

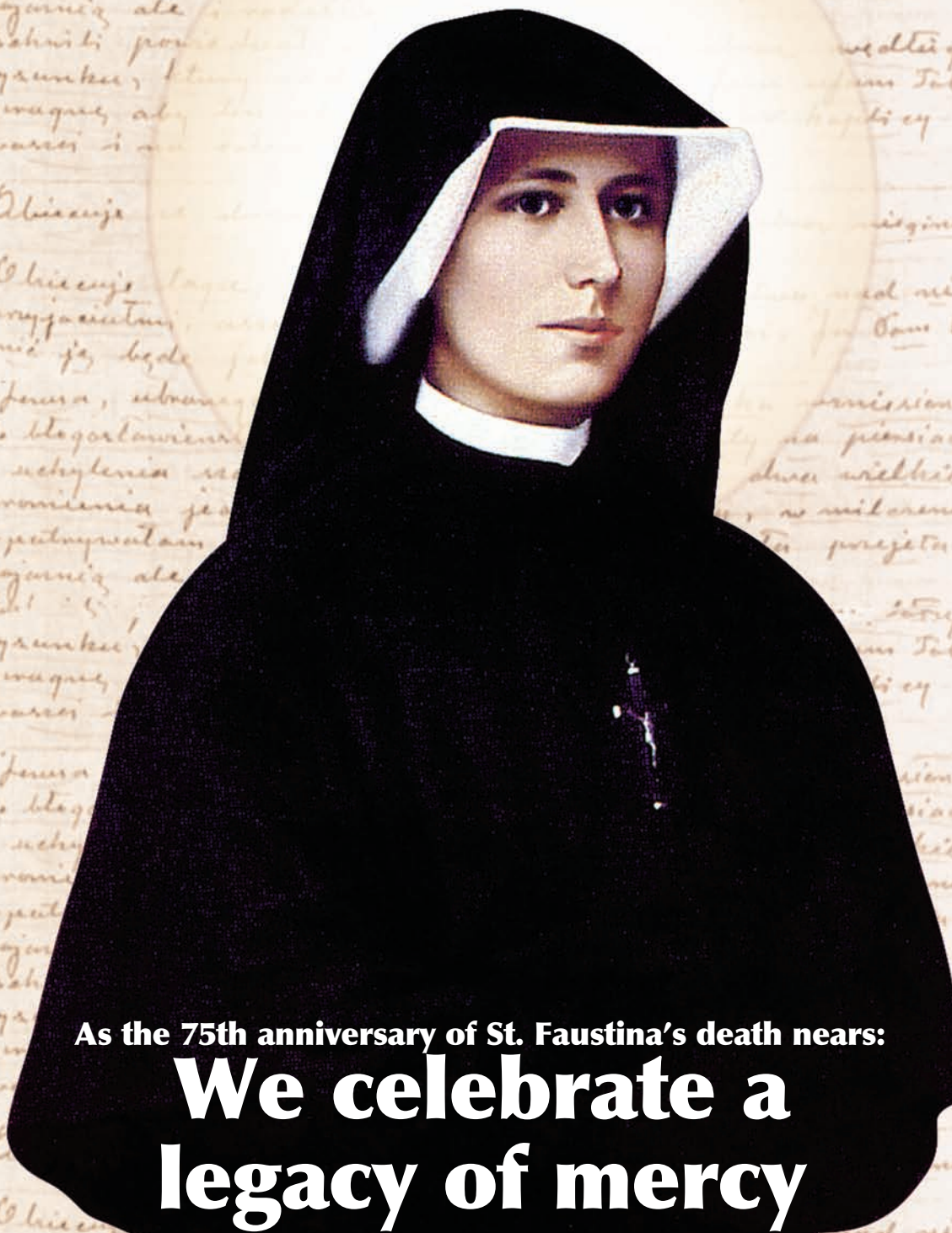
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## MARIAN HELPER

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**On the cover:** Saint Faustina and her *Diary* gave us a spiritual legacy that has affected for the better not only the Church but also our modern world. The image of St. Faustina is based on her passport photo. Copyright © Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.

### MISSION STATEMENT

MARIAN HELPER is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation.

MARIAN HELPER is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association.

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## WHO WE ARE



### Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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



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

- Spread devotion to Mary as the Immaculate Conception.

- Offer our lives for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially the victims of war and disease.

- Operate publishing apostolates and assist where the need is greatest in parishes, shrines, and missions.

- Promote The Divine Mercy message and devotion.



- Organize people of good will to work with and through us to bring Christ everywhere.

### Association of Marian Helpers (AMH)

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

More than 2 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.

#### Membership List

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## SERVICES & MINISTRIES

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#### Marian Helper magazine

While the cover price is \$2.25, this magazine is published quarterly and sent free of charge to members and to Marian supporters who have made a gift to or a purchase from the Marians in the last 12 months. Free sample magazine (code B-MHIP).

#### Fuente de Misericordia magazine

Published for Spanish-speaking members of the Association and friends. No subscription fee; donations appreciated. Free sample magazine (code B-FHIP).

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#### Roze Maryi magazine

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**phone:** (413) 298-3931

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#### Divine Mercy Chaplet & Novena/Benediction

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This apostolate, founded by Marie Romagnano, RN, offers nurses, physicians, and allied healthcare professionals a unique program of formation that integrates the spirituality and devotional elements of The Divine Mercy message into patient care. Its formation program includes a nurse's handbook, a spiritual care plan for patients, conferences with CEUs, retreats, and cenacles.

**e-mail:** [HealthcareforDivineMercy@marian.org](mailto:HealthcareforDivineMercy@marian.org)

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### Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Prayer intentions may be mailed, phoned, or e-mailed. Each intention is prayed for individually by an intercessor and remembered in weekday Masses at Our Lady of Mercy Oratory and in 3 o'clock prayers on Eden Hill.

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**online:** [www.thedivinemercy.org/prayer](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/prayer)



### Marian Evangelization Team

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Association of Marian Helpers  
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1-800-671-2020  
[helpers@marian.org](mailto:helpers@marian.org)

# Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

## St. Faustina, pray for us

“You pick a saint, and then you ask him to pray for you for nine days.” That was my mom’s answer to my question, “How do you pray a novena?”

I was a senior in high school, and just six months before, I’d experienced a “reversion” to my Catholic faith. I don’t call it a “conversion” because I’d never left the faith, but it was a rediscovery of Catholicism such that for the first time since childhood, my love for God was fervent.

As a result of my reversion, I was contemplating changing my decision to attend a prestigious secular university near my home in California. As an alternative, I was looking into a small, relatively unknown college.

This small college was far from California, which I didn’t like. It wasn’t prestigious in the eyes of the world, which I also didn’t like. It was, however, thoroughly Catholic, which I did like. In fact, about the only reason I was considering it was that I knew it would help my newfound faith to grow.

At the same time, in my heart of hearts, I knew the California university would probably end up crushing my faith. Despite this, I was having a difficult time letting go of my previous plans. In fact, I was leaning toward staying in California.

When I told my mom about my struggle, that’s when she explained a novena to me and recommended I pray one.

So all I needed to do was pick a saint who I could ask to pray for me for the next nine days. But which saint? I couldn’t think of one.

Then, I remembered my cards.

For Christmas the previous year, I’d received a deck

of saint cards called “Holy Traders.” Each card had a picture of a saint on the front and information about the saint’s life on the back. Well, I found that forgotten present at the back of some drawer, flipped open the box, and started going through the cards.

I got through about half the deck before I came to one saint who was actually a “Bl.” (which, I found out later, means “Blessed”). Something told me, “That’s the one.” It was Blessed Faustina Kowalska, whom I knew nothing about. (She hadn’t yet been declared a saint.)

So, I began my novena to Blessed Faustina, and the day happened to be Good Friday. A year or two later, to my great surprise, I found out that Jesus had taught Faustina a novena to Divine Mercy and that it also began on Good Friday! Anyway, I began to pray the novena, asking Faustina to help me make the right decision. About halfway through the novena, I got an answer to my prayer. The Lord made it undeniably clear that I was to go to the Catholic college — and so I went. It was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.

While I was a student at that college, I was introduced to the *Diary of St. Faustina* and the prayers of Divine Mercy. The *Diary* and the prayers changed my life, helped me to trust in Divine Mercy, and set me on the path that’s brought me to where I am today: Fr. Joseph! Of course, one of my main tasks as Fr. Joseph is to help spread the message of Divine Mercy.

I said I picked the Faustina holy card, but I think it’s more accurate to say that Faustina picked me. She must have realized, “This one needs a lot of mercy!”

I think many of you, our Marian Helpers, have experienced St. Faustina’s powerful intercession. In this issue, you’ll read more about this great Saint of Mercy. I hope these articles will help you to turn more fervently in prayer to this saint who obtains so many graces for us from Jesus, The Divine Mercy.

Go to  
Index

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

## Father Joseph’s Mailbox

We asked some of our Marian Helpers to share the impact St. Faustina has had in their lives.

### ‘She taught me to trust in God in all things’

Prior to reading the *Diary of St. Faustina*, I had great difficulty reconciling the fear, pain, and hardship caused by illness with a God who is love and mercy. Saint Faustina placed great value in suffering. She considered it a blessing and thanked God for it as an opportunity to save not only her soul but the souls of others. She helped me to understand the great value of redemptive suffering. She taught me that anyone can take their suffering and join it to the cross of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. She also taught me to trust in God in all things and at all times. I always thought I trusted in God, but I found that in really difficult situations, I would back off and become fearful. I have learned from her example to allow God’s will to work in my life.

God loves each of us individually. He knows our name, and He calls us by name. I realized this after seeing the relationship St. Faustina had with Jesus.

The *Diary* has changed my life and my relationship with God. I thank God for the example of saints like St. Faustina.

— RP, Snyder, N.Y.

### ‘Blessings in unexpected places’

A few years ago, my husband, Tom, and I bought a 7-foot-tall cross to go over the fireplace in our home. After spending some time in front of our new cross, I noticed one of the stones has rust-

colored crystals in it. This stone is used for the head, arms, heart, and area coming down from the heart. I thought, “These are like the drops of blood from our Lord’s bloody sweat during His Passion and like the blood coming from His pierced Heart. This reminds me of what St. Faustina wrote about in her *Diary*.” In passage 1687, St. Faustina recounted a vision she had of Jesus crucified. She tells how diamonds and pearls came from His wounded Heart and that these precious jewels were treasures of grace.



Now, I can look up at my cross and think of those crystals as being treasures of grace won by Jesus through His Passion and suffering on the cross. My cross has provided a wonderful place of prayer for me.

I was looking for a home decoration, but our Lord gave me so much more. Thank You, Jesus, for this beautiful cross and for all You have given us through our beloved St. Faustina.

— AL, Sarasota, Fla.

### ‘She inspires me to pray for souls’

My devotion to St. Faustina and Divine Mercy remains as powerful today as it was in 1992 when I first learned about it. Time stands still for me when I open the *Diary*. I especially need it the most when I’m having a bad day.

Saint Faustina comes alive for me through her *Diary*. I feel her joy, her pain, her sorrow, her trust, her humiliations, and especially her love for Jesus. I sense her intense desire to help Jesus save souls. She writes that the loss of souls plunges our Lord into “mortal sadness” (*Diary*, 1397). She inspires me to pray for souls in mortal danger.

— MD, Wickliffe, Ohio

### ‘We try every day to trust without fear’

Like St. Faustina, we try every day to trust, without fear or question, in the will of God, to take us places we’ve never been and to meet people we don’t know, realizing full well that the will of God will never take us where the grace of God will not protect us.

Saint Faustina has helped us realize the great impact of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the Holy Souls regardless of when they died. We learned it is never too late to help a soul.

