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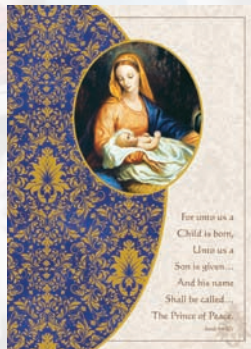
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MARIAN HELPER

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On the cover: In the American heartland, the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy embarked in August on a monthlong, cross-country tour to spread the message of Divine Mercy. Photo by Felix Carroll.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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 20 countries around the world. We support the Holy Father and embrace the official teachings of the Catholic Church in our special calling to:



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

Association of Marian Helpers (AMH)

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

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

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

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Father Joseph Writes

Fr. Joseph, MIC

'Big shoes to fill'



When our Provincial Superior, the Very Rev. Fr. Kazmier Chwalek, MIC, asked me to serve as the new "Father Joseph, MIC," my first thought was, "There's no way I could ever accomplish what Fr. Michael Gaitley [MIC] has done."

Father Mike is one of the best visionaries I have ever worked with, including my work with top business executives. His accomplishments read like the litany of a polished executive after a long tenure, yet he served as director of the [Association of Marian Helpers](#) for little more than three-and-a-half years.

During his tenure here at the Marian Helpers Center, we have greatly improved our outreach for evangelization, operational effectiveness, and financial bottom line. These accomplishments have enabled us to offer more religious materials and services to our Marian Helpers, keep our operations functioning, and support the ministry and cost of living of our religious community.

With Fr. Mike's laser-like focus on evangelization, he wrote four bestselling books ([Consoling the Heart of Jesus](#), [33 Days to Morning Glory](#), [The 'One Thing' Is Three](#), and ['You Did it to Me'](#)) that laid the foundation for [Hearts Afire: Parish-Based Programs from the Marian Fathers \(HAPP®\)](#). These programs have set many hearts on fire with love of God and neighbor and are transforming entire parishes and even dioceses. In fact, many people have let me know how making their consecration to Jesus through Mary — using [HAPP's 33 Days to Morning Glory program](#) — has renewed their lives spiritually.

In his continuing role as director of the Office of Evangelization and Development,

Fr. Mike can now focus his energies on

developing more evangelization initiatives and writing more books on solid Catholic teaching. Speaking of evangelization, read our cover story on the [Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy](#) and their road trip. This is a new ministry established by Mark Middendorf of [Lighthouse Catholic Media](#) and pastorally supported by Fr. Mike. It's drawing young men and offering them opportunities to serve the poor through corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In fact, the [Marian Missionaries](#) have already given away more than one million Divine Mercy images, pamphlets, and prayer-cards to the poor through fundraising and donations. We've shared with you in this magazine about other partnerships forged by Fr. Mike that have also proven fruitful in reaching souls, such as those with [Divine Mercy Team](#) and [St. Luke Productions](#).

Turning to new media, I believe the free [Divine Mercy App](#) created by Fr. Mike with our team at the Center is second-to-none as an effective teaching tool, yet it's so easy to use.

Last, but certainly not least, has been the work of Fr. Mike and lay Marian community member Mark Fanders in establishing Divine Mercy Art. This initiative has transformed the world of Catholic religious art by allowing people to purchase the highest quality religious canvas artwork at the most affordable prices available. It has enabled us to get the image of Divine Mercy into thousands of churches and homes as Jesus requested. You can see this artwork at [DivineMercyArt.com](#).

So I've got big shoes to fill as the new Father Joseph. One great blessing I do have, however, is that Fr. Mike and I have worked together for several years now on various projects (he's been the visionary, and I've been the executor). This experience, along with his continued presence at the Center as EDO director, will provide me with much needed guidance and support.

I am humbled and a bit intimidated by this new role, but I know that God's grace, Mary's intercession, and your prayers will see me through. Thank you, and God bless!

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

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Father Joseph's Mailbox

Marian Helpers share how they spread the message of Divine Mercy and perform works of mercy.

Helping youth who seek God's mercy

I'm the founder of Divine Mercy for Youth, a street ministry that promotes Jesus, the Divine Mercy. I work with our youth who are at-risk. They feel unloved, unwanted, and forgotten, and they don't go to church. For more than 15 years, I have reached out to such youth who are seeking the mercy of God. Many times, these youth are poor, runaways, homeless, or involved with gangs.



We begin by ministering to our youth on the street with love. We seek to establish a friendship and offer them the image of Divine Mercy. We also provide them with food, clothing, shoes, school supplies, and other basic necessities for everyday life.

Our mission is to lead our youth into a loving and trusting relationship with God through the Merciful Heart of Jesus and His Church. It's important for them to know that they are loved by Jesus and that they can trust in His mercy. This is the greatest truth that moves young hearts to follow Jesus, and they begin living a holy life.

— JB, Scranton, Pa.

'He still has me walking'

At the time of my mother's death, I was bed-ridden and suffering a lot of pain because of rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis. When I began going through her belongings, I found a little folded piece of paper with the image of Divine Mercy. Back then, I didn't know anything about Divine Mercy. As I began to learn about it, I became inspired to spread the message. I prayed, "Lord, I can't do much walking. If you want me to spread Divine Mercy, then I am asking you to help me with my pain."

Sure enough, I began to respond to treatments, and I started a Divine Mercy prayer group (with my pastor's OK). Then, I went on to start groups in four other parishes — a total of two in English and three in Spanish.

Jesus still has me walking, so I'm going to continue to spread the Divine Mercy message.

— MGB, N.J.

'Devoted to spreading Divine Mercy'

I have long been devoted to spreading the message of Divine Mercy. I began a Divine Mercy Cenacle eight years ago that is now based in Stockbridge, Mass.



I moved to South Carolina a year ago. I put the image of Divine Mercy and the book 33 Days to Morning Glory on my desk at work. A couple of women said they wanted to read the book, so I organized the first stage of the Marians' HAPP program. It was a small group from three parishes. Hopefully, this will spark more interest from all three parishes.

For Lent, I asked our pastor if I could invite a Marian to speak to our parish about Divine Mercy. He said yes, so we had Fr. Mark Baron [MIC] come during our Lenten mission. It has really ignited Divine Mercy in our parish.

— MN, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

'No matter what, you love'

A nagging illness, injury, broken relationships, mental anguish, unemployment, and personal loss all pierce the shield of self-reliance. At such times, you can gently inquire of the one suffering:



How are things? You might have to listen for an hour or more. You might even get the brush-off. But the key is being there when the moment comes: the mercy moment.

The inquiries others make of such suffering souls is often not gentle but demanding, unknowing, and unfeeling. It's up to you, then, to show them compassion, reassuring them that God is truly merciful.

In the mercy moment, you might speak, or you might just listen, but no matter what, you love.

— DD, Warrenton, Va.

Thanks to all of you for sharing how you spread the message of Divine Mercy and perform works of mercy. May your example inspire other Marian Helpers. If you are looking for practical suggestions on how to put mercy into action, I recommend that you check out 'You Did It to Me' on page 30.

— Fr. Joseph, MIC

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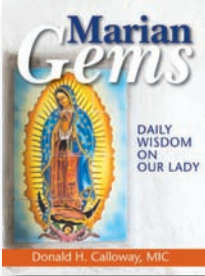
MARIAN GEMS

DAILY WISDOM ON OUR LADY

ARRANGED AND INTRODUCED BY FR. DONALD H. CALLOWAY, MIC

MARIAN PRESS, 232 PP., \$12.95

PRODUCT CODE: **B23-MGEM**



As one cannot go to the statue of a mother holding a child and cut away the mother without destroying the child, so neither can you have Jesus without His Mother. Could you claim as a friend one who, every time he came into your home, refused to speak to your mother or treated her with cold indifference? (Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen).

Because of a food, we were cast out of the loveliness of paradise, but by means of another food we have been restored to the joys of paradise. Eve ate the food by which she condemned us to the hunger of an eternal fast. Mary brought forth the food that opened for us the entrance to the banquet of heaven (St. Peter Damian).

Every day of the year, *Marian Gems* brings you a pithy but profound quote like these on Our Lady from popes, saints, blessed, and venerable servants of God. The gems are arranged and introduced by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, the Marians' vocation director and a bestselling Marian Press author, who is well-known for his deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Father Donald included his favorite gems in his book *Under the Mantle*. Readers then encouraged him to publish the quotes in a separate book for daily prayer. Thus, *Marian Gems* was born.

Readers will appreciate how Fr. Donald does his best to match a saint's feast day with something the saint said about Mary. Further, he has tried to select appropriate gems for Mary's more universally celebrated feast days. Finally, under each gem, he includes a title of Our Lady to guide the reader in prayer.

I strongly recommend *Marian Gems* to help you grow daily in your devotion to Our Lady.

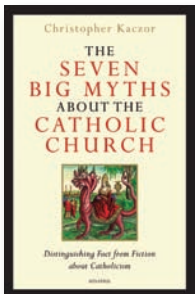
THE SEVEN BIG MYTHS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

DISTINGUISHING FACT FROM FICTION ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

BY CHRISTOPHER KACZOR

IGNATIUS PRESS, HARDCOVER, 164 PP., \$15.26

PRODUCT CODES: **B23-7BIG**



Philosopher Christopher Kaczor tackles seven pervasive myths about the Catholic Church with razor-sharp logic. He writes:

In the contemporary world, misinformation and myth abound in reference to certain key issues. Everyone "knows" the Church opposes happiness, freedom, and science. Everyone "knows" the Church hates women and homosexuals. Everyone "knows" contraception enhances love, and opposition to same-sex marriage is based on bigotry. And, of course, everyone "knows" of the pedophilia of most Catholic priests, who, distorted by celibacy, sexually abuse children.

Kaczor's chapters on contraception and same-sex marriage are particularly strong. In addressing contraception, he points out that it makes perfect sense if you're talking about "mere sexual attraction," but it undermines the nature of true erotic love in marriage. "Erotic love — by its very nature — is a drive toward deeper unity with the beloved, and children are a wonderful manifestation of the unity between husband and wife," he writes. Thus, he concludes, "A couple only uses contraception when they do not want a child to unite them."

In his chapter on same-sex marriage, he observes that "only couples of the opposite sex can do acts that unite them in a bodily way, in an organic way, so only opposite-sex couples can achieve a comprehensive union of spirit and body." He sums up, "If marriage is precisely a comprehensive union, then only opposite-sex couples can get married."

