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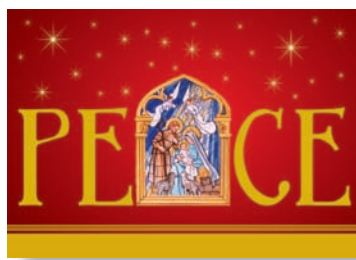


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FEATURES

8 St. Faustina live drama tours nation

Maria Vargo stars in *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy*.

BY CHRIS SPARKS

12 Thank you!

Look at what we, the Marians and Helpers, are accomplishing together.

BY FR. JOSEPH, MIC

24 A matter of trust

On the 75th anniversary of her death, we look at St. Faustina's greatest legacy.

BY FELIX CARROLL

26 The woman of our dreams

Discover why Mary is the perfect mother, daughter, and spouse.

BY FR. DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC

30 Praying for the Holy Souls

Father Dan Cambra, MIC, talks about his practices.

BY ANDREW LEECO

33 Potential for 1.5 million saints

Initiative aims to bring many Spanish speakers to Jesus through Mary.

BY CHRIS SPARKS

36 Gratitude for a 'mercy multiplier'

Dedicated executive director leaves a legacy of mercy.

BY FELIX CARROLL



DEPARTMENTS

4 Father Joseph Writes

Director discusses stewardship, thanks Helpers for prayers and support.

5 Father Joseph's Mailbox

Marian Helpers share what supporting the Marians means to them.

6 Father Joseph's Bookshelf

Director reviews *Mercy's Gaze* and *Francis: Pope of a New World*.

7 Ask a Marian

Father Joe Roesch, MIC, answers your questions.

10 Marian News

Brother Chris Alar, MIC, makes final vows; is ordained a deacon.

BY CHRIS SPARKS

11 Apostolate News

Institute launches first online Divine Mercy course.

40 Graces Received

Answers to prayers through the intercession of Blessed George.

41 Outstanding Helpers

Honoring a Helper who left a special legacy.

BY ELLEN MILLER

44 Between Us

Working together to renew Halloween.

BY A HELPER AND A MARIAN

MARIAN HELPER

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On the cover: Gathered on the steps of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., the Marians in the United States express their gratitude to the Marian Helpers for supporting them in their mission. Photo by Felix Carroll.

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.

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Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

The Marians 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 (AMH)

The Association is a spiritual benefit society that prayerfully and financially supports Marian priests and brothers.

More than 1.5 million members share in the spiritual benefits of the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marians.

Through *Marian Helper* magazine and other printed materials, members receive information about the Marian family and are encouraged to strive for personal holiness.

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Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

An expanded edition just for you

Recently, I received a letter from a Marian Helper expressing his concerns about the need for greater accountability by nonprofit organizations in fundraising. I share his concerns, and that's why I love that we're able to offer *Marian Helper* magazine every quarter. Each issue keeps our Marian Helpers informed about how their gifts help us to serve Christ and the Church.

Just one problem: There's so much good going on that it's difficult to express it all. I mean, the usual 30-something pages of *Marian Helper* just don't provide enough space. They only give a snippet, a snapshot of how the Marians and our Marian Helpers are making a difference.

In view of this problem, I thought we'd do something big ... literally. I decided to combine the Fall and Winter editions of *Marian Helper* magazine, making this issue a whopping 48 pages and dedicating it to stewardship. I also wanted to take this issue as an opportunity to thank you, our Helpers, for your faithful prayers and support.

While this issue still has many of the familiar columns and departments, it also includes a 12-page cover story that highlights certain categories of Marian activity, two pages at a time. For instance, in two pages, we cover "works of mercy" and in another two, "evangelization." But because it's impossible to describe everything we do in

a given category in just a couple of pages and because "a picture is worth a thousand words," we decided to show you the good that you're doing — not just tell you.

That way, in one glance, you can better appreciate the staggering amount of good that God has been pleased to do through us, His lowly instruments.

Putting together this issue has been a great blessing to me personally. Having been the director of the Association of Marian Helpers for nearly three years now, I thought I had a pretty good grasp of all our activities. That being said, I have to admit that as I was working on this issue, listing each of our activities one by one, I became pleasantly surprised. It was so much! Normally, during my day-to-day work at the Marian Helpers Center, I deal with only a few areas of activity at a time. I'd never actually taken the time to list them all together. It was truly amazing to see it all at once!

Unfortunately, even with a jumbo issue such as this one, we couldn't include everything that was on my list. But I think when you go through the issue, you'll get the idea. I pray that seeing these pages will fill you with the same joy I have in serving at the Marian Helpers Center, the joy that comes from working together to bear fruit for the kingdom of God, fruit that will last.

By the way, when I was going through the list of activities, I not only felt joy but gratitude — in fact, an overwhelming gratitude. I was so grateful that God has allowed such a small community, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, to do so much good. I was so grateful that He has sent us so many dedicated, hard-working laypeople who work right beside us day after day. I was so grateful that He has sent us so many generous, prayerful Marian Helpers. Truly, without your support, we could not do all this! Without you, the pages of this issue would be empty.

So I invite all you Marian Helpers out there to prayerfully sit down with this issue and soak in the good things of which *you* are an essential part. May the photos and stories of these pages fill your hearts with joy. And may you know how much we, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, appreciate *you*. Wherever you may be and however you support us, we say to you from our hearts, "Thank you!"

"Father Joseph, MIC," is the honorary title of the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. The current director is Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

Back
to
index

Father Joseph's Mailbox

Helpers share in Marians' mission

These Marian Helpers shared why they are thankful for opportunities to support the Marians.

Involved with HAPP

When I have been approached about assisting the Marians, it has always been natural to say "yes" because they have always been such a blessing to my family and me.



Most recently, Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC, asked me to become involved in the Marian Fathers' HAPP programs that promote the New Evangelization in parishes. I jumped at the chance, not only because I wanted to help the Marians, but because I had read both *33 Days to Morning Glory* and *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* and was excited about taking the group retreat with others. I can't wait for the program based on Fr. Mike's book, *The 'One Thing' Is Three*.

You can see our Lord and Our Blessed Mother working through the Marian Fathers just by watching them, listening to them, or reading one of their books.

— MS, Kenosha, Wis.

Helping support seminarians

We continue our support because the Marians continue to be tireless promoters of Divine Mercy, and they do an outstanding job in the formation of the members of their community. The men we've met have had a solid Catholic formation — they love the Blessed Mother, love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and are faithful to the Tradition and Magisterium of the Church. Our world needs them so much, and we need them, too! They have our deepest respect and appreciation. They're setting hearts on fire for Christ, and we pray that our support will help them to continue their ministry of proclaiming and being witnesses of God's love and mercy.

— T & ER, Wilmington, Del.

[Read more about Tim and Edith here.](#)

Marians 'practice what they preach'

My wife and I will do whatever we can to assist the Marian Fathers. First and foremost, their faith is completely transparent: They

live what they believe and they practice what they preach. Their love for God, their love for Mary, and their love for us and our families is obvious to me. They are untiring in their devotion to the Sacraments of Healing, particularly Reconciliation. They have always been available, day or night, to hear our confessions, offer great spiritual insights, and pray for us and our needs.

I have yet to meet a single Marian Father who is not an incredible example of the love of Jesus and Mary. My life has been deeply enriched by each and every one of the Marians whom I've met.

— RH, Yorkville, Ill.

[Read more about Rick and Tammy here.](#)

Assisting as a volunteer

The reason we lend support to the Marians is because we believe in their mission in the Church. When we volunteer at the Shrine, we make the pilgrims our top priority. Hospitality is important to the Marians, so we try to make the pilgrims feel welcome and pray they derive much needed assistance for their spiritual needs. On Divine Mercy Sunday, we help at the Adoration tent. We also try to volunteer for other special events. We just want to give back to the Lord because He has been very good to us and to the Marians because they are always available to meet our spiritual needs.

— K & JC, Schenectady, N.Y.

'So at peace when we visit Eden Hill'

I always knew about God's love in my head, but I didn't feel it in my heart until I met the Marians and learned about Divine Mercy. We have three memorials here, and we feel so at peace when we visit Eden Hill. The Marians are so full of joy for Christ that it brings us joy.

— JH, North Brookfield, Mass.

These are just a few of the many Helpers who have assisted the Marian Fathers in fulfilling our mission in various ways. To them and to all of you, I express my deepest thanks.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC



Tell us why you assist the Marians in their mission on Facebook at [Facebook.com/MarianHelpers](https://www.facebook.com/MarianHelpers) or e-mail us at mailbox@marian.org.

Back
to
index



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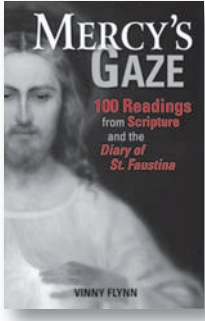
MERCY'S GAZE

100 READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE AND THE *DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA*

BY VINNY FLYNN, FOREWORD AND THEME REFLECTIONS BY DAVID CAME

MARIAN PRESS, 170 PP., \$14.95, AVAILABLE NOV. 1

PRODUCT CODE: **B20-GAZE**



If you'd like to grow closer to Jesus and gain fresh insights into the *Diary of St. Faustina*, then you'll want to use *Mercy's Gaze* in daily prayer. It's by popular Divine Mercy author and speaker Vinny Flynn.

Vinny frames his 100 readings from Scripture and the *Diary* with a call for you to gaze upon and return the gaze of the Lord Jesus in the Divine Mercy image. The goal of such mutual gazing is your transformation into a living image of mercy. (A full color reproduction of the Divine Mercy image is included in the book for this purpose.)

The thematic readings on mercy, which are ideal for daily prayer and reflection, build in impact to foster a personal encounter with the merciful Savior. Gaze upon Jesus, turn to the reading for the day, and ponder the meaning of His mercy in the passages. As you finish the readings on each

theme, record your own reflections on the pages provided.

But how can *Mercy's Gaze* give you new insights into the *Diary*?

Perhaps David Came, executive editor of Marian Press, puts it best in the Foreword:

[T]his book breaks new ground in making the case that the *Diary of St. Faustina* as private revelation stacks up well against the yardstick of the inspired Word of God in Sacred Scripture.

Guided by his deep knowledge of Divine Mercy, Vinny Flynn has painstakingly mined parallel passages from Scripture and the *Diary* that develop key mercy themes, as well as themes common to the Christian life. The result is ... confirmation of the *Diary's* consistency and harmony with Scripture. Set alongside Scripture, St. Faustina's revelations come alive as a striking Gospel of Mercy intended for our time.

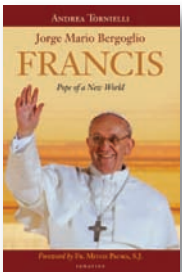
So I highly recommend *Mercy's Gaze*. Here's an opportunity to see in a new light not only the *Diary* but, most importantly, the face of Jesus Himself.

FRANCIS: POPE OF A NEW WORLD

BY ANDREA TORNIELLI

IGNATIUS PRESS, 200 PP., \$16.96

PRODUCT CODE: **B20-FPNW**



Andrea Tornielli, who is a Vatican correspondent for the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*, has written a masterful biography of Pope Francis. Tornielli describes well how the Holy Father's disarming simplicity, humility, and warm style have won over many hearts — encouraging alienated Catholics, other Christians, and skeptics to give the Church a second look.

What's most inspiring of all, though, in this biography is how Tornielli points to mercy as the central message of Francis's papacy, based on his first weeks as Pope. The Vatican correspondent cites the new Pope's words on mercy in his first Sunday homily on March 17: "And Jesus has this message for us: mercy.