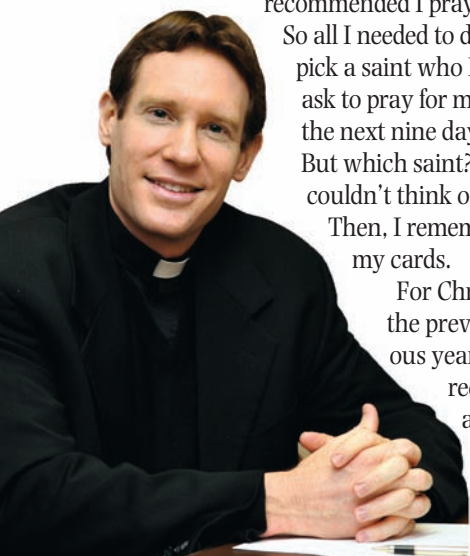
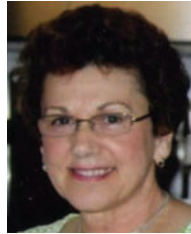
She taught us to recite the chaplet daily, whether at home, driving in the car, in airport lines, or when stuck in traffic.

Finally, we learned to share the message of Divine Mercy with both friends and strangers that we meet throughout the world.

— J and EB, Liverpool, N.Y.

Thanks to all of you for sharing how St. Faustina and her *Diary* have touched your lives. I pray she continues to draw you closer to the Merciful Heart of our Savior.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC



Father Joseph would be happy to find a letter from you in his mailbox. Your letter may be edited for clarity and space. Send it to: Father Joseph’s Mailbox, Editorial, Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or mailbox@marian.org.



# Father Joseph's Bookshelf



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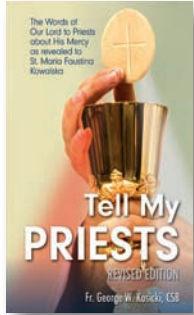
## TELL MY PRIESTS, REVISED EDITION

WORDS OF OUR LORD TO PRIESTS ABOUT HIS MERCY AS REVEALED TO ST. FAUSTINA

COMPILED BY REV. GEORGE W. KOSICKI, CSB

MARIAN PRESS, 200 PP., \$14.95, AVAILABLE SEPT. 14

PRODUCT CODE: **B16-TMP**



As a priest, I am in awe as I read in these pages how the Lord calls upon priests to preach on His mercy, especially on Divine Mercy Sunday. As Jesus says to St. Faustina, "No soul will be justified until it turns with confidence to My mercy, and this is why the first Sunday after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy. On that day, priests are to tell everyone about My great and unfathomable mercy" (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 570).

In *Tell My Priests*, Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB, gathered together what our Lord said in the *Diary* to priests, about their ministry, and of special interest to them — on Divine Mercy. It was first published 20 years ago.

Now, in this revised edition, Fr. George has updated the text and added new material not only from the *Diary* but from Scripture and various Church sources to underscore that this book's message to priests is more needed than ever. He sets the stage in his introduction by briefly covering the most significant developments for the spread of The Divine Mercy message over the last 20 years.

One of the most important additions of new material to the book is including all the days of the Divine Mercy Novena. New appendixes include a Divine Mercy timeline for priests, an excerpt from a 2001 Vatican document on priesthood and Divine Mercy, as well as the theme of Divine Mercy in the 2009 Year for Priests declared by Pope Benedict XVI.

As to the audience for this book, Fr. George points out that while it is primarily intended for priests, deacons would benefit from it as well, since they are also called to preach.

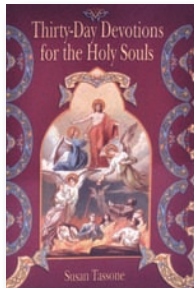
I agree and highly recommend you give this book to priests and deacons whom you know.

## THIRTY-DAY DEVOTIONS FOR THE HOLY SOULS

BY SUSAN TASSONE

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, POCKET BOOK, 160 PP., \$6.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B16-DFHSP**



These 30 days of devotions for the Holy Souls are ideal for use during the Church's monthlong remembrance in November. It's like taking a 30-day retreat, since Susan Tassone not only suggests devotions we can practice but deepens our understanding of purgatory and how the Holy Souls suffer.

In developing her theme for each day, this well-respected author of several books on purgatory draws on prayers, meditations, Scriptural passages, and reflections from the Church Fathers, saints, and theologians. Among them are St. Faustina, Blessed John Paul II, and the eminent theologian Karl Rahner.

To give you a sense of this, consider this excerpt from Day 28: Perseverance in Prayer:

"Be constant in prayer" (Rom 12:12).

If we were "in constant pursuit of love," we would obtain the vision of God for many a soul in purgatory. Karl Rahner, in *Encounters with Silence*, shares this soliloquy:

Their silence is their loudest call, because it is the echo of God's silence. ... They are silent because they live, just as we chatter so loudly to try to make ourselves forget that we are dying. O silent God ... God of those who are silently summoning us to enter into Your life, never let us forget our dead or our living. May our love and faithfulness to them be a pledge of our belief in You, the God of eternal life.

Let us not be deaf to the call of their silence, which is the surest and sincerest word of their love. May this word of theirs continue to accompany us, even after they have taken leave of us to enter into You, for thus their love comes all the closer to us.

"The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace" (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta).

Use this handy pocket book to persevere in remembering the Holy Souls this November.

## Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

### What's most important in the *Diary*?

**Q.** What were Jesus' most important revelations to St. Faustina? Why?

**A.** The last public revelations, like those we find in the Bible and in which we all are obliged to believe, ended with the death of the last apostle. Through the ages, God has given us private revelations. They reveal no new truths but remind us of important truths we may have forgotten.

Among the private revelations to St. Faustina, we can ask: What are the most important things of which the Lord wished to remind us? I would say at the heart of it all is the reality that God is not distant, abstract, or vindictive but rather loving and merciful. God wants to make clear to us that His greatest attribute is Divine Mercy.

We need to share this good news of God's mercy and to trust in Jesus, who is The Divine Mercy. When St. Faustina's confessor and spiritual director, Blessed Michael Sopocho, spoke to her before she died, he found out that her work would not end with her death and that he needed to continue it, trusting in Jesus to guide him. Blessed Michael learned that the depths of Divine Mercy are inexhaustible.

Further, receiving Divine Mercy is an important means to prepare for the Lord's Second Coming. In His great mercy, the Lord wants to give grace to all people before the final judgment, so no one can say that he or she had never heard of God's mercy.

Among other important revelations to St. Faustina are the various ways God gave her to spread the message of His mercy, which are covered in her *Diary*. Among these are The Divine Mercy image that we are called to venerate; the Chaplet of Divine Mercy that we are called upon to pray, especially for the sick and dying; the Feast of Mercy that we celebrate on the Octave Day of Easter; the Novena that begins on Good Friday to eloquently call to mind the Paschal Mystery of our Lord; recalling Christ's Passion at 3 p.m., the Hour of Great Mercy; and the commandment to perform deeds of mercy out of love for Christ. Through these revelations, the Merciful Savior gives us some new ways to *love God and our neighbor*.

**Q.** What are relics? Why do we venerate them?

**A.** The word relic comes from the Latin *reliquiae*, which means something left behind. We save pictures and objects or even a lock of hair of a deceased loved one. In the Christian sense, a relic usually refers to a part of the body or the clothes of a deceased saint, which remain as a memorial.

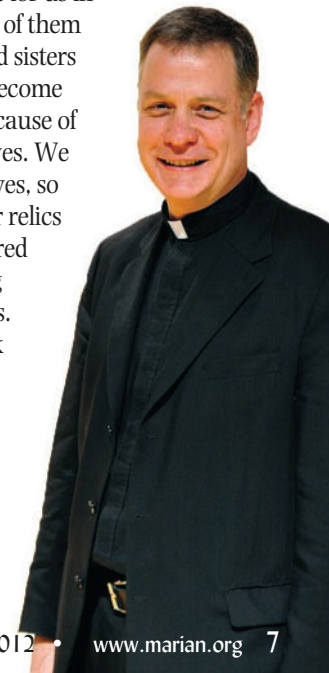
The practice of venerating relics in the Catholic Church came from the early Christian practice of celebrating Mass in the catacombs over the grave of a martyr. To this day, relics of saints are placed under the altar on which we celebrate Mass. This is why the priest kisses the altar at the beginning of Mass.

Part of a beatification ceremony (one of the steps before the canonization of a saint) involves the presentation of the relics of the person who is proclaimed blessed. After this, it is possible for the faithful to venerate or kiss the relics.

What is the purpose of this? In the fifth century, St. Jerome explained the Catholic practice of venerating relics, "We do not worship, we do not adore, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the Creator, but we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order the better to adore Him whose martyrs they are."

The saints and martyrs are creatures like us, but they have successfully run the race and can now intercede for us in heaven. We can think of them as our big brothers and sisters in Christ. They have become God's masterpieces because of the holiness of their lives. We want to lead similar lives, so our veneration of their relics is a way of being inspired by them and honoring their accomplishments. By such an act, we ask for their intercession and open ourselves to God's grace, which played such an important part in their lives.

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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](mailto:ask@marian.org).



FELIX CARROLL

Pilgrims tell the Marians at the Shrine that when they stand in front of the 12th Station of the Cross on Eden Hill, they can experience the power of Jesus' sacrifice and God's love to send His Only Son to die for us.

# The changing face of Eden Hill

Improvements include the Stations, a new plaza, and restrooms.

by Dan Valenti

The Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, stewards of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass., continue to make improvements to the Hill's infrastructure. They are doing this, as Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, explains, to accommodate the growing numbers of pilgrims who are coming to the Shrine as The Divine Mercy message continues to spread around the world.

In highlighting major improvements to Eden Hill, the Marians have announced the dedication date for the life-size Stations of the Cross, have begun work on the new Blessed Pope John Paul II Plaza adjacent to the National Shrine, and have plans to install two restroom units at the main parking plaza.

That being said, however, the need to upgrade must be done while never losing sight of the Shrine's prime objective, according to

Fr. Ken. He says he wants to provide for the comforts of pilgrims while keeping the spiritual purpose of the Shrine at the forefront.

## Stations illustrate Shrine's main purpose

"We must keep in mind the purpose of the National Shrine, which is to bring people into a personal encounter with Jesus, our Merciful Savior," Fr. Ken says. "That directive determines every decision we make on the Hill, and it goes into all our planning. That's why we continue to invest in the grounds and infrastructure. It's a part of good stewardship."

God has chosen the Marian Fathers to serve His Church as the official promoters of The Divine Mercy message that Jesus gave to St. Faustina to spread to the entire world.

As an example of this stewardship, Fr. Ken mentions the life-size Stations of the Cross.

"It's rewarding to see pilgrims visit the sta-

tions," he says. "Some come alone, others as couples, families, and even small groups. To watch the reverence and the feelings these magnificent works of art produce in people is inspiring. Through the generous donor who made the stations possible, so many people are brought into an encounter with Christ's Passion, suffered on our behalf for the remission of sin and for our redemption."

The sculptures for the stations were created by Timothy P. Schmalz, a Canadian sculptor renowned for his epic Christian artwork.

The first 12 stations have been installed. The sculptures for the last two stations — Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross and Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb — are expected to arrive on Eden Hill in mid-October. Father Ken says that wooden crosses for the final two stations will be in place for the Sept. 14 ceremony, and they fulfill all the Church's requirements necessary for blessing by the local bishop.

## Stations dedication set for Sept. 14

Father Ken says the stations will be formally dedicated and blessed in a ceremony scheduled for 4 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14, at the National Shrine on Eden Hill. The Most Rev. Timothy McDonnell, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, will officiate at the blessing. On that date, the universal Church celebrates the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.

