

# Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception

[marian.org](http://marian.org)



**Sign our  
petition!**

Help St. Faustina to be declared  
the next Doctor of the Church.

# Join our petition drive

**Dear Marian Helper,**

Please join with us in what I consider a divine task: a petition drive to encourage the Holy See to declare St. Faustina the next Doctor of the Church.

Doctor of the Church? What does that mean? The Church defines a Doctor of the Church as someone of extraordinary holiness, a saint whose theological writings have been declared exemplary and beneficial for countless faithful worldwide in teaching the truth, beauty, and splendor of the faith. Only 36 saints have been given this privileged title, including Augustine of Hippo, Catherine of Siena, and Thérèse of Lisieux. Key theologians, bishops, and cardinals agree that St. Faustina belongs among their ranks. Specifically, through her life and writings, she has renewed and clarified the mystery of God's merciful love and his call for trust. Saint John Paul II called her "a gift ... for all of humanity" and said the Divine Mercy revelations she recorded in her *Diary* serve as "the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time ..."

As you know, we Marians and Marian Helpers have been spreading the message of Divine Mercy revealed through St. Faustina since 1941, a mere three years after her death. Her being declared a Doctor would amplify the message of Christ's merciful love to a world wandering in the darkness of sin, unbelief, and suffering. We have successfully appealed to the Holy See before when, in 1999, we led a petition drive to make Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast day of the Church. Millions of Marian Helpers sent in their signed petitions, which we then boxed up and sent off to Rome. Based on this outpouring from around the world, St. John Paul II, at the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000, declared Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast of the Church.

Can we successfully petition the Holy See to declare our beloved St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church? With your help, we can! Please **click here to sign the petition**. Invite others to do the same, and then mail it back to us. Please pray for this petition!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*Fr. Joseph, MIC*

Fr. Joseph, MIC  
Director of the Association of Marian Helpers



**Saint Faustina with her family, February 1935.**





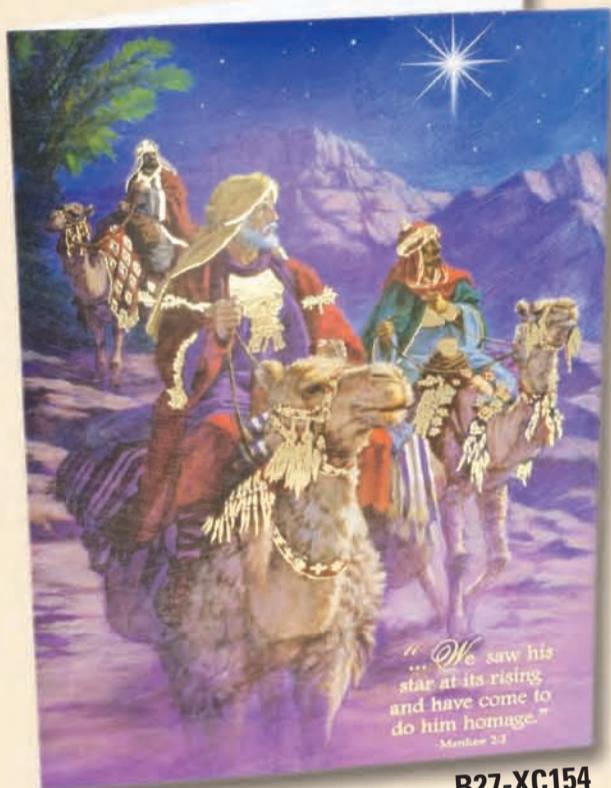
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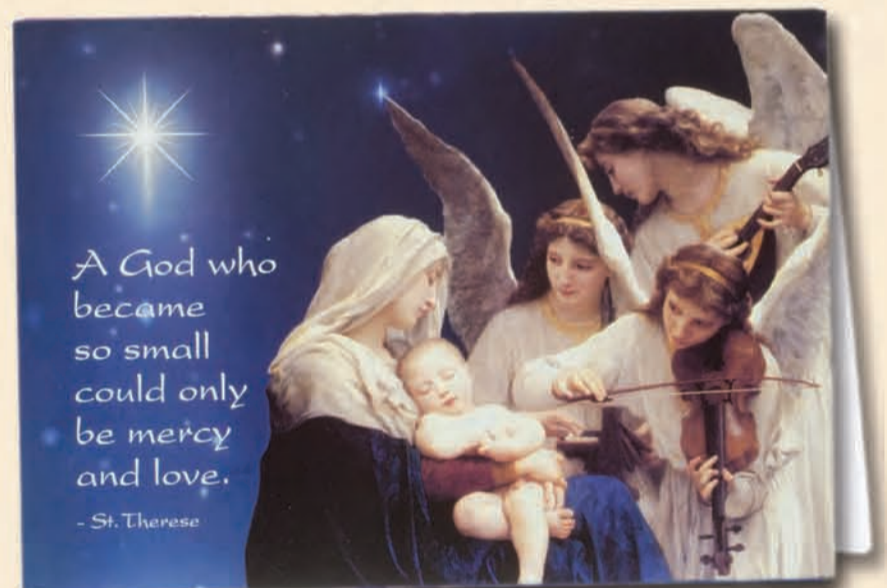


