lincoln had a profound understanding of God's providence; that the United States was truly under God's authority and thus accountable to Him for her sinful behavior. That especially included slavery. This is why Lincoln would come to understand, especially in his Second Inaugural Address, that God "allowed" the Civil War in order to punish and purify the United States for years of slavery.

But Lincoln's sense of Divine Justice was tempered by his

deeper understanding of God's goodness. In his hope for a rebirth of freedom was a sense of Divine Mercy that was using the war as a medicine to help purify and eventually heal the nation of this sin.

Needless to say, I was in awe of all that I had researched on Lincoln's faith and how that faith helped him to navigate

through one of the most significant events in our 250-year history. Lincoln's example gave me clarity to grasp what it really means to be a nation "under God's Mercy." This is the type of president we need in this fragile time of our country's history.

Thankfully, we were able to share these insights during Divine Mercy Weekend. They seem to resonate well with our pilgrims, especially with those who are big Abe Lincoln fans. If you missed the Mercy Conference talks, the EWTN pre-Mass show, or even the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, check out the videos on DivineMercyPlus.org.

It was a privilege for me to study the life of one of our greatest presidents. I am now pretty amazed that Abraham Lincoln grew up only an hour's drive from my house!

But we are not done with celebrating "USA 250: One Nation Under God's Mercy." As we move toward the Fourth of July, let's join in prayer with our American Catholic bishops as they consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (see page 25). For to be truly "One Nation Under God's Mercy," we need to always be under His Merciful Heart. Amen.

Fr. Joseph, MIC



"Father Joseph, MIC," is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, currently Fr. Mark Baron, MIC. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet live with Fr. Mark every Friday at 3 p.m. ET on Instagram, Facebook, and DivineMercyPlus.org.



Marian Helper Therese Tirpak, who died in 2022, was a devoted member of her Glenview, Illinois, parish for 42 years.

NEIGHBORLY SHARING

By Therese Tirpak

During the school year, Fridays always had a fast pace. After a full day of teaching at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, I would come home briefly, then head straight to the 3 p.m. Holy Hour.

One Friday in 1995, I had just finished an hour of prayer, spiritually refreshed but physically tired. As I pulled into my driveway, I saw Carolyn Oswald across the street, watering her lawn. Her dog, Truman, was bouncing around her feet, barking at a squirrel in their big maple tree.

We had been neighbors for 10 years, sharing lighthearted chats about our kids, our gardens, and the latest news in Glenview. I knew she and her husband, Frank, were Lutheran, but we had never talked much about matters of faith.

The whole world

Carolyn saw me, standing there by my car. I was just planning to wave and go inside. Then, as I began to close the car door, a phrase from the Divine Mercy Chaplet repeated in my heart: *Have mercy on us and on the whole world. The whole world.*

The whole world included everyone, not just Catholics. Not just those already familiar with Divine Mercy.

I glanced into my bag, where I had a videotape of the documentary Divine Mercy: No Escape. A thought surfaced: *Tell Carolyn about this.* I hesitated. Would she find it relevant? The devotion came to us from the Diary of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Catholic nun in Poland in the 1930s. Would Carolyn, a Lutheran, be open to it today?

Then another thought quieted my hesitation — *Jesus' revelations to St. Faustina about His merciful love are meant for everybody.*

Invisible fence

With that, I shook off my tiredness and walked across the street, ready to tear down a fence. Not a physical fence, but an invisible one — one that had kept our conversations friendly but never deeply personal.

"Hi, Carolyn!" I greeted her, stepping around Truman, who had finally settled. "I just got back from church, and I happen to have this video with me. It's about Divine Mercy, and it's really beautiful. I don't know if you'd be interested in watching it, but I'd love to share it with you."

She turned to me, momentarily forgetting her dog and garden sprinkler.

I smiled. "Jesus is for everybody — Lutherans and

Catholics alike."

Carolyn gave a small nod, considering my words. "Yes, I would be interested. I'd like to watch it."

I handed her the video, hoping she would find the time and watch it.

Three days later, as I was about to leave for an appointment, I noticed Carolyn walking toward me — the video in her hand.

"Did you have a chance to watch it?" I asked.

"Yes," she said, her tone different than usual. Something had shifted. "I watched the whole thing. It is beautiful."

I smiled. "Wonderful! Good!" I wanted to talk more, but I was already running late. "Let's talk soon."

As I drove off, I wondered — *What exactly did she find beautiful? Saint Faustina's story? The cinematography? Or was it the Divine Mercy message itself?* I whispered a prayer that God would let it take root in her heart.

Weeks passed, and life carried on as usual — the responsibilities of work and family filling our busy days.

She's got it!

Then one afternoon, Carolyn caught me outside. "By the way," she said, as if it were an afterthought, "did I ever mention that I've been praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day since you gave me the video?"

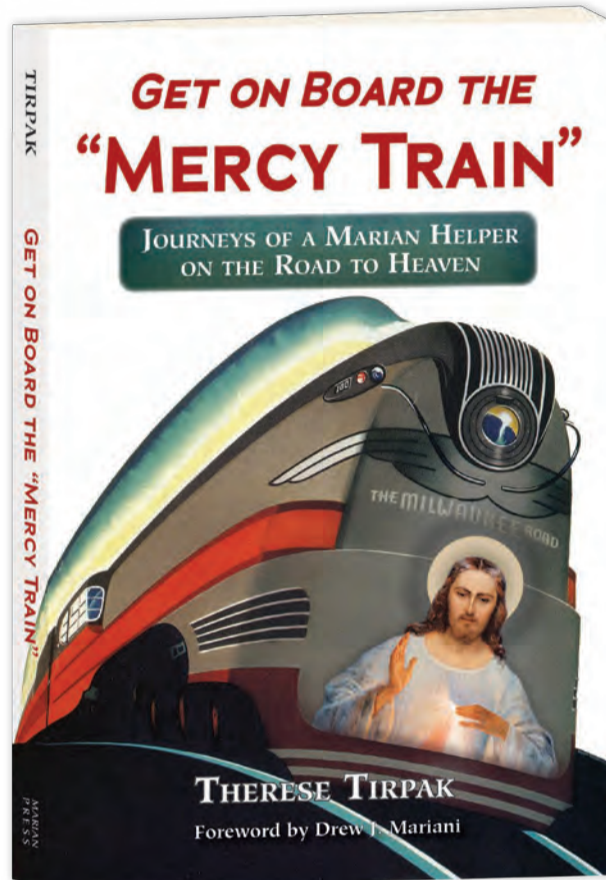
Amazed, I looked directly into her eyes. Not only had she understood the gift of God's mercy, but she had taken action — trusting Jesus' words to St. Faustina, embracing the prayer that Jesus Himself had taught her.

She's got it! I thought. *Thank you, Holy Spirit!*

"Yes, Carolyn." I smiled. "The Chaplet is a powerful prayer. And it's good to know that we'll be praying it together — for our families and for the world."

From that moment, we weren't just friendly neighbors. We were prayer partners. Because good neighbors don't just share casual conversations. They share what matters most.

Excerpted from Get on Board the "Mercy Train": Journeys of a Marian Helper on the Road to Heaven by Therese Tirpak (Product code: B70-MTRN), available now on ShopMercy.org.

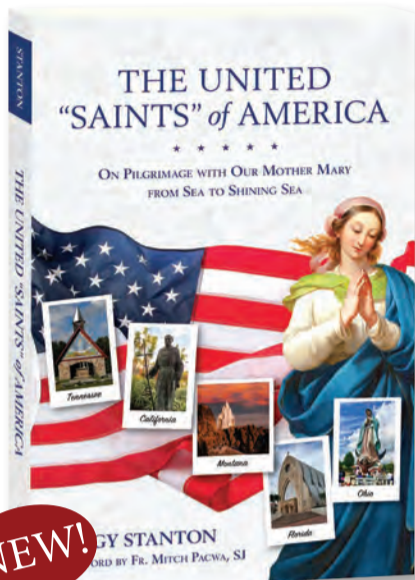


"A thought quieted my hesitation — Jesus' revelations to St. Faustina about His merciful love are meant for everybody."

FATHER JOSEPH'S PICKS

Visit ShopMercy.org/b70 or call 1-800-462-7426.

As we launch from the mountaintop experience of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday into the Easter season, summer feasts, and Ordinary Time, it's an opportunity to spend time with the love of Jesus, Mary, and the entire Communion of Saints — and celebrate our great country on its 250th birthday!



THE UNITED "SAINTS" OF AMERICA:

ON PILGRIMAGE WITH OUR MOTHER MARY FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

BY PEGGY STANTON. FOREWORD BY FR. MITCH PACWA, S.J.

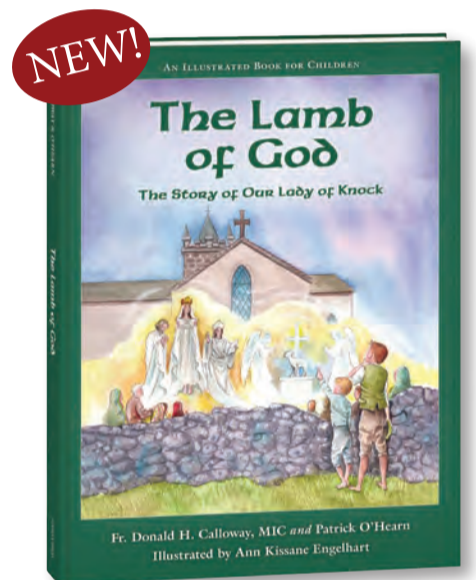
Embark with a veteran storyteller on a tour of all 50 states and discover Our Lady's famous and not-so-famous shrines with intriguing backstories and beautiful color photographs. Learn how the "big S" saints — those raised to the altar by the Catholic Church — have traversed our land, sea to shining sea, and also the hundreds of "little s" saints of equal grace, if not equal title, who have left holy footprints all across this land. The ultimate travel book for your summer road trip! \$24.95. **B70-BMOA**

THE LAMB OF GOD :

THE STORY OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK

BY DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC, AND PATRICK O'HEARN; ILLUSTRATED BY ANN KISSANE ENGLEHART

Acclaimed authors Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, and Patrick O'Hearn bring the story of Knock, Ireland, to life for young readers, with beautiful illustrations by Ann Kissane Englehart. At Knock, Heaven is reminding us to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and Our Lady wants us to keep our eyes fixed on the Holy Eucharist, the Lamb of God. \$22.95. **B70-KNBK**




OUR LADY'S LOVE FOR LITTLE ONES

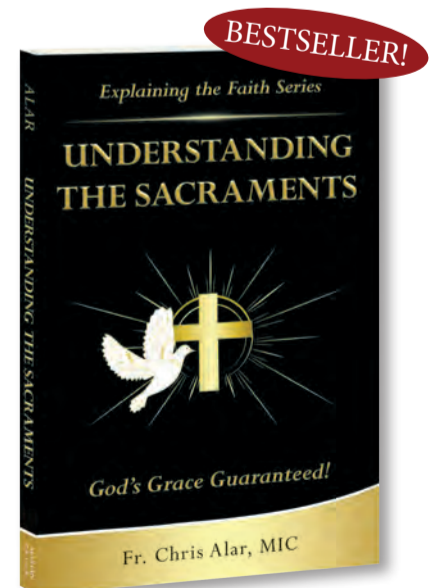
WRITTEN BY SARA BETH MEYER, MTH; ILLUSTRATED BY ALLISON HSU, MD

Over the centuries and across the miles, Our Lady continues to care for her children, calling all to prayer, especially for the conversion of sinners. Here, from the creators of the inspiring *Gospels for Little Ones* series, are the stories of 14 of Our Lady's visits, told in rhyming verse and beautiful watercolor illustrations for all to share. \$19.95. **B70-OLLL**

UNDERSTANDING THE SACRAMENTS: GOD'S GRACE GUARANTEED!