"Anyone who wishes to understand how deeply Jesus loved us will find in the life-size Stations of the Cross profound food for thought, meditation, and contemplation," says Bishop McDonnell. "The figures on the grounds of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge speak to the eye, to the mind, and to the heart about the Son of God's self-sacrificing love and infinite mercy."

Beginning with the First Station, Jesus Is Condemned to Death, Bishop McDonnell will offer prayer and blessing, processing to all 14 stations. The Philadelphia Boys Choir will provide music. All are invited.

Way of the Cross booklets, a commemorative postcard, a prayercard, and a packet of St. Faustina blessed holy oil will be given to everyone who attends the ceremony, Fr. Ken says.

## Plaza at Shrine under way

Father Ken also points to another improvement to Eden Hill, the new Blessed John Paul II Plaza, being constructed in front of the Shrine's reception area. He says he expects the plaza to be completed by next spring. The new plaza, which will provide a space for pil-

grims to pray and meditate, will center on the statue of the Great Mercy Pope that presently can be seen in front of the Marian residence, which is attached to the National Shrine.

(Inside the Shrine, pilgrims can also venerate a first-class relic of Blessed John Paul II, which was enshrined on Aug. 12.)

The plaza, Fr. Ken says, will use pavers bearing inscriptions for the small courtyard area. The pavers are being offered to people for either remembering the deceased or as tributes to the living. (See page 25 for details.)

"Many people find comfort and satisfaction in creating memorials or tributes to loved ones," says Fr. Ken. "These tributes and memorial opportunities in the plaza are also a way of honoring Blessed John Paul II's legacy as the Great Mercy Pope."



FELIX CARROLL

The new Blessed John Paul II Plaza is being constructed in front of the Shrine's reception area. It will make the Shrine handicapped-accessible.

## Restrooms for parking plaza

Finally, in addressing a basic human need that must always be taken into account by any public space, the Marians will be installing restroom facilities adjacent to Eden Hill's main parking plaza.

Father Ken says "a gracious donor" has provided funds to build the first of two restroom units, which will be a precast structure made out of concrete. The Marian Fathers are seeking a local building permit for the preparatory groundwork. This includes establishing the footing and foundation upon which the precast structure will be placed.

Father Ken says the Marians are praying for a second donor to help pay for a second restroom unit.

Looking ahead to other infrastructure needs, Father Ken says the Marian Fathers seek assistance "to improve our roadways, especially to offer pilgrims safe and efficient transport around the grounds of the National Shrine. This includes the need to relocate a roadway that will make the approach and departure to the Shrine easier for all."

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Construction continues on the Marians' new Divine Mercy Seminary in Karumathur, India. Work began in May 2010. It is expected to be finished in 2013 and will house 40-45 students, five to seven priests, plus staff.

## Marians establish a presence in India

By Dan Valenti

We have reported in this magazine on the Marian missions in the Philippines. Now, construction is under way on the Marian Fathers' new Divine Mercy Seminary in Karumathur, India. The seminary represents a major commitment of the Marians to establish not only a presence in India but also an important location in Asia for Marian formation. As the name of the seminary indicates, the Marians desire to bring The Divine Mercy message and devotion to more of Asia.

The Marians are beginning their mission in India the way many other congregations have done, with the help of the diocesan clergy.

"Right now, we have 12 students who are in different levels of formation," says Fr. Anthony Raja, a priest from the Diocese of Sivagangai. Father Anthony, who is in charge of the seminary and its construction, is an associate member of the Marian Fathers. "The seminary will be able to house 40-45 students, five to seven priests, plus staff. We expect to have the seminary finished by May 2013," he says.

The house is being built on land the Marians have purchased in Karumathur. Some of the Marian students have moved into the partially constructed seminary. The remainder live in a nearby house the Marians are renting.

"The Marians have taken up a great challenge by establishing a presence in India," says Marian Vicar Gen. Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC. Father Joe commended the work of Fr. Anthony. "He has been an extraordinary blessing to our community, work-

ing hard to recruit vocations, to take care of the students, and to oversee the construction of the new seminary building."

### Father Donald Petraitis, MIC, dies



Fr. Donald Petraitis, MIC

Father Donald Petraitis, MIC, former superior general of the Marian Fathers and the last provincial superior of the former St. Casimir Province, died June 12 at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Worcester, Mass. He was 75.

Father Donald was born in Chicago in 1937. He grew up under the guidance of the Marian Fathers and the Sisters of St. Casimir. After joining the Marian Congregation, Fr. Donald professed his first vows on July 16, 1956, and final vows on July 16, 1960.

Following his ordination on May 9, 1964, Fr. Donald taught at Marianapolis Prep School in Thompson, Conn., and in 1970, became the school's director. In 1975, Fr. Donald was elected the Congregation's vicar general, and he moved to Rome. There, Fr. Donald served nine years as vicar. In 1984, he was elected superior general.

In 1993, Fr. Donald returned to Chicago, and the Marians elected him superior of the former St. Casimir Province. He served in that capacity until 2006, when the two American provinces merged to form the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy Province.

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## Bring the message of Divine Mercy to your parish



Invite the Marians to speak about Divine Mercy. For more information, Call Valerie Laurizio at (413) 298-1307 or e-mail her at parishmissions@marian.org.

### EADM slates five conference talks

Bryan Thatcher, MD, founder and director of the Marian Fathers' apostolate Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), has announced five speaking dates running through early December.

Doctor Thatcher will be speaking at Divine Mercy conferences in the following cities on these dates:

- Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 15
- Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 28 and 29
- Hasbrouck Heights, N.J., Oct. 6
- Sacramento, Calif., Oct. 13
- Traverse City, Mich., Dec. 1.

Doctor Thatcher's topic on each of these dates will be "emphasizing how to better live The Divine Mercy message in the family and the workplace. We want to let people know that Divine Mercy is something to be lived and that it can become the basis for a way of life. This can be done personally through prayer and actions and also in conjunction with others in small groups such as cenacles, prayers for and visits to the sick and dying, evangelization, and efforts on behalf of the pro-life movement."

The beginning of this good work, Dr. Thatcher says, comes with "the realization of God as a God of mercy." When we understand this, he says, our hearts begin to accept the authority of God in and over our lives. "We begin doing God's will and less of our own."

One of the key points in his presentation, Dr. Thatcher says, will be these words of Jesus taken from the *Diary of St. Faustina*: "Mankind will not have peace, until it turns with trust to My mercy" (300).

"People can take this message of trust, apply it to every situation of their daily lives, and in doing so, help make the world a better, 'more human' place," according to Dr. Thatcher.

For more information on Dr. Thatcher's speaking engagements and other events, call the apostolate toll free at 1-877-380-0727, or visit [thedivinemercy.org/events](http://thedivinemercy.org/events).



Bryan Thatcher, MD, founder and director of the Marian Fathers' apostolate Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), will be speaking at five Divine Mercy conferences running from mid-September to early December.

### Healthcare conference heads south

The ever-popular Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy Conference takes the program down South on Feb. 16, 2013, to St. Lawrence Church in Tampa, Fla.



Director Marie Romagnano, RN

Titled "Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality," the conference will be hosted by Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy and the Marian Fathers. Speakers will explore issues in morals, ethics, palliative care, and other medical concerns in light of Church teaching.

The conference, says Marie Romagnano, RN, founder and director of the Marian apostolate, explores the ins and outs of bioethics, especially the role of technology in medicine when applied to and at "the edges of life." Speakers for the Tampa conference are still being confirmed, though the lineup will include Nurse Marie, EADM's Bryan Thatcher, MD, and leading experts from the Marian Fathers and the healthcare field.

Next spring, the ninth annual Northeast "Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality" Conference will take place on April 9-10, 2013, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

For more information on the Tampa and Northeast Healthcare conferences, visit [thedivinemercy.org/healthcare](http://thedivinemercy.org/healthcare), or call Dr. Thatcher at 1-877-380-0727 or e-mail him at [bryaneadm@sprynet.com](mailto:bryaneadm@sprynet.com).

# 'MISSION OF MERCY' TO THE WORLD

As a milestone for St. Faustina nears, the Marians assess her legacy.

by Dan Valenti

October 5, 2013, will mark the 75th anniversary of the death of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), the handpicked “secretary” Jesus directed to record and spread His message of Divine Mercy. It was a call she undertook in obedience to God’s will despite great personal hardship and suffering. As we prepare to celebrate this diamond jubilee of her entrance into eternal life, it brings to mind the question of her legacy: What has St. Faustina left us by fulfilling her call to share this message of mercy with the world?

She bequeathed a spiritual legacy that has, in these past 74 years, affected for the better not only the Catholic Church but also our modern world in great need of God’s mercy. Therein lies the significance of Divine Mercy: It is an urgent message of hope and peace for the world in our time. As Jesus told the saint, “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy” (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 300).

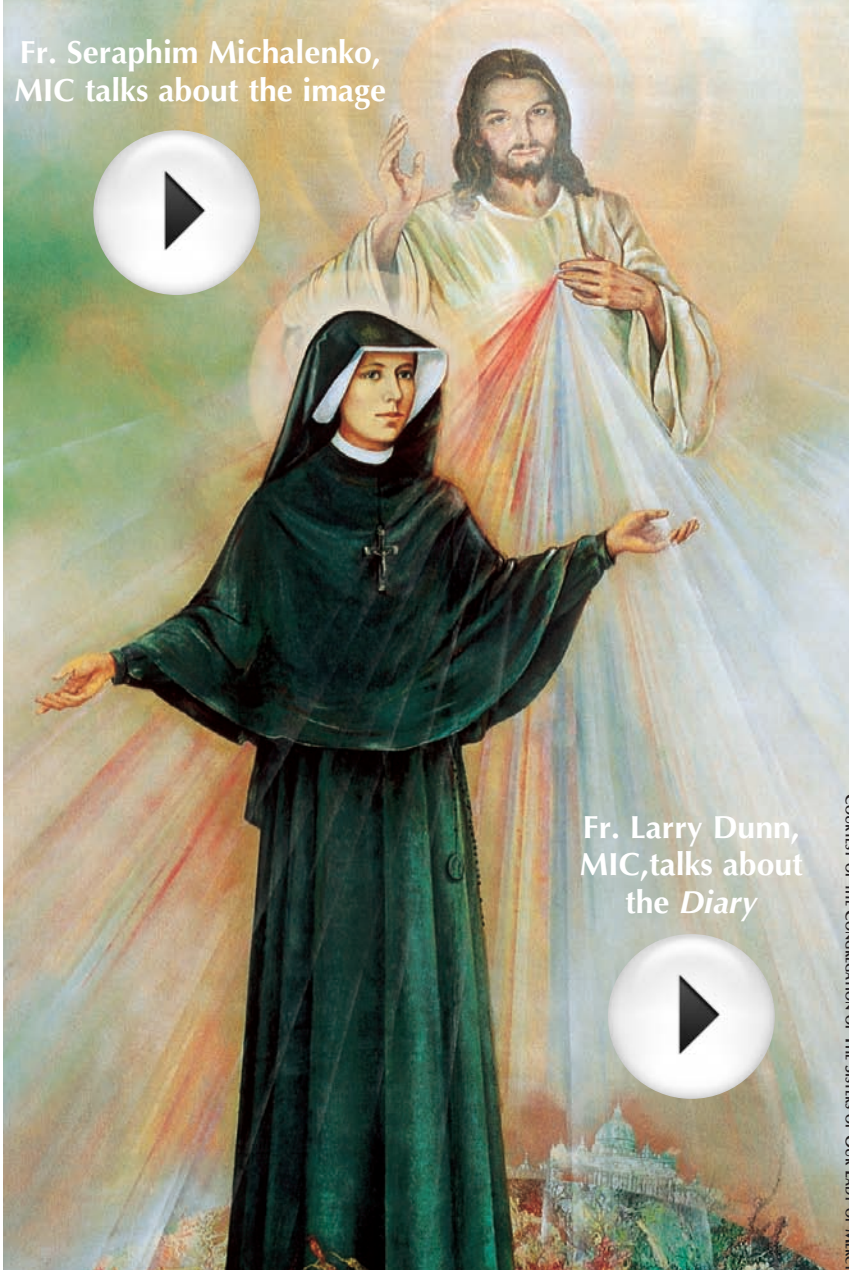
Saint Faustina knew only too well what Jesus was asking of her. He was asking her — an obscure Polish nun in the 1930s with little formal education — not only to record His revelations of mercy in a diary but also to share them with the world. How could she possibly fulfill this task?