The great apologist Peter Kreeft endorsed the book, writing that these "two chapters are masterpieces each worth 10 times the price of the whole book." I couldn't agree more.

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Ask a Marian

with Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC

What about the Pope's Marian devotion?

Q. I hear Pope Francis is devoted to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. Can you tell me about it?

A. There is a fascinating story behind this Catholic devotion and some interesting connections between my own vocation and the Marian devotion of Pope Francis. A painting of Our Lady from the 17th century depicts her as the Immaculate Conception untying a series of knots. It is displayed in a church in Augsburg, Germany. Pope Francis saw this painting when, as a priest, he was briefly studying in Germany in 1986. That was the year that I joined the Marians. He brought a postcard of the painting back with him to Argentina and was then ordained a bishop on June 27, 1992, the day that I was ordained a priest.

As an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, he promoted the devotion, and it began to spread. A few months after Pope Benedict XVI was elected in 2005, then-Cardinal Bergoglio presented him with a chalice with the image of Mary engraved on it, done by a craftsman in Buenos Aires, according to the instructions of the Cardinal.

The concept of Mary as the undoer of knots dates all the way back to the second century. In his work *Against Heresies*, St. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote, "And thus also it was that the knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. For what the virgin Eve had bound fast through unbelief, this did the Virgin Mary set free through faith." Pope Francis quoted this on Oct. 13, 2013, during his prayer for the Marian Day on the occasion of the Year of Faith. He explained how our sins create knots, which take away our peace and serenity. He then said, "Mary, whose 'yes' opened the door for God to undo the knot of the ancient disobedience, is the Mother who patiently and lovingly brings us to God, so that He can untangle the knots of our soul by His fatherly mercy." Let's turn to Our Lady for help with untangling the knots in our lives.

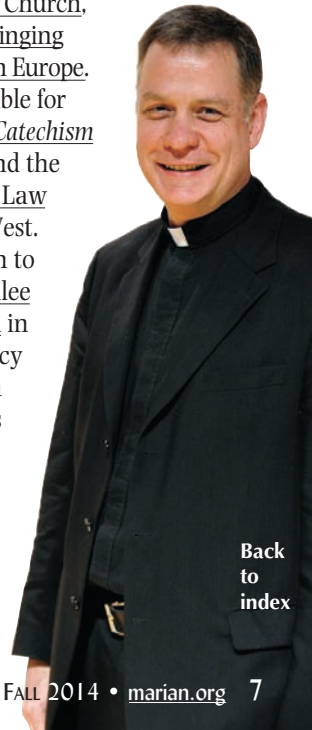
Q. With his many legacies as Pope, do you think St. John Paul II warrants the title of "Great"?

A. Until now, three Popes have been called "Great" — Leo I, Gregory I, and Nicholas I, all of whom lived between the fifth and the ninth centuries. They gained the title because of their holiness, the breadth of their writings, and their many accomplishments. The Church never officially bestowed the title; rather, they were popularly acclaimed as such when they died or from the perspective of history.

Clearly, a similar case exists for the acclamation of St. Pope John Paul II as "Great." At his funeral in 2005, many people held up signs and cried out, "*Santo Subito*" ("Saint Immediately" in Italian). And now he has been canonized in record time — only nine years after his death. At his funeral, there were also many signs and cries of the Latin word "*Magnus*," meaning "Great." In this regard, one of our Marian Press books is titled *John Paul II: The Great Mercy Pope*. Parishes and schools bear the name St. John Paul the Great. There is even John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido, Calif.

From his papacy, we can recall his numerous writings and travels all over the world, his mission to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy, his profound devotion to Mary, his advocacy for the family, his proclamation of the Gospel of Life, his teachings on the Theology of the Body, his development of World Youth Days, the many saints he gave the Church, and his crucial role in bringing down the Iron Curtain in Europe.

He was also responsible for giving the Church the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the revised Codes of Canon Law for both the East and West. He prepared the Church to celebrate the Great Jubilee Year of the Incarnation in 2000. Finally, his papacy was the third longest in history. So I believe it is only a matter of time before he is universally acclaimed as "St. John Paul the Great."



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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.



Congress participants join in the celebration as WACOM III concludes on Aug. 19, with the clergy processing after the final Mass. The host of the Congress, Cardinal Ruben Salazar Gomez, archbishop of Bogota, Colombia, was the principal celebrant of the Mass.

A celebration of mercy Latino style

Colombians host first WACOM in South America.

by Chris Sparks

What made the third World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in Bogota, Colombia, great? WACOM III was like a big family reunion of the People of God as they gathered to celebrate mercy from Aug. 15-19 in ways expressive of the rich Latino culture in Colombia — from devotion to the saints to delicious food, gorgeous flowers, and joyful music.

The Mercy Congress drew more than 1,200 of the most committed Divine Mercy devotees from at least 40 countries, including many cardinals, bishops, priests, and lay leaders in the Divine Mercy movement from around the world. They included some Marian Fathers from Stockbridge, Mass., and lay leaders of their Divine Mercy apostolates.

There was excellent food — from a variety of fresh tropical fruits to an assortment of great pastries and other treats. There was fun. There was faith. And every single day, there were many gorgeous Colombian roses displayed by the altar and the speakers' platform.

Oh — and the saints showed up. In one of

the most powerful, and yet understated, acts of the entire Congress, the Eucharistic Lord was adored before an altar lined with the relics of saints in a chapel beneath the gymnasium at the Colegio Agustiniano Ciudad Salitre, where much of the Congress was held. Our prayers and presence were literally resting upon the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and some of His most faithful servants, including St. John Paul II, St. Faustina Kowalska, and Blessed Michael Sopocko.

Five days of mercy

Each day brought different opportunities for spiritual growth, though there was always music, much of it festive. The mornings usually consisted of morning prayer, then conferences given by cardinals, bishops, or priests. These were punctuated by testimonies from those whose lives have been transformed by Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and by messages from the Holy Father Pope Francis and Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the host of WACOM II and St. John Paul II's secretary.

Most afternoons offered a change of pace. On the first two days of the Congress, we dispersed throughout Bogota to see firsthand the works of mercy being performed and the immense needs experienced by so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. On the third day, we celebrated a festival of mercy in the schoolyard of the Colegio San Pedro Claver, complete with times of praise and worship, Eucharistic adoration, many testimonies, and booths for food, drink, and many Divine Mercy apostolates and ministries from around the world. The fourth day took us far afield to the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá throughout the day, then on an unexpected trip to Compensar Convention Center for a remarkably joyful evening of music, a lightshow, and fun.

On the morning of the fifth day, the Congress was called to prayerful reflection and discernment of the past and the future, of the blessings received and the calls given by the Holy Spirit to the Divine Mercy movement worldwide.

Immense blessings

The past? The blessings from WACOM

were immense. Divine Mercy devotees confirmed each other in their service to God, His Church, and the whole human family through shared testimony, prayer, and worship of the Eucharistic Lord.

“Scores of national delegations from five continents gathered in Bogota, Colombia, for WACOM III, to reflect, to witness, and to share the heart of the Gospel: Divine and human mercy,” said the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior for the Marians in the United States and Argentina.

“That is why I am so happy to be here,” added Fr. Kaz, a continental vice-coordinator for WACOM. “That is why the Marians have helped organize all the Congresses.”

“What we discovered is that the planners of the Congress — Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, WACOM president and archbishop of Vienna, Austria, and Cardinal Ruben Salazar, the archbishop of Bogota, who was placed in charge — were very grateful for our

help in preparing for the Congress,” said Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC.

Next WACOM in Philippines

So those are the blessings from WACOM past. What of WACOM yet to come?

Cardinal Schönborn made the official announcement: The fourth WACOM will be held in the Philippines in 2017.

“The Filipinos have carried the message of Divine Mercy wherever they go,” said Fr. Seraphim in response to the announcement. “So it’s appropriate that the Congress should be



Part of the North American delegation gather to celebrate at the end of the Mercy Congress on Aug. 19. They include the Most Rev. Robert W. Finn, bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, the North American coordinator (top, left center), the Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC (center), Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC (left), Dave and Joan Maroney of MOMM (far left), and Bryan Thatcher, MD, of EADM (right).

held there. The first one was in Rome. The second one was in Krakow. The third one was in South America under the first South American Pope. Now, it should go towards Oceania and the Far East.” ▶ **Marians in the Philippines.**

Why do the Marians encourage Divine Mercy devotees to attend these Congresses? Fr. Kaz has the answer.

“We see in this apostolic work the transformation of the world, which is so much in need of deep renewal, conversion, and healing,” he said. “To see the faces filled with tears of joy and visible love for Christ has been so inspiring for us. We wish to share this happiness with all the lovers of Divine Mercy around the world. Seeing how far and wide it has spread is our true consolation and joy.

“May God be praised for entrusting it to us,” he concluded. “And may Our Immaculate and Merciful Mother guide our promotion of this consoling message of salvation for all humanity.”

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Vatican examines case that could lead to sainthood for Marian Founder

It's a miracle — if both a Vatican congregation and the Pope approve!

Two years ago, the Marian Fathers learned of the alleged healing of a woman in Poland whose condition was considered irreversibly terminal. The doctor informed her family members that there was no earthly hope for her recovery, and they immediately started reciting a novena asking for divine intervention through the intercession of the Marian Founder Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski. The woman's condition began rapidly improving during the novena, and she was soon able to leave the hospital.

On May 6, 2014, after two years of scrutiny by the Tribunal of the Diocese of Elk in Poland, documentation of the alleged miracle was submitted to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints for its review. If, after their own investigation, the Vatican Congregation recognizes the healing as a miracle obtained through Blessed Stanislaus's intercession and if the Pope also approves it, then the Marian Founder could be declared a saint.

The Marians invite you to join them in praying for the canonization of the Marian Founder.