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so small  
could only  
be mercy  
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#### MISSION STATEMENT

MARIAN HELPER is intended to serve members of the Association of Marian Helpers (AMH), a spiritual benefit society of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The magazine seeks to provide spiritual nourishment, education about the Catholic faith, and information about the mission and good works of the Marians. It also provides information about Association services and presents opportunities to support the mission and good works of the Congregation. MARIAN HELPER is published quarterly by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. It is sent free of charge to active members of the Association. Printed in the USA with ecclesiastical approval. Copyright © 2015 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. All rights reserved. Send all correspondence to: Association of Marian Helpers, Editorial Dept., Eden Hill, Stockbridge, MA 01263. email: [editorial@marian.org](mailto:editorial@marian.org) website: [marian.org](http://marian.org)

## WHO WE ARE



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Headquarters and publishing center for the Association of Marian Helpers.  
1-800-462-7426

### National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

(413) 298-3931  
For pilgrimages:  
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### Mercy Apostolates

Learn about our lay ministries.  
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[TheDivineMercy.org](http://TheDivineMercy.org)  
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### Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

### Association of Marian Helpers — Join us!

Marian Helpers are men, women, dads, moms, grandparents, families, and even children who seek to do great good in the Church and the world. Established in 1945, the Association began as a small group of friends who believed in and supported the work of the Marians. Now some 1.5-million members strong, the Association is a spiritual benefit society that continues to prayerfully and financially support the priests and brothers of the Congregation of Marian Fathers. In turn, as a Marian Helper, you share in the merits and spiritual benefits of all the daily Masses, prayers, and good works of Marian priests and brothers all over the world *just as if you were a member of our religious Congregation!* Moreover, through our websites, books, newsletters, pamphlets, prayercards, and this very magazine, we give you the tools to grow in holiness. Together, we are a family in Christ! Together, let's bring his mercy to a hurting world! Enroll yourself or others today.

Visit [marian.org/enrollments](http://marian.org/enrollments) or call (413) 298-1382.



Visit [marian.org/social](http://marian.org/social)

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT US

Deepen your commitment of prayer and support by joining a special group of Marian Helpers:

- Thirteenth of the Month Club: [marian.org/13th](http://marian.org/13th)
- Friends of Mercy: [TheDivineMercy.org/friends](http://TheDivineMercy.org/friends)
- Holy Souls Sodality: [PrayForSouls.org](http://PrayForSouls.org)
- or call (413) 298-1382.

### Arrange a special gift:

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- to support a particular ministry or need: [marian.org/give](http://marian.org/give)
- to create a memorial or tribute: [MemorialsOnEdenHill.org](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org)
- or call (413) 298-1382.

### When making your will ...

A sample form of bequest to the Marians is:

*I give and bequeath to the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., Stockbridge, MA 01262, \_\_\_% of my adjusted gross estate (or \$\_\_\_\_\_, or a specific asset) to be used for its religious and educational purposes.*



# THANK YOU, AND PLEASE

I wish to say “thank you” to you all, and then “please” to you all. “Thank you” for your response to our urgent appeal last winter for funds to replace our heating system here at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. And “please” join us in our petition drive to declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church, introduced in this magazine’s cover wrap.

First, the urgent appeal. Every time we have had a crisis, our Marian Helpers have come through and assisted us, allowing us to continue our ministry for God’s Kingdom. In our urgent appeal, made through a mailing, our Facebook page, and websites, I requested donations that would allow us to replace our 40-plus-year-old heating system, which was repeatedly and increasingly breaking down. When we made this appeal to you, we were in the midst of record-breaking winter temperatures. Yes, we bundled up here at the Center. Yes, we made it through. (We’re tough New Englanders, after all!) But considering that the Marian Helpers Center serves as the very epicenter of the Marians’ publishing apostolate — the place from which we spread throughout the world the message of Divine Mercy and devotion to Mary Immaculate and the Holy Souls in Purgatory — we knew that to try to make it through yet another winter with a timeworn and unreliable heating system would be irresponsible and jeopardizing the mission our Lord has given us.