She grew to understand that her mission could only be accomplished through her complete trust in Jesus and His mercy. She even recorded in her *Diary* on one occasion, “I nestled close to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with so much trust that even if I had the sins of all the damned weighing on my conscience, I would not have doubted God’s mercy” (1318).

## A legacy for ‘all of us’

This fall on the saint’s feast day and date of her death, Oct. 5, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception begin a one-year celebration leading up to the 75th anni-

Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC talks about the image



Fr. Larry Dunn, MIC, talks about the *Diary*



COURTESY OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

## A life of ‘lived mercy’

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers, speaks of St. Faustina’s legacy as a “spiritual influence” that can lead us to a personal encounter with Divine Mercy. This is especially evident in the mystical experiences the saint recorded in her *Diary* — a book that has sold more than one million copies and become a classic of spiritual literature.

“She’s been beatified, canonized, and Divine Mercy Sunday has been declared a feast for the universal Church,” says Fr. Michael. “The Divine Mercy message and devotion has spread throughout the world, bringing people to a deeper love for and trust in Jesus Christ, our merciful Savior.”

In addition, Fr. Michael says, St. Faustina’s “testimony has inspired people of all walks of life to study Sacred Scripture through the lens of Divine Mercy, which gets to the heart of the Gospel, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches (see n. 1846). Finally, the renewal of devotion to God’s mercy in our day is not just something for the chapel. In fact, it seems that more and more people are embracing a life of ‘lived mercy,’ of showing mercy to their neighbors in deed, word, and prayer.”

Father George Kosicki, CSB, another notable Divine Mercy authority, picks up on Fr. Seraphim’s point with respect to the relationship between St. Faustina and Blessed John Paul II. In *Faustina, Saint for Our Times: A Personal Look at Her Life, Spirituality, and Legacy* (Marian Press), Fr. George writes of that relationship as one of the saint’s greatest legacies.

In his long papacy, the Blessed Holy Father promulgated Divine Mercy in many ways, Fr. George points out. John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day and canonized St. Faustina. He preached on God’s greatest attribute on numerous occasions. He wrote his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia* (*Rich in Mercy*), on the topic. He entrusted the world to Divine Mercy. In fact, God’s mercy became a major theme of John Paul II’s pontificate: “Where,” the Pope asked, “if not in The Divine Mercy, can the world find refuge and the light of hope?”

versary on that date in 2013.

The year commemorates what Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, calls a series of “joyous occasions” by honoring the life of St. Faustina. Father Seraphim, one of the world’s leading authorities on the life of St. Faustina and The Divine Mercy message, says he can think of “no better way to

honor this great saint than by encouraging all of us to redouble our efforts to be apostles of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, in our own time.”

When Fr. Seraphim speaks of “all of us,” he refers not just to his brother Marians, not just to the many Marian Helpers, but to people the world over. Naturally, though, Fr. Seraphim says,

## St. Faustina Timeline





MARIAN FATHERS

St. Faustina's legacy can be seen in the influence of her writings on the universal Church. Here, actress Melanie Metcalf portrays Sr. Faustina writing in her *Diary* in the film *Divine Mercy — No Escape*, which was produced by the Marian Fathers.

### Is there a Doctor in the house?

Another aspect of St. Faustina's legacy is the influence of her writing and teaching on the universal Church, according to Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, vicar general of the Marian Fathers. He says that this influence can be seen in the discussions taking place after a number of cardinals and bishops requested last year that Pope Benedict XVI make St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church. There are 33 Doctors of the Church.

The request came at the second World Apostolic Congress on Mercy held in Lagiewniki, Poland, where St. Faustina died and was buried.

"The Church affords this highest honor to saints who have written in such a way as to benefit the entire Church," Fr. Joe says. Saint Faustina's legacy of mercy, he says, has become a vital aspect of Catholicism's spirituality.

"There's a lot of talk about St. Faustina being made a Doctor of the Church," says Fr. Michael, "and that is something we're praying for. But there is still so much more to do to make known the message of God's mercy. In my travels to parishes throughout the country, I'm surprised by how many people in the pews still have not heard about Divine Mercy. I'm also surprised by how the lives of so many Catholics seem dominated by a servile fear of God rather than a personal relationship of love for and trust in Him."

### A 'mission of mercy'

Another measure of St. Faustina's legacy is her growing popularity. From Dec. 10-12, 1999, the online newspaper *The Daily Catholic* published a countdown of the "Top 100 Catholics of the 20th Century." Readers sent in 23,455 votes nominating 728 candidates. Saint Faustina finished in fifth place, behind Padre Pio, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

"Her high selection by voters came from all over the world," the San Diego-based paper wrote, "as a testament to how far the devotion to Divine Mercy has spread, thanks to the obedience of this frail nun and those who would perpetuate and spread what was imparted to her from above."

"Those who would perpetuate" her legacy include the Marian Fathers and Marian Helpers.

The Marian Fathers administer the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. Through their Association of Marian Helpers and Marian Press, they distribute Divine Mercy materials throughout the world. Their website [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org), presence on Facebook, and Divine Mercy App spread the message 24/7. The Marians oversee four lay Divine Mercy apostolates and conduct Divine Mercy parish missions across the United States. On Divine Mercy Sunday this year, they launched Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs for the New Evangelization<sup>SM</sup> (HAPP<sup>SM</sup>).

While we should support such efforts, St. Faustina's legacy ultimately cannot be measured by any human yardstick. The scales that weigh the enormous impact of this saint on the lives of countless millions of people are not of this world. Similarly, only God knows the true barometer by which we can calculate Divine Mercy's victory over evil.

We can be inspired, however, by these words of St. Faustina to do our part to continue her mission of mercy: "I feel certain that my mission will not come to an end upon my death, but will begin" (*Diary*, 281).

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FRANK WOOD

Suzanne Alexander-Fiorillo offers a number of suggestions for those wanting to help the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially during the month of November, when the Church encourages us to do more to remember them.

# MINUTES EACH DAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS

SODALITY MEMBER SHARES TIPS FOR REMEMBERING THE HOLY SOULS THIS NOVEMBER.

by Andrew Leeco

Just a couple of minutes. That's all Suzanne Alexander-Fiorillo is asking you to take out of your day to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"I have a holy water fountain next to my deck, and I say the St. Gertrude Prayer for the Holy Souls," Suzanne says. "I look at my St. Gertrude prayercard, and I say her prayer as I'm heading out the door to walk the dog. It doesn't take much time at all, but it is so helpful to those who are in need of our prayers. I'm helping release 1,000 souls — our Lord's promise to St. Gertrude each time the prayer is said — by just taking a few minutes out of my day."

The Holy Souls in Purgatory cry out for our help, and November is the month when the Church especially encourages us to remember them. 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.

For us, the faithful on earth, the most important aspect of this great work of mercy for the Holy Souls is our opportunity to help release them from purgatory by hav-

ing Masses said for their intention as well as through offering personal prayers and sacrifices on their behalf. For this reason, the Marian Fathers established and maintain the Holy Souls Sodality. The Marians and their Sodality members join together to offer daily Mass, prayers, and sacrifices on behalf of those in purgatory — remembering in particular the most forgotten souls and the souls of their departed loved ones.

Now, if you have more than a few minutes you want to spend helping the Church Suffering, Suzanne has a few more suggestions. She likes to wake up early in the morning and spend some quiet time praying for the Holy Souls.

"The early morning is the time that I don't have to share with anyone else," Suzanne says. "I'm a widow, so it's my time to spend remembering and praying for the souls of my husband and the rest of my family."

"I have been using the *Thirty-Day Devotions for the Holy Souls* by Susan Tassone that Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC, recommended to me," she adds. "I have been doing that every morning during my quiet time for the past three years or so."

The *Thirty-Day Devotions* offer a daily

*Continued on page 18*



AUG. 17, 2002

ENTRUSTING WORLD TO DIVINE MERCY



APRIL 2-6, 2008

FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON MERCY



OCT 1-5, 2011

SECOND WORLD CONGRESS



???

DOCTOR OF CHURCH?



"This is touching the hearts of young people, too, and that's just beautiful," says Romana Grubbe (center), who has brought HAPP<sup>SM</sup> to St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Spring Hill, Fla. Her daughters, Amy (left) and Ashley, consecrated themselves to Mary and have now turned to *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*.

## FORMING A CONSOLER'S HEART

HAPP's next parish-based program leads you to console Jesus by trusting Him.

by Felix Carroll

The bottom line of the bold, new evangelization efforts of the Marian Fathers is that sainthood is not restricted to the spiritual giants we read about in history books.

We are all meant to be saints, and an essential aspect of this call is consoling the Heart of Jesus by trusting Him. The "super saints" will show us how.

"With the insights of 'super saints' like Therese of Lisieux, Faustina, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Blessed John Paul II, we have everything we need to be a saint, a great saint, and quickly," says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers and creator of the new Hearts Afire Parish-based Programs for the New Evangelization<sup>SM</sup> (HAPP<sup>SM</sup>), which brings together small parish groups to renew faith, deepen their love of God, and inspire works of mercy.

The Marians launched the first part of HAPP on Divine Mercy Sunday. It's a program of consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Since then,

more than 2,000 people in parishes around the country have participated, using Fr. Michael's book, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, and its accompanying group-retreat program.

### A focus on 'consoling Jesus'

On Oct. 1, the feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Marians will launch the next program in HAPP — to pursue what Fr. Michael calls "the most essential principle of the spiritual life: consoling Jesus." Since Mary leads us to the Sacred Heart of her Son, which overflows with mercy for us, once we're consecrated to her, she's going to help us grow in consoling Jesus by trusting him.

Similar to the Marian consecration, small groups will form and meet weekly — in this case, for 10 weeks. In this retreat, the groups will draw from Fr. Michael's book, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, and its accompanying materials.

This summer, 14 groups in eight states from California to Georgia launched pilot programs. Many of the participants — including both laity and religious, men and women, young and old — geared up to lead future groups.

"We're seeing so much interest in this," says

Jackie Krilich, leader of a pilot at St. John the Evangelist Parish in St. John, Ind. "I think we're at the beginning stages of something big — in individual parishes and the Church at large."

Indeed, Kelly Wahlquist, assistant director of parish evangelization for the Marians, says that HAPP — still in its infancy — is far exceeding everyone's expectations in terms of interest and impact.

### 'It changes your life'

"We have group leaders who are stepping forward mainly just through word of mouth," Kelly says. "Many have already read *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* and have had their lives changed."

They include people like Kathy Neumann, a pilot group leader at St. Joseph's Church, in West St. Paul, Minn.

"Through *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, I realized how much God loves us," she says.

"Every time I receive Communion now, I remind myself He delights that I'm even there, and it's so exciting to see how others in our group are responding to it."

"Our parish has needed a spiritual movement," says Romana Grubbe, a pilot leader at St. Frances Cabrini Parish, in Spring Hill, Fla. "I think this is what we've been waiting for. For me, after reading *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, I spent hours before the Blessed Sacrament thanking Him."

With so much interest generated, her priest recently assigned her a room to hold the group retreat. "And now neighboring parishes are also asking about this, and they're planning to begin the *33 Days* retreat followed by *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*," Romana says.