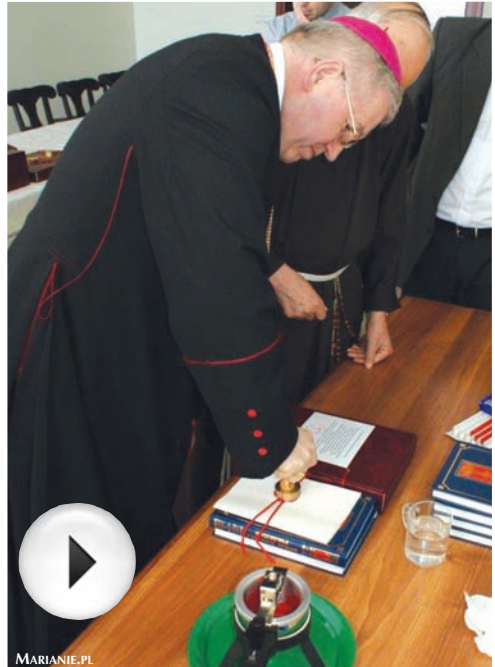
“Undoubtedly, any congregation considers the canonization of its founder as an exceptional grace,” said Fr. Andrzej Pakula, MIC, superior general of the Congregation. “I trust that also for us, it would become an additional stimulus to strengthen our vocations, to enliven our charism, and to bring about a more dynamic growth of our community.”

Marians on the move in the U.S.

As is the case with many religious congregations, every three years, the Marians of the Mary, Mother of Mercy Province, headquartered in Stockbridge, Mass., are either confirmed again in their posts or reassigned to different positions. The province includes the Marians in the United States and Argentina.

Assignments announced in June include:

- The recently ordained Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, took over as “Fr. Joseph, MIC,” director of the



On May 6, the Most Rev. Jerzy Mazur, Bishop of the Diocese of Elk, Poland, seals the documentation about an alleged healing through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski. The documentation was submitted to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints for its review.

Association of Marian Helpers, on July 28 at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge.

- Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, the former “Fr. Joseph, MIC,” continues his work as director of the Evangelization and Development Office, also here in Stockbridge.
- Father Anthony Gramlich, MIC, who previously served as rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy for nearly four years until late 2010, has returned as rector and now also serves as Stockbridge house superior and formator of seminarians here.
- Former Shrine Rector Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, is now assistant provincial secretary.
- Father Donald Calloway, MIC, was reappointed as vocation director.

Most of these assignments became effective Aug. 14 in the U.S., including those for the formation houses in Washington, D.C., and Steubenville, Ohio, as well as the five Marian-run parishes in the Midwest.

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In the News: Marians' Divine Mercy Apostolates

Headliners at Healthcare Conference announced

Healthcare professionals, save the date! The 2015 Medicine, Bioethics, and Spirituality Conference will welcome two familiar guests from France: Sr. Marie Simon-Pierre Normand, a maternity and neonatal hospital nurse who served as keynote speaker in 2012, and Sr. Marie Thomas Fabre, a midwife, of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of Catholic Maternity. The conference will be held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., on May 6-7.

Sister Marie Simon-Pierre's cure from Parkinson's disease was recognized as the beatification miracle for John Paul II. Sister Marie Thomas Fabre, superior to Sr. Marie Simon Pierre at the time of the miracle and presently mother general of her Congregation, insisted that John Paul II "had not said his last word" only a few hours before the cure.

"These two women participated in history," said Marie Romagnano, RN, founder of Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy. "At our 2015 conference, Sr. Marie Simon-Pierre will share how her current responsibilities as president of a maternity hospital and her work with Parkinson's patients in Lourdes have given her a new perspective on patient care for both critically ill infants and those suffering from a chronic illness."

Visit thedivinemercy.org/worcester or call 1-800-462-7426 for more information.

EADM pursues several projects

Bryan Thatcher, MD, director of Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy (EADM), is pursuing several projects: creating a program of praying for the sick and dying for use in parish ministry by Kathy Wabick, a founding mem-



FELIX CARROLL

Sister Marie Simon-Pierre Normand, RN, (right) and Sr. Marie Thomas Fabre, midwife, are returning to the Healthcare Conference in 2015.

ber of the Buffalo-based Disciples of Divine Mercy in the Holy Face of Jesus; dubbing the apostolate's EWTN cenacle series in Spanish; and developing a program of evangelization on Divine Mercy using the award-winning Generations Unite in Prayer DVD.

In other news, Bryan will speak in Tacoma, Wash., at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish on Sept. 13, and at St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, Ind., on Sept. 27. On Oct. 26, he

addresses the Catholic Medical Association in Boston, Mass., and on Nov. 22, he speaks at a Eucharistic conference in Brentwood, Calif.

Institute announces web series

Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy and author of the popular "Divine Mercy Q&A" column on thedivinemercy.org, has two new weekly web series premiering this fall. The first, a five-week series called "Healing in the Name of Jesus," begins Oct. 5, the feast of St. Faustina. The second, a 10-part series called "Divine Mercy and Divine Justice," begins Nov. 1, All Saints Day.

Visit thedivinemercy.org/jpII.

MOMM on tour across country

Dave and Joan Maroney of Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM) announced their fall tour across the country. Highlights of the tour, which is being planned, include:

- Helping St. Mary's Catholic Church and School in Johnson City, Tenn., celebrate the Worldwide Children's Holy Hour on Oct. 3.
- Sharing Divine Mercy at St. Wendelin's Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, on Oct. 16, the anniversary of St. John Paul II's papal election.

For up-to-date information on the tour, visit thedivinemercy.org/momm.

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► Follow the Missionaries' tour through their video blog.



FELIX CARROLL

In the American heartland, the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy include (from left) Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. Eric Mahl, Lewis Brooks, Marcus Fluty, Rubin Mendoza, Br. David Guza, OMV, and Adam Fluty. Father Chris Alar, MIC (far right), joined the Missionaries for the first week of the tour.

ROAD WARRIORS FOR CHRIST

Marian Missionaries journey to the heart of America.

by Felix Carroll

In the wee hours of Aug. 4, in a small chapel in western Massachusetts near the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, a group of young men with bags packed stands to hear the Gospel reading during Mass. The reading couldn't be more fitting for the occasion.

Disciples in a boat, far offshore, being tossed on the waves, encounter Jesus walking on the water and telling them to take courage, to be not afraid. Peter, whose emotions often got the best of him, is invited to step out upon the water, which he does. All is well, at first. Then, a strong wind blows. Peter becomes terrified and starts sinking. He cries out to the Lord to save him. Jesus stretches out His hand and catches him.

"O you of little faith," Jesus admonishes, "why did you doubt?"

After proclaiming the Gospel reading from Matthew 14:22-36, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC,

cautions in his homily that proverbial stiff winds may await these modern disciples sitting before him, possibly in the form of physical and spiritual hardship — possibly in the form of outright rejection by those whom they'll seek to serve.

"But the lesson in this Gospel is to keep our hearts fixed on Jesus," Fr. Michael says. "When we stay fixed on Jesus, He'll make miracles happen through us."

Men with a mission

Upon the close of Mass, the young men pile into a 15-passenger van pulling a trailer loaded up with prayercards, Divine Mercy images, and books. Behind the wheel, a Marian Missionary named Eric Mahl points the van west, thereby embarking on the monthlong, cross-country Divine Mercy Tour 2014. They'll sleep on floors of rectories and

churches and in the van itself. But really, they won't sleep much at all.

Yes, and miracles will happen.

Before the tour concludes on Sept. 5, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., they will have stopped in a dozen towns and cities to share the

Divine Mercy message with parishes, the homeless, youth, and the infirm — even going door-to-door.

The men comprise the newly formed Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, based at the National Shrine. A ministry of Lighthouse Catholic Media — with spiritual formation provided by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception in Stockbridge, Mass. — the Marian

Missionaries are a brotherhood of single men who give at least one year to God and Our Blessed Mother

to grow in holiness and put the works of mercy into action. As director of the Marian's Office of Evangelization and Development, Fr. Michael is in charge of their formation.

It was Lighthouse's founder and president, Mark Middendorf, who first conceived of the Marian Missionaries. He was praying before a Divine Mercy image at the National Shrine at the time. Since then, several young men have joined the Missionaries. Five of them traveled on the tour, which also included Fr. Michael and Br. David Guza, OMV, who is working with the Marian Congregation. Father Chris Alar, MIC, who is the new director of the Association of Marian Helpers, joined in the first leg of the tour.

Suffering at the very heart

The town center in Woodstock, Ill., is so idyllic, such a picture-perfect example of old-time America, that Hollywood did most of its exterior filming there for the 1993 hit romantic comedy *Groundhog Day*.

On a beautiful, sunny Saturday, six days into the Divine Mercy Tour, members of the Missionaries lead a "Day of Mercy" with local parishioners, mostly from the Church of Holy

Apostles in nearby McHenry. A group of them enters the town square, where a bluegrass band plays on the bandstand while vendors sell fresh fruits and vegetables. In the square, a group of homeless people congregates around a bench. One of them is applying duct tape to a backpack filled with his every possession.



Eric Mahl shares a Divine Mercy prayercard with a homeless woman in Woodstock, Ill. "In the United States, there are many places for the poor to get food, clothing, and shelter. However, what is far, far more difficult to get is another person's time. People often don't want to take the time to listen to the poor, to interact with them as fellow human beings," Eric says.

"How many times have I walked through here and not noticed them," parishioner Brian Truckenbrod marvels.

But when we keep our hearts fixed on the Lord, we suddenly notice the distress among our brethren — not just in the dramatic sense of homelessness, but in our families, neighbors, and friends. Indeed, the Divine Mercy Tour is geared toward opening the eyes of Catholic faithful, to inspire them to join together and live the message of Divine Mercy, specifically through works of

mercy in their own communities.

Minutes later, Brian and others are passing out toiletries, food, and prayercards.

"The Missionaries are teaching us to step out from our comfort zones," says Brian Kelly, who helped organize the Divine Mercy Tour for Lighthouse Catholic Resources, an Illinois-based not-for-profit company that specializes in promoting the Catholic faith.

If not for the Divine Mercy Tour, Brian Truckenbrod and his fellow parishioners may never have had the eyes to see a homeless man named Craig, who often sleeps in the square, even in bitter winter weather.

Craig has dried blood on one of his ears. He lost his job as a house painter when nerve damage in his leg became unbearable. A lot of other misfortunes — many, admittedly, of his own doing — have befallen him, too, leading to his current state.

"I sometimes sit on that park bench over there, look up to our Maker, and say, 'You got any other curve balls to toss my way?'" he says. "But God works on His time, not ours."

He's been homeless since 2009. Some days, he doesn't eat. Most mornings, before dawn, he walks down to a local bar and



FELIX CARROLL

Preparing a group of parishioners for door-to-door evangelization on Aug. 9 in McHenry, Ill., Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, said, “Today, we’re going to have a day of mercy, and it’s important to remember that the success of this day is contingent upon our faith, for the confidence we have in the power of God’s mercy.”

bends down to the sidewalk to collect cigarette butts that haven’t been burnt down to the filter.