The long and short of it is, we sought to raise \$250,000 in donations. We greatly exceeded our goal! What that means is not only are we replacing the heating system, but we are now making plans to install insulation and new, air-tight windows for the Center. (The building is not insulated, and we have

windows falling apart that date back to the early part of last century, when our printing press room was a horse barn.)

Again, thank you for your donations, and thank you for your prayers to make this project happen.

This brings us to the petition drive — another project we call upon you to support. Please get your pens ready. As many of you know, we Marians and Marian Helpers have been spreading the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina since 1941, a mere three years after the death of the Lord’s “secretary” of Divine Mercy. All the while, we have witnessed how her life and writings have renewed the lives of millions worldwide. No exaggeration: We — Marians and Marian Helpers — have helped make the Divine Mercy message and devotion the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church.

So, together, let’s take this one step further. Let’s petition the Holy See to declare St. Faustina a Doctor of the Church. Saint Faustina is the saint for our times. She has clarified for the Church and the world today the mystery of God’s merciful love and his call for trust.

Pope Francis has expressed a love and appreciation for St. Faustina. We also know he values the desires of the faithful. Together, let our voices be heard! Sign your name to the petition. Send the petition back to us. Please. Thank you!

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/doctor](http://TheDivineMercy.org/doctor) for more information on our petition drive.

*Fr. Joseph, MIC*

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



# Meet Zachary King

CHRIS SPARKS



**F**ormer satanist Zachary King, founder of All Saints Ministry with his wife, Katie, has been a frequent pilgrim to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy since his conversion to Catholicism in 2008. *Father Anthony Gramlich, MIC, our current shrine rector, served as Zachary's spiritual director for several years. We sat down with Zachary to hear his story.*

## **How old were you by the time you knowingly became a satanist?**

I was 13. I had to sign a document that said I could never seek out God. I believed Jesus died for everybody, but not for me; the Blood of Jesus washes away all sins, but not mine. I bought into that. I now know it is impossible to “sell your soul.” Jesus bought your soul on the Cross. You don't own your own soul. You can't [irrevocably] sell it to the Devil in this life. But I didn't know that back then.

## **How did you get started with satanism?**

I began experimenting with magic and the occult when I was 10. I also began playing Dungeons & Dragons with my friends, and I always played a major

wizard. When I was 12, I met a group of kids and adults who played Dungeons & Dragons. They also believed that magic is real. At that time, I had done a couple of spells that really worked out. I was hooked; magic was real. It's no fun being able to do something if you can't share it, so I started hanging out with this group. It turned out that it was a satanic cult. I was raised Baptist, and Satan was almost never talked about in the Baptist church. He was this bad guy from way back in history who doesn't do anything now. By the time I found out [they were a satanic cult], I had had so much fun there. I got to smoke, drink, do drugs, have sex — nothing I did seemed wrong. Here I was, a geeky, nerdy kid, and I had the chance to have the power to do whatever I want. That was my road in. Going from that coven to another one [when I went off to college] — that was the World Church of Satan, where I learned how big satanism really is.

## **So then you had 26-plus years in organized satanism, reaching the level of High Wizard in the World Church of Satan.**

I was part of 146 ritual abortions, helped break up around 120 Baptist churches through infiltration,

gossip, and manipulation, and committed every sin imaginable.

### **When did you leave?**

I was 33. When you can do anything you want, it's no fun anymore. I joined a Baptist church for real, only to leave after three years and return to magic.

### **How did you become Catholic?**

In 2007, I married Katie and was living in Vermont, managing a jewelry store at a mall. In early 2008, a woman named Mary Ann came into the shop. The woman purchased earrings, then she said, "Now I have something for you!" She handed me a small, golden disc — what I now know was a Miraculous Medal. And then she said the strangest thing I had ever heard in my life, and after 25-plus years of being involved in the occult, that's saying something! She said, "The Blessed Mother is calling you into her army." Then she told me that the object was very powerful. I felt sure that I would be able to tell whether this thing truly was powerful or not. So I closed my fist around it, and suddenly the world around me faded away. The customer appeared to begin telling me all of my past, the years of satanism and the occult; the magic; the abortions; the sins. Then the Blessed Mother appeared and took me by the hand and turned me around, and Jesus was standing behind me. This was what I was looking for. It was an instant conversion. I realized I had been doing it wrong all this time. I needed to find out where this woman went to church. That's where I needed to go, knowing that this would be the right place to be. And when I opened my hand, I was back in the store, and Mary Ann was still talking to me.