I think — and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy." Tornielli then describes the homily as the Pope's "first great encyclical."

Further, after observing that Francis also dedicated his *Angelus* message for that Sunday to mercy, Tornielli writes, "And immediately it became obvious that the message of mercy would be central in his pontificate." ► [Click for Pope Francis's homily and Angelus message.](#)

Yet there's more. Tornielli points out how "mercy" was emphasized by key Cardinals before Francis's election. It came in remarks made by then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Buenos Aires to the Cardinals in their pre-conclave meetings and by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the dean of the College of Cardinals, in his homily right before the conclave. Tornielli sums up: "Both in the speech of the Archbishop of Buenos Aires ... and in Sodano's homily, the key word is in fact 'mercy.'"

Read this fascinating biography, and thank the Lord for Pope Francis!

► [Click for Cardinal Sodano's homily.](#)

Back
to
index



Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

Who are the Marian Fathers?

Q. Can you give me a snapshot of the worldwide Marian Congregation? Your call, where you're located, and what you do?

A. We were founded 340 years ago in 1673 in Poland by Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701). He wanted an active, apostolic community to promote the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, to assist the deceased and the dying, and to help diocesan clergy in parishes. Because of religious persecution in Europe, we were at the point of extinction a little more than 100 years ago, having only one member left in the world! That's when we were renovated by Blessed George Matulaitis (1871-1927).

We currently have around 500 members in the world, including both priests and brothers, who serve in 20 countries. They include 12 countries in Europe — many that were either in the former Soviet bloc or once part of the Soviet Union. Our ministry there involves helping people to rediscover their faith after many years of suffering under communism.

In the mid-20th century, we spread to Brazil, Argentina, England, and Australia to minister to immigrants from Poland, Lithuania, and Russia. In Brazil and Argentina, we branched out to serve all the ethnic groups there.

In the 1980s, we opened a mission in Rwanda in Africa and helped the people there through dark days after the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. Our ministry there today continues to involve spiritual healing. Then, at the beginning of the 21st Century, we opened a mission in a difficult region in Cameroon.

Our most recent missions were opened in Asia in thanksgiving for the beatification in 2007 of our Founder. We are working at a shrine and a house of formation in the Philippines, and we have a formation house for our young candidates in South India.

To sum up, we are missionaries. We run shrines, parishes, retreat houses, and schools. We are involved in journalism, media, and publishing. We run hospices and programs to help alcoholics. We are involved in religious education, work with youth, minister to the

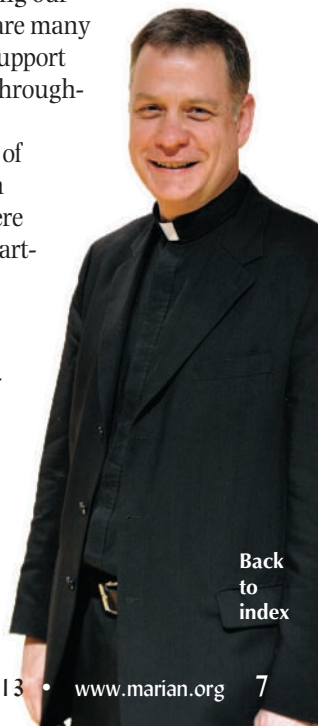
elderly, and assist families in a variety of ways. We seek to go where the need is greatest in order to serve Christ and the Church.

Q. How do the Marian Helpers assist you as a Congregation in your ministries around the world? Please give examples.

A. First of all, the prayers and sacrifices that the Marian Helpers offer up for the Marians are invaluable. Another important way that the Helpers assist us is by asking the Marians to remember their living and deceased relatives and friends in our Masses and prayers through enrollments in the Association of Marian Helpers. Their offerings then help support us. Many Helpers also request that a Mass be said for their particular intention. Our global Marian community, especially our missionaries who say many of the Masses, is then supported by the Helpers' Mass stipends.

Through the years, the Marian Helpers also assisted the Marians in beginning our work in England and Brazil, as well as in returning to Portugal after a 100-year absence because of religious persecution. Further, funds raised through our Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass., helped rebuild the Church in Central and Eastern Europe after communism. More recently, the center in Stockbridge has raised funds for our missions in Africa and now Asia. Finally, among our Marian Helpers, there are many benefactors who help support our men in formation throughout the world.

As the vicar general of the Marians, I join with our superior general here in Rome to offer our heartfelt thanks for all of the support that you, the Marian Helpers, have offered us in our worldwide mission. We are a small community, and we couldn't do a fraction of what we do without your help.



Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, welcomes your questions. Send them to: Ask a Marian, Editorial, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or e-mail ask@marian.org.

Back to index



Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy is touring around the country. The Marian Fathers encourage their Marian Helpers to consider sponsoring a performance in their area or diocese. See details below.

St. Faustina live drama tours nationwide

Maria Vargo stars in *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy*.

by Chris Sparks

The live drama *Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy* premiered in the Portland Archdiocese on Oct. 5, St. Faustina's feast day and the 75th anniversary of her death. The drama by Saint Luke Productions (SLP), which stars actress Maria Vargo as St. Faustina and is now touring across the country, has had quite a journey from concept to stage.

"Ever since she was the first saint to be canonized in the new millennium, I always thought, 'Someday, we're going to do Faustina,'" Leonardo Defilippis said. The cofounder of SLP with his wife, Patti, Leonardo has brought many saints to life on stage and screen, including John of the Cross, Augustine of Hippo, Maximilian Kolbe, and Francis of Assisi. SLP's movie *Thérèse* had a theatrical release and did remarkably well for a grassroots, independent production, while their touring dramas of the lives of Jean Vianney and Maximilian Kolbe continue to be among the most popular of all their works.

Blessed Mother Teresa was supposed to be next, but God had other plans. "I kept think-

ing of Faustina," said Leonardo. For many years, the Defilippises were vaguely familiar with Faustina and Divine Mercy, but they didn't have a chance to dig deeper.

"We were always dealing with other saints. It was through the example and devotion to the Divine Mercy of young people that I learned about it," said Leonardo. "Both actresses for *Thérèse* — the original theater actress Maggie Mahrt and Lindsay Younce who played the role in the movie — had great devotions to Divine Mercy, to St. Faustina.

"Those young women led me to Faustina. I would pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet occasionally, but I had never read the *Diary* because I never had time. Once I was able to put my focus on it, then it opened up a new world to me."

Contacting the Marians

When Leonardo and Patti began to seriously contemplate a live drama based on St. Faustina's *Diary*, they contacted Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers, for advice. They had heard of the Marian Fathers and their promotion of the Divine Mercy message, especially through

Marian Press publications.

The Defilippises would use all of the books Fr. Michael gave them as a guide for the script: first, the *Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska*; then Fr. Michael's *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*; *Divine Mercy: A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI* by Robert Stackpole, STD; *The Life of Faustina Kowalska* by Sr. Sophia Michalenko, CMGT; and *The Letters of Saint Faustina*.

"My meeting with Fr. Michael in January was a sign to me that this was really meant to be. We are in contact frequently, and I now consider him to be a spiritual mentor for this production," said Leonardo.

But the discernment process didn't end there. Leonardo would contact a group of people, including the *Thérèse* actresses and the author and painter Michael O'Brien, to get input on the decision.

"These people were all a huge influence to me," he said. "And of course, the image of Divine Mercy kept coming up all the time wherever I traveled. I'd walk into a confessional, and there it would be."

Drama takes shape

So the decision was made early this year: St. Faustina's life and *Diary* would become a live, one-woman show. Like many other SLP dramas, the show would involve the lead actress interacting with a cast of characters projected onto a screen as part of a multimedia set. A soundtrack would help set the mood and tone for each scene. Following the *Diary's* account of Jesus' appearances to St. Faustina, Jesus Himself would also play a prominent role — appearing in the production, similar to the artistic style employed for supporting characters in the SLP *Vianney* live drama.

The Defilippises would also receive guidance from one of the members of St. Faustina's own order, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. "It was through Sr. Donata Farbaniec [COLM], superior of the congregation's convent in Boston, that we learned the purpose of this play (and her order), which is to save souls, to proclaim God's mercy, to seek humility, and ultimately, to trust," said Leonardo.

He added, "Little did I know that this year was going to be the 75th anniversary of Faustina's death and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, so it's like God is directing this."

Casting the actress for St. Faustina

In July, SLP cast their Faustina: former artistic director for the G. K. Chesterton Theater Company Maria Vargo, a singer, songwriter, and actress, among other roles.

"I knew about the message of Divine Mercy before auditioning to play Faustina because I've prayed the chaplet. I have an image of the Divine Mercy," said Maria.

"But I had never read the *Diary*. That's new for me. I know that doing this show is going to open me up spiritually more than I can ever imagine," she said. "I think the core message of what we're doing is that God has

an ocean of mercy for sinners."

Maria knows something of God's "ocean of mercy for sinners" because of her own struggles in living the Catholic faith. "I was raised Catholic," she said. "I was going to church and loved the Lord, but my personal life wasn't always true to God's call.

"At a certain point, I felt this grace come over me. I experienced God's mercy," Maria said.

In addition to Maria's portrayal of St. Faustina, the drama includes the actress in a parallel modern story that makes Divine Mercy strikingly relevant to today's audiences.

"It's the story of a woman who looks back on all the sins, wounds, and anger of her life, and cries out to God in desperation," said Leonardo. "It's a compelling testimony that we hope will resonate with many souls. God is longing for them, waiting with open arms to forgive even the worst sins. It's a powerful message the world needs to hear."

To see the touring schedule, please visit stlukeproductions.com. If you would like to inquire about scheduling a performance in your area or diocese, please e-mail [Karissa Stone of Saint Luke Productions at \[livedramas@stlukeproductions.com\]\(mailto:Karissa.Stone@stlukeproductions.com\) or call her at 360-687-8029.](mailto:Karissa.Stone@stlukeproductions.com)

MH



Director Leonardo Defilippis goes over the script with actress Maria Vargo, who is playing St. Faustina. [Click to read interview with Maria.](#)

Back
to
index

Marian makes final vows; is ordained a deacon

by Chris Sparks

"This is the culmination of many years of study, prayer, and obedience in a final commitment for life. I am so unbelievably happy," said seminarian Br. Chris Alar, MIC, who professed his perpetual vows in the Marian community on Aug. 16 in a liturgy that was standing room only at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.

Then, he was ordained a deacon on Sept. 21, the feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, at the National Shrine, and plans call for his priestly ordination sometime in 2014.

Sitting just behind the Marian seminarian as he professed his vows were his parents, Charles and Rosalie Alar of Michigan. Charles is convinced his son Chris has a special place in God's plan. "I was almost killed in a car wreck. They thought I was dead for a while, and I did wake up, and I was laid up almost a year covered with plaster. I was really hurt bad," he said. "Chris was born two years later, and I feel so strongly that the main reason I was allowed to wake up when I should have been dead was so that Chris could be born. I really feel strongly about that."

Father Joe Roesch, MIC, the Marians' vicar general who served as principal celebrant of the perpetual vows Mass, also foresees great things to come for the seminarian. "God is very generous to those who give up things



Referred to as the "Energizer Bunny" of the Marians — a dynamo with a heart on fire for Christ and His Church — then-Br. Chris Alar, MIC, professed his perpetual vows on Aug. 16 at the National Shrine.

for Him," said Fr. Joe in his homily, "and Chris has given up many things to come to this point in his life, to say, 'I am here. This is what the Lord wants, and I have no choice but to say yes to the call of the Lord. I am surrendering to the Lord.' And we know the Lord will never be outdone in generosity."