BY FR. CHRIS ALAR, MIC

Why is the Catholic Church different from any other church? It has the seven Sacraments in their fullness — not just symbols, but God's guaranteed grace! They are biblical, instituted by Christ and entrusted to His Church. In the Sacraments, it is Christ Who acts and communicates His grace! In this latest entry in his *Explaining the Faith* series, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, answers such questions as: Why do we baptize infants? Where is Confession in the Bible? Is my marriage valid? And many more! \$16.95. **B70-UNDB** 





A YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS

This year marks 800 years since the death of St. Francis of Assisi in 1226. Pope Leo XIV asked the Apostolic Penitentiary to proclaim this a special year of St. Francis, lasting until Jan. 10, 2027.

My parents were Secular Franciscans and so had a special devotion to the saint. He is remembered throughout the world as a holy man because he became so much like Christ. He suffered the stigmata, the wounds of Christ.

The document from the Apostolic Penitentiary (posted on SecularFranciscansUSA.org) speaks of him in this way:

“Francis, ... the son of a wealthy merchant, made himself poor and humble — a true *alter Christus* (another Christ) on earth — providing the world with tangible examples of gospel living and a genuine image of Christian perfection.”

Jesus asked Francis to rebuild His Church, to help the Church of his time to overcome many excesses and become simple and poor once again. Our world today needs the intercession of Francis as we search for peace and harmony.

The Vatican offers a plenary indulgence this year, under the usual conditions, to those who visit a church dedicated to St. Francis or his memory in any way and who pray while there. The homebound, the elderly, and those who care for them can also obtain the indulgence, even if they are not able to leave their homes.

I have the great privilege of living in Rome, so, in February, I went by car with four other Marians to visit Assisi, where the bones of St. Francis (above) were put on display in a glass case for the veneration of the faithful. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world visited Assisi during that month. I have to say that I was a little afraid of what the crowds would be like. It was necessary to make a reservation. Around 750 people filed past his glass casket

every half hour.

We filed into a large tent which was separated into three sections. One section would allow pilgrims to file past the bones, while the other two sections waited. We were given booklets with prayers to pray while we waited. Holy cards with a pilgrim prayer were available in all different languages.

After going past, it was possible to go to Confession. Many Franciscan priests were on duty to help the pilgrims to deepen their conversion. We also had a chance to visit the tomb of St. Carlo Acutis while we were in Assisi.

Why do we venerate the relics of the saints? They are God’s masterpieces. They were like us in many ways, but then they surrendered their lives to God and His grace. They became the people that God wanted them to become. They are our older brothers and sisters in faith. We can ask their intercession so that we can win the battle as they did.

We only worship God. But the relics of the saints reminds us that they lived here on earth like us and that now they are enjoying the glory of Heaven.

Saint Francis was rather short in height. He had a bone structure like all of us. In some ways, there was nothing extraordinary about looking at his bones. But we are reminded that he became an extraordinary person because he lived a holy life. It was a life of prayer, sacrifice, joy, suffering, and love.

Let us ask St. Francis to intercede for us during this Holy Year! Amen!



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.



WELCOME, NAVY CHAPLAIN! In an emotional ceremony in the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on April 30, Shrine Rector Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, was formally commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Navy by Fr. David J. Hammond, USN. Father Matt's proud parents, Nelly and Dr. Patrick, and his sister, Mary, were present. Father Matt will head to Rhode Island for training this summer before his deployment.

"I will continue to be a Marian in the midst of this ministry," he said. "I'll continue to spread the message of Divine Mercy to those in need. I will especially be keeping in mind our Mother Mary, who is the Star of the Sea guiding us to the Lord, keeping us safe under her mantle."



HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE:

Doctors, nurses, academics, and other healthcare professionals from 26 states gathered, both in person and online, for the 21st Annual Divine Mercy Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference on April 29-May 1, organized by Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, an apostolate of the Marian Fathers. A diverse array of speakers expounded upon this year's theme, "Exploring Compassion and Mercy in Healthcare."

"This was an exceptionally deep conference on the spiritual care of the patient and the spiritual health of healthcare professionals," said Nurse Marie Romagnano (below, second from right, joined by Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, Dr. Kathleen Scoble, and Scott Nelson, RN). "I was especially excited to see new faces and the commitment to learn the most positive and sacramental ways to accompany the seriously ill and dying."





LIFT HIGH THE CROSS: On April 10, the Friday before Divine Mercy Sunday, the Marian Fathers gathered with friends and benefactors to pray as the cross was blessed and then placed high atop the new Monastery Chapel, currently under construction on Eden Hill.

The Chapel and Monastery have been many years in the planning, realized thanks to donations from more than 13,000 Marian Helpers to the Marian Fathers' first capital campaign, "Together for Christ and His Church." The Marians will move in this fall.

"Soon we will have the opportunity to live community life," said the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC, superior general of the Marian Congregation, who blessed the cross. "We're all part of this priesthood in Jesus Christ. We all want to proclaim Jesus Christ Risen, and that's what it's all about." Blessed with prayers and a relic of the True Cross, the cross will signal to pilgrims and the local community the Gospel of Christ.

Shrine Rector Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, said it was an historic moment in the life of the community. "May those who will come to dwell in this house and worship our Lord in this chapel be perfected in His charity, and ever form themselves as worthy dwelling places of His Holy Spirit," he prayed.

Father Chris Alar, MIC, provincial superior, had words of gratitude ahead of a weekend of special graces.

"On behalf of all the Marian Fathers, we are so grateful for the grace of God, we are so grateful for the gift of His Mother, and we are most grateful for the grace of Divine Mercy and the beauty of Divine Mercy Sunday, that the Lord has entrusted to us as Marians, to be caretakers of the message and devotion of Divine Mercy," he said, "and you, all of you, as Marian Helpers, especially those who generously donated to this project."

Look for the latest updates on the project on our website, TogetherforChrist.org.



Uniting the World in Prayer

By Bonita Davis

There is a worldwide prayer effort happening here on Eden Hill at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

The phones are ringing, messages are downloading, prayer intentions are being brought to the foot of the Cross, and candles are lit for those in need from all corners of the Earth. This is all happening at The Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline and the Our Lady of Mercy Oratory and Candle Shrine, located adjacent to the Marian Helpers Center.

Prayer works!

Since its inception in 1995, countless calls, e-mails, and letters have arrived from people around the world requesting prayers and sharing how their prayers have been answered in the Name of Jesus. We hear about everyday needs or matters of life-and-death, and get reports that cancers have been cured, comas reversed, jobs found, and marriage problems resolved. The Holy Spirit works through prayer — and sometimes in ways we neither asked nor imagined!

Jesus so desires to pour out His mercy on all of us. All we need to do is ask, be merciful to others (extending love and forgiveness), and completely trust in Jesus. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive. When we trust completely in our Lord, He pours out an abundance of mercy.

Mass, Adoration, Candles

Holy Mass is celebrated weekdays at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Mercy Oratory. On the front of the altar are displayed the words, “O Blood and Water,” signifying God’s love and mercy for mankind. Along with the Divine Mercy Image in the Oratory, pilgrims will see the depiction of the Immaculate Conception, as well as a portrait and first class relic of St. Faustina Kowalska.

Next to the Oratory is Our Lady of Mercy Candle Shrine, one of the largest in the United States with more than 2,500 candles, illuminating a warm glow signifying prayer intentions are being sent heavenward from and for people around the world.

These candles are lit each week and their intentions prayed for. Pilgrims also come in person to light candles, pray in front of an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and



Since 1995, countless calls, e-mails, and letters from people around the world requesting prayers and sharing how their prayers have been answered in the Name of Jesus.

meditate on the Corporal Works of Mercy depicted in the stained-glass windows.

Prayer is powerful! Whether you reach out across the miles or visit in person, we are all connected as the Body of Christ. We look forward to praying with you.

Bonita Davis is the Intercessory Prayer Supervisor at the Marian Helpers Center.

The Oratory and Candle Shrine are open to the public 7 days a week (8 a.m.–8 p.m.).

The Prayerline ministry’s staff is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET) for live calls placed to 1-800-804-3823. All prayer requests left after hours or on weekends are prayed for by an intercessor and included in our daily prayers and Masses. Requests can also be made online; visit TheDivineMercy.org/prayer.

MH



Mercy Conference talks



EWTN pre-Mass show



Divine Mercy Sunday Mass

Divine Mercy Weekend 2026

Fine weather and Divine Mercy Weekend rarely coincide in Stockbridge, Massachusetts — but this year was truly blessed. An estimated 19,000 pilgrims from as far away as Canada and California journeyed to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on April 11 and 12 for the annual celebration beneath sunny skies and mild temperatures.