"This has been a deep spiritual awakening for the people in our group," Jackie says. "Together, we're looking for and seeing Jesus in other people. It changes your life."

### 'See Jesus in everyone'

In *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, Fr. Michael speaks of how the "super saints" directed their spiritual energies to delighting the Lord and consoling His broken Heart. The essential principle taught by Blessed Mother Teresa, for instance, was to "hear the thirst of Jesus on the cross — not a thirst for water but for love — and to strive with all her might to 'quench

His thirst' by giving Him her love," Fr. Michael says. "Now, St. Faustina and St. Thérèse express the most essential principle in the same way, namely, the thirst of Jesus, but they understood quenching Jesus' thirst, or consoling Him, to be the same as trusting Him."

Trust — radical trust in His mercy — is how saints are made.

The pilot groups share similar conclusions. The reason that *33 Days* and *Consoling the Heart of Jesus* are met with such enthusiasm is their accessibility and their practicality.

"I've done many retreats, and they've been good, but sometimes a little too [intellectual]," Kathy says. "Father Michael writes simply for everyday people. It's not intimidating."



Saint Joseph's Church in West St. Paul, Minn., has one of 14 pilot groups in the country for *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*. "We have such lively discussions — and deep!" says Kathy Neumann, who leads the pilot. "We have been joined by people from five or six other parishes who are starting groups in their own parishes. It's amazing how it's spreading. I just feel like Mary is spreading it."

Participants also appreciate how *Consoling* seems tailor-made for people with busy schedules. The program's organizing principles help a person enter more fully into Divine Mercy spirituality through an emphasis on what St. Thérèse called the "Little Way" — meaning that disciples of Jesus can seek holiness in the everyday.

For example," says Jackie, "if you don't have time to work in a soup kitchen or the finances to help the needy, a lot of us are saying, 'Well, let's be like St. Thérèse and do the little things.' Treat all people as if they were Jesus. See Jesus in everyone."

"One of the women in our group says her vision of people has been transformed through reading *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*," says Kathy. "Rich or poor, a banker or a taxicab driver — it doesn't matter. She sees them as Christ and sees the goodness in them."

In addition to the programs that comprise this stage on the Two Hearts, HAPP is developing a stage that centers on teachings of the faith and works of mercy.

To find out more about bringing HAPP to your parish, visit [allheartsafire.org](http://allheartsafire.org), e-mail [HAPP@marian.org](mailto:HAPP@marian.org), or call 1-877-200-4277.



Suzanne Alexander-Fiorillo finds great comfort in her mission of remembering the souls in purgatory. She enjoys praying in the cemetery. “I say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for all the souls in purgatory,” she says.

## SOULS

Continued from Page 15

suggestion of praying for departed family members or friends. There are prayers, meditations, Scriptural passages, and reflections from Church Fathers, saints, and theologians. The 30-day format makes it ideal for the month of November. (See the review of the book on page 6.)

Suzanne enjoys being a part of the Holy Souls Sodality. She says she finds great comfort in her mission of remembering the souls in purgatory. She enjoys just sitting and reading prayers in the cemetery.

“I enjoy going out to the cemetery, especially in November, and just sitting there and praying,” Suzanne says. “I say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for my family. Sometimes, I sit in my car and say the chaplet for all those buried in the cemetery. It doesn’t take that long. What, maybe seven minutes, and you’ve helped all those souls.”

Suzanne also says you don’t have to do anything elaborate when you pray for the Holy Souls. “I will sometimes wake up at 3 a.m.,” she says, “and I’ll say the chaplet for the most forgotten souls in purgatory. It’s no big deal. I’m already awake, and I know they need me. It also helps me relax and get back to sleep, knowing I’ve done something to help them.”

Further, Suzanne believes that for all the good she is doing now for the Holy Souls, they will intercede for her when they get to heaven. The Holy Souls can bring countless blessings to us in this life. Most importantly, once they are in heaven, these souls will faithfully pray for us until we, too, are home with God.

“I know that some day, I will probably be in purgatory and need their help, so I want them to remember me,” Suzanne says.

She is looking forward to coming back to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy for the second Mercy for Souls Conference on Sept. 16, and she is praying for good weather. She attended the first conference last Oct. 30 — battling through snow, power outages, fallen trees, and closed roads.

“I can’t wait,” Suzanne says. “I really enjoyed last year’s conference. It was so nice to be in the Shrine. I felt peace and tranquility. I found a deeper connection as I prayed for the Holy Souls.”

The second Mercy for Souls Conference, which will fall on the 5th anniversary of the beatification of the Marian Founder, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, will be held ‘at the National

Shrine. Father Dan Cambra, MIC, spiritual director for the Sodality, will be the principal celebrant of the Holy Mass and the speaker.

“We will offer a Mass for your ancestors to ensure that none of them have been forgotten in purgatory,” Fr. Dan says. “It will heal both the deceased and the living of any sins that may have been passed down.” You also may bring names and photos of your ancestors.

“This year, I’m bringing my mother’s Bible with the family tree,” Suzanne says. “It has all the names of our family back to my great grandparents. I look forward to the conference and God’s blessing on all my ancestors.”

**The Marians invite you to join them in their November remembrance and to become a Sodality member. To join the Sodality or to register for the conference, go to [prayforsouls.org](http://prayforsouls.org)**

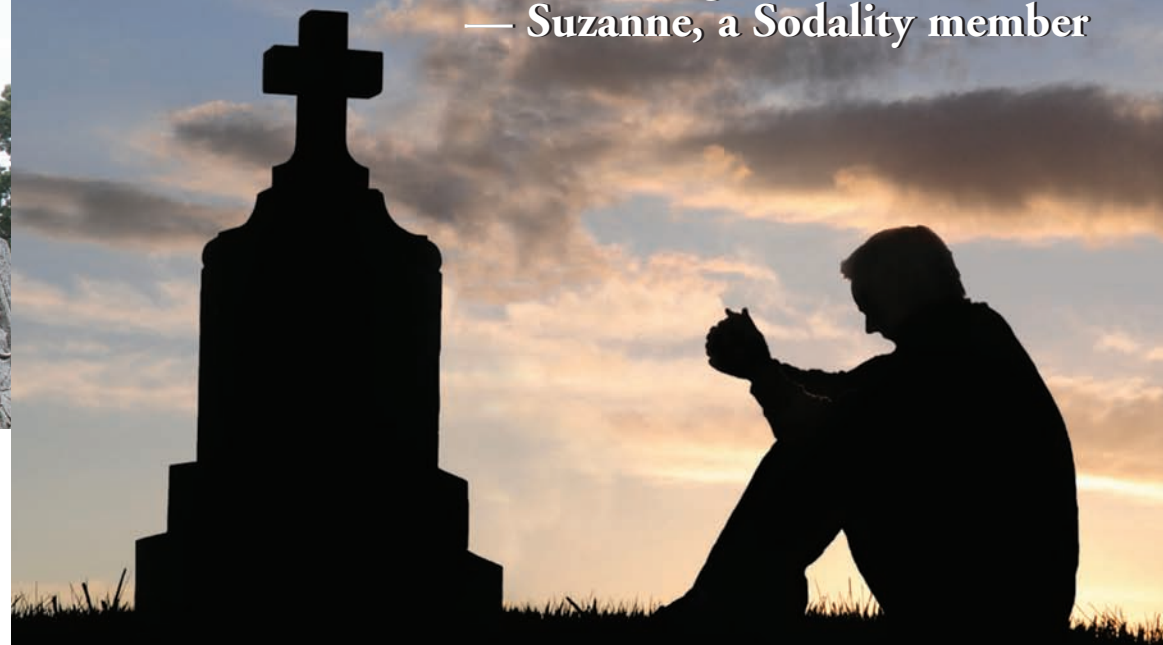
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MH

“The Sodality helps me feel united to other prayer warriors. It’s a beautiful thing to feel united.”

— Suzanne, a Sodality member



# YOU CAN HELP SOULS TO HEAVEN

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](http://prayforsouls.org/join).



## Mercy for Souls Conference

Join us for the second Mercy for Souls Conference on Sept. 16, the 5th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Father Dan Cambra, MIC, spiritual director for the Holy Souls Sodality, will be the principal celebrant of the Holy Mass and the speaker. Free to Sodality members. To register, call 1-800-671-2020 or sign up online at [prayforsouls.org/conference](http://prayforsouls.org/conference).





Father Bill Hayward, MIC, says that we have to do our religious duty, such as going to church on Sunday, and our civic duty, such as voting and serving our country, before others will take seriously our right to religious freedom.

# OUR DUTY TOWARD GOD AND COUNTRY

This November, exercising our right to vote isn't enough.

By Fr. Bill Hayward, MIC

On Nov. 6 in the United States, those of us who are registered voters can cast our ballots for a president. Many also can vote for a governor, national and state legislators, judges, local office-holders, and ballot referenda. We cherish this right to vote and use this opportunity as responsible citizens to participate in the life of our country. On the minds of most of us will be the economy. We hope our elected officials will collaborate with each other on all levels to put our country back to work.

As Catholics, we make these choices in a moral climate different than in recent elections. On April 12, 2012, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a statement with these explicit words: "As Catholic bishops and American citizens, we address an urgent summons to our fellow Catholics and fellow Americans to be on guard, for religious liberty is under attack, both at home and abroad." The statement identifies the Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate of the current administration that directs Catholic institutions serving the general public to provide contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs in health care coverage.

Also of concern for the U.S. Bishops are state

immigration laws that forbid ministry to illegal immigrants, legislative attempts to alter Church structure and governance, and the revoking of the licenses of Catholic foster care and adoptive services. All these are only some of the intrusions by government on the Catholic Church.

For most of you as Marian Helpers, religious liberty means going to church on Sunday, bringing your children to a Catholic school or religious education classes in your parish, studying our Catholic faith, and praying — either privately or publically. Thank God we can exercise our religious liberty in these ways.

So how do these situations that our Bishops highlight threaten our religious liberty?

To answer this question, it is helpful to read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. When we use the word "right," most of us in the Western world see our rights as standing alone. The *Catechism* looks at rights differently. Opening its discussion on religious freedom, it states, "All men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and His Church, and to embrace it and hold on to it as they come to know it" (CCC, 2104). Before there is a right, there is always a duty — we are obliged to search for the truth, especially in

matters of religion.

Why is this right now threatened, and what about our corresponding duty to God? Our Catholic Bishops rightly recognize the threat, and they see specific instances in which it is taking place. Yet is there a deeper dynamic to note that shows we have lost our sense of duty toward God? Approximately 35 percent of baptized Catholics in our country attend Mass on Sunday. Most Protestant Churches report less attendance, while Evangelical Churches do slightly better. A major duty of religion is to worship God, and, frankly, most people think little of it.

We have either denied there is a duty, or we have made it optional. The prevailing view of religion sees it as good but not essential, consoling but not demanding, practical but not dogmatic, and certainly not duty-bound. Therefore, is it important enough to change health-care laws, to stand up for immigrants, and to save family outreach and adoption services? Many in our country today think it is not.

Even many Catholics have come to dread the word "obligation." Sunday Mass has to be meaningful, or it is not doing its job. So I encourage you, as Marian Helpers, to share with our poorly believing world that we do our religion out of commitment and duty. We should love worshipping God, but we do it because we have to.

Duty — like going to work, going to school, or serving on a jury — shows we are serious and

## Resources for further study

A wealth of resources are available to help us better understand religious liberty as Catholics. Father Bill recommends these:

1. The Vatican II Document on Religious Liberty, *Dignitatis Humanae*, is available on the Vatican website: [vatican.va](http://vatican.va).
2. See sections in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, numbers 2104–2109.
3. Visit the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [nccbuscc.org](http://nccbuscc.org), to see the April 12, 2012, statement "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty." Also, search for related articles, inserts, and posters.
4. The Knights of Columbus has an informative website that stays up-to-date with religious liberty issues: [kofc.org](http://kofc.org).

expect to be taken seriously. Then, we can hope our religious liberty will also be taken seriously.