Deacon Chris said that he has

definitely experienced the generosity of the Lord throughout his formation as a Marian, especially through the prayers and support of the Marian Helpers.

"There are now nearly 30 men coming up through our formation program," he pointed out. "God is calling us to the priesthood and religious life, but we can't answer the call without the prayers and support of the Marian Helpers. They play a critically important role in every ordination and perpetual vows ceremony of every Marian. Without the prayers and donations of the Marian Helpers, none of this would be possible.

"Thank you! We owe everything to you. Each priest, after he is ordained, offers his first Mass for a special intention. Mine will be offered for all our Marian Helpers."

To help educate other Marian seminarians like the newly ordained Deacon Chris, please go to marian.org/ seminarians or call 1-800-671-2020. MH

Back
to
index

Bring the message of Divine Mercy to your parish



Invite the Marians to speak about Divine Mercy. For information, call 1-866-895-3236 or e-mail parishmissions@marian.org.

Institute launches first online Divine Mercy course

In October, the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy launched its first online course, giving participants the option of either simply purchasing the presentations or taking the course for certification and possibly academic credit. Titled *Divine*

Mercy Essentials, the course covers every major theological, pastoral, and liturgical aspect of the Divine Mercy message and devotion.

An apostolate of the Marian Fathers, the Institute has provided instruction in Divine Mercy theology and spirituality for clergy, religious, and lay leaders in the Divine Mercy movement since its founding in 1995.

"Over the years, many people have expressed a desire for more in-depth, guided study of the message and devotion to the Divine Mercy and the life and witness of St. Faustina," said Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the Institute. "The first ever online course on Divine Mercy is our response to that call, designed to enable both individuals and parish groups to become more effective disciples of Christ's merciful love."

Widely recognized as an expert on Divine Mercy, Dr. Stackpole has spoken at numerous conferences and taught university courses on the subject. He also writes the column "Divine Mercy Q & A" at thedivinemercy.org and has authored several books on Divine Mercy.

"I took numerous courses with Dr. Stackpole when I was completing my undergraduate degree at Trinity Western University and Redeemer Pacific College" in Langley, British Columbia, said Angela McCormick, coordina-



Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the Institute, says the online course is "designed to enable both individuals and parish groups to become more effective disciples of Christ's merciful love."

tor of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Theresa's Parish in Edmonton, Alberta. "His 'Theology of the Love of God' course, which is about the Divine Mercy of God, was life-changing for me."

Some of the classes for the online course focus on the struggles that people face in living the mercy message.

Most of the classes are taught by Dr. Stackpole. There are also presentations by popular author and speaker Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, on the Blessed Virgin Mary and Divine Mercy, and Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, world-renowned expert on Divine Mercy and the life of St. Faustina, on the importance of the mercy message for our time.

You can purchase the presentations for viewing online or as a DVD set. Study-and-discussion questions and a group leader's guide are available online to assist parishes, Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy Cenacles, and other groups in using *Divine Mercy Essentials*.

If you wish to receive a Certificate of Completion from the Institute, you must register, pay a small course fee, take two exams, and write a final essay. The Institute is seeking to collaborate with several faith-based universities so that participants may earn academic credit. Those taking the course for a certificate or possibly university credit will be able to e-mail Dr. Stackpole with questions or comments and receive feedback.

For more information, to purchase the course, or to register for certification, go to onlinecourse.marian.org.

Back
to
index

MH

Learn Divine Mercy from the experts

Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute, is the lead instructor for this in-depth course on Divine Mercy theology and spirituality. Learn Divine Mercy Essentials from Dr. Stackpole and his team of experts. Groups and individuals can view the sessions either on DVDs or online.

DIVINE MERCY ESSENTIALS

30-session DVD set \$99.95 (B20-DMEDVD)

30-session Online Program \$49.95

Visit onlinecourse.marian.org for additional information.

New!



Have a Divine Mercy Apostolate come to your parish:
Call 1-800-895-3236 or visit thedivinemercy.org/ministries.



Thank you!

Look at what we, the Marians and
Helpers, are accomplishing together.



by Fr. Joseph, MIC

“Absolutely. *Absolutely*. It’s been on my heart for a long time now.”

These were the words of Deacon Chris Alar, MIC, when I asked if it’s true that he’s really going to offer his first Mass as a priest for our Marian Helpers. I’d heard that this was his intention, but it took me by surprise. I mean, the “first Mass” is a huge honor, usually offered for parents and family, and I wanted to make sure that what I’d heard was really true.

I guess I shouldn’t have been surprised. After all, praying for the Marian Helpers is what we do. It’s one of the great joys we have as Marians, and it’s one of the best ways we pay our debt of gratitude to you, our extended Marian family.

Even though we express our thanks through daily Masses, sacrifices, and prayers, sometimes it’s good to put our appreciation into words. By this article, we, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, would like to say a special thank you and show you some of the many ways your generosity is bearing fruit for Christ and the Church.




Message of Divine Mercy

As Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, is fond of saying, “The Divine Mercy message and devotion is the largest grassroots movement in the history of the Catholic Church.” And Marian Helpers have been at the heart of it!

Countless thousands of Marian Helpers signed a petition in 2000 to support establishing the universal celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter. You helped restore the original Vilnius Divine Mercy image, distributed tens of millions of Divine Mercy prayercards and leaflets, provided Divine Mercy images for your parishes, assisted priests in arranging more solemn celebrations of Divine Mercy Sunday, and contributed testimonies for this magazine and our websites.

Whenever you’ve purchased materials or books from Marian Press, you’ve made it possible for us to publish more titles, such as a new biography of St. Faustina next spring (see page 42). Finally, your generous support has kept the hub of our Divine Mercy operations, the Marian Helpers Center and National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, humming with creative new ways of bringing Divine Mercy to all. For the many ways you embrace and help us spread the life-changing Divine Mercy message and devotion, we thank you.



**DIARY OF
ST. FAUSTINA:**
Published by Marian Press, this is the book that sparked the Divine Mercy movement. Countless Marian Helpers have read the *Diary* and joined with the Marian Fathers in promoting its message. With more than one million copies sold, the *Diary* is available in various print editions, as an audiobook, and soon an MP3, with an ebook in the works. To order *Diary*,





APOSTOLATES: With thousands of cenacles started, hundreds of presentations given in parishes, many conferences held, and books published, our four apostolates — the John Paul II Institute, EADM, MOMM, and Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy — are helping thousands of Catholics embrace Divine Mercy as a way of life.



Robert Stackpole, STD Bryan Thatcher, MD Joan and Dave Maroney Marie Romagnano, RN

▶ [Click here to learn more about the apostolates.](#)

INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK: The Marian Fathers partner with more than 200 distributors and promoters in 16 countries around the world to spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion. In the last 10 years alone, the Marian Fathers and our partners have circulated nearly nine million pieces of religious material to a hurting world.

▶ [Read about one of our distributors.](#)



▶ [Click for Divine Mercy Sunday slideshow.](#)

DIVINE MERCY IMAGE:

Marian Helpers provided the funds to restore the Vilnius Divine Mercy image (shown), painted under St. Faustina's direction. Father Joseph, MIC, wants to get this image into every home and parish. [Click here to order an image.](#)

THE NATIONAL SHRINE

OF THE DIVINE MERCY: More than 24,000 pilgrims celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday Weekend in 2013 at the Shrine. An estimated 70 million viewers in 79 countries tuned in to the annual Divine Mercy Sunday EWTN broadcast hosted by the Marian Fathers. Many more pilgrims visit the Shrine throughout the year, including an estimated crowd of 5,000 for the annual Encuentro Latino celebration.



Devotion to Mary



Unfortunately, after the Second Vatican Council, devotion to Mary kind of waned. Fortunately, through the efforts of people like Blessed John Paul II, devotion to Our Blessed Mother is making a fast and fruitful comeback.

Of course, the Marians have been overjoyed to participate in this renewal in a number of ways.

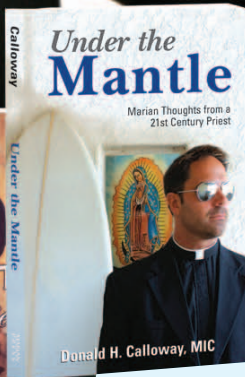
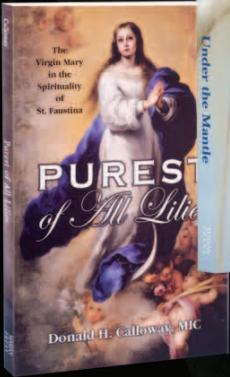
For instance, thanks to the preaching of charismatic Marians like Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, and Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, tens of thousands of people all over the world have rediscovered the powerful and loving intercession of Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Also, through our publishing apostolate, millions of Marian books and pamphlets go out to the faithful every year, with Marian Helpers assisting in the distribution.

More recently, the Marians have helped spark one of the largest promotional efforts for Marian Consecration ever (see article on page 33). Through this initiative, hundreds of thousands of people in the last year have consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary, the “crowning of Marian devotion.” Not surprisingly, tens of thousands of Marian Helpers are actively participating in this mission.

In so many ways, Marian Helpers have enabled, supported, and collaborated with the Marians in rekindling a love for Mary in the Church. For this, we thank you.

MARIAN EXPERTS:

Supported by the Helpers, the Marians spread devotion to Mary through our books and speaking engagements, especially Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, (shown) and Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. Both are known for their popular books on Our Lady.





13TH OF THE MONTH CLUB: Some of our most loyal and generous Helpers are those who have joined one of our clubs: the 13th of the Month Club, Friends of Mercy, the Holy Souls Sodality, or the Circle of Light. As our partners in leading souls to Jesus and Mary, they provide us with vital support and join us in prayer. For more information, click: **13TH FRIENDS HOLY SOULS CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

MARY APP: Since our free Mary App first launched in May 2011, we've had more than 48,000 downloads on Apple devices alone. People are turning to the Marian Fathers to learn about Mary in countries such as Singapore, Saudi Arabia, China, and many others.



HEARTS AFIRE: Helpers are at the forefront of our small-group programs sparking parish renewal across the country. Using our programs, hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children have made the Marian consecration and consoled Jesus' Heart.

MARIAN WEEK: Running from Aug. 15 (the Assumption) to Aug. 22 (the Queenship of Mary), the Marian's annual Marian Week honors Our Lady in Stockbridge. The Marian's invite the Helpers to participate. Many of the 13th of the Month Club members join us.



Works of Mercy



We're called not only to preach mercy, but to practice it. One important way the Marians practice mercy is by praying for the souls in purgatory. In fact, a key part of our mission is to pray for the deceased (see article on page 30).

Another part of our charism involves "serving the Church where the need is greatest." Therefore, with the support of our Marian Helpers, we've founded missions where the weight of poverty is particularly crushing. Thanks to the generosity of our Helpers, we've also been able to reach out to people in places devastated by natural disasters. This includes relief for victims of disasters in Haiti and the Philippines, as well as for victims of Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Katrina in the United States.