As documented on the following pages, a joyous spirit permeated Eden Hill as all ages and backgrounds gathered to experience a “second Baptism” by receiving the extraordinary graces promised by our Lord to St. Faustina. This year’s celebration had a special theme tied to this anniversary year for our country: “USA 250: One Nation Under God’s Mercy.”

Under God’s Mercy

“Our nation is, like all nations, under the sovereignty of God, accountable to Him for our sins, and recipients of His gracious mercy,” explained Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers who came up with this year’s patriotic theme (and designed the logo, featured on t-shirts, bags, and mugs for sale). He reminded pilgrims that Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were key public witnesses to America’s right place as “one nation under God.”

Speakers at the Mercy Weekend Conference offered

variations on the theme, including Fr. Mark, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, along with special guests Dr. Dan Schneider and Jason Henderson, who work in deliverance ministry. The lines for Confessions were long, and the Gift Tent was packed with shoppers. The vigil Mass was celebrated by Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC, Shrine rector, with Fr. Mark offering a rousing, patriotic-themed homily.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, pilgrims were treated to additional talks by Fr. Mark, Schneider and Henderson, John Yep of Catholics for Catholics, and Mother of Mercy Messengers founders Joan and Dave Maroney. Following the pre-show on EWTN, hosted by Fr. Chris and Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC, the Liturgy and Chaplet were celebrated by the Most Rev. David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Bishop Ricken holds a special place in the Catholic history of America as the first and only diocesan bishop in the United States to officially approve a Marian apparition, Our Lady of Champion.

Thanks to the hard-working army of 500-plus volunteers and employees, the many vendors and public safety officers, and all the Marian priests, brothers, and seminarians, Divine Mercy Weekend 2026 was a great success, demonstrating teamwork at its very best.

Watch the replay of the Divine Mercy Sunday pre-show and Mass on DivineMercyPlus.org.

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DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND



Father Mark Baron, MIC, shows off the logo for this year's theme. Embrace appealing to God's mercy for our country, he urged, especially by doing penance for our nation's sins, even as we thank God for His many blessings.



Hanging behind the altar of the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine is the Divine Mercy Prayer Banner, crafted from some of the 15,000 prayer intentions submitted by Marian Helpers.



The procession begins for the Vigil Mass on Saturday. Father Matthew Tomeny, MIC, rector of the National Shrine, was the celebrant, and Fr. Mark Baron, MIC was the homilist.



The Thomas Aquinas College New England Choir from Northfield, Massachusetts, provided beautiful music!



An estimated 6,500 pilgrims attended Saturday's Vigil Mass at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine.



"Some people claim, 'We don't need Divine Mercy,'" said Fr. Chris Alar, MIC. "Wrong! This is your whole existence!" He offered a tour of the Mass, examining how Divine Mercy is present in every part of the Latin Liturgy.



Father Donald Calloway, MIC, challenged pilgrims to be faithful to Christ and His Church, holding up St. Joseph as a model of manhood and urging consecration to the Holy Family.



Making their sixth Divine Mercy Sunday is the Adu Donkor family from Stamford, Connecticut. "Divine Mercy means everything," said mom Elizabeth. "It's wonderful to know that, even in our shame, God still has mercy for us."

Visiting from Middletown, Connecticut, Marc and Laura brought their 3½-year-old twins, Genovanni and Marco, to the Shrine for the first time. The twins were especially excited to get their first Rosaries (red and green) from the Divine Mercy Gift Shop Tent!





OPEN THE DOOR OF YOUR HEART

By the Most Rev. David L. Ricken

Editor's note: This year, the main celebrant of Divine Mercy Sunday Mass at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy was the Most Rev. David L. Ricken, bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Here, we share some highlights from his homily.

I would like to share with you a personal story. A story of someone close to me who had a conversion experience through Divine Mercy, my brother, Mark.

Mark, me, and my younger sister, Carol, were all born in Dodge City, Kansas, in the 1950s to our parents, Bertha and Bill Ricken. In 1974, my family moved to Colorado where,

as a young man, Mark was a teacher and principal. Later he married, becoming a husband and father. Over time, he was the superintendent of public schools in Southern and then Northern Colorado for many years. When he retired, he purchased our parents' farm in southern Colorado and settled there.

In 2006, he heard the story of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy given by his pastor in La Junta Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Pueblo, which captivated him. He had much more time to read in his retirement, and he ordered a copy of the *Diary* of St. Faustina and read it cover-to-cover, and started to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

“Mark, Mark”

One morning, he was running errands around the farm on his four-wheeler when he heard a woman’s voice call his name, “Mark, Mark.” He turned off the four-wheeler and listened, and again heard the woman’s voice. Looking around, there was no woman on the farm that morning. After she had his full attention, the woman said, “Mark, I

want you to pray for all the souls on their deathbed today, that they may accept the mercy of Jesus into their life.”

Mark rushed into the house and checked in the *Diary*, thinking he had read something very similar in the *Diary*. He knew that Faustina had spoken to him and given him a mission. He lived out that mission by beginning a prayer group that met every Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. in his parish and continues to meet today. He also shared the story of St. Faustina and Divine Mercy with as many as would listen until the day he died on April 14, 2014.

I share my brother’s story because I know there are thousands and thousands of stories like his.

The Divine Mercy of Jesus is mightily at work.

Misery to Mercy

Brothers and sisters, I think it is abundantly clear today: Great suffering is being endured, wars are proliferating, hatreds are dividing. Families collapse, countries are in great travail, the misery of the poor and their plight is so obvious.

Yet, the Good News is that God does not abandon us. He is right in the middle of our misery and begs us to accept Him in the midst of it all. Saint Faustina writes in her *Diary* (1507): “One thing alone is necessary: that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in a ray of God’s Merciful grace and then God will do the rest.”

For those of you who have been keeping yourselves shielded from God through fear or anger, or some other obstacle, open the door of your heart to the merciful love of Jesus, even if only a tiny bit. You will be amazed at what that little opening can accomplish. You will also be amazed at how much God loves you, misses you, and has been searching for you,

waiting for your response. His merciful love will convict us with a deep sorrow for our sins, while also filling our heart with gratitude for His mercy.

Because of His love, you will be helped to move “from misery to mercy” and experience the great forgiveness of Jesus, especially through the Sacrament of Confession.

There is a great urgency today. Saint Faustina describes the Mercy of God as an inexhaustible source from God who is so eager for people to accept His Love. She writes in her *Diary* (793), “You are a bottomless sea of Mercy for us sinners; and the greater the misery, the more right we have to Your Mercy.”

This seems truer today than ever. There seems to be an urgency to accept and to trust God. He only wants us to

draw closer to Him, and in these days of great challenge and even darkness, the urgency seems ever more pressing: no more delaying, no more putting Him off to another day or another time in the future. ...

Mercy to Mission

In the Gospels, the Great Commission (especially clear in Mt 28) to share the Good News is not an option but is given to everyone as a mandate.

The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation confirm this mandate for each one of us. In the context of Divine Mercy, each one of us is called to share the graces of Divine Mercy. As St. Faustina wrote, “I want to tell souls

of your goodness and encourage them to trust Your Mercy. That is my mission, which you Yourself have entrusted to me, O Lord, in this life and in the life to come” (*Diary*, 1325).

This year, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. Interceding for our nation takes on greater importance and must be our focus for the anniversary. In honor of this occasion, the bishops of our country in June are going to consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Let us all make this a big part of our mission to intercede deeply for our country. We need intercessory prayer more than ever.

May we all make this a part of our mission, to beg the Lord for a superabundant miracle of mercy that will transform each one of us, our country, and the world.

Watch EWTN coverage of Divine Mercy Sunday 2026 from the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on DivineMercyPlus.org.

“Open the door of your heart to the Merciful love of Jesus, even if only a tiny bit. You will be amazed at what that little opening can accomplish. You will also be amazed at how much God loves you, misses you, and has been searching for you, waiting for your response.”

DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND



An estimated 12,500 pilgrims visited the National Shrine on Divine Mercy Sunday on April 12, under sunny skies.



Father Matthew Tomeny, MIC, distributes Holy Communion.



Once again the live pre-show on EWTN was hosted by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, and Superior General, the Most Rev. Joseph Roesch, MIC. Watch the show on DivineMercyPlus.org.



A former Navy Seal, Jason Henderson cited Jesus as the true model of manhood. "He's not a pushover. He was the most dangerous and interesting man who ever lived," he observed. Henderson then shared that the biggest thing that saved his own life was the confessional.



"The mercy of the Lord brings you back to the faith and gives you hope in Christ," said Angelo Messina, with his wife, Pat, from Mystic, Connecticut. "In this crazy time, with all the things going on in the world, Divine Mercy gives you hope."



Dave and Joan Maroney of Mother of Mercy Messengers spoke of the vital role we are all called to play as holy intercessors for our native lands, imitating St. Faustina's fervent, regular prayer for her own homeland, Poland. And where better to make such prayer and reparation than at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, "a place of peace, healing, and God's grace," proclaimed Dave.



Soloist Ashley Nemeš captivated the pilgrim crowd with her gift of song, including a stirring National Anthem.



Father Chris greeted Ah'lias, 4, from Waterbury, Connecticut. Baptized just the day before, Ah'lias told his mom, Maria, that Jesus told him he would be a priest.



Proud volunteers gathered at the Lourdes Grotto. More than 500 volunteers donated their time and talent to make Divine Mercy Weekend a great success!

"We have a Queen Mother who's a 12-star General!" said biblical scholar Dr. Dan Schneider. Never underestimate Our Lady's coercive power over the devil and his forces, he urged, especially because of the extraordinary grace of her Immaculate Conception.



Guarding the outdoor Stations of the Cross were Massachusetts teens Cruz (11th grade) and Timothy (8th grade), both youth-group volunteers. "I try to pray a lot for those who aren't Catholic or have been exposed to it but aren't willing to necessarily commit. Everyone needs mercy," Timothy said.



Posing with "St. Faustina" is Jeff-Herson, who journeyed from Toronto, Canada, with 50 other pilgrims. "Divine Mercy reminds me that God always welcomes us despite our flaws," he said, "and we always need to strive to be better and never falter in the pursuit of righteousness."



CENTRAL PARK

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

The Marian Fathers have launched an Urgent Appeal to build a new parking lot for disabled pilgrims at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. As we ask you to assist us with this important project, we also seek the intercession of a great American saint.

You see, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917), who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor and immigrant children in orphanages, schools, and hospitals, and the first American citizen to be canonized, is also the patron saint of parking.