“It’s embarrassing,” he says. “I don’t want anyone seeing me doing that.”

Still, he says, some of the kindest, solidly sensitive souls he’s ever met have been fellow homeless and the people like these parishioners who come to their aid from time to time.

The end goal

The group serving the homeless on this day is led by Marian Missionaries Eric Mahl of Ohio, Lewis Brooks of New Hampshire, and brothers Marcus and Adam Fluty of Kentucky. All four men are discerning a vocation.

In preparing the parishioners for a day serving the homeless, Eric, coordinator for the Marians’ Evangelization and Outreach programs, explained the goal.

“Remember today, that whatever we have — whether it’s a CD or a Divine Mercy prayercard, or it’s food — it’s more than just what we are giving them physically. The material things are a means to an end, and the end goal is for us to give ourselves to them. We want help to restore the dignity of every single person. We want to be a light in someone else’s darkness, not so that we are seen, but so that people can see Christ.”

Elsewhere on the Day of Mercy, a group of Marian Missionaries and parishioners, led by Fr. Chris, visits a nursing home. Father Michael leads a group into a neighborhood where they knock on doors to gather prayer intentions. A fourth group visits Catholic cemeteries and prays for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Joining in the group that went door-to-door is Marian Missionary Rubin Mendoza of Nevada, a self-described “former gangbanger” who was led to a love of Jesus through Fr.

Mike’s Marian consecration program *33 Days to Morning Glory*. He said he was disappointed on this day by the number of people who scoffed at the notion that there’s a God who hears our prayers.

“But, at one door, a woman answered, and she couldn’t believe we were there,” he says. “She said she had just sat down to read the Bible to find some wisdom because of difficulties she was having in her family, and then she heard us knocking.

“See?” Rubin says. “We can’t get discouraged. Our Blessed Mother provides us with many graces when we step forward with no fear and boldly speak of the love of Christ.”

Now is the time

As is typical, the Day of Mercy concludes with praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and talks to both the youth and adults by Fr. Michael and — when available — Fr. Chris.

“According to St. John Paul II, the time we are living in is a time of unprecedented evil,” Fr. Michael tells the adult group in McHenry. “But God wants to give unprecedented grace. God will not be outdone by the evil in our time.”

Indeed, God will not be outdone in generosity when His children turn from sin, trust in Him, and spread His mercy to a broken world.

The Marian Missionaries pulled out of McHenry just after dawn the next morning. Next stop: Fargo, N.D., nine hours away.

“Pray for us,” Eric says to parishioners who gathered for the send-off. “Pray for us, and we’ll be praying for you.”

And with that, they were off, due west, eyes fixed on the road, hearts fixed on the Lord.

To learn more about the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy, visit setallafire.org.

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FELIX CARROLL

Father Chris Alar, MIC, has been named the new director of the Association of Marian Helpers. As the new Fr. Joseph, he wants to increase membership in the Association in an effort to save as many souls as possible.

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR

Father Chris Alar, MIC, shares his plans for the Association.

Interview by Felix Carroll

A barnstorming emissary for the Marians' mercy mission, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, has been named the new director of the Association of Marian Helpers. Though ordained to the Sacred Priesthood only this past May 31, Fr. Chris spent much of the last four years closely involved in evangelization efforts at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Mass., the headquarters for the Association. In the following interview, Fr. Chris shares his vision for the future, especially his priorities for the Association, his qualifications for his new position, and the way in which he chose to give thanks to the Marian Helpers when he celebrated his first Mass.

Father Chris, what are your priorities as the new "Fr. Joseph, MIC"?

Without a doubt, our number one priority should be efforts to increase membership in the Association — not for the sake of "more members," but rather for the salvation of as many souls as possible. My task as both a priest and Fr. Joseph, MIC, is, first and fore-

most, helping to save souls. So that involves educating people on the value of what it means to be a Marian Helper.

So what is the value of being a Marian Helper?

We are a spiritual benefit society, which is an amazing means through which God provides a tremendous amount of graces to souls who are seeking communion with Him. It is a surefire way to bring about the graces that will lead you to God. Think about it: Marian Helpers share in the benefits of all the daily Masses, prayers, and good works of all Marian priests and brothers; they receive a specific remembrance at our daily Mass celebrated for Marian Helpers; a Holy Mass offered for members on the First Friday and First Saturday of each month; a Holy Mass offered for deceased members on All Souls Day; a special Mass offered on each feast day of our Savior and His Blessed Mother; the continuous Novena to the Divine Mercy at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy; and the daily prayers offered by

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► What is the Church teaching on tattoos?



FELIX CARROLL

Jim Bombard with his wife, Susan, shows off his “Merciful Love” tattoo. Jim wears short sleeved shirts, even into the chillier months, so he can use his tattoo to talk with all those he meets about God’s love for us.

ALL FOR 'MERCIFUL LOVE'

Why this Shrine pilgrim bears a tattoo of Jesus in His agony.

by Felix Carroll

Without a doubt, it was a question no Marian at the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#) in Stockbridge, Mass., had ever been asked before.

“Is a tattoo considered a religious article?”

Jim Bombard wasn’t being a wise guy.

He and his wife, Susan, were visiting the National Shrine in June and wanted to follow the [daily afternoon schedule](#), which ends with a blessing of religious articles.

Holding out his beefy left forearm to better expose the portrait of a scourged Jesus Christ, Jim posed the question to seminarian Br. John, MIC, before Mass began. Brother John leaned in to get a better look at the tea-saucer-sized tattoo ringed with the words “Merciful Love.” He was impressed.

Bottom line, that afternoon following Mass, when the priest moved down the aisle sprinkling holy water with his aspergillum, Shrine visitors held up rosaries, prayercards, and crucifixes, and Jim held out his left arm. And

indeed, no one could argue that Jim’s tattoo doesn’t conform to the fundamental character of a religious article: It has helped people grow in faith, beginning the moment two years ago when the artist put down his needle and swiped the tattoo with sterilizing alcohol.

A new chapter begins

Of the thousands of annual Shrine visitors, everyone has a story to tell of the factors that lead them here. For Jim and his wife, Susan, of Worcester, Mass., their June visit wasn’t based solely on getting a tattoo blessed. More so, it served as the launch of their joint retirement, which began the day prior.

“We came here because we wanted to start this new chapter of our lives asking the Lord for His mercy and giving thanks to Him for all the graces He has given us,” said Jim.

Still, that permanent mark on his arm serves as a fitting symbol for the inner inscription Jesus has placed upon their hearts —

a reminder to trust in Him. Like a tattoo, surrendering to the Lord's will didn't come about without pain.

Jim and Susan were born within 10 minutes of each other 70 years ago. They married when they were 18 years old. But what God joined together in Holy Matrimony, Jim nearly tore apart.

"I led the life of the sinner," he says, "gambling, drinking, and the things that go along with that. I remember I would dress our girls up all nice and pretty, and we would all go to church, but I was a hypocrite."

For years, Susan prayed to the Blessed Mother for his reconversion. He attributes to her prayers a burning need he felt a few years back to enter a confessional for the first time in 30 years. "I cried my eyes out to the priest," Jim recalled.

His life irrevocably changed, beginning in that confessional.

The *Diary* cover to cover

From his days as a churchgoing lad of hearty Polish stock, Jim had an inkling of God's love for poor sinners. But only after Susan presented him with *St. Faustina's Diary* following that day in the confessional did he find confirmation that Jesus' greatest attribute is mercy. He read the *Diary* cover to cover.

"In the *Diary*, that term 'merciful love' kept popping out at me," Jim said. "I knew I wanted to meet God, and I knew that in order to meet God I would have to fess up, and ever since, He has continued to show His mercy. It's been incredible."

Among the many graces he has experienced since his reconversion was seeing his eldest daughter brought back from the brink of death. She and her boyfriend had become heavily involved in substance abuse. They had a young child. The situation was a mess. Susan and Jim brought the couple to a healing Mass. Through that and many prayers, the couple recovered their health and faith. They married in June.

"There have been so many things that have happened," said Jim. "I could tell you some stories."

Here's one such story. It's about a repentant sinner and a tattoo.

Not really a 'tattoo guy'

A former trucker, garrulous, with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes, Jim seems a likely candidate for a tattoo. "But I'm not really a 'tattoo guy,'" he said.

Still, two years ago, he was given a prayer-card that had an image of Jesus, bloodied and beaten and crowned with thorns.

"Every time I looked at it, it ripped my heart out," he said. "I looked at it, and I knew I was just as responsible for His agony as everyone else. It touched me to the point where I couldn't put it down."

So he decided on the tattoo. Susan wasn't thrilled with the idea. "But I knew there was more to it than just getting a tattoo," she said.

Jim gritted his teeth as thousands of pigment-inserting punctures were made into his skin. It took three hours. While it's not unusual for the skin to bleed from a newly etched tattoo, in Jim's case, when the

tattoo artist wiped the skin clean, blood began to pool precisely on the rendered wounds of Christ — and nowhere else on the tattoo.

The tattoo artist was floored. He insisted on taking photos of it. Four other people in the parlor gathered around and were equally astonished. They, too, snapped photos.

"I feel like the Lord visited me in a tattoo parlor," Jim said with a laugh.

Since then, the tattoo has been an instrument of evangelization. "I'm not a preacher," says Jim, "not at all. But it does give me opportunities on a regular basis when people ask about it, or focus on it, to talk about Jesus' love for us — that no one's sin is greater than God's mercy."

For that reason, he wears short sleeves, even into the chillier months.

"Susan tells me that all you can do is plant the seed, and God will do the watering," Jim said. "I'm sure the tattoo has helped people in ways I'll never know."

Before the Bombards left the Shrine to continue the new chapter of their lives, Jim shared a parting thought.

"Anyone who comes to this Shrine and thinks they're not worthy of His mercy, please call me. Call me," he said. "I'll tell them some stories."



COURTESY OF JIM BOMBARD

When the tattoo artist wiped Jim's skin clean, blood began to pool precisely on the rendered wounds of Christ — and nowhere else on the tattoo. Now, Jim uses the tattoo as an instrument of evangelization.

NEW DIRECTOR

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workers at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy and the Marian Helpers Center.

Who would not want these graces? They are free graces! [Laughs.] And when we meet our Lord and Savior, we're going to need every ounce of grace we can get.