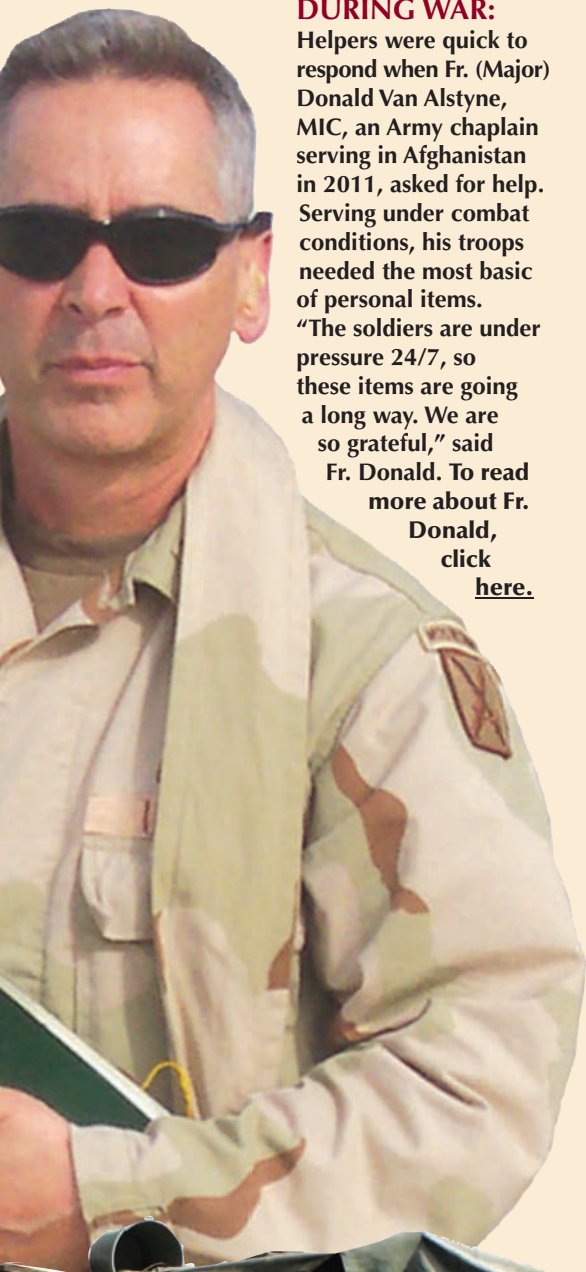
But because the poor need both physical and spiritual nourishment, the Marians have recently begun "Mercy for the Poor." Through this initiative, started and sustained by the generosity of Marian Helpers, more than 100,000 print and canvas Divine Mercy images have gone out to the poorest of the poor in the last six months.

Again, this project and all of our works of mercy are only possible through the generosity of our Marian Helpers. For this, we thank you.

To learn more about our mission in Kibeho, Rwanda, click [here](#).

MISSION SUPPORT: The Helpers' generous gifts allow our missionaries to serve in places such as Cameroon, Rwanda, and the Philippines. The missionaries are able to catechize the people and bring them the Sacraments. To help, click [here](#).





DURING WAR:

Helpers were quick to respond when Fr. (Major) Donald Van Alstyne, MIC, an Army chaplain serving in Afghanistan in 2011, asked for help. Serving under combat conditions, his troops needed the most basic of personal items.

“The soldiers are under pressure 24/7, so these items are going a long way. We are so grateful,” said

Fr. Donald. To read more about Fr. Donald, click [here](#).



PRAYER: Praying for the Helpers is at the heart of the Marians’ call. It ranges from remembering the Helpers in our Masses, prayers, and good works to intercessory prayer for the Helpers, involving lighting candles and praying for special intentions. [Click here to enroll someone.](#)

MERCY FOR THE

POOR: Donations from Marian Helpers allow us to give high-quality, canvas images to the poor. Our goal is to provide spiritual nourishment to those in greatest need. [Click here to donate.](#)



DISASTER RELIEF: The Helpers responded generously to the Marians’ appeal after an earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010, devastated Haiti (shown), killing an estimated 200,000 people. This is one of many instances in which the Helpers have met a critical need for humanitarian aid. To help, click [here](#).





Seminaricians

Right now, many dioceses and religious communities are experiencing a vocations crisis because their applicants are so few. In the Marians, we also have been having a vocations crisis, but it's because our vocations are so many!

God has really blessed us. This year, we have nearly 30 men in formation. That's the most men in formation we've ever had in the history of our province. This is even more amazing, considering that we have fewer than 25 Marian priests actively serving here in the United States. In short, we have more men in formation than we have active Marian priests! Our "crisis," therefore, has been trying to figure out where to house so many new men and, especially, how to fund their seminary education. Believe me: It hasn't been easy.

Thankfully, our Marian Helpers have been incredibly generous to our seminarian appeals, and we haven't had to turn any men away. For this, we are truly grateful. How grateful? Well, I think Deacon Chris Alar's gesture, which I mentioned at the beginning of this article, says it all. He and all our men in formation know how much the Marian Helpers support us, and so, from our hearts, we thank you.

HEARING THE

CALL: The Marians have nearly 30 men in formation in the United States. Marian Helpers are supporting them and have supported the education of many of our recently ordained priests, including

Fr. Ron McBride, MIC;
Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC;
Fr. James Cervantes, MIC;
and Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC.





WASHINGTON, D.C.: More than a dozen seminarians and novices are residing at the Marian Scholasticate in the nation's capital this school year. The seminarians are studying theology, aiming to earn either a Master's in Divinity or a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB) at the Dominican House of Studies, overseen by Fr. Mark Baron, MIC, and Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC.



STEUBENVILLE: Six seminarians and two postulants are at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio. They are studying at Franciscan University of Steubenville this year, either earning an undergrad degree or completing their required 30 hours of philosophy, overseen by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, Fr. John Larson, MIC, and Fr. Angelo Casimiro, MIC.

STUDIES: Most Marians preparing for the priesthood complete a Master's in Divinity or a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB), a graduate-level degree. Studies are sometimes broken up by a pastoral year in Stockbridge or on the road as part of the Marian Evangelization Team.

► [Click here to learn more about the seminarians and what you can do to help.](#)



VOWS: In 2013, eight men were accepted into the community. Fifteen Marian seminarians renewed their temporary vows, while Br. Chris Alar, MIC, professed his final vows. Other Marians remain in formation following their final vows or acceptance into the community.



Evangelization

Everything I've already written in this article has been about evangelization. So why include this category? I do it, first of all, because evangelization is so crucial in our day, as Pope Francis keeps repeating. Also, I do it because I want to highlight that in addition to our usual evangelization activity, the Marians have introduced some remarkable new initiatives.

The last few years have seen the founding of our tireless Marian Evangelization Team, which has gone out to more than 250 parishes in the last three years; our Hearts Afire Parish-based Programs, which have brought renewal to more than 20,000 Catholics in the last year and a half; our free app initiative for mobile devices, which has reached more than 150,000 people in nearly 100 countries; and our Divine Mercy Art initiative, which in less than a year has become a leading resource for religious art in the United States because we offer the highest quality at the lowest prices.

These initiatives are made possible through the generosity and prayers of our Marian Helpers. I hope you all realize how much good we're accomplishing together by God's grace. And from my heart, united with all my Marian brothers, I say, "Thank you!" MH

CONFERENCES:

The Marians speak at many conferences each year. We run a major Divine Mercy conference in New York City, conferences for Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, and host many special events at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

GET MORE INVOLVED

DIVINE MERCY: Join Friends of Mercy and partner with the Marians in living and spreading the message.

DEVOTION TO MARY: Join the Thirteenth of the Month Club and grow in your love of Our Lady, especially through praying the Rosary.

WORKS OF MERCY: Support the new initiative "Mercy for the Poor" — to give away high-quality Divine Mercy images to those in need.



PARISH MISSIONS: Many Marian Helpers have hosted our Marian Evangelization Team. Father Dan Cambra, MIC, Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, and the team have given more than 250 parish missions in the last three years in 31 states.

EWTN: In addition to our Divine Mercy Sunday telecast on Eden Hill, the Marians continue our collaboration with Mother Angelica's network, spreading the message of Divine Mercy via popular programs such as *Cenacle of Divine Mercy*, *St. Faustina: Divine Mercy in Our Souls*, and *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*.

MARIAN PRESS: Continuing to publish new titles on Divine Mercy and Mary, Marian Press is committed to helping readers grow closer to Jesus and Mary. Among our newer titles, Felix Carroll's *Loved, Lost, Found: 17 Divine Mercy Conversions* brings you the personal stories of prodigals who encountered God's mercy.

[Back to index](#)

IN OUR MISSION

SEMINARIANS: Support the vocation of Marian seminarians who are devoted to Mary and dedicated to spreading Divine Mercy.

EVANGELIZATION: Support the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and its ministry to pilgrims.

CONTACT US: To learn about these and other opportunities, visit marian.org/support or call 1-800-462-7426.



Through St. Faustina, we can learn to trust completely in the Lord Jesus as she did with the simple words: "Jesus, I trust in You!"

A MATTER OF TRUST

On the 75th anniversary of her death, we look at St. Faustina's greatest legacy.

by Felix Carroll

In this jaded age in which few things are taken at face value anymore, who among us hasn't been left standing in the wreckage of some form of broken trust?

Maybe it's trust broken in families, in friendships, in the government, in the criminal justice system, in the economy, or — yes — in the Church itself.

But when Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska in 2000, making her the "first saint of the new millennium," he presented to the world a mystic and powerful intercessor particularly suited to our wary times.

So who is this saint and modern-day prophet whose legacy we celebrated on Oct. 5, the 75th anniversary of her death?

With only a couple years of formal education and hailing from a poor farming community in Poland, Sr. Faustina was tapped by Jesus to become the great apostle of Divine Mercy. Jesus told her to write down His revelations of Divine Mercy and share them with the world. How could she possibly do that since she lived in a convent as a nun?

It was precisely in the crucible of fulfilling her mission that she learned to trust completely in the Lord Jesus, as He revealed Himself to her.

Chief among her great legacies is that she provides us with a deeper understanding of the very One we *can* trust unequivocally: Jesus Christ.

Who is He?

In terms that couldn't be any more concise, Jesus told St. Faustina during a series of revelations in the 1930s, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 300).

Let's talk about this matter of trust. We commonly understand the word to describe a firm belief in the dependability, truth, or strength of someone or something. But when we encounter Jesus in St. Faustina's *Diary*, another definition of trust seems to take precedence: *Something or someone committed unconditionally into the care of another.*

We are called to be that "someone." It is into Christ's care that we are unconditionally

committed from the very beginning of our existence. He's the One who loves us first, and it is He who is most vulnerable to heartbreak. Therefore, the gulf separating many of us from Him is not of His making. It's manmade, dug with the diamond-hard teeth of doubt.

Indeed, St. Faustina writes, "Distrust hurts [Jesus'] most sweet Heart, which is full of goodness and incomprehensible love for us" (*Diary*, 595).

Still, such doubt or distrust is understandable, isn't it? In a world where come-hither consumerism and promises too good to be true have us surrounded, how are we to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who comes to save sinful souls rather than condemn them?

To help us understand who Jesus is, it helps to understand what He is *not* seeking from us or offering to us. Jesus doesn't want our money and doesn't promise us material comfort; He doesn't want our vote; He doesn't want to make us jealous or angry or unhappy.

Rather, He wants us only to surrender ourselves to His care. That is to say, He wants us to rid ourselves of the lie that we can flourish without Him. Thereby, He wishes to lavish upon us "an abundance of graces" (*Diary*, 1074).

Mercy: He *gives* it away.

Our need for proof

While Christ certainly extends special graces and tenderness to those who believe without seeing (see Jn 20:29), He also makes it abundantly clear that our need for proof — proof that He is who He says He is — isn't too much to ask for. Case in point: St. Thomas the Apostle, who notoriously dismissed accounts that Jesus had risen from the dead. Only when Jesus permitted Thomas to touch His wounds did Thomas believe (see Jn 20:25).