Parking? Why, you may ask, especially as automobiles were still rare in Mother Cabrini's lifetime, and she may never have driven or ridden in one?

Evidently it is due to her years spent serving the poor amid the hustle and bustle of New York City, where navigating the busy streets remains a challenge. Mother's perseverance was legendary, not to mention her many journeys around the country in search of new charitable foundations, all to perform the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Mother Cabrini — determined pilgrim in search of souls that she was — was a walker. In a letter from 1894 she wrote, "The other day I traveled three hours in the snow, yesterday two hours in pouring rain, and with broken shoes my feet were swimming in water — and this after I had been ill all night."

Later in the same letter, she continued, "But I enjoyed it, thinking how the saints traveled for the welfare of their institute and for the salvation of souls. This joy made it impossible to suffer and now I am well." Amazing!

Safety concerns

How does Mother Cabrini (who became a U.S. citizen in 1909) fit in with our Urgent Appeal this year? I think of her struggles when I see pilgrims arrive at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy who have mobility issues. They, too, have difficulty walking, and it can be a real hardship traversing the distance from the main parking lot to the Shrine. So we've decided to build a new parking lot with the comfort and safety of our disabled visitors in mind.

If you have visited Eden Hill, you know there are a few handicapped parking spaces located along the access road to the Shrine, and these fill up quickly. Unfortunately, we have been informed by the local fire department that these are no longer acceptable. You see, the road must be kept clear at all times for safety reasons and easy access in case of an emergency.

We've decided to build a small parking lot next to the Shrine. This will be located in the open field next to the Holy Family Shrine, and will have 30 spaces, including 5

designated handicapped parking spaces, and a convenient drop-off area. This will accommodate our daily pilgrims who have mobility issues.

It will also address safety concerns, with improved walkways to the Shrine, as well as a new sidewalk from the main parking lot up the drive to the Shrine.



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patroness of parking.

We invite you to make a donation to our Urgent Appeal for a new parking lot at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy with designated parking for pilgrims who are disabled. Please visit Marian.org/b70.

Complex undertaking

There's a lot involved in building even a small parking lot, from site clearance and grading to paving and access, not to mention meeting local and state building requirements. The cost is considerable: \$685,000.

So today, we urgently request your assistance. Please prayerfully consider a gift to our Urgent Appeal!

If, by God's grace, we exceed our goal, every dollar above and beyond our needs for this new parking lot will be put towards improvements to the other roadways and the main parking lot on Eden Hill.

Comfort and convenience

Pilgrims to the National Shrine increase in number every year, thanks be to God, and we try to provide every convenience to make their visit safe and comfortable, not to mention spiritually enriching. This new parking lot is long overdue, and we know it will be welcomed by our visitors with mobility issues. It will also keep our relationship with the fire department in good stead.

And just to be clear: Mother Cabrini's patronage of parking is an *informal* designation that has entered popular Catholic lore. Still, many frustrated drivers often invoke her

intercession to find that elusive space in a crowded parking lot, saying, "*Mother Cabrini, Mother Cabrini, please find a spot for my little machine-y.*" You know what? It sometimes works!

Thank you in advance for prayerfully considering making a gift. We believe Mother Cabrini, who was so devoted to the works of mercy, will be pleased by our efforts to help pilgrims in need!

Visit ShrineofDivineMercy.org to plan your pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

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Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel of the Marian Centre for Catholic Life.

LONDON CALLING

By Fr. Alex Pumphrey, MIC

I don't like traffic circles, I don't like parallel parking, I don't like waiting for things, and I'm a total homebody and can't stand travelling. And so naturally, the Lord (and my superiors) sent me to the United Kingdom!

But now that I've gotten over the initial shock of it all ... I'm glad that I'm here!

It's been a bumpy beginning (bureaucratic hurdles galore, a building still undergoing renovation work, and navigating the numerous cultural and linguistic differences, to name a few challenges), but my time here has been an exciting season of adventure and anticipation.

Marian Centre for Catholic Life

Allow me to introduce the "Marian Centre for Catholic Life," tucked away in West Ealing, about halfway between central London and Heathrow Airport. It will serve as a mission house; a base of operations for parish missions, retreats and conferences; different clubs; the publishing of articles and Catholic media; and a place of community,

prayer and faith.

Our ministry will be both online and in person, building off of the success of the ministry that we do at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, and the proud legacy of our former mission here, the Divine Mercy Apostolate, staffed by my Polish Marian brothers.

Our mission here is simple, yet profound: The building up of the Kingdom of God and the salvation of souls.

Rooted in the charism of the Marian Fathers, distilled into our motto of "Mercy, Mary, Souls," we seek to live out our mission through preaching about Divine Mercy and Mary, teaching about various aspects of our Catholic faith (especially prayer and the spiritual life), promoting intercession for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and assisting the local clergy through preaching, hearing Confessions, and other

sacramental ministry.

Already, we're receiving many requests for preaching at various events and giving parish retreats and missions, which will be one of the main ministerial focuses of this house. In fact, we're partnering with various national organizations to see how our ministry of parish missions and retreats can fit in a new initiative by the Bishops of England and Wales for parish renewal and a powerful tool for both evangelization for the non-churched and a strengthening of the faithful.

WeBelieve Festival

One of the big events of the year is the WeBelieve Festival, held in Birmingham in late July. Last year was the first WeBelieve, and it was a resounding success, and hopefully will become a permanent fixture in the life of the Church here in the UK. Various Marians (including myself) will be there, and I hope to see you there too!

It is a joyful occasion to celebrate being Catholic, all while being surrounded by thousands of your closest friends, kids running around all over the place and hearing any number of holy, entertaining, informative, and dynamic speakers talk about all aspects of our faith from liturgy to history, from parenting to pilgrimages, from which books to read to the importance of listening to music. WeBelieve is not to be missed (check out WeBelieveFestival.com).

The United Kingdom is a beautiful country, from the coasts of Suffolk to the bustle of London, the farmland of Sussex to the hills of the North. I have enjoyed my trips around as I visit different parishes and communities, not only because of the wonderful landscapes, but more importantly because of the wonderful people. While our cultures may be different, the desire for community, the desire to grow in goodness and grace is universal. It has been an absolute joy to share my ministry (and humor) with the people of this nation.

So much potential

Of course, there's still a lot of work to be done, and we have many plans for the future. In the fall, we plan to establish a purgatorial society, promoting prayers for the Holy Souls (to be named "Companions of the Holy Souls.")

Additionally, we hope to be able to livestream the Masses from our "small but powerful chapel," as Fr. Luke Mazurek, MIC, one of the priests here, puts it.

Our newest Marian priest, Fr. Patrick Lynch, MIC, will be joining us full-time to help with ministry, and various priests from the USA will be visiting for preaching tours in the months to come. It's a busy, busy time! If it weren't for Sylvia, our trusty (and incredibly talented) office administrator, and my times of prayer, I would have gone crazy a long time ago. Or at least, crazier than I already am.

There is so much potential here in the UK. This past Lent, a record number of people joined the Church around the country, and we're seeing more and more people, particularly young people, express an interest in faith. Even the secular news has noticed this (to our joy and their dismay).

I am sure that this is because of the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham, the patroness of England (known as "Mary's Dowry") and the patroness of our Marian UK mission. A large picture of her hangs in our lobby, and we have entrusted our work and our mission to her.

God calls us

When I wake up in the morning or have some free time in the backyard or am walking around the neighborhood, I often stop whatever it is I'm doing to grapple with the awesome fact that I'm in England, that God has

called me (has called *us*) to be part of the conversion of this nation and to be of service to the Church here in London and around the UK.

But the Marian Fathers can't do it alone. We need your prayers and support. We are so grateful for all that you do for us, and we carry you closely in our hearts and our prayers in thanksgiving for you and the gifts that you offer and are.

Please continue to pray for us and our mission here, that we will be able to touch hearts and minds through our ministry and presence. And please know of our prayers for you, too, as members of the Marian Helpers and our Marian family!

Visit Marian.org/UK to support the new Marian Centre for Catholic Life.

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At the 2025 WeBelieve Festival, Fr. Patrick Lynch, MIC, and Fr. Alex Pumphrey, MIC, "met" Pope Leo XIV.

"God has called the Marian Fathers to be part of the conversion of this nation and to be of service to the Church here in London and around the UK."



Learn more
about our new
missions!



HAIL, QUEEN OF PEACE!

By Chris Sparks

The Feb. 3, 2026, announcement was brief but extraordinary: The Marian Fathers were going to Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, some 4,500 miles east of Stockbridge, Massachusetts! And not just to open a house there, but to assume the important role of running the English-language Chaplaincy, “in response to the call of the Church and the pastoral needs of the pilgrims.”

Accepting the invitation and taking up their new assignments are Fr. Jason Lewis, MIC, as chaplain, and Fr. Matthew Lamoureux, MIC, as assistant chaplain.

Mission of the mission

For all that Medjugorje has long loomed large in the spirituality, conversions, and devotional lives of many Marian Fathers — think of Fr. Donald Calloway’s famous conversion story, recounted in the bestseller *No Turning Back*, or the photo section of *After Suicide: There’s Hope for Them and for You*, co-written by Fr. Jason and Fr. Chris Alar, MIC — this is the first institutional presence the Congregation has had at the famous pilgrimage destination since the reported apparitions began on June 24, 1981, the Feast of St.

John the Baptist.

The reported apparitions of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, have since attracted worldwide attention and devotion over the years, including by many Marian Helpers.

“It’s always a joy when a pilgrim tells me that they are a Marian Helper,” Fr. Jason says. “We certainly need your prayers to fulfill the tasks of this mission.”

“The essential role of the English chaplaincy in Medjugorje consists of oversight of all English language Masses and confessions,” Fr. Jason continues. “A brief catechetical teaching is typically offered 10 minutes prior to each Mass during the peak seasons.” Masses celebrated at St. James Church are broadcast on MaryTV: visit video.marytv.tv.

Additionally, the Marian Fathers give one or two talks to

sometimes as many as 500 pilgrims at a time, explaining the essential message of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, in Medjugorje; the connection between the message and devotion of the Divine Mercy and the messages of Medjugorje; specific themes of the liturgical year or pertinent happenings related to the faith; or offering personal testimony to the fruits of Medjugorje.