What are your plans to increase membership?

There are four ways. One is through regional meetings throughout the country with Marian Helpers, which will begin later this fall. Two, we'll ramp up our nationwide parish mission program by utilizing the new vocations entering the Marian Congregation. Three, we'll have face-to-face visits with our longtime Marian Helpers to brainstorm ways to best evangelize in their communities. Four, as Fr. Joseph, MIC, I will personally be present to many of the groups of pilgrims who come to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. This is a demanding position, time-wise, but I want to rebuild face-to-face contact with our Marian Helpers. In all four ways, we'll share how and why Marian Helpers' support is so critical to our work of evangelization that my predecessor, Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, has done such an amazing job of building over the past three-and-a-half years. We will encourage people to bring friends and loved ones into this beautiful spiritual family, to participate in the mission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

This approach goes back to the roots of the Association?

Yes, and that's something close to my heart. The Association was officially established in 1945 here in Stockbridge, and it began as a small group of friends who believed in and supported the work of the Marians. The Marians had become promoters of Divine Mercy by then. Father Walter Pelczynski, MIC, who died on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2000, founded the Association, and he and the Marians dedicated themselves to spreading the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina and devotion to Mary Immaculate not only through our publishing apostolate, but most importantly through establishing personal relationships. He maintained an active correspondence with literally thousands of friends and associates. "Father Pel" answered every letter personally, and my goal is to do the same thing. The Association was smaller then, but there's a way to do it.

What was your first impression of the Association?

Coming from a business background, I originally saw it as mainly a fundraising operation. I was not fully aware of the scope and the beauty of the Association. Of course, fundraising is critical because no organization or charity can function without resources, so I understood that raising funds is justified and necessary. However, soon after I started working at the Marian Helpers Center as a seminarian, I realized that fundraising is way

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down on the list of priorities here. I have grown in an extreme way in my awareness of what the Association is and what the members provide for us, but more importantly, it's the graces they are receiving through their membership. Before, I thought it was about what we receive from them. Now, it's a joy to see what they receive from us as well. From Marian Helpers, we receive the critical resources we need in order to continue to operate our ministry. From us, they receive the most beautiful graces of our prayers, Masses, and spiritual sacrifices.

You have unique qualifications for your position as Fr. Joseph. Please explain.

I was originally born, groomed, and raised to be a fighter pilot. I received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy right out of high school, and I believed then that the fulfillment of what I was supposed to do in life would be realized there. Later, when I got a medical discharge, I thought my life was over. Little did I know how God was guiding me down a different road — a much more fulfilling road. I received an engineering degree, which taught me how to run business operations efficiently, and then a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from the University of Michigan, which taught me how to financially analyze those efficiencies. Then, I started my own business, which taught me how to manage people. God laid out that plan in front of me without me ever even knowing it. I know why now: He was bringing me here both to help work with Fr. Michael Gaitley in evangelizing people while simultaneously practicing good financial stewardship, so that every dollar that has been entrusted to us will not be wasted but will be used effectively in the way God wills. Further, my experience in starting my own business helped me learn how to operate an organization and manage people. All of this has perfectly led me to this role. Now, I just pray for God's help in this role.

The day after your ordination you dedicated your first Mass to all Marian Helpers. Why?

It was my way of saying thank you for allowing me to receive the greatest grace of my life: the priesthood. I know I would not be a priest today if it were not for the Marian Helpers. The only reason that our seminarians get an opportunity to study for the priesthood — to have meals, tuition, insurance, clothes, transportation — is because Marian Helpers have stepped up above and beyond to help us. But not just financially. More important are their prayers — they're what get us through. So to all the Marian Helpers reading this article, I say, "Thank you!"

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Deacon Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC, at his high school graduation with his dad, who died shortly thereafter. "At the moment of his death, the first thought that came to my mind was to pray for his soul," Deacon Thaddaeus said.

'MY DEVOTION TO THE HOLY SOULS'

How family, Mary, and community have influenced a seminarian's devotion.

by Deacon Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC

My parents, Our Lady, and the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception have all shaped my devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory in important ways.

My mother passed away when I was just 2 years old. Then, by the time I was 18, I had lost my father and my grandparents. Yet, because my loving father had brought me up in a devout Catholic home, I knew it was important to pray for the souls of my deceased loved ones.

In fact, when I was alone with my father at the moment of his death, the first thought that came to my mind was to pray for his soul. I dearly loved my father, who had been such an example to me of the Heavenly Father's love. Nevertheless, I knew my father had faults like us all, and so I began to pray the Rosary, asking for Mary to allow my dad entrance into heaven from purgatory.

During the Third Glorious Mystery, I had a mental "vision." I didn't see anything with my physical vision, but I could clearly "see" with the eyes of my soul my father rising up

to heaven's gates, where my mother was waiting to embrace him. This "sight" gave me immense peace and joy in a moment of fear and sadness. This moment also confirmed in me the importance of praying for the souls in purgatory. I believe that my own prayers helped my father enter heaven.

In 2007, at age 20, my devotion to the Holy Souls deepened when I entered the Marian Fathers, a religious community committed to praying for the suffering souls in purgatory, especially forgotten souls such as the victims of war and disease. I see this as Divine Providence guiding my life. Before I joined the Marians, I prayed primarily for deceased family members, but now I try to pray for all those who die on a daily basis (which can be upwards of 140,000 people per day).

Since joining the Marians, I also better understand how Mary Immaculate can inspire our prayer for the Holy Souls. Growing up, I would pray the Rosary often with my family, mindful of those who were about to die and of the souls in purgatory. But it

was during my formation as a Marian that I began to understand how praying for the Holy Souls is tied intimately to the honor of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception.

I came to see that as we venerate God's gift of preventing any sin in her soul, so we pray that all of us may be cleansed of our sins and able to enter God's presence. As the collect or opening prayer for Mass on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception expresses it:

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, *through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence* (emphasis added).

So the gift of purity of body and soul given to Mary is extended by God to all of us as we are purified of our sins, either in this life or in the life to come. And it comes to us through her powerful maternal intercession, which is especially attentive to the needs of the suffering souls.

As a Marian, I have grown as well in my love of the Holy Souls by participating in the November remembrance, the month when the Church especially encourages us to pray for the Holy Souls. On Nov. 2, we commemorate All Souls Day for all the faithful departed. Then, particularly during the octave after All Souls, we intensify our prayer for the suffering

souls. For instance, we Marians typically find time each day during the octave to visit a cemetery so as to obtain a plenary indulgence for some suffering soul. For the Marian seminarians, such practices may cut into our time for study, but they also remind us that our work is primarily spiritual and for the good of souls, not simply to finish homework or a paper.

These observances also foster brotherly charity in our Marian community life together, which itself is a good antidote to purgatory. Indeed, such charity illustrates one of the most consoling aspects of praying for the souls: the knowledge that there might be many souls in heaven who are praying for me in my various trials, just as I prayed for them. Their prayers may help me grow in holiness so that I can enter heaven quickly after my death. I believe that the souls of my father and mother are among the souls praying for me.

In this spirit, I invite you to join the Marians in our November remembrance (marian.org/mh/b23). You are also invited to our Mercy for Souls Conference, Sept. 28, on Eden Hill. For more information, call 1-800-671-2020 or visit prayforsouls.org/conference. MH

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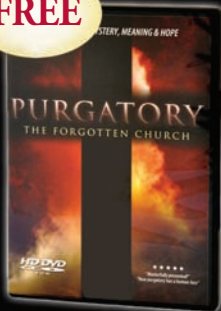
Deacon Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC, was ordained on Sept. 6. He is finishing his studies in Poland as he prepares for the priesthood.

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Shrine's new rector is a familiar face

by Felix Carroll

At a time when its national profile is in steep ascent, the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., has a new rector quite familiar with the challenges and triumphs of its trajectory.

In one of many new appointments throughout the Marians' American province, Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, replaced Fr. Ken Dos Santos, MIC, in the rector position. Father Ken, who has served as rector since 2011, was appointed assistant provincial secretary.

This is Fr. Anthony's second tenure as Shrine rector.

When asked to describe what the position means to him, the former high school wrestler with a natural instinct for the fundamentals eschewed adjectives and went straight for a verb.

"To serve," he said.

"There's all the behind-the-scenes responsibilities — budgets, finances, scheduling, overseeing a staff, being formator of the seminarians here — but those things all lead to that one goal of providing spiritual service for the thousands of people who come here each year," he said. "That's our top priority: to bring people to Jesus, to bring people to Divine Mercy."

In his previous tenure as rector, Fr. Anthony was credited for helping to expand the Shrine's reputation as a favored place for pilgrimages. He helped oversee the construction of the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine and the Shrine of the Holy Innocents. Annual ethnic days, such as Encuentro Latino, became among the region's largest Catholic gatherings. He hosted the first retreats here for Rachel's Vineyard, the Pennsylvania-based group that offers spiritual outreach to women and men suffering from post-abortion trauma. Those retreats continue to this day.

Since his previous tenure, the Shrine has become home to a life-size Stations of the Cross, a huge draw both to Catholic pilgrims and art-minded tourists to western



"There's something special about the Shrine," said Fr. Anthony Gramlich, MIC, the new Shrine rector. "God is present here. He's touching, healing, and reaching out to people. I believe that's the reason so many people who come here wind up going to confession."

Massachusetts. The partnership between the Shrine and Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) has become closer. In addition to EWTN's broadcast of the Shrine's annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration, the global Catholic network now airs a Stations of the Cross program filmed at the Shrine.

Primary among Fr. Anthony's plans is to put an even greater emphasis on ensuring that Marian priests and brothers are available to pilgrims — for spiritual guidance, tours of the grounds, and talks on Divine Mercy and the Blessed Mother.

"We will take every opportunity to educate people that St. Faustina's Divine Mercy revelations are a message given to the modern world to address the pain, suffering, and sins that define our brokenness," he said. "Jesus' mercy is the answer to human problems. No matter what anyone has been through, no matter what mistakes they've made, Jesus can still rescue them. He doesn't require us to be saints right away. What He requires of us is a humble and contrite heart."

Until his latest appointment began on Aug. 14, Fr. Anthony spent much of the last three years traveling the country giving parish missions, speaking at conferences, and leading healing Masses and pilgrimages. Still, the Shrine served as his home. He hopes to help increase awareness that it can serve as spiritual home to all those who seek God's mercy and healing.