Through St. Faustina, Jesus takes great pains to show empathy for our own St. Thomas-like struggles. In words tailored to



Divine Mercy, considered the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church, is a movement of mercy apostles who, inspired by Faustina, show a childlike trust in God and love of neighbor.

our wary age, He tells us through her, "[I]f you do not believe My words, at least believe My wounds" (*Diary*, 379).

Another way of putting it is that in our wounds, He invites us to discover *His* wounds. Indeed, for many of us, the wounds come first. Only through our wounds — our brokenness, despair, and distrust — can we begin to reach out to God. As Pope Francis says, "Sometimes in our life, tears are the glasses to see Jesus." Indeed, for many in this wary age, only through our wounds can we come to understand *Christ's* wounds — and, by extension, *His words*.

Trust in God's mercy

Moreover, Jesus takes an additional step to reach out to a mistrustful world. Part of the special task He gives St. Faustina is to be our recourse to "fight for the salvation of souls, exhorting them to trust in [His] mercy." Jesus tells her, "[T]hat is your task in this life and in the life to come" (*Diary*, 1452).

She is indeed our sister in heaven. As she writes in her *Diary*, she longs to help us by her prayers. "O doubting souls, I will draw aside for you the veils of heaven to convince you of God's goodness" (281). She has been doing that ever since her death, witnessed by the sheer fact that Divine Mercy is considered the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church — a movement of mercy apostles who, inspired by Faustina, show a childlike trust in God and love of neighbor.

By the way, another definition of trust is this one: *a legal title to property held by one party for the benefit of another*. God holds the "title" of hope for humanity. Upon our Baptism, He has set up this trust in our name.

Through St. Faustina, we can come to understand this trust as the most charitable imaginable. No fine print. No disclaimers. No strings attached other than taking the following oath borne from personal witness: "Jesus, I trust in You!"

MH

Back to index

THE WOMAN OF OUR DREAMS



Discover why Mary is the perfect mother, daughter, and spouse.

by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC

Excerpted from the Marian Press title *Under the Mantle: Marian Thoughts from a 21st Century Priest.*

I'd like you to imagine for a moment that You are the eternal Son of God. All powerful, possessing all wisdom and goodness, and full of mercy. As God, You know that the world You created will fall, and so with the other two persons of the Blessed Trinity, You devised a plan *ahead of time* to save the world. The plan is this: You will enter into the world, sacrificially love fallen mankind, forgive them, and elevate them to a life of grace and sonship with Your Father. Specifically, You are going to take on human nature, become a man, establish a Church, sacrifice Yourself as a victim, rise from the dead, and send fallen mankind the Holy Spirit to sanctify them and bring them to paradise.

But You are not a magical God. You are not going to enter the world already developed and 33 years old. No. You are going to enter the world through a woman. That woman will be Your mother.

Now, remember, You are God.

A mother fit for the Son of God

Would You who are all-powerful, having the capability of fashioning Your own mother, make her have any flaws whatsoever? If You



As the Son of God, if You could create Your own mother, would You make her anything less than a masterpiece of feminine beauty and genius?

had the power to create Your own mother, would you make her anything less than a masterpiece of feminine beauty and genius?

I didn't think so.

Any good son would desire that his mother have the superlative of every virtue: the most kind, loving, humble, gentle, merciful, tender, and compassionate of all creatures. She would have the most of every-

thing good and lovely.

She would, in fact, be the most holy human person who ever lived; she would be conceived and born immaculate. Nothing would compare with her, and outside

of the Holy Trinity, no one would be greater than she is.

I would want her to have every privilege possible: sinless, immaculate, virgin, mother, queen, princess, and pattern of creation and human perfection. Plus, if I were God, I would figure out some way of making her not just My mother, but the mother of everyone. Such a wonderful mother should be shared with everyone.

In coming into the world to save us, the Eternal Word prepared a worthy dwelling place for His Incarnation to take place. He made His own mother. And she is a masterpiece.

And what makes this mystery even more amazing is that Jesus actually figured out a way of sharing the masterpiece of Mary's

motherhood with us! He is not a selfish God. On the contrary, as a most loving Son, He is so proud of His mother that He wants her to be everyone's mother. Thus, He made her the spiritual mother for all who are adopted into His sonship.

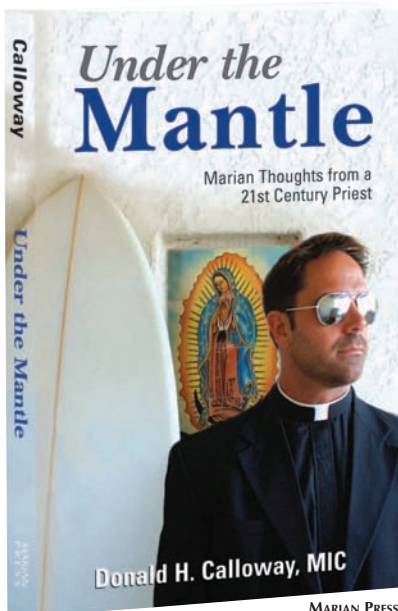
God's perfect daughter ... perfect spouse

But let's take it even a step farther.

Similar to the Word (Jesus) creating His own mother, God the Father also created His most perfect daughter. If You were God the Father and could fashion Your own daughter, would You not want Your daughter to be the most beautiful, pure, and lovely girl of all? I know I would. Every good father wants to guard his daughter and protect her from anything that could harm her. And this is exactly what God the Father did in creating the mystery of Mary. She is a princess.

This princess has received a plentitude of His grace. She is "full of grace" (Lk 1:28).

And there's one last step in understanding



To order *Under the Mantle* by Fr. Donald H. Calloway, MIC, go online to shopmercy.org/b20 or call 1-800-462-7426. The product code is B20-UTM. The price is \$19.95.

the Trinitarian masterpiece that is Mary.

The Holy Spirit, in creating Mary, fashioned the perfect bride.

Mary is the perfect spouse of God. Once again, if you or I could create our own spouse, we would create a spouse without any flaws or imperfections — one good and virtuous and worthy of praise. As a man, I would create a masterpiece of feminine beauty. She would be the woman of my dreams. Angels would bow down in her presence, and everyone would be subject to her, sing songs about her, and praise her loveliness and unique beauty. My lady would be the best!

Mary is the masterpiece of God. She is the perfect

mother, daughter, and spouse. She is the perfect woman. She is the perfect creation, and no other created thing compares to her. She is the Immaculata. God made her. God lives in her, and through her and with her, He crushes the darkness.

God's triumph through the Immaculata

How appropriate it is then that when we see images of the Immaculate Virgin, she is

Honor Our Lady of the Rosary

- Be remembered in a special Mass on the 13th of each month in Fatima.
- Unite in praying the Rosary with the Marian Fathers and the other members of this special prayer community.
- Find ways to enrich your devotion to Mary and her Son, Jesus, through a monthly newsletter.



"There is always something new to discover about Mary, especially how she has helped us and wants to keep helping us to grow closer to her Son, Jesus."

— Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Spiritual director of the club



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FELIX CARROLL

Father Donald Calloway, MIC, shares with pilgrims on the topic “Our Lady: Masterpiece of Mercy and Mother of the New Evangelization” at a Divine Mercy conference on April 6 in Stockbridge, Mass.

shown stepping on and crushing the head of the ancient serpent — Satan. God abides in her; He lives in her. She is the tabernacle of His presence and the Holy of Holies. Of herself, she does not have the power to conquer Satan and do such great things because she is a creature, but God desires to crush the darkness *through* her. He could do it all by Himself, but because He is so in love with Mary, He has chosen only to defeat Satan through her. By living in her, He gives her a unique participation in the mystery of salvation, and together, they defeat the enemy.

Therefore, if we want to conquer sin and evil, we must make a decision to live *under the mantle* of God’s masterpiece: the Immaculata. If God Himself lives in her and conquers evil through her, who are we to think that we do not need her!

As a matter of fact, as God’s masterpiece, the

mystery of the Immaculate Conception assures us of the victorious redemption of Christ.

Let me explain: The Immaculate Conception of Mary is a gift flowing from the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary; it is the most perfect fruit of His redeeming love.

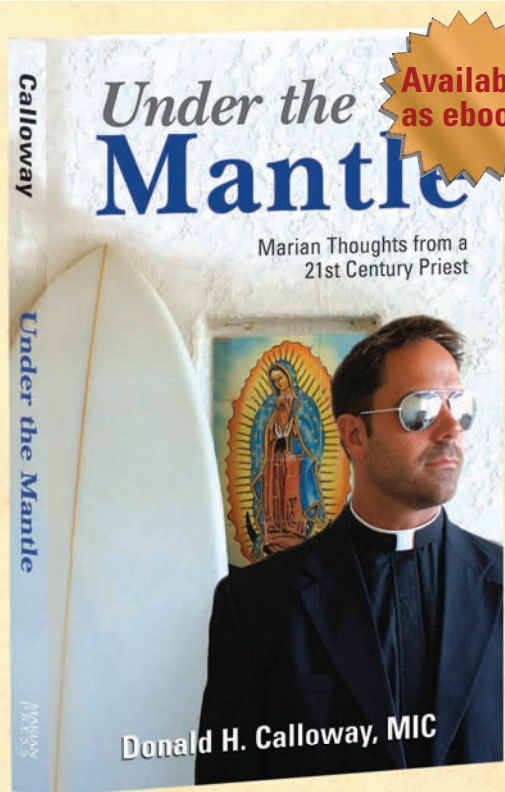
Yet, historically, Mary is given this tremendous privilege even before the Word becomes flesh, and way before He is crucified on the Cross — the event that wins for us all the graces of redemption, including Mary’s Immaculate Conception.

Mary’s Immaculate Conception is the guarantee that our redemption is coming and *will* happen. The reason is because without the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, Mary cannot have the gift of having been immaculately conceived. Mary cannot be the Immaculata without the sacrifice of Jesus.

The dream has become reality!

MH

Back to index



FOR THE REST OF THE STORY ...

Read Fr. Donald’s inspiring book about living under *Our Lady’s* mantle.

Now that you’ve had the chance to enjoy the excerpt, order a copy of *Under the Mantle* and read more personal insights from Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, on topics including Divine Mercy, the Eucharist, the papacy, the Church, confession, prayer, the cross, masculinity, and femininity. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the central thread weaving a tapestry throughout with quotes about Our Lady from saints, blessed, and popes. Acclaimed as a “tour de force” Marian book. B20-UTM • \$19.95

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GOLD FOLED B20-SC133

At Christmas: Wish your loved ones a blessed Christmas with our Christmas Gold cards (above). They'll be remembered in the three Masses on Christmas day at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

All Year Through: Enroll your family, friends, parish priest, fellow parishioners, and neighbors in the Association of Marian Helpers for the coming year. From this Christmas to the next, they will share in the spiritual benefits of all the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.



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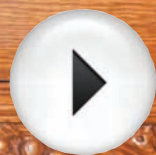
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Your offerings help support the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

► [Click here to learn how to pray the Rosary.](#)

PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS



Father Dan Cambra, MIC, prays the Rosary using a Holy Souls Rosary. The beads go from black to white and are used to pray for a particular soul in purgatory. The white beads signify the soul's entrance into heaven.