“We also assist the Franciscans with larger Masses and devotions conducted in the native Croatian language, especially distribution of Holy Communion during the evening International Mass at St. James and accompaniment of pilgrims while climbing Apparition Hill and Mt. Krizevac (Cross Mountain) for larger celebrations,” adds Fr. Jason. “As needed, I also hear many confessions in Spanish,” since there is no designated Spanish-language chaplaincy.

Conversions of the heart

The fruits of the work of the Marian Fathers and other clergy at Medjugorje are abundant. “Some of the most profound miracles and healings that I have witnessed in Medjugorje are from the confessional,” notes Fr. Jason. “It is said that ‘Medjugorje is the confessional of the world,’ and for good reason. Medjugorje is a place known for conversion of the heart.

“God becomes very real and palpable to people in Medjugorje, and they desire to confess sins they may have carried for years and years,” he continues. “It is not uncommon to receive penitents who have not been to confession for 10, 20, 30, or even 40-plus years in Medjugorje. And the confessions are so sincere, deep, and honest. Medjugorje is a place where people find healing and peace in their lives.”

Divine Mercy and Medjugorje

Truly, the Marian Fathers have arrived in Medjugorje at a time of growing need. “More people are coming to Medjugorje, and many are attributing the increase in numbers to the Church’s highest level of approval, the *Nihil obstat*, according to the May 2024 norms for evaluation of alleged supernatural phenomena,” Fr. Jason explains.

There is a deep connection between the phenomenon

of Medjugorje and the message and devotion of the Divine Mercy, Fr. Jason notes. “In 2019, in a meeting with our beloved Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, Fr. Chris, and myself, the first apostolic visitor to Medjugorje, Archbishop Henryk Hoser, said, ‘There is an apocalyptic connection between the revelations of Fatima, Kibeho, Medjugorje, and the Message and Devotion of Divine Mercy for our day,’” he recalls.

In fact, just seven months later, the former Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Pezzuto, said in a homily, “How can Mary be the Queen of Peace without being, at the same time, Queen of Divine Mercy? We are here in the temple of the Queen of Peace raised in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mary is the Queen of Peace *because* she is the Queen of God’s Mercy, whose face is Jesus.”

Our Lady’s message

A recent alleged message from Our Lady drives home this point: “Dear children, never forget how great is the love of God. Through that love I am with you. Do not forget how great is His mercy. Through that mercy I am

showing you the way to true happiness and perfect peace. That is the way to my Son” (March 18, 2026).

“Mercy, trust in Jesus, and peace!” Fr. Jason observes. “Our Lady of Medjugorje seems to be highlighting the connection that Jesus emphasized to St. Faustina, ‘**Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my Mercy**’” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 300).

Marian Helpers, go!

Father Jason and Fr. Matt now extend an invitation: Come to Medjugorje!

“We are now conducting pilgrimages directly through and with the Marians. We still have openings for Oct. 11-21 and have five pilgrimages planned for 2027, including Divine Mercy Sunday in Medjugorje (March 30-April 8). We would love to have our Marian Helpers join us in this very special place of grace!”

Visit Marian.org/pilgrimage to learn more, and visit Marian.org/Medjugorje to support the Marian Fathers’ work in Medjugorje.

MH



Watch Masses celebrated at St. James Church by Fr. Jason Lewis, MIC (above), and Fr. Matt Lamoreaux, MIC (below), on MaryTV.



Summer at the Shrine!

By Julia Rose

Any day is a great day to visit the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, pilgrims make the trek up Eden Hill for Confession, Mass, Stations of the Cross, and the Hour of Great Mercy — or simply to walk and be inspired.

It is during the summer months, however, that the campus' beauty is truly elevated. Summer also brings a number of special events to the Shrine!

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Mark your calendars: On Thursday, **June 18**, the **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage** will pass through the Shrine as part of the 250th anniversary celebrations of the United States of America.

The “St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route” began on Memorial Day weekend in St. Augustine, Florida, the site where the first Catholic Mass was celebrated. Pilgrims are making their way with the Blessed Sacrament through the original 13 colonies, as far north as Portland, Maine, before heading back south to conclude in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the Fourth of July weekend.

The Shrine is the first stop in Massachusetts. The celebration begins at noon with a short Eucharistic Procession, followed by a 1 p.m. Holy Hour with Confessions and the Rosary, and Mass at 2 p.m. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction will be prayed to conclude the visit, and the pilgrimage will depart at 3:30 p.m. for an evening event in Springfield.

Visit EucharisticPilgrimage.org to follow the pilgrimage progress.

Ethnic Days

Each year, the Shrine hosts celebrations for ethnic groups, starting with **Filipino Day** on **June 13**, this year the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A tradition for more than two decades, the day attracts hundreds of Filipino pilgrims, characterized by family reunions with loved ones and picnics. Mass is celebrated at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

“Filipinos here for this special day come to seek an inner

renewal or healing, to express devotion, or to fulfill a vow,” says Theresa Malapit, co-organizer of the day. “The only Catholic nation in Asia, the Philippines has a deep cultural connection between suffering and hope. We Filipinos are strongly influenced by the message of trusting in God’s mercy.”

In fact, less than two months ago, Filipinos made history once again by consecrating their country to the Divine Mercy!

By far the Shrine’s largest Ethnic celebration, **Encuentro Latino** will be celebrated on **Aug. 1**, also a First Saturday. “The population of the Latinos is growing, and more Latinos are coming to the Shrine every year,” says Magaly Lopez, lead organizer.

At this family-oriented celebration, children knock down piñatas and color drawings of the Divine Mercy Image, while families are captivated by wonderful music and folk dancing. Father Dante Aguero, MIC, will return as the principal celebrant of the Mass in Spanish, also performing as a singer and guitarist.

Polish Day on **Sept. 12** closes out the summer with a nod to the deep Polish heritage of the Marian Fathers, from the Marian Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczyński, to the Secretary of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska. Pilgrims often dress in traditional Polish clothing, typically colored red and white, and Mass is celebrated in Polish.

There’s more

On **June 20 and 21**, the Shrine will host the **Relic of St. Padre Pio Exhibit** in the St. Faustina Center. And the annual celebration of **Marian Week, August 15-22**, includes a daily Rosary procession.

“Come one, come all!” says Amanda Parramore, Shrine visitor guide. “Come asking the Lord to just work in your heart and show you what areas of your heart need the Divine Mercy message the most, and how you can bring that to your family and life outside of the Shrine. I think that if you give your visit over to the Lord, it’ll be very fruitful.”

Visit ShrineOfDivineMercy.org for more information and to plan your pilgrimage.

MH





Fresco of Jesus and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Domo-Collegiata di San Lorenzo by Luigi Morgari (1906-08), ADOBE STOCK.

SACRED HEART, USA

By Robert Stackpole, STD

Something momentous in the history of our country will take place on June 11. On the vigil of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the U.S. Catholic Bishops will consecrate the United States to our Lord's Merciful Heart. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, so this consecration will happen just a few weeks before the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

Continued on page 26



The United States has been formally consecrated to Our Lady several times in our history (our patroness, after all, is the Immaculate Conception), but this

will be the first formal consecration of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Papal encouragement

Many popes have lauded the practice of consecrating individuals, families, and even whole nations to the Sacred Heart. In an encyclical instituting the Solemnity of Christ the King, for example, Pope Pius XI commended the “pious custom” of consecrating nations to the Sacred Heart as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ.

For this special consecration of the USA, our bishops stated that “Through this act ... [we] seek to renew devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to recognize the kingship of Christ, perfecting the temporal order with the spirit of the Gospel.” In other words, this consecration has both a spiritual and a social purpose.

In my new book from Marian Press, *Our Light in the Darkness: The Sacred Heart of Jesus*, I explain how these two aspects of devotion to the Heart of our Savior are inseparable:

The Merciful Heart of Jesus is not only a refiner’s fire of Divine Love for the sanctification of individual souls; it is also a burning furnace of charity in which all families, all communities, all nations — indeed, the entire world — can one day be transformed into the new “civilization of love” repeatedly called for by the See of St. Peter.

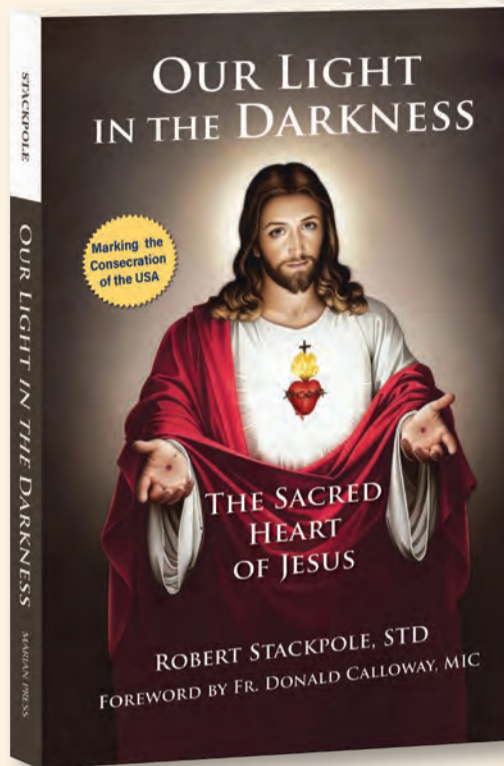
Beginning in the second half of the 19th century, a number

of (what were at that time) largely Catholic countries consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart by solemn acts of their own national governments: for example, Ireland, Ecuador, San Salvador, Venezuela, Colombia, Spain, Nicaragua, Poland, Costa Rica, and Brazil. Pope Leo XIII consecrated the whole world to the Heart of Jesus in 1899, at the dawn of the new century.

This intention to dedicate all nations to the service of Jesus Christ is in full accord with the Gospels, especially Matthew 28:18–20, in which the Risen Lord says to His disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of *all nations*.”

Of course, the conversion, renewal, and sanctification of souls in the love of Jesus Christ, to prepare us for eternal life, always comes first in the Church’s mission, just as the first of our Lord’s two Great Commandments is to love God above all things. But Jesus also said, “And a second [commandment] is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt 22:39).

The two are inseparable. You cannot really love the God of mercy if you do not love all His other children, made in His image and bought with His own human Blood on the Cross.



To order *Our Light in the Darkness: The Sacred Heart of Jesus* by Dr. Robert Stackpole (Product code: B70-SHJ), visit ShopMercy.org.