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Cardinal Dziwisz makes historic visit on May 21

It's not every day that you get a visit from a saint's secretary!

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, who served as the personal secretary to St. Pope John Paul II for nearly 40 years, celebrated Mass with the Marian Fathers at the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#) in Stockbridge, Mass., for the first time during a brief, discreet visit on May 21, 2014. Many of the Marians on Eden Hill and then-local ordinary, Bishop Timothy McDonnell of Springfield, greeted the cardinal from Poland.

"I would like to offer this Mass for all of the [Marian Fathers](#) who have helped so much in promoting the [Divine Mercy](#) all over the world and who helped so much in the beatification process of St. Sr. Faustina," said Cardinal Dziwisz, who serves as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland. It was Cardinal Dziwisz who gave the Marians one of the few first-class relics of St. John Paul II, who died in 2005. That relic, a drop of the saint's blood on cloth, is now venerated by many Shrine pilgrims.

Venerate 'Relics of the Passion'

Calvary's coming to the National Shrine. On Sunday, Sept. 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Los Angeles-based Apostolate for Holy Relics (AHR) will offer pilgrims the opportunity from 4-5 p.m. to venerate "Relics of the Passion." The relics include fragments of the True Cross, the table from the Last Supper, the Crown of Thorns, and the Holy Nail, a replica made from shavings of the nails used to crucify Christ.

Celebrate Polish Day

Join the Marians in celebrating the Polish legacy of faith and culture on Sept. 21. Highlights include a special "Journey to Holiness" concert performed by the Rays of John Paul II Children's Choir from Boston; the testimony of Maureen Digan, recipient of St. Faustina's beatification miracle; and Mass in Polish offered by Fr. Andrew Gorczyca, MIC.

Pray for the Holy Souls

Learn how to bring devotion to the Holy Souls into your parish. On Sunday, Sept. 28, Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC, spiritual director for the



The Most Rev. Timothy McDonnell (left), then-ordinary of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., joins the Marians in welcoming Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, to the National Shrine on May 21.

Holy Souls Sodality, will address this topic at the fourth annual Mercy for Souls Conference. Admission is free for Holy Souls Sodality members and \$10 for general admission (includes lunch). Register by calling 1-800-671-2020 or visiting prayforsouls.org/conference.

Honor St. Faustina

Learn more about the life and legacy of St. Faustina, the great apostle of Divine Mercy. Since her feast falls on a Sunday this year, we will observe the feast on Saturday, Oct. 4, with a special talk at 11 a.m. in addition to the usual Shrine schedule. This celebration closes out the 75th anniversary year to mark St. Faustina's holy death.

Attend a healing Mass

Seek the Lord's healing by attending one of the charismatic healing Masses, which normally take place at the Shrine on the last Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. For the fall Masses, dates and celebrants will be:

- Sept. 25 — Fr. Joseph Whalen, Archangel St. Raphael Holy Healing Ministry;
- Oct. 30 — Fr. Bill McCarthy, My Father's House;
- Nov. 20 (one week earlier than usual) — Fr. Michael McNamara, Servants of Christ Ministries.

Celebrate St. John Paul II's feast

On Oct. 22, join us for the first feast day of St. John Paul II since his canonization earlier this year. The Shrine will celebrate a special Mass and offer pilgrims a chance to venerate the first-class relic of this great, saintly Pope.

For up-to-date information on Shrine events, call (413) 298-3931 or visit thedinemercy.org/shrine.

MH



FELIX CARROLL

Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB, died peacefully at 4:03 p.m. on Aug. 11, only minutes after the Hour of Great Mercy. He will be remembered for his dedication and enthusiasm for spreading the message of Divine Mercy.

REMEMBERING FR. KOSICKI

Marians and their staff honor this great Divine Mercy evangelist.

by David Came

Whether he was co-hosting EWTN's Divine Mercy Sunday telecast from Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Mass., writing one of his many books on Divine Mercy at his brown cottage on the Hill, or passing out Divine Mercy prayercards to a group of Shrine

pilgrims, Fr. George W. Kosicki, CSB, was ever the Divine Mercy evangelist. Be it through radio, television, the written word, or his own personal witness, he used every available means to let everyone know, "Now is the time for mercy!"

Highlights of a remarkable life

By 1986, Fr. Kosicki had committed himself to full-time promotion of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. This remained his all-consuming passion for the rest of his life, as our main story shows.

But what about his earlier adult life after he professed his final vows as a Basilian in 1951 and was then ordained a priest in 1954? Here are highlights gleaned from his unpublished autobiography, which reveal him as a remarkable man of many achievements.

From 1955-1970, Fr. Kosicki became an outstanding teacher and renowned research scholar in biochemistry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Assumption University in Windsor, Ont., and briefly at Harvard

University in Cambridge, Mass. Highlights included lab work on his Master's project at Michigan with Marshall Nirenberg, who went on to win the Nobel Prize for breaking the genetic code, and 18 months of intense research into enzymes at Harvard University with Dr. Frank Westheimer, a science advisor to President Nixon.

During this time, Fr. Kosicki published 28 research papers, presenting many of them at major scientific conferences. He was a full professor by the time he left academia to pursue full-time spiritual ministry.

From 1970-1975, Fr. Kosicki was a leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. He helped organize major charismatic conferences and gave retreats around the world, serving for five

It's only fitting, then, that he died peacefully at 4:03 p.m. on Aug. 11, only minutes after the Hour of Great Mercy — an hour that in better health, he would have spent adoring his Eucharistic Lord and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He died at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Oregon, Ohio, a nursing facility run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, where he had resided since June 2012. He was 86.

He will be fondly remembered for his dedication, enthusiasm, and mercy toward all by the Marians and their Eden Hill staff.

“Over the years, I and many of our staff at the Marian Helpers Center developed a deep personal relationship with this holy man,” said Francis P. Bourdon, who served as executive director for many years at the Center. “During a trip to Ohio this July, my wife and I stopped to visit him. It was only weeks before his death, and he was very content in his environment. He continued to write and pray every waking moment. He was a blessed man, and we will miss him dearly.”

Father Kosicki first worked for the Marian Fathers on Eden Hill as the manager of their Divine Mercy Department at the Marian Helpers Center from 1986-1988. Among his many accomplishments were helping to prepare the English-language edition of the Diary of Sr. Faustina for publication in 1987, overseeing the editing and completion of the award-winning film Divine Mercy — No Escape, and writing two books that have gone into revised editions and become recognized as Marian Press classics on Divine Mercy: Now Is the Time for Mercy and Tell My Priests.

years on the National Service committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States. This ministry led him to recognize the urgent need for spiritual renewal among many priests whose vocations were then in crisis.

From 1975-1983, he helped organize Bethany House of Intercession, which became a haven for priests in crisis, helping them to renew their spiritual lives so they could return to fruitful ministry. The house of intercession moved to various locations and for nearly a year was located on the Marians' property in Stockbridge, Mass. Father Kosicki reports, “Over the eight years, some 2,000 priests signed our guest register.”

Through this ministry, he got to know Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and learned how the Marians were promoting the Divine Mercy message. In fact, he already knew that the



On July 7-8, 1997, the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, staffed by Jason Free (left), Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, Fr. George Kosicki, CSB, and Vinny Flynn, held the first-of-its-kind Divine Mercy workshop for bishops. It attracted 12 bishops.

Father Kosicki returned to Eden Hill from 1992-1998, and he directed the Marians' newly formed Divine Mercy International (DMI) apostolate, which included major efforts to host workshops and fortnights for Divine Mercy leaders from around the world and vet international distributors to carry the Marians' Divine Mercy materials.

In 1996, he co-founded with Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, the Marians' John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy, which is now directed by Robert Stackpole, STD. It expanded the scope of the Marians' efforts to spread the message through academic research, symposia, and theological publications, as well as calling for more Divine Mercy fortnights and workshops to form clergy, religious, and lay leaders. A crowning moment came on July 7-8, 1997, when the Institute held the first-of-its-kind workshop for bishops. It drew 12 bishops: 10 from the U.S., one from Nigeria, and one from Bolivia.

Among other highlights during this time, he continued to write more books on Divine Mercy, including the first edition of John Paul II: The Great Mercy Pope; wrote a regular col-

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Marians were involved in spreading this message since his mother received their Polish magazine Roze z Ogrudu Maryi. When he joined the Basilians in 1946, she even sent him a framed print of the Divine Mercy image, which he hung in his bedroom wherever he moved.

From 1983-1986, while at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, he and some other priests developed the Fraternity of Priests. Priests would commit to meet weekly with other priests for prayer, teaching and sharing. During this time, he felt an increasing longing to proclaim Divine Mercy and spent time with the Marians.

Read more stories from his autobiography, including how he nearly married a woman named Binka and how his ability to play the saxophone clinched his vocation with the Basilians.

MH

Graces Received

'I was on the verge of foreclosure'

'This will enable me to stay in my house'

I am writing to share about a grace received through the intercession of Blessed George Matulaitis.

My sister and I owned a house together. She died in 2008, and I was on the verge of foreclosure. I had to declare Chapter 13 bankruptcy. I asked Blessed George for his intercession that I would be able to keep my house.

Two weeks ago, the trustee involved with the bankruptcy informed me that my bankruptcy was being discharged. I was delighted and shocked. The bank that has my mortgage also contacted me to say that they would work with me to reduce my monthly payments to a more manageable amount. This will enable me to stay in my house.

I am overjoyed, and I believe that all of this became possible through the intercession of Blessed George.



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

—NM, e-mail

'I received a healing on my wrist'

I want to acknowledge a grace received through the intercession of Blessed George.

I received the prayercard of Blessed George the beginning of June. I started praying this prayer, asking him for his intercession to heal my left wrist. For many years, I had suffered with a swelling the size of a walnut on my wrist due to arthritis. During the first week of prayers, I received a healing on my wrist. The swelling disappeared completely. I was

extremely happy to receive this healing through Blessed George's intercession. I continue to ask Blessed George to pray daily for the healing of *all* my pain from arthritis. May he soon be declared a saint.

— AV, Louisville, Ky.

Negative biopsy results

I am so grateful for Blessed George's intercession for my family.

I asked Blessed George to intercede for my daughter-in-law and me. We were both having biopsies tested. The results came back, and both were negative. This is not the first time Blessed George has interceded for us.

I will continue to pray for sainthood for Blessed George.