Father Dan Cambra, MIC, talks about his practices.

by Andrew Leeco

Father Dan Cambra, MIC, spiritual director of the Holy Souls Sodality, recently shared some of his favorite practices for aiding the Holy Souls as a way to help the faithful prepare for November, the month when the Church especially encourages us to remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

On Nov. 2, we commemorate All Souls Day for all the faithful departed who are undergoing purification for their sins in purgatory. We are then invited to remember them in special ways throughout the month of November, mindful that they cannot help themselves.

Father Dan, can you share some of your personal practices for the Holy Souls in Purgatory?

I do a lot of traveling to parishes to share the Divine Mercy message. During the past year, I racked up something like 30,000 miles by car. In all that driving, we went past quite a few cemeteries — there are some quaint, little cemeteries here in New England that might have as few as a dozen headstones. There's one just up the road that I go past often. I doubt that many people even realize that it's a cemetery. The stones are small, and it's not well cared for. Every time I go by, I encourage the Marians I'm traveling with to join me in saying the Eternal Rest Prayer for

the Poor Souls. Together, we pray: "Eternal Rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

This is one of those practices I learned from my grandparents when I was a child. We would travel from Provincetown, Mass., to Plymouth or New Bedford to visit relatives. Along the way, we passed a lot of different cemeteries — Protestant cemeteries, Catholic cemeteries, or family plots with just a few headstones — and as we passed them, my family would say a prayer. Whenever we honor the dead in this way, we are not praying just for the souls of those buried in that particular cemetery, but we are remembering all the faithful departed.

Are there other practices from childhood?

When we would go down by the seashore, I remember that my great grandmother would encourage us to pray for all those who are buried at sea. Some of my ancestors were commercial fishermen, and certainly a lot of commercial fishermen have met with an untimely death. My great grandmother would take us down by the shore, and she would always say, "Let's say a prayer for all those who were buried at sea." She would pray a simple Hail Mary and then say, "Mary, Star

of the Sea, pray for us and for the souls who rest in the bosom of this ocean." We're praying for everybody who was lost in the Atlantic Ocean, so that's quite a few. It's not just fishermen or people from the Titanic, but all the planes and ships that went down during wars, and all sorts of other people who died an unexpected death at sea. This all ties in perfectly

to my life now since one aspect of the charisma of the Marians under Blessed Stanislaus is to pray for those who have died unprepared. We say a prayer for those souls each night.

Any other practices you do while driving?

I did have another idea, which saddens me greatly. We don't always drive past the seashore or a cemetery, but frequently we drive past malls, schools, and movie theaters. And unfortunately, a lot of people have died suddenly in these places over the past few years, victims of inhuman acts of violence. When we go by these places, we should think about what has happened in our world and ask God to have mercy on these Holy Souls.

Tell us about this new Holy Souls Rosary.

Susan Tassone, noted author on purgatory, sent me a rosary for the Holy Souls in



We are invited to remember the Holy Souls in special ways, such as praying with the Holy Souls Rosary, throughout November, mindful that they cannot help themselves.

fact that the soul is in purgatory, a place of darkness. As you pray the Rosary, you move into the dark grey, then to the medium grey, then to the light grey. Finally, you pray the fifth decade on the white beads, conscious of the fact that by our prayers, souls are being released from darkness and given the light of the Holy Spirit.

The tradition behind this rosary is to pray it for a particular soul in purgatory. It might not be somebody you know by name. You could say it, for example, for somebody who was outside of the faith when he died. The souls you help reach heaven then pray for you. It's all in the family — God's family, that is.

The Marian Fathers invite you to join them in their November remembrance (click here) and to become a member of the Holy Souls Sodality (click here).

[Back to index](#)

MH

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— Suzanne, a Sodality member



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Join the Holy Souls Sodality. The Holy Souls in Purgatory need your prayers. They can’t pray for themselves. Please call 1-800-671-2020 or sign up at prayforsouls.org/join.

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This rosary with its different colored beads is known as the Holy Souls Rosary. The beads, from dark to light, show how you can help bring souls from the darkness of purgatory into the light of heaven as you recite the Rosary. You pray with expectant faith to help bring souls from the darkness of purgatory into the merciful light of our Savior, and the souls you help then pray for you until you are safely home in heaven.



Each set of beads comes with its own rosary case.
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POTENTIAL FOR 1.5 MILLION SAINTS

Initiative aims to bring many Spanish speakers to Jesus through Mary.

by Chris Sparks

Imagine the potential for evangelization and renewal of the culture if 1.5 million saints were living in our midst here in the United States — including one million saints among Spanish-speaking Catholics, many of whom currently lack the resources they need to grow in the faith.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers, aims to make this inspiring vision a reality through his latest initiative for the New Evangelization: making the contents of his bestselling book *33 Days to Morning Glory* more accessible, particularly to Spanish speakers. The book is a do-it-yourself 33-day retreat in preparation for total consecration to Jesus through Mary. And as Fr. Michael explains, “Total consecration is, according to the pioneer of consecration St. Louis de Montfort, the quickest, easiest, surest, and most perfect way to become a saint.”

Part of the Hearts Afire Parish-based Programs from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (HAPP®), *33-Days to Morning Glory* is used by parishes as a small-group retreat.

Plans for the booklet

Funded by an anonymous benefactor, the initiative calls for publishing *33 Days to Morning Glory* as a booklet in the same size and format as *Marian Helper* magazine, with print runs of a million copies in Spanish and half a million in English, and offering it for free. Father Michael said, “English copies will be given to youth groups, young adults, college students, the poor, prisoners — those who normally might not be able to afford it.”

The goal is to make the booklets in Spanish available for order before Nov. 9, so people can time their 33-day preparation to conclude with total consecration to Mary on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In fact, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe adorns the front cover of the Spanish edition of



This initiative calls for publishing *33 Days to Morning Glory* as a booklet in the same size and format as *Marian Helper* magazine, with print runs of a million copies in Spanish and half a million in English, and offering it for free.

the booklet.

“The majority of the Spanish-speaking population in the United States finds its origins in Mexico, which has the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It’s big in Mexican culture,” Fr. Michael said of the decisions regarding cover art and recommending Marian consecration on the feast day.

Serving Spanish speakers

“Spanish speakers in the United States are a group that is most in need. There are just not many resources available to them,” Fr. Michael said, explaining why so many of the booklets are being printed in Spanish. “It’s difficult for a lot of major [U.S.] Catholic publishers to do translations and marketing

because it hasn't been a big financial boon for them. For that reason, there aren't a lot of books and materials in Spanish in the United States. So there's really a need. This is an opportunity to care for those who tend to be forgotten."

Father Michael said he expects the strong love for Mary of Spanish-speaking Catholics to make them receptive to the booklet's message. "My hope is that consecration, which is really the height of Marian devotion, will take this love for the Blessed Mother and bring it to even greater heights, leading to an even greater love for Jesus. My hope is that Mary, through the consecration, will help our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters to 'become saints, great saints, and quickly,' as Venerable Pio Lanteri put it."

"With more than 250,000 copies of the current book edition in print since it was first published less than two years ago, *33 Days to Morning Glory* already has reached a huge audience and continues to change lives around the world," said Executive Director for Evangelization Mark Fanders. HAPP groups are using the do-it-yourself retreat across the United States and Canada, allowing Mary to direct the fruits of their prayers and works to greatest effect for Christ and His Church.

Mary leads us to Divine Mercy

When asked why it is so important to assist as many people as possible to make

A snapshot of Hispanic Catholics in the U.S.

- "About a third of all Catholics in the United States are now Hispanic," according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Hispanics have comprised 71 percent of the growth of the Catholic Church in the U.S. since 1960. More than 50 percent of all Catholics in the U.S. under the age of 25 are of Hispanic descent.
- Though Hispanic is synonymous with Catholic in the minds of many, the reality is much more complicated. Archbishop Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, speaking to the Catholic News Agency in 2010, said, "The number of Hispanics [in the U.S.] self-identifying as Catholics has declined from nearly 100 percent in just two decades, while the number who describe themselves as Protestant has nearly doubled, and the number saying they have 'no religion' has also doubled."

To learn more about what the Marians offer in Spanish, visit: marianos.net and ladivinamisericordia.org



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COURTESY OF ST. ANN'S CHURCH

This HAPP group from St. Ann's Church in Fort Ann, N.Y., recently made the Marian consecration. Many Catholics who want to deepen their faith are making the consecration by joining a HAPP group.

the total consecration to Jesus through Mary, Fr. Michael explained, "Because we're all called to be saints, we might as well take the quickest, surest, most easy, perfect way. Saint Maximilian Kolbe had the attitude, 'If this is true, then we need to get as many people consecrated to Jesus through Mary and as quickly as possible.' So, inspired by St. Maximilian Kolbe, we think that this is one of the ways to give the greatest possible glory to God.

"The reason why it's the quickest, easiest, surest way to holiness is that Mary has a special role in helping us to accept, to receive, and to trust in the mercy of God," he continued. "We as Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception know the great need for mercy in the world. Mary's the one who prepares hearts in the best way to receive Divine Mercy. She's the first wave of our evangelization efforts. Getting people conse-

crated to Mary opens people's hearts to the most important message of our times: the message of Divine Mercy."

And it's vital that people pursue sanctity, concluded Fr. Michael. "We learn in the *Diary of St. Faustina* that this is a time of mercy followed by a time of justice, and that there's not any time to lose. The Lord wants us to grow in holiness — He's emphasizing it not only through Church documents but through the testimony of so many saints and blessed. He's making it so easy to grow in holiness. We just have to say yes to Him. We have to trust in His mercy. A great way to grow in holiness is to entrust ourselves to His mother."

You can support Fr. Michael's goal of bringing many more souls to Jesus through Mary by offering your prayers for the initiative and spreading word of it. If you'd like to assist us in promoting this program, visit allheartsafire.org.

Back to index

MH

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TO A FAMILY YOU LOVE

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Francis Bourdon (center, surrounded by his family), longtime executive director of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass., retired May 24. "I came on the job just as the 'rocket' of Divine Mercy was taking off," he says. One of his top priorities in retirement is making up for lost time with his family.

GRATITUDE FOR A 'MERCY MULTIPLIER'

Dedicated executive director leaves a legacy of mercy.

by Felix Carroll

Back 23 years ago, as the Marian Fathers took stock of their mission and how to take it to the worldwide masses, they had no idea of the degree to which their new staffer would serve as one of their most dedicated mercy multipliers.

Francis Bourdon, 65, the executive director of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass., retired May 24, leaving behind an immeasurable imprint upon many of the Marians' most momentous efforts to spread the message of Divine Mercy, devotion to Mary Immaculate, and prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"He loved what he was doing. He brought leadership, harmony, and the standard of excellence to his work. We have a deep appreciation for all he has done," said the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior for the United States and Argentina.

On task from day one

His first day on the job, on Jan. 2, 1990, Fran was called into a meeting with the direc-

tor of the Association of Marian Helpers at the time, Fr. Shawn O'Connor, MIC, and given his first task. Two trucks carrying 90,000 copies of a spiritual diary by a little-known Polish mystic would be arriving at the center in two days. On average, only about 25,000 of those diaries had sold annually. Fran's task was to make sure this huge shipment could be stored at the center and all 90,000 diaries subsequently sold.

They were stored, then sold.

The task would prove prophetic in two ways. It would illustrate the unanticipated operational challenges continually faced at the center — a relatively small operation of about 100 employees tasked with serving a worldwide ministry. It also illustrated that this diary written in the 1930s by a Polish mystic was satisfying a spiritual hunger of unimagined proportions.