### **What role did St. Faustina's *Diary* play in your conversion?**

It's probably the most amazing book I've ever read. To me, it brought the saints into my house. They weren't these people who had died 300 years ago or more, 2,000 years ago. Saint Faustina died not that long ago [1938]. She helped me to understand that Christ is alive in the world today and is calling us to a personal relationship with him. MH

— Chris Sparks

## **MARIAN HELPER NEWS**

Here is subject matter you don't normally encounter in a secular newspaper: "God gave Sr. Faustina, a Polish nun in the 1930s, the message she was to prepare the world for his second coming." So writes **Mary Zimmerman**, a Marian Helper from Winona, Minnesota, who has managed to achieve the improbable: Her biweekly newspaper column, "A Matter of Faith" for the *Winona Post*, devotes much of its content to proclaiming the mercy of God and her devotion to St. Faustina. In a recent phone conversation, Mary told us, "Trust wasn't a part of my life until I learned through St. Faustina's revelations how God promises graces to those who spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion." Her columns are wonderful. Take a look for yourself! Log onto [winonapost.com](http://winonapost.com), type in "Mary Zimmerman" in the search field, and enjoy!

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At some point deep into his 33-year prison term, **Gene** became a Marian Helper. The Rhode Island man, who recalls waking each morning during his boyhood in Boston to the comforting sound of Cardinal Richard Cushing reciting the Rosary on WORL-FM, said it was in large part through the literature he received in prison from the Marians that his faith in God was reignited. "I came to understand God — that he is forgiving and he won't turn his back on us," said Gene, who was released from prison six years ago. Two years ago, Gene attended the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He remembers pulling onto the grounds. "I practically fell to my knees, I couldn't believe it," he said. "God has been so good to me. He has forgiven me for what I have done, and now, in turn, I have to do everything I can to witness for him and to try to encourage people to visit the Shrine." Welcome home, Gene!

\*\*\*

Anyone in northeast Pennsylvania looking to ramp up efforts to spread Divine Mercy in the region? **Frank Pasquini** of Wilkes-Barre says the Lord has put it on his heart to step out in faith and evangelize. Contact us at [mailbox@marian.org](mailto:mailbox@marian.org) and we will pass on your information to Frank.

*Have you got news you wish to share with your fellow Marian Helpers? Email us at [mailbox@marian.org](mailto:mailbox@marian.org).*

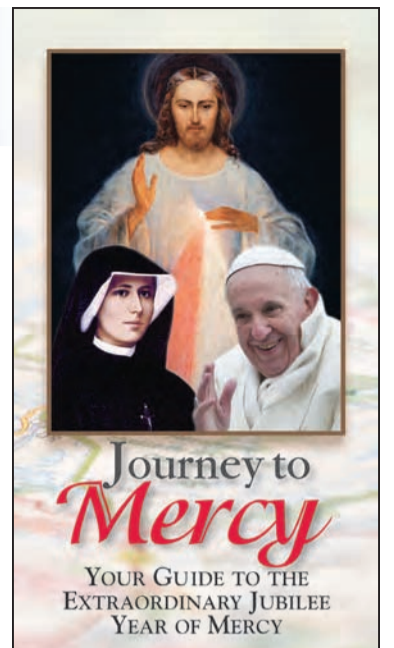
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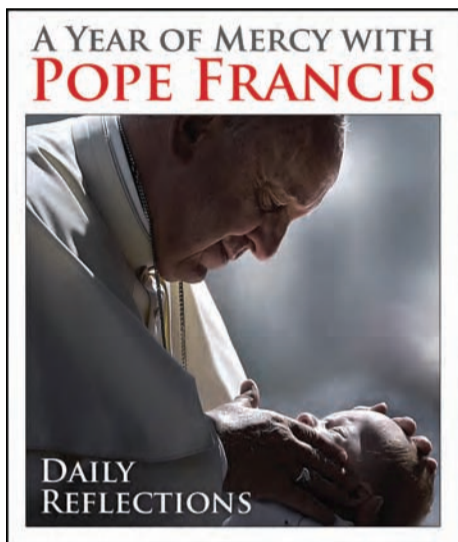
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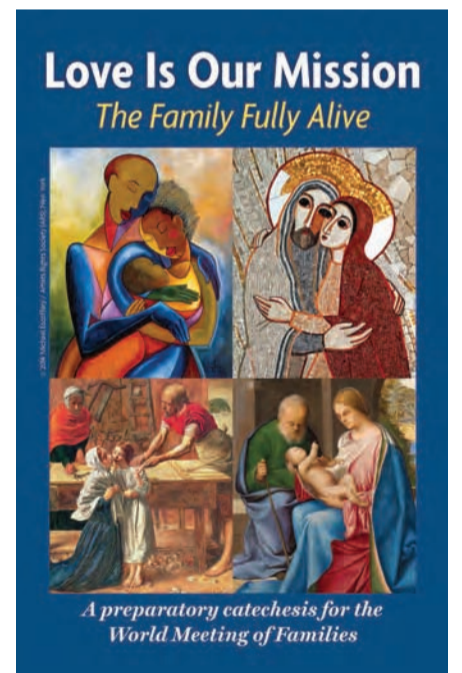
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# THE MERCY 'MANDATE' ENDURES