RL, Old Tappan, N.J.

'My son will be starting a new job'

I truly feel that Blessed George interceded for my son and me. My son graduated from college two years ago in May, and in this job market, I thought he would never find a job. After reading my *Marian Helper* magazine, I started asking Blessed George to intercede for my son. My request was answered. My son will be starting a new job soon that involves helping disabled young adults.

— PE, e-mail

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For a Blessed George prayercard (B23-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Mączyński, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. E-mail: graces@marian.org.

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Remembered on Eden Hill

by Andrew Leeco

Prayer and Divine Mercy are very important to Marie Golba. For close to 25 years, she and her prayer group have been praying for priests, the Holy Souls, and the intentions of friends, family, and anyone who is in need.

“Our work of mercy is to pray,” Marie says. “A lot of people call us asking for prayers for their loved ones. We pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We also pray for people’s specific needs.”

Marie is devoted to the Marians as well. “The Marians are special men,” she said. “You can tell when you meet a Marian priest. Our Blessed Mother shines through them.”

So when Marie learned about the St. John Paul II Plaza on Eden Hill, she got excited.

“I have been deeply devoted to John Paul II ever since he was elected as our Holy Father,” Marie said. “I even got to have a private audience with him in 1989. He was the Divine Mercy Pope, and one of the spiritual works of mercy is prayer, so I felt connected to him.”

Marie also knew that the paving stones were the perfect solution to her search.

“A dear friend who was part of our prayer group had passed away, and I was at a loss for what to do to honor her. Flowers are wonderful, and the other tokens of deep sympathy are nice. However, when I learned about the opportunity to have her name engraved on a paving stone that would be placed in the plaza next to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, I knew that I had found something special. I was so happy that our friend would be prayed for every day during Mass and at the

3 o’clock hour and on St. John Paul II’s feast day. I also knew that it would help the Marian Fathers continue their work. I saw it as a win-win situation.

“So I suggested to our group that we get our friend Eileen a paving stone, and they all liked the idea. I explained that as the donors, they, too, would be included in the prayers of the Marian Fathers. Everyone felt it was a perfect match.”

Shortly after creating the first memorial, Marie and her friends realized it also would be a perfect way to honor another dear friend.

“Sister Mary Cecelia Vallee [SP] was about to celebrate her 85th birthday and the 65th anniversary of her final vows as a religious. So a group of us got Sr. Cecelia a paving stone. It was so much fun. She was so surprised to receive the paving stone. She was teary-eyed because she knew that she would always be prayed for.”

Recently, Marie and her group did another paver.

“One of the gals, Betty, was turning 75. We thought, ‘What better thing could we give her than the gift of prayer?’

“What makes it special for me is knowing the souls we have touched by giving the pavers and that they will be prayed for perpetually,” Marie said. “Prayers are priceless.”

Like Marie and her group, benefactors can have a name engraved in a paving stone that will be installed in the St. John Paul II Plaza.

To learn more about these and other memorial opportunities, please call Fr. Joseph’s Assistants for Special Gifts at 1-800-671-2020 or visit MemorialsonEdenHill.org. MH



Marie says it’s important to her that her friends will be remembered by the Marian Fathers daily during Mass and at the 3 o’clock hour.

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GET YOUR ST. JOHN PAUL II IMAGE TODAY

Go to DivineMercyArt.com or call 1-800-462-7426



KOSICKI

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umn for this magazine; was involved in the production of the Marians' award-winning film *Time for Mercy*; coordinated three Divine Mercy conferences at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio; and co-hosted a 13-part television series on the Divine Mercy message with Fr. Seraphim, which was shown on EWTN.

What does Fr. Seraphim — who collaborated with him on many projects — think Fr. Kosicki's legacy is?

"Well, we have all of his writing and his talks, many of which are on video.

People knew him all over the world," said Fr. Seraphim. "He absorbed whatever he could from [the Marians'] knowledge of Divine Mercy, and he put it into writing.

"He got to a very deep understanding of the message, and he was able to present it very understandably to people."

Pursuing a life of prayer during his time with the Marians in the 1990s, he moved into the brown cottage on Eden Hill and set up a hermitage for Eucharistic Adoration, praying three hours every day before the Blessed Sacrament for mercy on the Church and the whole world.

Even with his busy schedule, he would frequently visit the staff at the Marian Helpers Center and make a point of getting to know them personally. Then, he would remember them in his prayers.

Bryan Thatcher, MD, director of *Eucharistic*

Apostles of The Divine Mercy, met Fr. Kosicki at a Divine Mercy fortnight for leaders in 1996. He remembers how Fr. Kosicki would read the *booklets* he was writing on Divine Mercy and drop him a line, saying, "Bryan, this is really awesome! Keep up the great work, and I'll be praying for you."

Bryan also recalls how Fr. Kosicki, an accomplished biochemist (see sidebar), actually sent him a few manuscripts of

a more technical or medical nature to review, knowing of Bryan's background as a medical doctor. "It was so interesting because he would use biochemistry in his works on Divine Mercy by putting formulas together," said Bryan. "He's the one who developed the *ABCs of Mercy: A – Ask for His Mercy, B – Be Merciful, and C – Completely Trust in Jesus.*"

So, like Bryan, whenever you practice the ABCs of Mercy, you are drawing on the legacy of this great Divine Mercy evangelist, who was also a brilliant biochemist. What a remarkable life! And what a remarkable legacy for us all! MH

**FATHER KOSICKI
BY THE NUMBERS**

270: From 1970-1995, number of retreats, days of recollection, or conf. talks given.

36: Number of religious books published.

80: Number of religious articles published.

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Father Joseph, MIC, encourages you to partner with the Marians to enrich your devotion to Divine Mercy and perform works of mercy.

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1-800-671-2020



Outstanding Helpers

by Ellen Miller

‘Being in the Sodality is important to me’

Recently, Kathy, a Marian Helper, from Carbondale, Pa., reminded me of the importance of praying for a “happy death.” She told me she prays that “Mary will come fetch me and receive my soul on one of her feast days. She must be so beautiful.”

Kathy’s devotion to Mary has also fostered her desire to help other souls reach heaven. She describes the first time she was at the bedside of a dying person: “I was a nurse’s aide. I could see that the woman needed help, and I was inspired to pray a ‘Hail Mary.’ I knew that this soul was facing judgment, so my prayer mattered all the more. Mary wants us to turn to her at all times, especially ‘at the hour of our death.’”

Kathy also knows that the vast majority of souls don’t go straight to heaven. That privilege was reserved for the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints. (Perhaps it’s not a coincidence that Kathy was born on Aug. 6, 1950, just nine days before Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.)

When Kathy heard about the Holy Souls Sodality, she joined right away. “Being in the Sodality is very important to me,” she explains. “I try so hard to remember those who have died or those who are dying, and the Sodality helps me.”

Kathy describes some of the ways she incorporates remembering the Holy Souls in her life: “If it’s very hot, I offer my discomfort for them. I have Masses said for them. I sprinkle the graves of my parents with holy water. I pray the St. Gertrude Prayer, and I pray the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day for those who are dying, for the souls in purgatory, and for babies who have been aborted or miscarried.



Mary visits purgatory to give the souls some relief, according to St. Faustina’s *Diary*. Kathy prays the Rosary every day for those who are dying and for the souls in purgatory.

“I use the Holy Souls’ Sodality website [prayforsouls.org] to enter names of deceased loved ones so they are remembered in the daily Mass [offered by a Marian priest for the Holy Souls].”

She also uses the website’s “Purgatory Board,” which is just like the board in the chapel of every Marian house. It lists 50 different categories of departed souls, and the Marians post a category of souls to be remembered each day — going through all 50 on a rotating basis. The different groups include parents, popes, priests, leaders of nations, and those who are forgotten or neglected.

While she’s on the Internet, Kathy also visits the Divine Mercy (official) Facebook page that the Marians maintain every day. She says, “The first thing I do is listen to the ‘Mercy Minute.’ It makes *St. Faustina’s Diary* come alive for me. You can reach a lot of souls through the Internet. It’s a great way to evangelize.”

Because of her love of Our Lady and her devotion to the Holy Souls, Kathy feels very close to the Marian Fathers and is so grateful for the ways they have helped her grow in faith. She has arranged a bequest in her will to help them continue their work, even after Our Lady comes to fetch her home to the Lord.

If you would like to learn more about the Holy Souls Sodality or about arranging a bequest through your will, please get in touch with me.

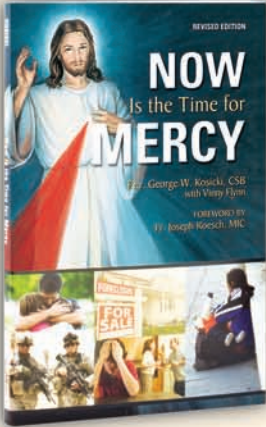


Ellen Miller is Fr. Joseph’s Director for Special Gifts. You can contact her at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263, or call her toll free at 1-800-671-2020. E-mail: helpers@marian.org.

Honoring one of our greatest authors

Father George W. Kosicki, CSB, bestselling Marian Press author and longtime collaborator with the Marians in spreading the message of Divine Mercy, died peacefully on Aug. 11, at 4:03 p.m., minutes after the Hour of Great Mercy. Here are some of his most popular books.

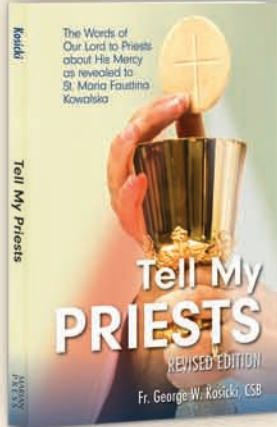
See page 24 for a reflection on his life and legacy.



Now Is The Time For Mercy

A concise guide to understanding the Divine Mercy message and devotion, the importance of private revelations, and how to be an apostle of mercy like St. Faustina. Revised.

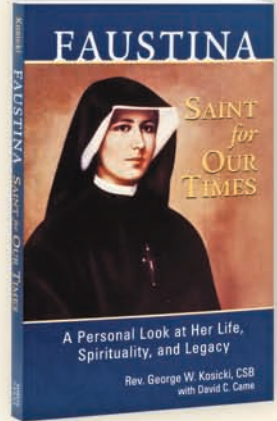
B23-NTM2 • \$14.95



Tell My Priests

In this revised edition, discover what Jesus said through St. Faustina to priests and about priests. An ideal resource for clergy, especially in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday.