But let's face it — a country that sees little importance in religion will see little need for the right to religious liberty. Here's what we need to pray for — a country with a high respect for a religion that forms conscience and engages its members in building a better world through a sense of duty, works of mercy, and the practice of justice. The citizens of such a country will recognize that religious liberty is foundational for the life of the nation. May this be our prayer for the United States — especially as Election Day draws near. May we see both religious duty and religious liberty flourish in our land.

MH



**Father Bill Hayward, MIC, is pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Kenosha, Wis. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree.**

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More than just a card, it's a ...

## Promise of Prayer

Enrolling others in the Association of Marian Helpers is an *act of mercy*. It's a promise that your loved ones will receive a share in the benefits of all the Holy Masses, prayers, and good works of the Marian Fathers and Brothers.

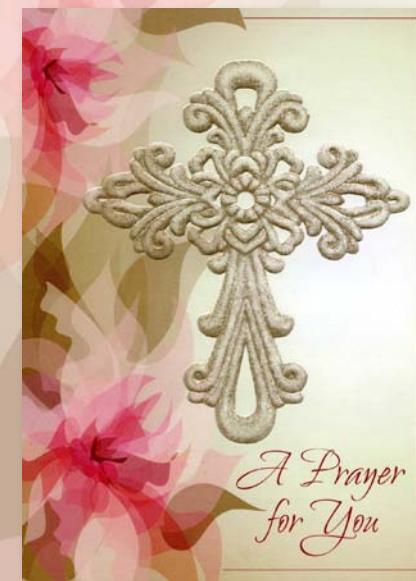
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An embossed "A Prayer for You" Enrollment Card. It's the perfect way to give the promise of prayer on any occasion.

# Pilgrims share why they come to the Shrine

by Dan Valenti

**W**hy do so many come?

Why do many thousands of pilgrims come each year to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.?

They come for many reasons. Some come seeking a spiritual or physical healing. Others come to see the awe-inspiring sacred art, both inside the Shrine and on the grounds of Eden Hill. They also come for peace and quiet amid the breathtaking natural beauty of the Hill. The Marian Fathers' prayer is that the pilgrims come primarily to receive Jesus' mercy in the Sacraments and to seek His powerful intercession at three o'clock, the Hour of Great Mercy.

As Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, puts it, "We want them to come for Jesus." He points out that amid the struggles of daily life, "the power of The Divine Mercy offers healing for our many sorrows, stresses, and hurts."

Consider the pilgrimage experience this summer of two friends who share a love of the National Shrine and Eden Hill.

"We come every year," says Victoria Alpapara from Hudson County in New Jersey.

"We usually make a pilgrimage here on a bus from our parish. It is a day to offer thanks for all the blessings that God has granted to us. To be here is to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us. It is wonderful to experience such peace."

Francesca Ramos, Victoria's friend, picked up on the thought: "To pray here in this beautiful chapel [the National Shrine] and on these beautiful grounds is to feel enlightened. I come away feeling refreshed and renewed."

"Yes," Victoria added, "we are renewed, so



Why do many thousands of pilgrims come each year to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.? "To be here is to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us," pilgrim Victoria Alpapara said (see story).

we can have peace and strength when we get back to our [everyday] lives, with our sorrows, problems, and joys."

Each mentioned the appeal of the outstanding artwork inside the Shrine and of the Lourdes Grotto and many outdoor shrines that dot Eden Hill. They say it's a welcome relief from the hustle and hurry of metropolitan life.

The two longtime friends support each other in the faith, and their pilgrimage to Eden Hill ranks as one of the spiritual highlights of their year. Francesca says that a visit to Eden Hill makes tangible "the source" of Divine Mercy, that is, Jesus Himself: "When I come here, I experience the Lord. I know He's available to us everywhere, at all times, but it's special to come here."

"Jesus wants us to avail ourselves of His mercy," Victoria says. "He offers it to us as a gift, and when we accept that gift, it pleases Him greatly."

"Personally, [Francesca and I] have grown closer in faith and friendship since we've been coming here." Victoria says the first of their visits took place in 2007. They haven't missed a year since.

You, too, can make a pilgrimage to the National Shrine this year. For more information, visit [thedivinemercy.org/shrine/tours](http://thedivinemercy.org/shrine/tours) or call the pilgrimage office at (413) 298-3931.

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Fr. Andrew Gorczyca, MIC, celebrates Mass at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine for Blessed John Paul II/Polish Heritage Day on Oct. 8, 2011. This annual event celebrates Polish culture and John Paul II's life.

## St. Faustina year starts Oct. 5

On Friday, Oct. 5, the feast day of St. Faustina, the Marian Fathers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy will begin a commemorative year running to that same date next year in 2013. That date will mark the 75th anniversary of St. Faustina's death, her entrance into eternal life.

The commemorative year, says Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, is an opportunity for pilgrims to "visit Eden Hill and avail themselves of the special graces related to The Divine Mercy that [St. Faustina] recorded in her *Diary* for our benefit and that of the whole world."

Though the exact schedule is not set, Fr. Ken says the Diamond Anniversary Year will feature a series of events related to the life and spiritual legacy of the great Apostle of Divine Mercy.

The Oct. 5 celebration will include a Holy Hour, the Rosary for Life, confessions, Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, Benediction, and the opportunity to be blessed with a relic of St. Faustina.

## Blessed JP II honored Oct. 20

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the National Shrine will celebrate one of its most popular days: Blessed John Paul II/Polish Heritage Day. The celebration will focus on the spiritual, cultural, and historical importance of the late Holy Father, according to Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, the Shrine rector. "This day seems to get deeper spiritually every year because of the effect John Paul II has on the people," Fr. Ken says. "He remains alive to us in God."

Polish Heritage Day will feature presentations on Polish culture and the life of the late Pope, a Holy Hour, the Rosary for Life, Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena, Benediction, and confessions. Pilgrims will also have the opportunity to venerate a first-class relic of Blessed John Paul II, which was enshrined on Aug. 12.

## Veterans remembered Nov. 11

To honor men and women who serve or have served in our country's military, the National Shrine will offer a special Mass for veterans and their families on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. The Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. and will include an honor guard comprised of veterans of various branches of the military.



## Blessing of the life-size Stations of the Cross

4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Blessing of the Stations by the Most Rev. Timothy A. McDonnell, Bishop of Springfield, Mass.

For more information, visit [thedivinemercy.org/stations](http://thedivinemercy.org/stations)



FELIX CARROLL

As he prepares for priestly ordination, Deacon Ron McBride, MIC, feels St. Faustina “has his back.” He enjoys visiting the side chapel in the National Shrine that contains her relics. In addition to Deacon Ron, there are 30 other Marianists in formation in the U.S. To support their vocations, see [marian.org/seminarians](http://marian.org/seminarians).

## CALLED TO PRIESTHOOD AFTER A PAINFUL PAST

The reconversion story of this Marian shows the power of Christ’s mercy.

by Felix Carroll

After one of the first homilies he preached at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, Deacon Ron McBride, MIC, privately shares a realization: It turns out he preaches as much to himself as he does to the congregation.

“Our Lord wants us to approach Him in faith, in belief not only in His authority and power but in His goodness and mercy,” Deacon Ron tells the congregation on June 30 at the 2 p.m. Mass. He’s reflecting on the Gospel reading from Matthew (8:5-13), where Jesus rewards the faith shown by a Roman centurion who requests a miracle for his dying servant.

Deacon Ron, who, God willing, will be ordained to the priesthood possibly as early as December, could easily serve as a stand-in for the faithful centurion who yields his authority to the Lord. But there was a time — nearly three decades ago — when he was a dying servant in his own right, spiritually dying, a servant to his

own sins and in need of a miracle.

He understands his biography bears review, as painful as much of it is, since it serves as evidence for two crucial truths that he is spending his religious life proclaiming:

1. The assurance Jesus makes to St. Faustina that “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy” (*Diary*, 723); and
2. The life-giving graces that result from Christ’s mercy.

At 69, he has a rare religious vocation to say the least, one that presents a blessed gift to the Marianists in their mission to serve the Church where the need is greatest. To a world toiling in sin and yearning for meaning, Deacon Ron speaks with authority.

### His church was his ‘home’

You can only gauge how far you have fallen by recollecting where you started. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Deacon Ron viv-

idly remembers his boyhood. Other kids had clubhouses and tree forts. He had his parish church, St. Mary’s.

“I admired the priests. I thought they were the best guys in the world, and I wanted to be like them. I also loved the nuns and the statues and the stained-glass windows and the Sacraments,” he says. The oldest of five children, Ron would persuade his brother Michael to join him to “play Mass.” But once he was in his teen years, he says, his attraction to girls eventually eclipsed his love of God and Mary. “I was forgetting about God, fast.”

Soon after joining the Air Force in 1963, he met a woman, and they married. The marriage was a disaster and ended badly. Neither of them had ever thought of the seriousness of the step nor of its connection with God as a sacrament, he says. Still, from God’s grace, they had two daughters together.

Meanwhile, as a sales representative for freight companies, Ron wined and dined — as the sales job required — and paid undue attention to women. He soon married again in a civil ceremony. Though she and Ron didn’t have children together, she was a good stepmother to his two girls and proved instrumental in his girls having a stable family life. In 1991, the marriage broke up after 11 years.

“I acted out terribly as a husband and poorly as a father in those years,” he says.

**Ron McBride had hit rock bottom. It was then, when he heard a voice in his heart ask, “When was the last time you were happy?” The voice then answered, “When you loved Me.”**

On the day the divorce was finalized, after the gavel fell in the courtroom, Ron was driving home. “It was raining, and I remember breaking down emotionally and crying uncontrollably.” He had hit rock bottom. It was then, when he heard a voice in his heart ask, “When was

the last time you were happy?” The voice then answered, “When you loved Me.”

### Seeking ‘refuge’

Yes, it was true: The last time he was truly at peace was when he was a boy and in church striving for holiness.

“I remembered one of Mary’s titles: Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners,” Deacon Ron says. “And so I went to her, and I asked her to please bring me back to Jesus.” That’s what she did. He began attending Mass. His mother even pulled out and presented to him the rosary beads and prayer book he received on his First Holy Communion.

Through a close friend in Texas, Ron was introduced to the message of The Divine Mercy.

“I was just blown away by what I read in the *Diary of St. Faustina*,” he says. “I never knew Jesus was that forgiving. I never thought I could ever be forgiven for the life I had led. I realized the Lord doesn’t beat us up. The other guy, Satan, does.”

Continued on page 28

**Help pave the way for God’s mercy**

**Create a lasting tribute with an engraved paving stone at the Blessed John Paul II Plaza at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.**

Memorialize a loved one, create a tribute, or celebrate a special event such as a birthday, First Holy Communion, wedding anniversary, or ordination.

You may etch up to three lines in a 5-by-10 inch paving stone that will be installed in the plaza.

Add your personalized paving stone to the Blessed John Paul II Plaza:  
[MemorialsOnEdenHill.org/JPIIPlaza](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org/JPIIPlaza)  
 1-800-671-2020

# Graces Received

## Son gets three job offers

### 'The timing of employment was not a coincidence'

Thanks to Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski's intercession, our family received what I call a miracle.

We live in Rhode Island, where the unemployment rate is more than 11 percent. My son, an experienced golf course assistant superintendent, was out of work and had been applying to every possible golf course in the surrounding states.

I remembered learning of Blessed Stanislaus when I visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and I read about him in *Marian Helper* magazine. So I began to fervently seek his intercession for my son. Within two weeks, my son received a job offer. Then, two days after that, a second job was offered. Finally, a third position was offered to him — one with more growth opportunity in his field.