As an advisor to our Congregation's Superior General, I am fortunate to live here in Rome at an extraordinary time in Church history. Before my very eyes, I'm seeing the hopes and dreams of Marians and Marian Helpers coming to fruition. The message of Divine Mercy — which, together, we have spread throughout the world for decades — has become the central mission of the Church today, as evidenced by the teachings of three successive popes.

Just before my arrival in Rome 10 years ago, the “Great Mercy Pope,” St. John Paul II, died, and Pope Benedict XVI was elected. I was so happy to see how he took up where St. John Paul II left off in emphasizing the centrality of the message of mercy for the life of the Church. In his first address, on April 20, 2005, Pope Benedict spoke about his apprehension, on a human level, at having to take on the office of the papacy. Then he said, “Dear friends, this deep gratitude for a gift of divine mercy is uppermost in my heart in spite of all. And I consider it a special grace which my Venerable Predecessor, John Paul II, has obtained for me.” We all witnessed how Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, a shy man who preferred his books and studies to public settings, emerged as a warm, smiling, and effective teacher of the truths of our faith. He made Divine Mercy a “mandate” and instructed the faithful to go forth and be witnesses of God's mercy.

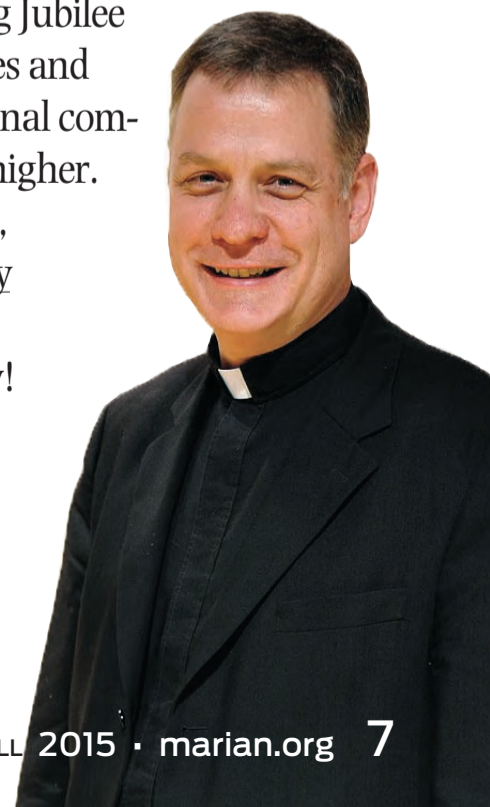
I was present in St. Peter's Square when Pope Francis was elected. He, too, seems to have received a special grace of peace upon his election. For instance, people say that when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio rarely smiled. Indeed, the night he was elected, when he first came out on the balcony, Pope Francis initially stood there rather awkwardly. He looked to me like a tree. I remember thinking to myself, “Who has the Church elected?” But then he bowed his head and humbly asked for prayers. All were immediately won over by his warmth and tenderness.

And now look at him! As we all know, he has won the hearts of Catholics and non-Catholics alike around the world for his down-to-earth style and his visible love of people, particularly the marginalized.