It was the *Diary of Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska*, soon to become a spiritual classic and the spark for the modern Divine Mercy movement, of which the Marians are recognized as the authorities in English

and Spanish. This was three years before Sr. Faustina was beatified, and 10 years before she was canonized.

“I came on the job just as the ‘rocket’ of Divine Mercy was taking off,” said Fran. “All of us were realizing that here, on this little hill in Stockbridge, we were being tasked by God to spread the Divine Mercy message throughout the world.”

For Fran, his job quickly morphed into a ministry. Serving under five Marian directors of the Association, he would travel extensively. He would miss more than a few meals at home. He would be the one locking the center’s doors in the evening. On weekends, his modest, compact Honda car would often be the lone vehicle in the parking lot.

“This job suited him,” said his daughter, Paula Morehouse, 41. “It became the daily fabric of his life.”

“He’s dedicated to the Marians,” said Nancy, Fran’s wife of 42 years, two weeks before his retirement. “He always has been. I think it will be hard on him to leave. Every day, he wakes up raring to go to work. We both feel he was blessed. It’s been a fantastic opportunity.”

A regular guy with an unusual task

With a penchant for sweater vests, a firm handshake, and a wide smile, Fran took over leadership of the center with a bearing that revealed a hard-charging purpose. His singular management style with his staff combined military discipline (he served as a lieutenant colonel in the Massachusetts



As executive director, Fran oversaw fundraising for the Marian mission to the Philippines.

National Guard) with fatherly affection.

Most staff meetings led by Fran felt more like a team huddle than a lecture. His zeal to spread the Marians’ charism was equaled only by his drive to find the most effective ways of carrying it out.

He surrounded himself with staff who, as he says, “have talents I’ll never have.” He gave them freedom to experiment. He gave them the lion’s share of the credit.

With direction from the Marians, Fran helped forge relationships with Divine Mercy apostles around the world, including people who would become official distributors in their respective countries of the Marians’ books, prayercards, and pamphlets. He developed with his staff successful fundraising

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efforts for Marian missions in Rwanda, the Philippines, and elsewhere. He proved to be a key player in the establishment of smaller centers for the Association of Marian Helpers in Poland and other countries.

Also, under his leadership, the Marians purchased a new, state-of-the-art printing press.

"We turned it on March 1, 2000," Fran recalled. "The first thing we printed was a St. Faustina thanksgiving prayercard just a couple of weeks before her canonization, and we handed one to all 20,000 pilgrims on Mercy Sunday."

Growth in the mission

Fran leaves behind a publishing apostolate on Eden Hill that produces about 50 million pieces of printed matter annually; a prayerline that receives tens of thousands of prayer requests monthly; and an Internet department that administers 25 websites.

The Marian Helpers Center, headquarters for the Association of Marian Helpers in the United States and Canada, now serves 1.5 million people devoted to the spiritual and financial support of the Marian Fathers and their many ministries.

At a reception for Fran hosted by the Marians on May 7, Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, shared how he was on Eden Hill in 1944, shortly after the Marians purchased the property in Stockbridge.

"I saw the whole transition from then to now," Fr. Seraphim said. "We began all our evangelization efforts in the cellar over here, and I can't believe where it has come to now."

Turning his eyes to Fran, Fr. Seraphim said, "And most of it is thanks to you. God bless you, and He'll reward you in a way only He knows." Father Seraphim should know, humanly speaking, since he served two terms as Association director during Fran's tenure.

Fran's position has grown over the years such that the Marians have now divided it into two positions: operations and evangelization. Longtime manager of the Internet Technology Department Kevin Dougherty now also serves as the center's executive director of operations. Mark Fanders, who joined the Marians in early 2012 as an associate member of the Congregation, serves as executive director of evangelization.

Upon his retirement on May 24, Fran began a new life with different priorities. Top among them is making up for lost time with his family, including his two young grandchildren. He has vowed to follow the advice of Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, vicar general of the Marians. In his homily at a Holy Mass celebrated May 7 in Fran's honor, Fr. Joe told Fran to always keep his heart open to the Lord.

"The Lord is with us," said Fr. Joe. "He's been with you, Fran, and will continue to be with you."

MH

Back
to
index

Four reasons to join the Circle of Light

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Friends of Mercy

Over-the-counter Mercy

Now, *this* is a family-friendly pharmacy in Tampa, Fla.

by Felix Carroll

You might expect a pharmacy to pitch itself as having the best prices in town, short waiting times, and courteous service.

But maybe you wouldn't expect a pharmacy to append to those selling points the motto, "Your Pro-Life Pharmacy."

The owners of David's Pharmacy in Tampa, Fla., leave no guessing as to their priorities. Step into their business on West Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., and one of the first things you'll see is a large image of Jesus, the Merciful Savior. Further inside are pro-life posters.

David Cartaya and his wife, Carmen — married 43 years and members of Friends of Mercy — have been in the pharmacy business since 1975. "Pharmacies around us have come and gone," says Carmen, "but you come to David's Pharmacy, and there we stand: a witness to Christ and His mercy!" Carmen took time recently to speak with us about faith and pharmaceuticals.

How did your decision to stop selling contraceptives come about?

When we opened the pharmacy, we sold birth control pills. Then, God sent a lady who told us, "Do you know that birth control pills are abortifacients?" This was in the early 1980s. We had to make a decision. We had multiple financial responsibilities, including caring for three young sons in Catholic schools. We pulled all the birth control off the shelves. The results: No one beats God in generosity. God and Our Blessed Mother Mary made our three sons pro-life Roman Catholic physicians!



Carmen and David work behind the counter of their pharmacy to share the message of Divine Mercy.

Did you encounter any opposition?

Yes, sir. A salesman from a wholesaler told me to my face, "Not only are you going to lose customers, you will lose their families as well!" I responded, "I'd rather lose everything and not lose my soul." Pro-abortion women came in and threw our literature all over one aisle.

Can you give us an example of how God assures you that you are doing the right thing?

Years after we stopped providing contraceptives, a well-dressed and well-educated young woman wanted to see me. She was holding a baby boy. She said months ago she became pregnant. She wanted to keep the baby, but her friends were encouraging her to have an abortion. The woman told me, "Then I found myself in front of your [pro-life pharmacy]. I thought, 'There is someone else who does not think I am crazy.' I came to show you the baby!" See, it is God and His Blessed Mother doing all the work. We give the little we have; they supply the rest.

Join Friends of Mercy

Read more inspirational stories like this in the monthly newsletter. You can join online at thedivinemercy.org/friends or call 1-800-671-2020.

Graces Received

Mom is back to whistling

Mystery doctor discovers mom's sinus infection

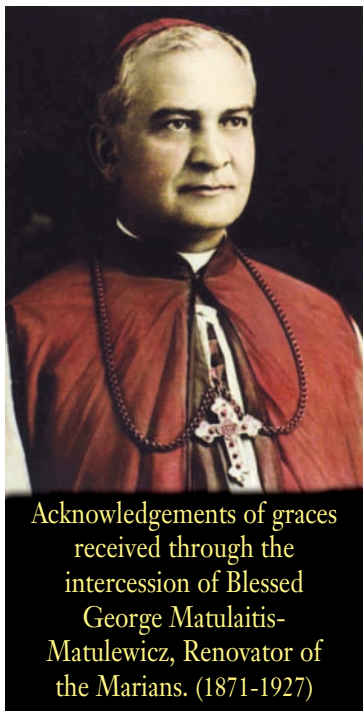
I would like to share a story about how Blessed George helped our family.

My mother had never suffered from any mental illness — that is, until the day after her 93rd birthday. My mother woke up and was a different person. She made no sense when she spoke. We rushed her to the hospital, only to be sent home with anti-anxiety medication.

That's when I started asking Blessed George for help. Then, she had what appeared to be a nervous breakdown. She was rushed to the hospital once again. After a series of tests, we were told there was nothing they could do. My husband, my sister, and I implored Blessed George to intercede. We asked for her physical and mental healing, and to let her whistle once again. She loved to whistle. But it was starting to look hopeless.

We continued to pray, and that's when this doctor appeared in the ER one day. He said he was looking at Mom's X-rays and noticed an infection the size of a golf ball in her sinus cavity. The doctor, named George, said this could explain Mom's erratic behavior. The infection, which had gone undiagnosed for a month, was starting to invade her brain. He prescribed antibiotics that cured the infection, and she slowly returned to normal. She is once again the little cherub we have always known and loved — and is whistling constantly.

Here is the kicker ... Dr. George wasn't a resident doctor at that hospital. He just showed up to cover for another doctor who



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

was on vacation! And he just happened to pull Mom's X-rays out and take a look at them, even though they were taken a month prior.

—PPZ, Southbury, Conn.

Back pain was gone

I wanted to tell you about a grace I received from God through the intercession of Blessed George.

I am 61 and work in the shipyards. The last day I worked before being laid off, I injured my lower back. My lower back pain went from the sciatic nerve and down both my legs, making it hard to walk. I tried everything to heal my back, but the pain was unrelenting for about four-and-a-half months.

The day I received Blessed George's prayercard from the Marian Fathers, I asked him to intercede for me that God would heal my back. The next morning, the pain was gone. It has not returned.

—DBD, San Diego, Calif.

Son receives favorable results on biopsy

I want to thank Blessed George for his intercession. My son received favorable results on a biopsy of his intestinal obstruction. I am continuing to ask Blessed George to pray for my daughter and her upcoming testing. May she also receive good news. I will pray for Blessed George's canonization.

—RL, Old Tappan, N.J.

For a Blessed George prayercard (B20-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Mączyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. E-mail: graces@marian.org.

Back
to
index



Blessed Oil is being reserved for you

If you would like us to send you a bottle of oil blessed in honor of St. Faustina to bless yourself and your loved ones, call us at **1-800-462-7426**, or click on marian.org/shrine/oil. P&H charges apply.



Outstanding Helpers

by Ellen Miller

'I got to tell them all about God's mercy'

This column is written in memory of Joe, who passed on to the Lord on July 25, 2013. It honors him as a generous benefactor of the Marians.

Joe summarized the message of Divine Mercy beautifully. He said, "I believe strongly in God's mercy. I have to trust in Jesus because of what He did on the cross. He died for my sins, so they can be forgiven."

Joe and his wife,

Elaine, came fairly often on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. He would tell his fellow parishioners and neighbors, "It's a holy and peaceful place. It's less than four hours away." On a recent trip, he said, "Now that you have the new Stations of the Cross, it's even better. It's lovely."

Another reason he and Elaine enjoyed coming is to remember Joe's parents who are memorialized at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. "I always had it in mind to do something for my parents. My father was proud of his Polish heritage, so he would have been happy to be remembered in a place that honors Our Blessed Mother, St. Faustina, and Blessed Michael Sopocko," Joe said, referring to the large images of Our Lady, the saint, and the blessed in the outdoor shrine.

During one of the couple's visits, I explained to Joe that benefactors were still needed for a few of the windows depicting the Sorrows of Mary, including the burial of Jesus. Joe's eyes lit up, and he said, "My father was a funeral director. I must do this."

As soon as we announced plans for the new Blessed John Paul II Plaza, Joe requested a paving stone inscribed with his and Elaine's names. He also made a gift to dedicate the benches in the plaza in memory of his parents. He was delighted that the paving stone and benches surround the statue of the Pope he admired so much.

Joe's enthusiasm for visiting the National



Joe, shown with his wife, Elaine, was enthusiastic about the Shrine and eager to help the Marians spread the message of Divine Mercy. He will be missed.

Shrine was complemented by his eagerness to spread the message of Divine Mercy. He shared this inspiring story with me.