Witness of the Saints

Jesus sought to pour out upon humanity all the treasures of grace that flow from His Sacred Heart, and to inspire Catholics to work to establish the social reign of His Heart over families and nations everywhere. The saints have always understood this, beginning of course with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673, when our Lord appeared, and she saw “this divine Heart as on a throne of flames, more brilliant than the sun and transparent as crystal. It had its adorable wound and

Featuring Fr. Chris Alar, MIC!

“
In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. The Heart of the Lord Jesus is the starting-point of the holiness of each one of us.
+++
Pope St. John Paul II

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was encircled with a crown of thorns, which signified the pricks our sins caused Him.” Without a doubt, our Savior commissioned St. Margaret Mary to spread devotion to His Heart, all aflame with love, as the healing remedy for a world full of cold hearts and broken hearts.

Several American saints took up the devotion in a big way. Consider St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who worked tirelessly to establish Catholic healthcare and educational services, especially for poor immigrants); St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (who established the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first religious community for women founded in America, and the first parish school, laying the foundation for the parochial school system in the United States); St. John Neumann (fourth bishop of Philadelphia, who organized the first diocesan parochial school system in the nation, and established numerous churches, schools, and orphanages); and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (who brought the Society of the Sacred Heart to the American frontier, creating schools for Native Americans of the Midwest, and earning from the Potawatomi the name “Woman Who Prays Always”).

In short, the saints of America have always united their deep love for the Heart of Jesus with compassionate outreach to the lost, poor, and suffering, and encouraged the devotion, especially on First Fridays.

Prayer and good works

Perhaps no one worked with greater zeal to bring all of society under the reign of the Heart of Jesus than the founder of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in France, Venerable Fr. Leo Dehon (1843–1925). His life and witness show that the desire to offer consoling reparation to the Heart of Jesus must not be restricted to pious acts of devotion to the Real Presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament: It must also bear fruit in the service of human need and the pursuit of social justice.

For Fr. Dehon, these two commitments — love of the Sacred Heart and a commitment to meeting the needs of the poor and suffering — were deeply connected. But Fr. Dehon certainly could not be categorized as someone who reduced Christian discipleship to social action alone. Note the title of his monthly magazine: *The Reign of the Heart of Jesus in Souls and in Societies*. Both are necessary, and each is bound up with the other. Souls remade in the furnace of love of the Heart of Jesus can't help but radiate compassionate love to all those He loves so ardently.

In short, the saints of America have always united their deep love for the Heart of Jesus with compassionate outreach to the lost, poor, and suffering, and encouraged the devotion, especially on First Fridays.

So in this special year celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of our country, conceived in liberty and the pursuit of justice for all, let's set the roots of America deep within the Heart of our Savior, who alone can heal our divisions, transform hearts, and sanctify our whole nation, “from sea to shining sea.”

Dr. Robert Stackpole is the director emeritus of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy.

Follow the U.S. bishops' Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on usccb.org/weholdthesetruths.

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Graces to receive

There are few things we need more as a country than the graces Jesus promised to give to those who practice devotion to the Sacred Heart, conveyed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. The traditional list is:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during their life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings on their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls will quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an Image of My Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving the Sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Sit with these promises. Take them with you to Adoration, or spend time praying over them while venerating the Divine Mercy Image. Ask God to help you appreciate them, and thank Him for them. These are extraordinary, blessed promises.

Join the Marian Fathers online on DivineMercyPlus.org, [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) every First Friday at 8 p.m. ET for devotions to the Sacred Heart, and every First Saturday at 11 a.m. ET for devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as well as an “Explaining the Faith” talk by [Fr. Chris Alar, MIC](https://www.frchrisalar.com).

MH



By Peggy Stanton

To celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, join me on an “armchair pilgrimage” across this majestic land in my new book from Marian Press, *The United “Saints” of America: On Pilgrimage with Our Mother Mary from Sea to Shining Sea*, with a foreword by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ.

The United “Saints” of America, you ask? Well, yes! The “big S” saints — those raised to the altar by the Catholic Church — have traversed our land, coast to coast, from St. Isaac Jogues in the East to St. Junípero Serra in the West. There are, however, hundreds of “little s” saints of equal grace, if not equal title, who have left holy footprints all across this land. They helped lay a foundation that has made America “one nation under God” and, in the process, grown an initially persecuted religion — the Catholic faith — to one with 72 million members, making it the single largest religious denomination in the United States.

What unites all of them, big S or small, is a great sense of mission and a fierce desire to bring the Good News to a foreign land, most frequently under the guidance of the first bearer of that Good News, missionary extraordinaire, Mother Mary of Nazareth, or, as my special-needs little sister called her, “Heavenly Mommy.”

Our Lady is asking you and me to join her here on

pilgrimage as we explore all 50 states and the District of Columbia in search of the “saints” who helped make America the beautiful country we celebrate in its sesquicentennial.

Heroism and faith

As I wrote this book, I was awed and amazed by the zeal, courage, and heroism of the Catholic missionaries, first the Franciscans and then the Jesuit “Black Robes,” as the Native Americans dubbed them. They canoed, rode horseback, and snowshoed across rivers, mountains, and plains in the harshest weather to bring Jesus Christ and His Gospel to ears that had never heard His Name, some losing their lives in the process.

I was equally awed by the formidable women who forged paths to build convents, schools, hospitals, and even universities. And proud I was of the laity who gave of their money, property, and time, daring to dream that they could create some of our country’s most beautiful and unusual shrines. Such faith humbled me. It inspired me. It enriched

THIS LAND IS MARY'S LAND



me. It changed me. I pray it might do the same for you.

There is a reason that so many of the shrines in America are dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Since our nation's founding, Mary has been a very popular lady in this country.

Popular Lady

Devotion to Mary in America, specifically under the title of the Immaculate Conception, reaches back to 1492, when Christopher Columbus dedicated the New World he had discovered to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. The Mississippi River was originally given the same title by Fr. Jacques Marquette, SJ, in gratitude to the Blessed Mother for a successful mission in which her intercession had been invoked.

In 1792, John Carroll, a Jesuit and the first Catholic bishop in America, consecrated the new young nation to the Blessed Mother under the title of the Immaculate Conception. In 1846, the bishops of America made Our Lady's patronage official, and it was certified by Blessed Pope Pius IX the following year.

During the pandemic, the American and Canadian

Catholic Bishops reconsecrated America and Canada to the Blessed Mother on May 1, 2020.

So, in an informal way, can we say that the Mother of God is, in a sense, the Mother of America?

Holy sites

I recall driving on a backwater road in Ireland and coming across a tiny shrine to Our Lady who was presented in a

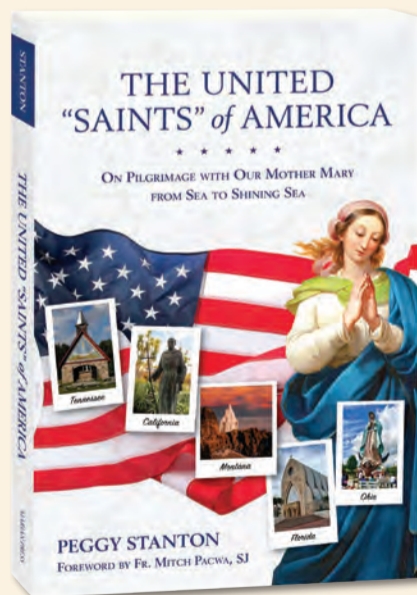
In search of the "saints" who helped make America the beautiful country we celebrate on her 250th birthday.

pink plastic statue; definitely *not* Our Lady of Knock! A sign claimed, however, that it was a place of healing. My husband was suffering at the time from severe back pain and was not even sure he could continue the journey. We prayed for a healing, and when we left the shrine, the pain was gone and

never returned the remainder of the trip.

Viva humble, holy, unknown sites! Our Lady doesn't need a cathedral to intercede for us. She needs our attention. And that's precisely what we intend to give her on our "Armchair Pilgrimage" across our Mother's land.

The United "Saints" of America (Product code: B70-BMOA) is available now on [ShopMercy.org](https://www.shopmercy.org).



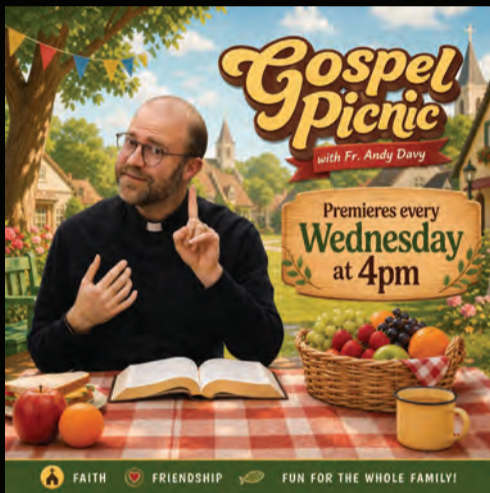
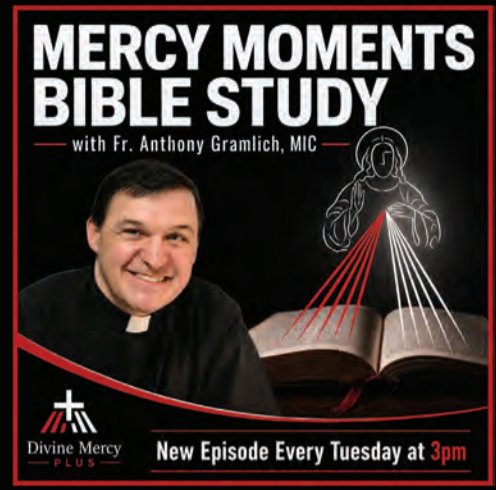
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JOYFUL WITNESS

When Helen was a young child, her family moved to New York City and joined the parish of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr, where Images of Our Lady of Częstochowa and Divine Mercy (below) hung over the altars flanking the main doors.

One of her most treasured memories is the day Cardinal Karol Wojtyła — the future Pope St. John Paul II — visited the parish. Helen’s father, an usher, was among those who hosted him. “I’ve actually seen a saint!” she still marvels.

At the time, she didn’t realize how deeply her parish was connected to the unfolding mission of Divine Mercy. The pew she knelt in and the school desk she studied at placed her in the heart of what Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, would later call the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Catholic Church.