He has also taken up the baton of his predecessors by speaking about Divine Mercy. Indeed, he surprised the Church earlier this year by declaring an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, an opportunity for all to be reconciled with our loving Father and to, in turn, present the face of Christ to the world through our words and actions. I recommend that you read his papal bull, *Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy)*, which he issued in April to prepare the Church for the Holy Year. It is a beautiful document.

Our Lord said to St. Faustina, “You will prepare the world for My final coming” by spreading the message of Divine Mercy (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 429). That's the mission Pope Francis has put before us as we look toward this upcoming Jubilee Year. We are to prepare ourselves and help prepare others for Christ's final coming. The stakes couldn't be any higher.

The Jubilee Year, by the way, begins on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Marians' patronal feast day! What an amazing time to be a Marian priest. What an amazing time to be Catholic.




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Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, is the Vicar General of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He lives in Rome.

# ‘OUR MORAL OBLIGATION’

Marians and Helpers applaud environmental encyclical

FELIX CARROLL



See aerial view of Kampoosa Bog.



“Look at that,” says Margaret Farrell, pointing to an oval shape on an ancient log ringed by lily pads.

“A snapper?” her husband, Doug, suggests, squinting.

“I think it’s a Painted,” Margaret says. “See the yellow stripes?”

They’re talking about turtles — one in particular, sunning itself on a log in Kampoosa Bog at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

The Farrells of Nashua, New Hampshire, are frequent Shrine visitors, drawn to God present here — partially in the natural beauty and wholly in the Eucharist.

It’s July 22, a month following the release of Pope Francis’ celebrated encyclical on the environment entitled *Laudato Si’ (Praised Be)*. For Marians and Marian Helpers — including the Farrells — the 184-page encyclical serves as a pointed reminder of the role God assigned to humans, dating back to Genesis. In the words of the Holy Father, “[H]uman life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself.”

In sobering terms, Pope Francis points to our “throw-away culture,” our consumerism, and our “unbridled exploitation” of natural resources. He points to greed and to “quick and easy profit” motivations whose grave implications have led to “the disappearance of thou-

sands of plant and animal species” each year, and polluted soil, air, and water. It’s the poor who suffer the most, he says, since it is they who lack the financial means to adapt.

“We are reaching a breaking point,” Pope Francis says. Leaders have failed us, he says, but we have failed ourselves as well by “denial” and “indifference.”

His prescriptions include a call for secular initiatives (renewable fuel subsidies and energy efficiency, for instance) and spiritual initiatives (namely, to acknowledge that the wounds of the earth reflect the symptoms of “[t]he violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin”).

“The world has never needed this encyclical more than it does now,” says Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “If there’s anyone right now with the clout to effect change on a global

scale, it's Pope Francis. We as Catholics — 1.2 billion worldwide — have the duty to take the lead.”

So how do we take the lead?

“It means we priests need to start preaching about the environment,” Fr. Chris says. “In my whole life, I have only heard one homily focused on the environment. It means understanding that God intended us to be stewards of his creation, that the land, air, and sea are gifts to us all from a loving God. It means that just because we value human life above the life of other creatures doesn't mean we are exempt from preserving, protecting, and valuing other creatures. Being pro-life and good stewards of the environment makes us pro-life to the fullest.

“It means we Catholics — we Marians and Marian Helpers — need to answer the Holy Father's challenge to rise above politics with regard to the environment,” Fr. Chris continues. “Many on the left see nature itself as identical with ‘divinity’ — a ‘god’ to be worshipped — and they refuse to see the hand of God in creation. And many on the right ridicule so-called ‘tree-huggers,’ and thus cast-off the notion that human activities are leading to our own self-destruction. Catholicism and environmentalism are not a contradiction in terms. This is what popes throughout the ages have taught, including St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.”

An avid outdoorsman, Fr. Chris said he first drew close to God as a child while hiking, fishing, and hunting with his father in the backwoods of Michigan. (“Have you ever seen the markings of a Ring-necked Pheasant?” he asks. “Something this beautiful was not created by chance.”)

“I saw God first in his creation,” Fr. Chris says, “and this was a beautiful preparation for me loving him — his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — fully in the Eucharist.”

The Farrells, who have been visiting the Shrine for eight years, say they have followed a similar route to God.

“We saw an American Bittern here a couple years ago for the first time,” says Doug, referring to the endangered brown-streaked heron that's an inhabitant of Kamposa Bog.

Kamposa, by the way, is the largest, most unspoiled, and environmentally significant bog in Massachusetts. The Marians have placed their 115-acre portion of the 1,350-acre bog under permanent conservation restriction. You can see the Shrine's cross-topped bell tower from its banks.