The timing of my son's employment opportunities was not a coincidence, since he had been searching for a job for about nine months with absolutely no response.

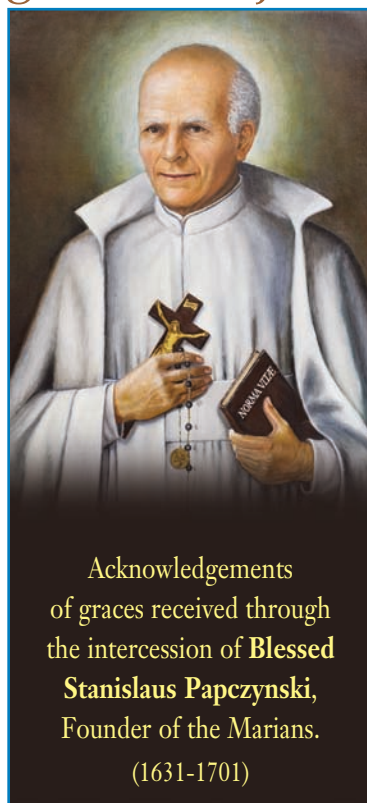
— SB, Lincoln, R.I.

### 'A healthy baby boy'

After 12 years of marriage and many disappointments, my daughter and her husband welcomed a healthy baby boy into their family. I turned regularly to Blessed Stanislaus for his help in this matter, and I believe he must have interceded. I also thank God for this blessing.

— CH, Troy, N.Y.

### 'Never give up hope'



Acknowledgements of graces received through the intercession of **Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski**, Founder of the Marians. (1631-1701)

My prayers were answered! I prayed so diligently for our son to find employment. He is battling alcoholism, an upcoming divorce, and is losing his home due to the loss of his job. "Wow," I said. "We need a miracle, indeed." I asked Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski to help him find a job. After two weeks of prayers (why didn't I turn to him sooner?), the phone call came.

Please tell everyone to never give up hope.

— LY, Pierce City, Mo.

### 'The house sold'

My son needed to sell his house. In this housing market, I didn't think he could sell it, so I started a novena to Blessed Stanislaus. The house was sold in only a few days.

— TW, Lancaster, Pa.

### 'The tumors were not cancerous'

My nephew was recently informed that he had tumors in his neck and that they were probably cancerous. The doctors recommended surgery, and the prognosis was not good.

I asked Blessed Stanislaus for help.

The surgery went well, and today we found out the tumors were not cancerous.

— LC, Pearl River, La.

For a Blessed Stanislaus prayercard (B16-CPPC), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Mączynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. E-mail: [graces@marian.org](mailto:graces@marian.org).

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# Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

Jim and Ann Carroll wanted to do something to memorialize their first son, Brian, so they added his name to the register of the Protectors of the Sanctity of Life at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass.

"Brian had Down Syndrome and lived to be 31 years old," Ann said.

The Marian Fathers offer the Protectors of the Sanctity of Life register for anyone wishing to pay tribute to those who proclaim respect for life.

Ann also explained that as a young mother she had to face some tough choices, but she realized love and a respect for life overcame all those issues.

"A year after having Brian, I became pregnant with my second child," Ann said. "I was very concerned. I was only 23, and I didn't know how I would handle having a second child with Down Syndrome. The doctor suggested I have an amniocentesis test done [a medical procedure used in prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities], but I thought about it and realized that I didn't want to have the test. I loved Brian, and I would love this child just as much if he had Down Syndrome, too."

Ann said her two other children were born healthy and that they, too, learned the power of love and respect for life from their older brother.

"My other two sons, Kevin and Tim, are the most compassionate and loving boys due to Brian. That's why we wanted to have Brian's name added to the register."

The Carrolls knew they had relatives who also recognized life as precious and sacred, so they decided to honor them by adding their names to the register. The Protectors' names are written in a register that hangs in the Shrine

of the Holy Innocents.

"They are pro-life, so we had the names of two couples and another family member added as Protectors," Ann said. "One was for a 75th birthday present, and the others were for wedding anniversaries. They all cried and were

very touched by the gifts. They are looking forward to visiting the Shrine of the Holy Innocents and seeing their names on the wall. We are planning on adding five more names to the register and will give them as Christmas presents this year."

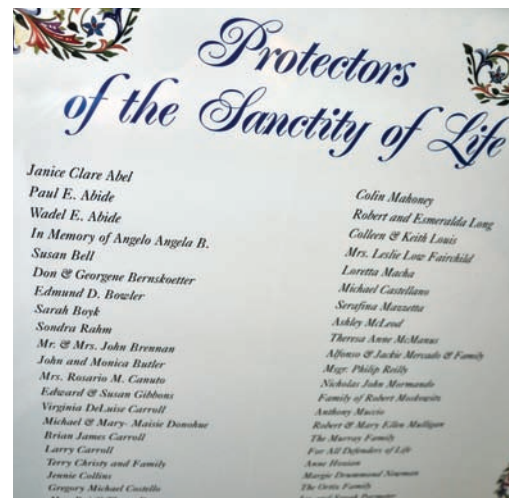
Others such as Elizabeth Lapinski and her sisters have chosen to join the Protectors as a way of standing up for the unborn. They

added four family names to the Protectors' register. "We don't agree with abortion, and we wanted to honor our relatives," Elizabeth said. "Children need to be protected, and we also wanted to remember children who have passed away."

For an offering of \$100, you may enroll yourself, a friend, or a loved one, living or deceased, as a Protector. All Protectors are remembered daily in the Rosary for Life, in Holy Mass, and in the prayers at the Hour of Great Mercy at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, and in special Masses on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Dec. 28, the feast of the Holy Innocents; and on the third Saturday in July. Protectors also will be perpetually enrolled in the Association of Marian Helpers. A certificate will be sent to the Protector. To learn more about these and other special opportunities, please contact Father Joseph's assistants for Special Gifts at 1-800-671-2020 or visit online at [MemorialsOnEdenHill.org](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org).

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Protectors of the Sanctity of Life have their names listed on the register in the Shrine of the Holy Innocents.

# FAITH

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## Children, holy innocents, have gone to heaven

They are remembered on glass tiles that adorn the walls of the

# Shrine of the Holy Innocents

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To Our TWO ANGELS  
Never Forgotten  
Forever LOVED

# DEACON RON

Continued from page 25

The timing of his annulment in 2001 was a “God-incidence,” he says. The annulment letter was dated Sept. 14, the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross, and the letter advising him of the approval was post-marked Oct. 5, the feast of St. Faustina.

## ‘Called to serve as a Marian priest’

After exploring a number of religious communities, he centered on the Marians and was accepted first as an aggregate lay member. He drove from Texas in a rented car with everything he owned. He’s been here ever since.

Prompted by his superiors and by the Holy Spirit, he decided to pursue the religious life and took his first vows in 2005 as a brother. He had no intention then of pursuing the priesthood.

But watching fellow Marians being ordained, he said, made him begin to think that he was being called to serve Christ and His people as a Marian priest.

“I felt so presumptuous telling God I wanted to be a priest,” he says, “but He kept opening doors for me.”

With his brother Michael and sister Kathleen in attendance, Deacon Ron was ordained to the transitional diaconate on May 5, 2012. While preparing for the priesthood,

**“I’m no longer concerned with what future Jesus and the Blessed Mother have in store for me,” Deacon Ron McBride, MIC, says. “They have given me the grace to be patient and accepting of whatever happens. I want only to take care of the souls they put in my path.”**

he often gives homilies at the National Shrine and leads the daily praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He also works in the Divine Mercy Gift Shop.

“At my age,” he says, “I’m no longer concerned with what future Jesus and the Blessed Mother have in store for me. They have given me the grace to be patient and accepting of whatever happens. I want only to take care of the souls they put in my path.”

Back to that homily on June 30: Deacon Ron is preaching to the pilgrims — and preaching to himself.

“If we love Jesus,” he tells the congregants, “we will show Him that love by showing our faith in prayer and in acts of obedience to Him, to His Church and for the good of others.”

Amen.

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MH



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# Outstanding Helpers

by John Foster

## ‘St. Faustina has played a big role in my life’

Jean began her association with the Marian Fathers in the mid-1990s. Not coincidentally, it was the time between Blessed Faustina’s beatification and her canonization.

“I had discovered the Marians before my first trip to Poland in 1995,” she said. “I remember that I bought four prints of Blessed Faustina on that trip, and when I brought them home, I shared them with my sisters.

“Back then, Pope John Paul II and the Marians were trying to raise Blessed Faustina to sainthood,” Jean said. “I knew the Marians were all about The Divine Mercy and Sr. Faustina, and they both were and are very important to me, too.”

Her gifts to the Marians in those early days consisted of offerings for Masses, novenas, enrollments, and Christmas cards.

Jean has always been active in her parish. She also has a deep love of Our Lady and the Rosary.

Years ago, she began leading the Rosary after Sunday Masses, and eventually she became the first president of the St. Joseph’s Rosary Society. She raised money for the parish with raffles. She bought crystal rosary beads for all the members of the rosary society.

She and her husband made several additional pilgrimages to Poland. Along with the prints of St. Faustina, Jean purchased a number of Divine Mercy images. She shared them with family members and donated one to her home parish, St. Michael the Archangel.

Saint Faustina continues to play a central role in Jean’s life, and she continues to be generous in her parish as well as with the Marians.

In 2009, when she found out that the Marians did not have a statue of St. Faustina, she jumped at the opportunity. “Saint Faustina has played a big role in my life. In my mind, there is no better location for her statue than at



In 2009, when Jean found out that the Marians did not have a statue of St. Faustina, she jumped at the opportunity. “In my mind, there is no better location for her statue than at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill,” she said.

the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill,” Jean said. “I’m just grateful that I was able to help the Marians. God has been so good to me, and I just want to share His goodness.”

Over the years, Jean’s relationship with the Marians has evolved. While she still sends enrollments and has Masses said by the Marians, she also has established memorials on Eden Hill for deceased loved ones.

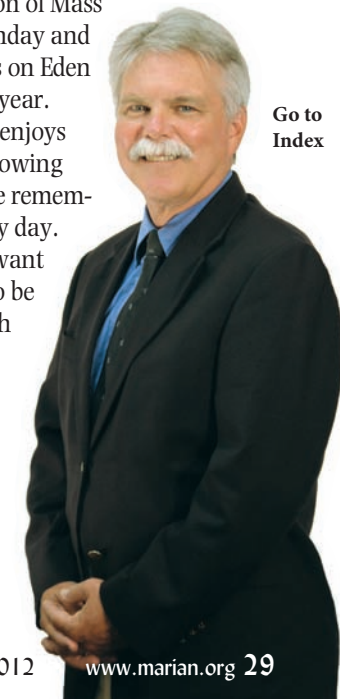
When her husband passed away several years ago, she made offerings for two granite plaques in the Immaculate Conception Candle Shrine on Eden Hill — one to honor the memory of her husband and one given in thanksgiving

for the long and happy life that they shared together. “I love that Ted and I are remembered in prayer every day by the Marians,” she said.

Jean has also remembered other family members with memorials on Eden Hill. Recently, upon the death of her sister, she had her sister’s name engraved in a ciborium, the vessel used to distribute Holy Communion during the celebration of Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday and at other celebrations on Eden Hill throughout the year.

Again, she said, she enjoys the piece of mind knowing that her sister will be remembered in prayer every day.