Marian ties

Only years later did Helen learn that the Felician Sisters who taught in her parish had been personally recruited by Fr. Jozef Jarzebowski, MIC — the Marian priest who brought the Divine Mercy Image and devotion to the United States. Their work helped plant the seeds of the devotion in countless hearts, including her own.

Her parents also had ties to the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. They occasionally enrolled relatives and friends in the Association of Marian Helpers and received the Polish-language magazine *Róże Maryi*, which nourished their faith and kept them connected to the Marians’ mission.

As an adult, Helen’s devotion deepened. On two trips to Poland, she visited convents where St. Faustina lived and prayed. She treasures a third-class relic — a small piece of cloth touched to St. Faustina’s habit — and an Image of the Divine Mercy that still hangs in her home. These reminders

of her pilgrimages continue to inspire her daily.

Following her parents’ example, Helen began supporting the Marians. Her first gift helped restore the historic church in Vilnius, where the Divine Mercy Image painted under St. Faustina’s direction was first displayed.

Over the years, she has enrolled loved ones in the Association of Marian Helpers and developed a special affection for Marian seminarians, who will continue to promote the Divine Mercy message and devotion to future generations.

Turning point

A turning point came when she read a newspaper article explaining how individuals could make charitable gifts directly from their IRA. The idea resonated immediately. She was just old enough to qualify (at least 70 ½), so she consulted her financial

advisor, who confirmed it was a wise and tax-efficient way to give.

“I felt that giving now would help grow the ministry now instead of leaving funds after I pass,” she explains. “It brings me joy, and I plan to continue giving as long as I can.”

In another act of generosity, Helen agreed to share her story and encourage other Marian Helpers to explore giving from their IRA or other tax-wise ways to give that will maximize their impact.

To learn more or to start a conversation, please call us at 1-800-671-2020 or visit Giving.Marian.org.



Ellen Miller is a planned giving manager. Contact her at gifts@Marian.org; 1-800-671-2020; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit Giving.Marian.org to learn more.





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GRACES RECEIVED

Son returns after 6 years of silence

Our youngest son cut off all ties with family. I didn't even know where he had moved to. Any attempts I made to communicate went unanswered.

I continuously prayed to Ven. Casimir Wyszynski for the return of my son. After six years, our prayers were answered. He is now very much in our lives, and I am very happy. Thank you, Ven. Casimir!

— R.M., Rochester,
New York

Great-niece and friend both find jobs

After reading about the many graces received through the intercession of Ven. Casimir, especially those of employment, I decided to pray a novena for his special graces.

My great-niece had been looking for employment after graduating from college last year. Also, our family friend had been searching for a job since last summer after his move to Chicago.

A week after I finished my novena, our friend found the type of work that was suited for him. I started another novena and, on the second day, I received notice that my great-niece had found employment with a new company 10 minutes from her home!

I continued with my novena in thanksgiving to Ven. Casimir. I truly believe these graces were granted by him through his intercession to our Heavenly Father.

— N.M., email

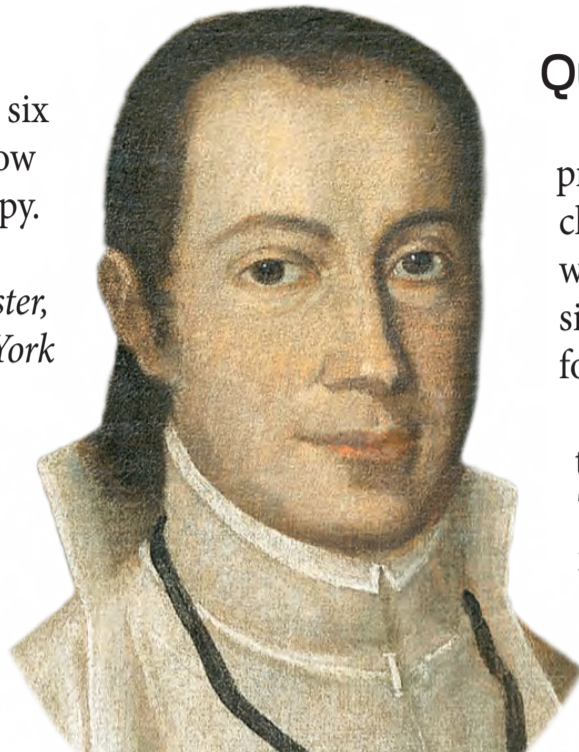
Lesions are not return of melanoma

I wanted to thank Ven. Casimir Wyszynski for his intercession. I prayed to him that he would intercede for the health of my husband. My husband had another lesion in his mouth, and we were worried that it would be another

melanoma. My husband has been plagued with several melanomas.

Thankfully, Ven. Casimir answered that prayer!

— S.M., Voorhees, New Jersey



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

Quickly found better job

I believe I received a special grace by praying to Ven. Casimir. After a career change, I realized the job was not a fit, and I was experiencing extreme stress and depression as a result. I started to pray fervently for Ven. Casimir to intercede for me.

A month or so later, I saw a job posting that seemed like a great fit, so I applied. They reached out to me not long after, and invited me to interview in person — I was offered the job days later!

Thank you, Ven. Casimir, for your intercession and for God's goodness! I have told others about praying to Ven. Casimir, since I have had multiple little miracles come true!

— L.S., email

Grandson has met his match

Since last Christmas, I started to pray daily for the intercession of Ven. Casimir regarding my grandson's dating. During the following summer, he started dating a certain someone and they are still dating at the present time.

I am so happy this has happened, and so are they! I continue to pray. Thank you, Ven. Casimir!

— Y.P., email

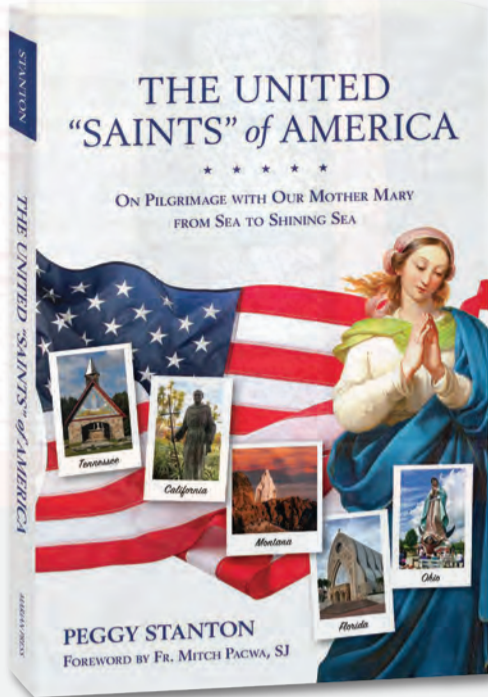
For a Venerable Casimir prayer card (B70-BCWP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, 2 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA, 01263. Email: graces@Marian.org

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

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

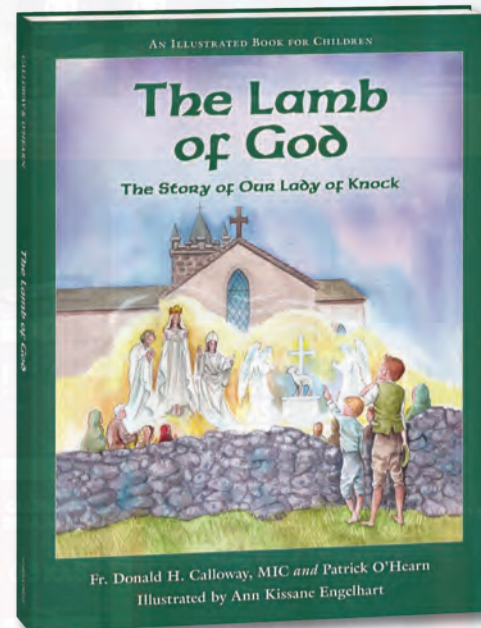
Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be to the Father ...

New from Marian Press



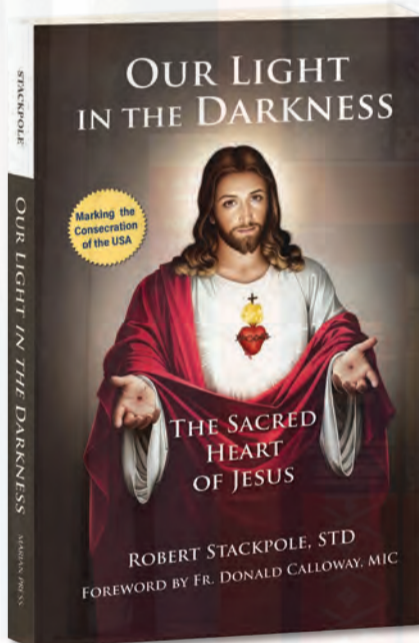
The United "Saints" of America: On Pilgrimage with Our Mother Mary from Sea to Shining Sea

The United "Saints" of America? The "big S" saints — those raised to the altar by the Catholic Church — have traversed our land, sea to shining sea, from St. Isaac Jogues in the East to St. Junípero Serra in the West. To mark our nation's 250th birthday, join veteran journalist and passionate storyteller Peggy Stanton on an illustrated tour of all 50 states and the District of Columbia, under the guidance of our patroness, the Blessed Mother, in search of the famous and not-so-famous shrines, all with wonderful, intriguing back stories. Paperback, 288 pages. **B70-BMOA** \$24.95



The Lamb of God: The Story of Our Lady of Knock

Acclaimed authors Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, and Patrick O'Hearn bring the story of Knock to life for young readers, with beautiful illustrations by Ann Kissane Englehart. At Knock, Heaven is reminding us to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, since 100 Masses were offered for them prior to the Apparition. Mary wants us to keep our eyes fixed on the Holy Eucharist, the Lamb of God. When we receive Holy Communion, we are receiving Jesus. He is the true food for everyone who hungers for eternal life. Hardcover, 38 pages. **B70-KNBK** \$22.95