“How can you look at all of this natural beauty and not see God?” says Margaret, who has been following the news of the Holy Father's environmental initiatives.

Doug is still squinting to get a better look at the turtle on the log.

“Definitely, it's a Painted Turtle,” he says. “Incredible.” MH

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org/PraisedBe](http://TheDivineMercy.org/PraisedBe) to read Pope Francis' encyclical.

— Felix Carroll

## Pope Francis Incoming!

The Holy Father will visit the United States from Sept. 22-27.

His trip was occasioned by the World Meeting of Families, but he's got a lot more on his schedule than just that.

We will be there!

Visit [TheDivineMercy.org](http://TheDivineMercy.org) for our full coverage of the trip. (All times listed are EDT.)

**Tuesday, Sept. 22 (Washington, D.C.)**

4 p.m. — Arrival

**Wednesday, Sept. 23**

**(Washington, D.C.)**

9:15 a.m. — Meeting with President Obama at the White House

11:30 a.m. — Midday Prayer with bishops

4:15 p.m. — Mass of Canonization of Junipero Serra, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

**Thursday, Sept. 24**

**(Washington, D.C., New York City)**

9:20 a.m. — Address to Joint Session of the U.S. Congress

11:15 a.m. — Visit to St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities

6:45 p.m. — Evening Prayer at St. Patrick's Cathedral

**Friday, Sept. 25 (New York City)**

8:30 a.m. — Address to the United Nations General Assembly

11:30 a.m. — Multi-religious service at 9/11 Memorial and Museum

6 p.m. — Mass at Madison Square Garden

**Saturday, Sept. 26 (Philadelphia)**

10:30 a.m. — Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul

7:30 p.m. — Visit to the Festival of Families

**Sunday, Sept. 27 (Philadelphia)**

9:15 a.m. — Meeting with bishops

11 a.m. — Visit to Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility

4 p.m. — Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, Benjamin Franklin Parkway

8 p.m. — Departure for Rome

Visit [worldmeeting2015.org](http://worldmeeting2015.org) to learn more about the World Meeting of Families.



Dave and Joan Maroney talk about campaign.



FELIX CARROLL

# One nation under God

**N**ot ones to mince words — about hell, Satan, and the society-fracturing effects of abortion, pornography, same-sex marriage, sexual promiscuity, economic injustice, and substance abuse — Dave and Joan Maroney have proffered a solution to save our country from itself.

Simply put: to follow in the footsteps of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska by utilizing the same prayers and sacrifices for the United States that she offered the Lord for Poland in the 1930s.

Enter the Divine Mercy for America campaign, a three-pronged plan to nurture personal holiness, utilize the promises Jesus makes through St. Faustina, and spread the message of Divine Mercy to others.

“People think they cannot change things, that they are not empowered to turn this country around. But they *are* empowered,” says Joan, who, along with her husband, Dave, runs Mother of Mercy Messengers (MOMM), an apostolate of the Marian Fathers.

And wouldn’t you know it: The blueprints for MOMM’s Divine Mercy for America campaign have been embedded in the pages of St. Faustina’s Diary all along.

In her Diary, St. Faustina chronicles her encounters with Jesus, who reveals God’s greatest attribute to be

mercy. On occasion, Jesus tells Faustina of his Father’s anger toward sinners — and, indeed, toward nations. He names names. Relative to MOMM’s campaign, this is where things get interesting.

Back in 2012, Dave and Joan had just returned home to Texas from a road trip giving Divine Mercy presentations to local parishes and schools. It being an election

year, they felt worn down by a veritable fusillade of presidential politics, economic anxiety, and the volley of rancorous jeremiads in our country’s cultural wars.

The Maroneys were preparing for Pentecost, the liturgical memorial of the Church’s watershed moment. While rereading the Diary, they experienced their own watershed moment in their efforts to spread Divine Mercy.

It dawned on them how often Christ mentions his Father’s anger with Faustina’s native Poland and how often Faustina responded by offering her prayers and sufferings for her country.

Saint Faustina wrote, “I often pray for Poland, but I see that God is very angry with it because of its ingratitude. ... I constantly remind God of the promises of His mercy. When I see His anger, I throw myself trustingly into the abyss of His mercy, and I plunge all Poland in it, and then He cannot use His justice” (1188).

**WHAT TO DO**  
Visit [DivineMercyForAmerica.org](http://DivineMercyForAmerica.org) to learn more and to join the campaign.