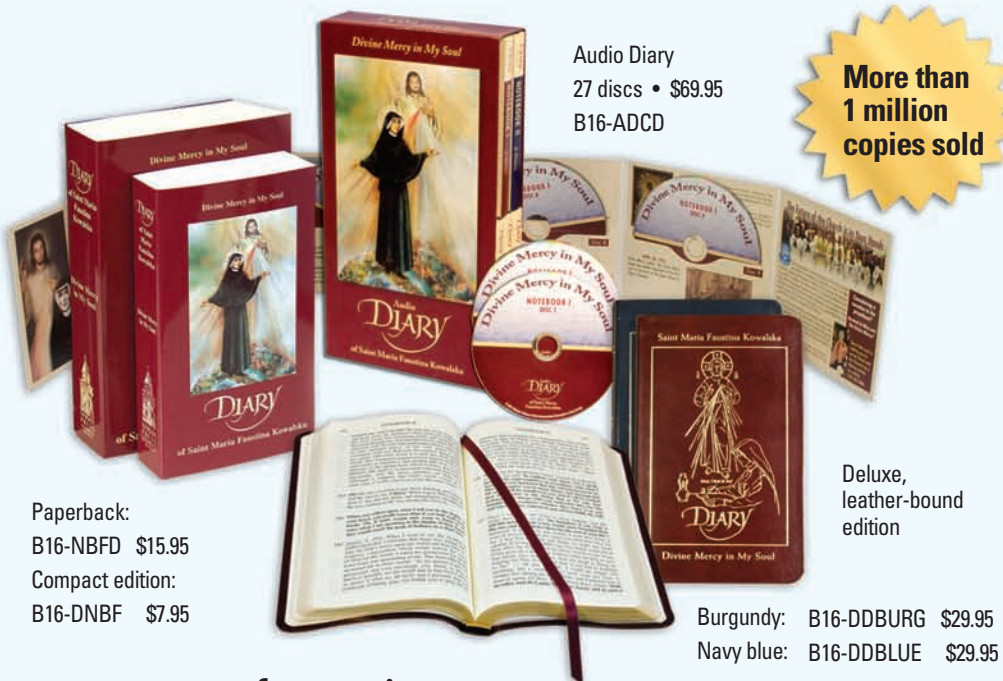
If you, like Jean, want a relative or friend to be remembered through a memorial on Eden Hill, or if you would like to make an extraordinary gift to the Marians, please contact me.



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John Foster is Fr. Joseph’s Assistant for Special Gifts. You can contact him at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or call him toll free at 1-800-671-2020. E-mail: [helpers@marian.org](mailto:helpers@marian.org).

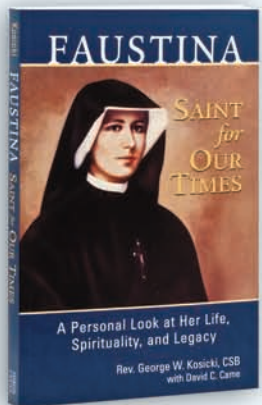
# Keep the Diary next to your Bible for constant insight and inspiration



## An urgent message for our times ...

Recall how Pope John Paul II quoted from the *Diary of St. Faustina* when he entrusted the world to Divine Mercy in 2002. "May the binding promise of the Lord Jesus be fulfilled: from here there must go forth 'the spark that will prepare the world for [His] final coming'" (*Diary*, 1732).

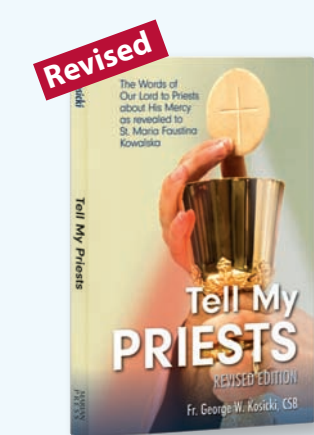
## Saint Faustina's special year starts on Oct. 5 ...



### Faustina, Saint for Our Times

More than a biography or a historical presentation of a life once lived. Through years of studying her *Diary* and immersing himself in Divine Mercy, Rev. George W. Kosicki, CSB, came to know St. Faustina — not as some remote visionary but as a real person, fulfilling her promise to return to earth to encourage others to trust in God's mercy. B16-SFT • \$14.95

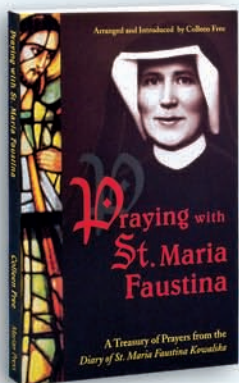
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See review, page 6



### Praying with St. Maria Faustina

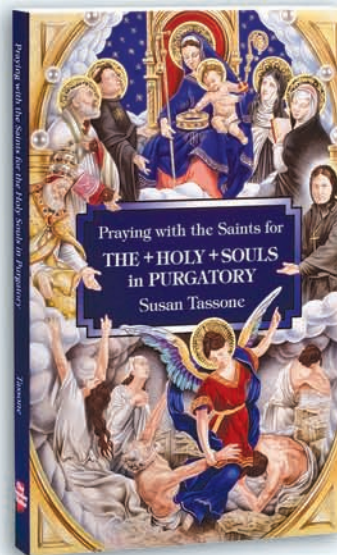
Make St. Faustina your mercy prayer partner by using the nearly 150 prayers drawn from her *Diary*. By Colleen Free. B16-PWSF2 • \$6.95 PAPERBACK • 115 PAGES



St. Faustina Rosary B16-OMR1 • \$13.95

# Focus your prayers on the Rosary, the Holy Souls

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of October to the Holy Rosary, highlighting the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7. The best way to celebrate the month is to pray the Rosary. The month of November is dedicated to remembering the Holy Souls in Purgatory, with the Church encouraging the faithful to offer prayers and sacrifices for them.

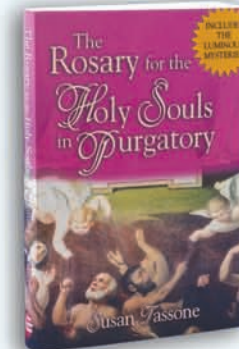


### Praying with the Saints for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

What do we know about purgatory and the Holy Souls? What have the saints revealed about purgatory — including St. Faustina and Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski, Founder of the Marian Fathers? How did the saints pray for the Holy Souls? As intercessors for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, what devotions and practices can we observe throughout the year, inspired by the saints?

Susan Tassone, well-known author on purgatory, addresses these questions and more.

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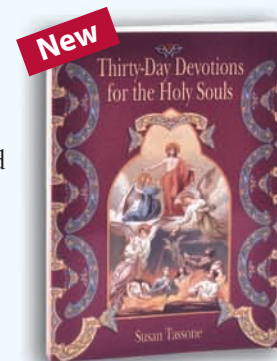


### The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

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 Scripture passages for each mystery to guide your prayer. By Susan Tassone. B16-RHSI • \$6.95 PAPERBACK • 189 PAGES

### Thirty-Day Devotions for the Holy Souls

Here are daily suggestions for remembering departed family members or friends. There are prayers, meditations, Scriptural passages, and reflections from the Church Fathers, saints, and theologians. Among those quoted are Blessed John Paul II and St. Faustina. The suggestions for 30 days make this book ideal for daily use during the November remembrance. By Susan Tassone. B16-DFHSP • \$6.95 • PAPERBACK • 160 PAGES



**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. B16-TTJ



**To Eternity**  
This easy-to-read pamphlet is your guide to praying for a different group of departed souls every day of the week. B16-PFTD



**Heaven, Hell & Purgatory**  
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# Between Us

by a Marian and a Helper

## Mercy in my life

I spend most of my time “on the road” trying to spread the message of Divine Mercy. I’m joined by two Marian seminarians. We travel to parishes to give retreats and all-day workshops. Our mission is to instruct others so that they can live the message and share it with others.

One of the parishes to which we were invited was a recent merger of three parishes. Because of disunity, they had lost three pastors in three years. The present pastor was ready to resign as well, but he hoped The Divine Mercy message

*“People were ... talking casually with each other without regard to old parish boundaries.”*

and devotion might have a positive effect on his parish. Before we spoke, we were welcomed with a meal, and we each sat with a different group of people.

Then, we gave our two-hour presentation on the message and devotion and prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. I ended by blessing the parishioners with the relic of St. Faustina. When I finally arrived at the reception hall, the pastor warmly greeted me and said, “It really worked!” For the first time in three years, people were relaxed and friendly, talking casually with each other without regard to old parish boundaries. Before that night, he said, people from each of the former parishes would not mingle with those from the other two former parishes.

For the first time, he saw people from parish “C” initiate something. They were suggesting how to make Divine Mercy part of parish outreach. He saw people from both parish “A” and “B” agreeing with those suggestions. It marked a new beginning for that parish.

It’s encouraging for the seminarians and me to witness such miracles of mercy on our travels.

Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC, is the director of the Marian Evangelization Team. He has been with the Congregation of Marian Fathers since 1982.



Fr. Dan  
Marian



Steven  
Marian Helper

As a Marian Helper and Knight of Malta, I am the volunteer publisher of a newsletter offering Catholic spirituality to the incarcerated.

My experience as a volunteer in Catholic prison ministry has allowed me to witness a whole new understanding of the Lord’s mercy upon us sinners. After

all, Jesus did say, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mk 2:17).

One of the most Spirit-filled experiences of my life has been attending Holy Mass and prayer services behind the walls of prisons with fellow Catholics and others seeking to draw closer to God.

*The prisoners “ardently sought the mercy of the Lord.”*

My first such experience was in a medium-security setting with 60 men. While the prayers were the same ones I had heard weekly at my home parish, the feeling was very different. They ardently sought the mercy of the Lord, and their desire was clear. Many such souls genuinely struggle with shame and low self-regard as a result of the damage that they have caused to their victims and their own families. The role of Catholic prison ministry is to help assure these men and women that God’s love and mercy is readily available to them.

I have brought others who have shared their own witness of the wonder of mercy felt by all who attended. So I encourage you to support your diocesan prison ministry. More than one prisoner has told me, “Thank you for coming out today. It’s comforting that someone knows we are alive in here — and actually cares.” Such a “ministry of presence” itself becomes a sign of God’s mercy to the prisoners who attend.

Steven G. Caron, KM, is a CPA financial advisor from the Boston area. He is the publisher of *The Serving Brother* newsletter of the Order of Malta.

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# ‘How I heard the call’

When considering the Marian Congregation, I went on a vocation retreat in September 2007. At the retreat, I received graces that showed our Lord and Our Lady were drawing me to join the Marians. This included that it fell on the weekend before the beatification of the Founder of the Marians, Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski. Further, I received graces of confirmation that God was leading me to be a Marian during my first retreat after entering the postulancy. This conviction has grown stronger through the years. Now, I have professed my perpetual vows, and I am convinced that God has called me to serve Him as a Marian.

Three reasons I joined the Marians are:

- ✓ Love of Mary Immaculate
- ✓ Offering prayers and sacrifices for the souls in purgatory
- ✓ The mission of promoting The Divine Mercy.

— Brother Matthew  
Holladay, MIC

## 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 on:  
Oct. 5-7, Nov. 2-4,  
Dec. 14-16

Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC,  
Vocation Director  
Marians of the Immaculate Conception  
515 Belleview Blvd.,  
Steubenville, OH 43952

E-mail: [vocations@marian.org](mailto:vocations@marian.org)  
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806  
Website: [marian.org/vocations](http://marian.org/vocations)



See the Marian Fathers’ vocation video at [marian.org/vocationvideo](http://marian.org/vocationvideo).

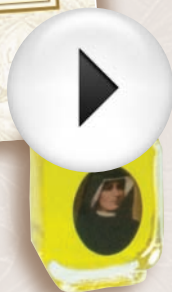
# 3 ways to seek the intercession of St. Faustina

1. By receiving the Sacraments on Oct. 5, her feast day, and prayerfully anointing yourself and others with blessed oil.
2. By making a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.
3. By enrolling someone in need in the St. Faustina Novena, Sept. 26-Oct. 4.



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