Joe noticed the new Divine Mercy image on canvas that was offered in the recent Marian Helpers Catalog. He admitted, "At first, I was reluctant to order it because I didn't know where I would put it. Finally, I decided to order it and figure that out once I got it.

"It came, and I was so happy and pleased with it. It is beautiful."

Joe was inspired to order images for each of his 17 nieces and nephews. "I thought this would be a great way to spread the message of Divine Mercy," he said. "I was not sure how they would accept it. Some of them are very religious, but others are not practicing their faith.

"Every one of them called or wrote to thank me! They wanted to learn about the image, and I got to tell them all about God's mercy."

When I called Joe and asked him if I could share his story, he said he would be honored. He wanted to share the Lord's mercy with everyone. Such zeal is now part of his legacy.

It was a great privilege to help a Marian Helper like Joe make special gifts. His memorials on Eden Hill ensure that he and his loved ones are remembered in prayer by the Marian Fathers. They also help us preserve and enhance the National Shrine and its grounds as a beacon of God's mercy.

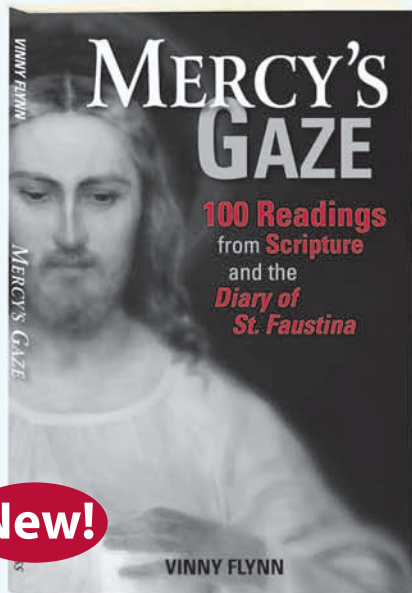
If you would like to make a special gift to the Marians, please contact me.



Back to index

Ellen Miller is Fr. Joseph's Director for Special Gifts. You can contact her at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or call her toll free at 1-800-671-2020. E-mail: helpers@marian.org.

Make St. Faustina part of your daily life



Mercy's Gaze

100 Readings from Scripture
and the *Diary of St. Faustina*

by Vinny Flynn

Bestselling author Vinny Flynn has selected parallel passages from Scripture and the *Diary of St. Faustina* that develop key mercy themes and encourage you to gaze on Jesus. Here is rich spiritual fare for 100 days of prayer and reflection, with the *Diary* revealed as a Gospel of Mercy for our time. Includes pages for writing your own reflections, inspiring photos that set the theme, and an appendix of prayers.

B20-GAZE • \$14.95

See review on page 6. Available Nov. 1.

Spring release

The Biography of Sister Faustina

by Ewa K. Czackowska

More than 70,000 copies of the original Polish edition of this compelling and popularly written, in-depth life of St. Faustina were sold in Poland within three months of its 2012 release. Sure to become a Divine Mercy classic, the English edition of *The Biography of Sister Faustina* will be published next spring by Marian Press. It includes biographical details and photos never before published in the United States.

"Important saints should be brought closer to people in many ways. It is important to do it in an interesting manner for contemporary readers, with language reaching them, while at the same time presenting the depth of the spirituality of the saint. All conditions are met in this book about St. Faustina by Ewa Czackowska."

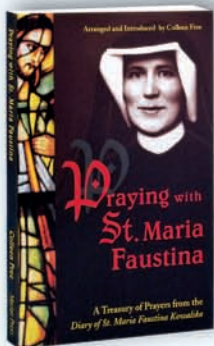
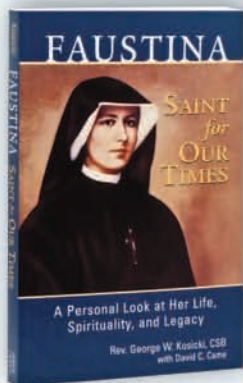
— Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz
Archbishop of Warsaw, Poland

Faustina: Saint for Our Times

by Rev. George W. Kosicki, CSB

This is more than a biography or the history of a life once lived. Through years of studying her *Diary* and immersing himself in Divine Mercy, Fr. Kosicki came to know St. Faustina as a real person who is fulfilling her promise to work from heaven to encourage others to trust in God's mercy.

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Praying with St. Maria Faustina

by Colleen Free

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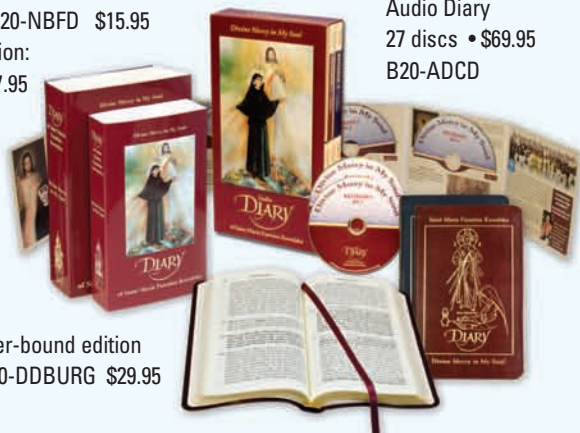
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Praying for the Holy Souls



New!

Holy Souls Rosary

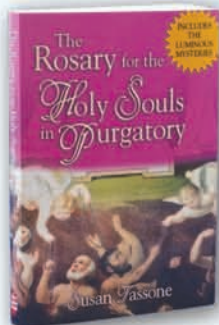
This rosary with its different colored beads is known as the Holy Souls Rosary. The beads show how you can help bring souls from the darkness of purgatory into the light of heaven as you recite the Rosary. You begin with the darkest beads and proceed with the increasingly lighter ones until you are reciting the last decade on the completely white beads. You pray with expectant faith to help bring souls from the darkness of purgatory into the merciful light of our Savior, and the souls you help then pray for you until you are safely home in heaven.

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The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Drawing on the most powerful Marian prayer, *The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory* provides great insights into purgatory and the mysteries of the Rosary.

Includes Scriptural passages for each mystery to guide your prayer. By Susan Tassone. B20-RHS1 • \$6.95



To Eternity

This easy-to-read pamphlet is your guide to praying for a different group of souls every day of the week.

B20-PFTD



Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy

Learn how your prayers and sacrifices can help departed loved ones and all the Holy Souls get to heaven. B20-TTJ



Heaven, Hell & Purgatory

Let these *Diary* passages inspire you to pray for souls, especially for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. B20-HHP



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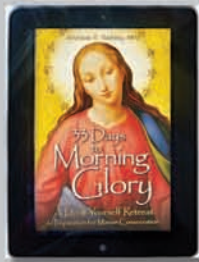
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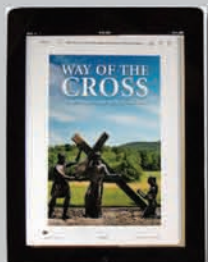
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Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper

Working together to renew Halloween

“My son pouted the rest of the night,” a mother confided to me. She had decided to leave our All Hallows Eve Party early to take him trick-or-treating through their neighborhood. As it turned out, he didn’t want to miss all the fun going on at our Marian parish in Yorkville, Ill., where I am assigned with another Marian priest and, thankfully, plenty of dedicated Marian Helpers. Recently, I had a chance to talk with one of them, Tammy Hanna, who has assisted me over the past three years with a special project to renew Halloween.

Fr. Michael: You have a great love for God and for teaching youngsters. How did this project get started?

Tammy: From my experience of Vacation Bible School, I saw that children love to learn about the saints. What better day is there to teach them about the saints than on Nov. 1st (All Saints Day)? However, there was a bit of a problem: people’s preoccupation with the night before, Halloween, and the way it tends to be celebrated in today’s culture, with elements that are very dark, even anti-Christian.

Fr. Michael: Yes, for that reason, many would simply reject the celebration of Halloween altogether. But since it is actually a holy day rooted in our Christian heritage, it seemed better to reclaim it rather than abandon it to our increasingly irreligious culture. After all, Halloween derives from “Hallows Eve,” that is, the eve of the Hallows, or the Holy Ones — that is, “All the Saints.”

Tammy: Of course, it’s an immense challenge for us because, let’s face it, Halloween can be a lot of fun, with all the parties, dressing-up in costumes, spooky houses, trick-or-treating, and candy!

Fr. Michael: We encourage the children to dress up not as monsters or ghouls but as their favorite saints, angels, or holy souls (such as ballerinas, firefighters, or astronauts). They play many games such as “Saint Isidore the Farmer” pumpkin bowling or the “Twelve Apostles, Fishers of Men” fishing game. The prizes? Candy, of course!

Tammy: On the stage, there are musical



Father Michael and Tammy enjoy planning the All Hallows Eve celebration at St. Patrick Parish.

performances and skits, including St. John Bosco’s magic show and a game show entitled, “Who Wants to Be a Saint?”

Fr. Michael: As far as spookiness goes, every year we have an “Epic Battle” between good and evil complete with devils and pitchforks. (Good always wins.) Last year, we had the re-enactment of the “catacombs,” a dark maze featuring skeletons and other surprises in which the kids learned about the heroic witness of the early Christians.

Tammy: One year, we even had Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Werewolf! They each dramatically told the story of their wicked lives and why they wouldn’t be joining the kids in the “Hall of Saints” to see God and the “Most Beautiful Woman in the World.”

Fr. Michael: I love working with you and the host of volunteers from our two parishes, like those who are positioned at various outside trick-or-treating stations. Each one has a pumpkin carved with a different cross, the meaning of which is explained when children approach for candy.

Tammy: The children are encouraged to say, “Praised be Jesus Christ.” In response, they hear, “Now and forever” and get lots of candy! So all these things come together to make our celebration of All Hallows Eve as fun as other celebrations of Halloween.

Fr. Michael: Together, we really are transforming Halloween. Thanks be to God!

Fr. Michael Callea, MIC, is parochial vicar at St. Patrick Parish in Yorkville, Ill. He has been with the Marians since 1994 and was ordained a priest in 2002.

Tammy Hanna, a member of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Ill., and a longtime Marian Helper, enjoys assisting with the All Hallows Eve Party at St. Patrick Parish.

Back to index

'How we heard the call'



▶ Click to learn more about the work of these Disciples of Divine Mercy.

Benefactors, Disciples of Divine Mercy in the Holy Face of Jesus:

We have been blessed to get to know the Marian seminarians. They are truly a special group of men: joyful, eager, and most importantly, very devoted to our Lord and Our Lady. They are the future of the Church. The more we can support them, the more blessings will come to our world through them. May God continue to bless them all.

Marian seminarian Br. Chris:

I thank God every day for my Catholic faith, but it wasn't until I started going to Eucharistic Adoration and learned about Divine Mercy that I grew to better appreciate our faith. This led me to hear God's call to serve Him as a priest with the Marian Fathers. And on Aug. 16, I had the joy of professing my final vows in the Marian community.

Want to know more about a religious vocation as a Marian?



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

The next retreats will be:
Nov. 22-24,
and Dec. 6-8

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Vocation Director
Marians of the Immaculate Conception
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Steubenville, OH 43952

E-mail: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
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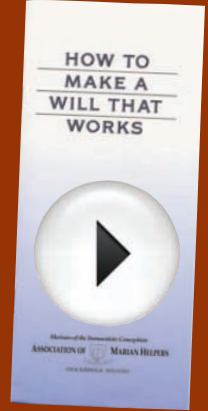
Fr. Donald talks about vocations.

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