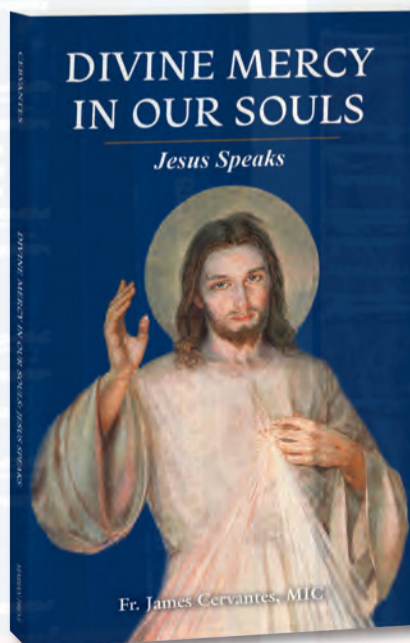


The Sacred Heart of Jesus: Our Light in the Darkness

The Catholic bishops of the United States voted to consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. To mark this milestone, theologian Dr. Robert Stackpole offers a refresher on the devotion, diving deep into the revelations of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Our Lord wished for everyone to welcome His offer of love. In His Heart, Jesus is fashioning saints on fire with love for Him. Walk through these chapters step-by-step, and rediscover the one Radiant Heart whose Light can never be put out, that forever shines amid the world's darkness, and that truly is "more brilliant than the sun." Paperback, 272 pages. **B70-SHJ** \$16.95

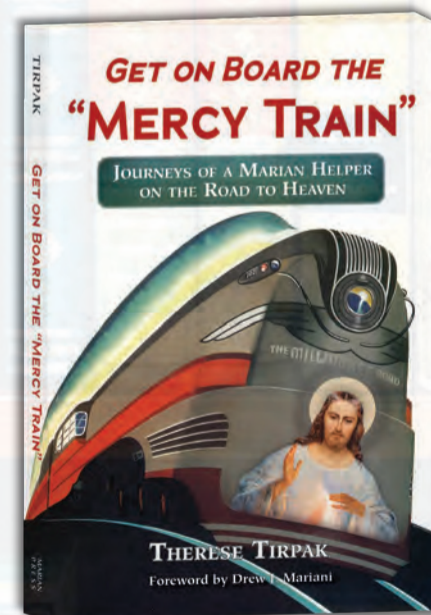
Divine Mercy in Our Souls: Jesus Speaks

Marian Fr. James Cervantes presents a devotional to help you spend each day with Jesus, the Divine Mercy. Let these words touch the heart. Mercy originates from the Heart of Jesus, and is intended to arrive in the hearts of men. Jesus says, "When you reflect upon what I tell you in the depths of your heart, you profit more than if you had read many books." (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 584) Let these words reach, resound, and reverberate in the depths of our hearts. And in reflecting and meditating upon them, we can hope to receive an abundance of graces. Paperback, 112 pages. **B70-MERCI** \$14.95



Get on Board the "Mercy Train"

Get On Board the "Mercy Train" reflects Marian Helper Therese Tirpak's deep commitment to share the life-changing message of Divine Mercy, her understanding of life as a journey to Heaven, and even her love for her father, who had worked on the Milwaukee Road Railway. Through this collection of heartfelt stories — rooted in a lifelong journey of faith — we can see how God's mercy continues to unfold across generations, touching lives in both quiet moments and extraordinary ways. Paperback, 168 pages. **B70 -MTRN** \$16.95

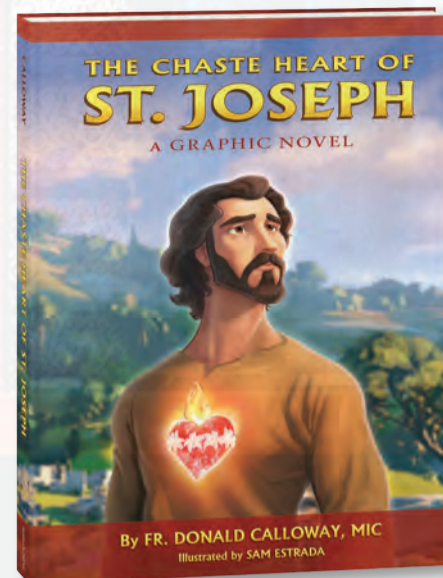


Captivating Books for Children



Our Lady's Love for Little Ones

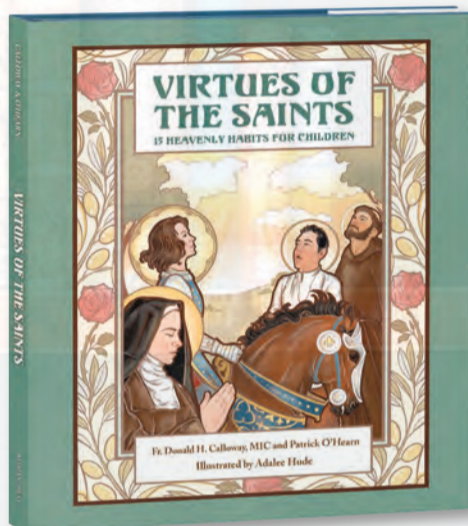
Over the centuries and across the miles, Our Lady continues to care for her children, calling all to prayer, especially for the conversion of sinners. Here, from the creators of the inspiring *Gospels for Little Ones* series are the stories of 14 of Our Lady's visits, told in rhyming verse and beautiful watercolor illustrations for all to share. Hardcover, 40 pages. **B70-OLLL \$19.95**



The Chaste Heart of St. Joseph: A Graphic Novel

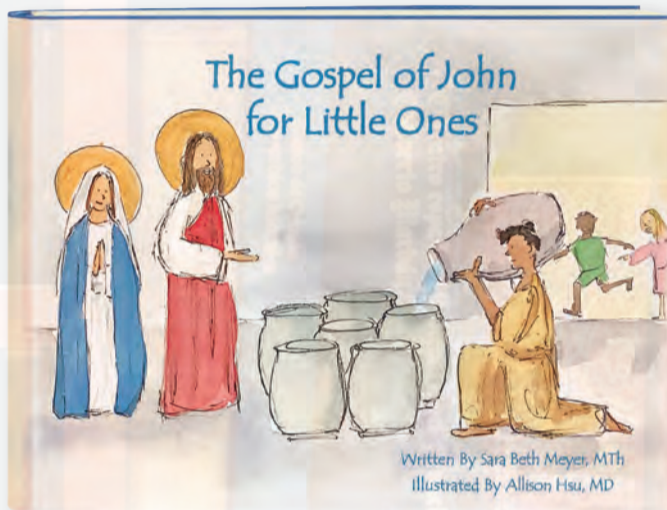
By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC; illustrated by Sam Estrada

How much do you know about St. Joseph? Consider: He had royal blood; was a young man when he married Mary; was a wonderful father to Jesus; was the brave and steadfast protector of the Holy Family; is a model of manhood; has worked many miracles; and is a powerful intercessor for us. In this illustrated graphic novel, join Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, as he tells the inspiring story of St. Joseph, our spiritual father and the "Terror of Demons." Hardcover, 84 pages. **B70-JOEG \$22.95**



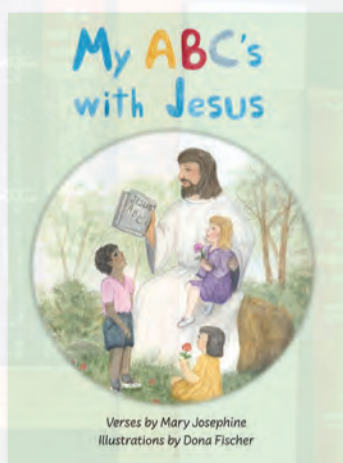
Virtues of the Saints: 15 Heavenly Habits for Children

Besides the graces of the Sacraments, God has another way for us to grow in faith from a mustard seed into a giant tree: a life of virtue, or good habits, which must be practiced daily if they are to increase. In this children's book (with beautiful illustrations by Adalee Hude), authors Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Patrick O'Hearn describe 15 of the most important virtues for boys and girls, exploring how saints, from Our Lady and St. Joseph to St. Kateri Tekawitha and St. Carlo Acutis, and many more, lived them out. Hardcover, 86 pages. **B70-VIRT \$29.95**



The Gospel of John for Little Ones

In volume 4 of the beloved *Gospels for Little Ones* series, we learn that in John's Gospel, relationships are so important that we know others in relation to Jesus rather than by name. Hardcover, 36 pages. **B70-JHNG \$19.95**



My ABC's with Jesus

This is the portable, take-anywhere booklet that parents and grandparents have been waiting to read with their young children! Girls and boys can practice their alphabet in a fun and engaging way, with colorful illustrations and clever rhyming verses. Youngsters will find many reasons to smile, ponder, and be inspired. Endorsed by Bishop David L. Ricken. Paperback, 68 pages. **B70-BABC \$6.95**

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From the
VAULTS



One hundred years ago, on June 7, 1926, Archbishop (now Blessed) George Matulaitis, “Father Renovator” of the Marian Fathers, disembarked in New York City and made his way to Chicago, Illinois, to attend the 28th International Eucharistic Congress. It was his second visit to the United States; the first, in 1913, founded the first Marian parish in Chicago.

Over the course of the next three months, Bl. George visited 92 Lithuanian parishes from Connecticut to Illinois and was welcomed with great fanfare by the immigrant communities, who decorated his automobile (above) and even painted his train violet, the episcopal color. His priest-secretary recalled, “In almost every community Archbishop Matulaitis visited, he delivered two sermons, in many three, in some four or more. Thus, during July and August, he gave a total of close to 200 sermons and conferences,” and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to hundreds of young people. Marian Fathers’ Auxiliaries (lay supporters, the original Marian Helpers) in 20 parishes raised funds to help establish a General House for the Marian Fathers in Rome.

Departing for home on Sept. 1, 1926, Bl. George died less than four months later, on Jan. 27, 1927, age 56. His feast day is Jan. 27.

MH

Rejoice!



Two days in May at the National Shrine were banner ones for Marian vocations and the future of the Catholic Church! On May 8, three seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate by **Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV** (above), the final step on the road to priesthood: (at right) **Deacon Ruben Veloz, MIC**, **Deacon Christopher Orante, MIC**, and **Deacon Ryan Asensio, MIC**. The following day, we welcomed the newest Marian priest: **Fr. Patrick Lynch, MIC** (above, ordained by Bishop Betancourt). Look for more photos and stories in the next *Marian Helper*. In the meantime, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving and support for these fine young men!



Attend a retreat

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

The next retreats:

- Aug. 28-30
- Sept. 4-6
- Oct. 9-11
- Nov. 27-29
- Dec. 4-6



Learn more

Email: vocations@Marian.org

Visit: Marian.org/vocations

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

Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

350 Belleview Boulevard
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