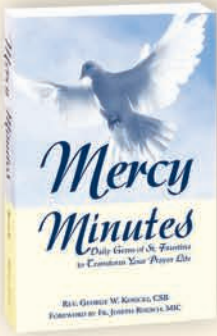
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Faustina, Saint for Our Times

A compelling, personal portrait of the saint and the urgency of her message of mercy for our times. Ideal reading on the great apostle of Divine Mercy.

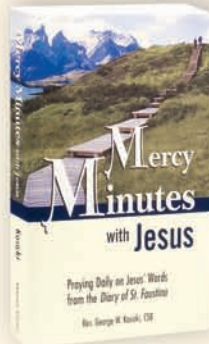
B23-SFT • \$14.95



Divine Mercy Minutes

Daily Gems of St. Faustina to Transform Your Prayer Life. This perpetual devotional covers key themes in the *Diary of St. Faustina*.

B23-MMIN2 • \$12.95



Divine Mercy Minutes with Jesus

Praying Daily on Jesus' Words from the *Diary of St. Faustina*. Hear what Jesus has to say on key themes such as trust, deeds of mercy, and humble simplicity.

B23-MMWJ • \$12.95

► For all of Fr. George's Marian Press titles.

'You Did It to Me': A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action

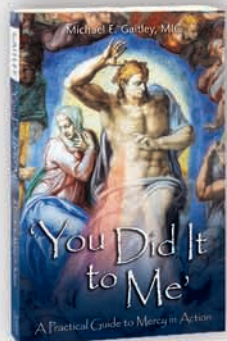
By Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

Here are four key elements that guided the writing of this book:

1. Works of mercy are a matter of *eternal* life and death.
2. No other book on the works of mercy taps as deeply into St. Faustina's wisdom.
3. Offers practical suggestions to live the works of mercy daily and consistently.
4. Rather than all 14 works of mercy, the book follows the simpler structure of the five categories in Matthew 25:31-46, the account of the Last Judgment.

B23-2ME • \$14.95

Your purchase helps support Marian vocations and efforts to spread Divine Mercy. Thank you.

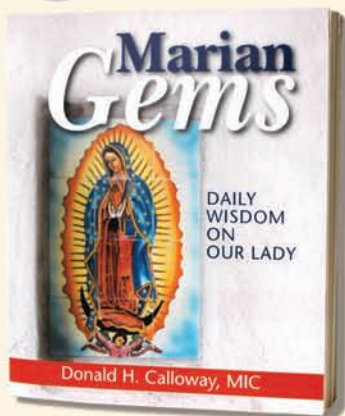


Pray the Rosary ... Remember the Holy Souls



Marian Gems

Daily Wisdom on Our Lady



B23-MGEM • \$12.95

In *Marian Gems: Daily Wisdom on Our Lady*, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, shares a gem or quote on Mary for each day of the year drawn from the writings of the popes, saints, blessed, and venerables, which makes this book ideal for daily prayer and reflection.

[See review on page 6](#)



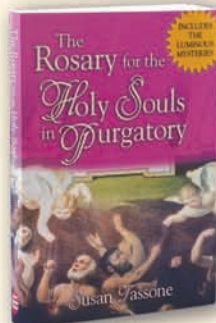
Holy Souls Rosary

This rosary with its different colored beads is known as the Holy Souls Rosary. The beads show how you can help bring souls from the darkness of purgatory into the light of heaven as you recite the Rosary. B23-HSR1 • \$9.95

The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

The Rosary for the Holy Souls in Purgatory provides great insights into purgatory and the mysteries of the Rosary. By Susan Tassone.

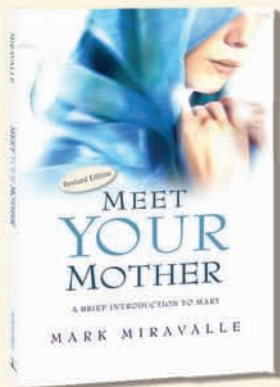
B23-RHS1 • \$6.95



Meet Your Mother

A Brief Introduction to Mary

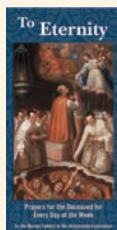
"I'm so grateful that Dr. Mark Miravalle wrote this book — there's such a need for it. People seem to be drawing closer to Mary now than ever before. Well, this book is the best brief introduction on her I've ever read," says Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, in his foreword to *Meet Your Mother*. This revised edition includes a new conclusion as well an appendix on Marian consecration.



B23-MYM • \$12.95

To Eternity

This easy-to-read pamphlet is your guide to praying for a different group of souls every day of the week. B23-PFTD



Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy

Learn how your prayers and sacrifices can help departed loved ones and all the Holy Souls get to heaven. B23-TTJ



Heaven, Hell & Purgatory

Let these *Diary* passages inspire you to pray for souls, especially for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. B23-HHP



'I am the Lady of the Rosary'

Our Lady's appearances and messages at Fatima.

B23-ILR

Pray the Rosary Daily

Our most popular pamphlet includes St. Pope John Paul II's reflections on all four sets of mysteries of the Rosary. A complete guide to praying the Rosary. B23-PR2



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Between Us

by a Helper and a Marian

Mercy in my life

In February 1999, my wife, Mary, had a brain aneurysm, heart attack, and pneumonia. The doctors did not expect her to live.

At morning Mass weeks later, the priest announced a prayer vigil that evening for another woman who was in a coma. I went to the church, but it was empty. When leaving, I noticed a table with pamphlets on the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I picked one up and have prayed the chaplet every day since.

Mary made a remarkable recovery. However, just a few months later, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and for the next three years, I was her primary caregiver. That was

“I pray three chaplets each day: for the sick and dying, the souls in purgatory, and my deceased wife.”

a blessed period for me, because it gave me a chance to give back and to thank God for three years I didn't expect. It also allowed me to grow in my devotion to Divine Mercy. On the night she passed in June 2002, the family was able to say a Rosary at her bedside, and through the night, I said Divine Mercy Chaplets.

After her death, I channeled my energies into charitable work. I formed a charitable foundation to help the poor in the Newark area.

I promote this beautiful message of mercy through the annual celebration of the Divine Mercy Novena at various New Jersey parishes and by organizing a major annual Divine Mercy conference (10th year in 2015).

My devotion to Divine Mercy is very simple. It can be summed up by a quote from the Diary. Jesus tells us, “Do not lose heart in coming for pardon, for I am always ready to forgive you. As often as you beg for it, you glorify My mercy” (1488).

Ed Miller is a retired businessman who works as a volunteer to organize the annual Divine Mercy conference in the Bronx.



Ed Miller
Helper



Br. Allen Marian
Marian

I have experienced the mercy of God and the call to be merciful to others from the beginning of my life.

I consider it a great mercy to have been baptized, brought up in the faith by my loving parents, and to have received a Catholic education.

These things provided fertile soil to nourish my call to the priesthood.

I have always had a strong conscience, and I would get angry at God because I would feel guilty for my sins when it seemed that others had no problem sinning. I couldn't understand why I was so keenly aware of the suffering of people, while others seemed unbothered by it.

I was not the most popular kid. I was often made fun of and felt alone. I even thought about committing suicide (my conscience always stopped me). I would be jealous of those who sinned in ways I did not, like the eldest son in the parable of the prodigal son.

Over time, I realized how merciful God was to me through all my experiences. I understand the desire to sin, yet I was preserved from many sins. I know what it's like to feel rejected and alone, so now I am able to help others who feel rejected and alone.

I thank God for the merciful gift of suffering, because it was through such experiences that I discovered God's mercy and felt called to be merciful to others. It was during my roughest times (especially in high school) that I turned to the Divine Mercy message and devotion for strength. All this led me to find the Marian Congregation.

Br. Allen Joseph Alexander, MIC, made his perpetual vows on Sept. 5. He recently completed his third year of studies in preparation for the priesthood.

“It was during my roughest times (especially in high school) that I turned to Divine Mercy.”

Back to index

'How we heard the call'

Deacon Jonathan Inskip, MIC:

One way God called me to the Marians was through my consecration to Mary. I believe that she guided me here. In 2004, I chose to consecrate myself to her on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Now, 10 years later, I was just ordained a deacon in the community that bears her name under that exact title.

Marian Helpers Art and Chris:

By volunteering at Marian events, we heard the call to support the Marians community and all the men who join their ranks. We rejoice in the increasing number of young men who are responding to God's call to spread His love and mercy. It is truly a sign that God is pleased with the work the Marians do for His people.



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

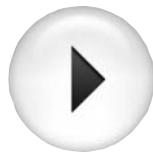


Fr. Donald invites you to attend a "VOCATION RETREAT" at the Marian House of Studies in Steubenville, Ohio.

The next retreats will be:
Nov. 28-30 and
Dec. 5-7.

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

E-mail: vocations@marian.org
Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806
Website: marian.org/vocations



Father Donald talks about the formation process.
marian.org/vocsupport/ blessings/

Want to help the seminarians? Visit marian.org/vocsupport or call 1-800-671-2020.

Six Marian brothers profess their perpetual vows.



► Homily for perpetual vows for six of our seminarians.



► Homily for the diaconal ordinations.

We will have more on these six Marians in the winter issue of *Marian Helper*.

Marians also celebrated the centennial of their establishment in the U.S.



► Homily at the Marian Fathers' Centennial Celebration.



► The Very Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, gives a few closing remarks.



► Cardinal Donald Wuerl gives closing remarks.

For more on this weekend, visit Marian.org.

The future of the Church is in *your* hands



What are you looking for in the Priests of Tomorrow?

- ✔ Zeal for proclaiming the Gospel
- ✔ Love of Mary Immaculate
- ✔ Faithfulness to the Pope and Church teachings
- ✔ Dedication to bringing God's mercy to all souls
- ✔ Love for the Holy Eucharist
- ✔ Concern for the souls in purgatory

These are the top reasons why men pursuing a priestly vocation are attracted to the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

Please support the education of these future priests. More than 100 Marian seminarians worldwide are counting on your gift.

Call 1-800-671-2020 or go to marian.org/vocsupport



Honor the legacy of St. John Paul II

Add your personalized paving stone to the St. John Paul II Plaza. Your spiritual benefits will include a remembrance every year in a special Mass on St. John Paul II's feast day, Oct. 22, at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

Visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org/JPIIPlaza
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