Why was God so angry with Poland? The Maroneys delved deeper. Turns out that, in the 1930s, Poland had become the abortion capital of Eastern Europe. Interestingly, Faustina's revelations began in 1932, the year before Poland legalized abortion. "It was as if he was coming to offset the evil of abortion by offering his mercy, even to the greatest of sinners," says Joan. "Despite how angry God was with Poland and how it suffered during World War II, the Divine Mercy message and devotion nonetheless rose out of the ashes."

And so did Poland. In 1989, Poland became the first Warsaw Pact state to break free from the Soviet Union — in no small way due to the Polish Pope, St. John Paul II, who made the spread of Divine Mercy the central mission of his pontificate. The Maroneys believe it's no coincidence the Polish people passed a referendum banning abortion in 1993, the year of Faustina's beatification.

"If God had been so angry with Poland in the 1930s," says Joan, "imagine how angry he is with the United States today."

"We have driven God from our borders," says Dave. "We have to pray."

At the same time, the Maroneys note, the United States, like Poland, clearly holds a special place in the Lord's Heart. This is where St. Faustina's revelations took root and from which they spread throughout the world, beginning in the 1940s through the Marian Fathers. This is where the two miracles occurred through St. Faustina's intercession used for her beatification and canonization.

In other words, we are duty-bound to exert all the strength of our souls to defend our native land. When we unite our prayers with Jesus on the Cross, as St. Faustina did, he promises to "pour out a whole ocean of graces" (*Diary*, 699).

MOMM's goal is to inspire one million Americans to join the campaign.

From sea to shining sea.

MH

— Felix Carroll

## APOSTOLATE NEWS:

Do you have friends or fellow parishioners who are hospitalized right now? If so, consider visiting them. That's a lesson recently learned by Dr. Bryan Thatcher, director of **Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy**. In February, just a few days after the release of the booklet he co-wrote, *At The Bedside of The Sick and Dying: A Guide for Parish Ministry, Family, and Friends* (Marian Press), he met a widower named George. "He told me that when his wife got ill, people would ask him how she was doing," recalled Dr. Thatcher. "He would say, 'Why don't you go visit her?'" In spite of his pleas, no one ever came to her bedside. He was still hurt by that." With the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy beginning in December, said Bryan, "I encourage Marian Helpers to visit those who are sick. It means so much."

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Here's some recommended reading: **The John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy** continues its Marian apologetics web series by Robert Stackpole, STD, called "Mary 101." To read Dr. Stackpole's columns, visit [TheDivineMercy.org/jpII](http://TheDivineMercy.org/jpII).

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For many years, **Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy** has held successful educational conferences in Worcester, Massachusetts. "We are happy to announce we are expanding our conferences to Ohio," said Marie Romagnano, RN, BSN, the director of the healthcare apostolate. The Medicine, Spirituality and Bioethics Conference will be held Oct. 21-22 in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. The program will carry 15 continuing education credits for healthcare professionals. The Most Rev. Richard Gerard Lennon, bishop of Cleveland, will celebrate the opening Mass. Doctor Ron Sobechs, from the Cleveland Clinic, is the local coordinator. For more information and to register, call 1-800-462-7426 or visit [TheDivineMercy.org/cleveland](http://TheDivineMercy.org/cleveland).

## THE APOSTOLATES WANT TO HELP YOU SPREAD DIVINE MERCY



The Divine Mercy Apostolates represent four unique lay outreaches of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. They bring the message of Divine Mercy to communities throughout the world.

For more information, call 1-866-895-3236 or visit [TheDivineMercy.org/ministries](http://TheDivineMercy.org/ministries).

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BREAKING NEWS



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# Mary is the Answer

So here's the plan

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

I'm deeply concerned. I'm troubled about what's going on in our country and in the world. I'm saddened by the daily reports of Christians being terrorized by ISIS in the Middle East, the growing persecution of Christians here at home, the unprecedented attacks on marriage and the family, and the dramatic increase in pornography addicts.

I'm disturbed by the rise of racism, the political pitting of rich against the poor, our exploding national debt, and degradation of the environment. I'm frustrated that there are fewer and fewer Christians in America, that the culture war is all but lost, and that the culture of death seems here to stay.

Considering all this and more, things seem to be going from bad to worse to horrendous. So, yes, I'm concerned, really concerned. And I've been hearing from you, our Marian Helpers, that you're concerned, too.

*Well, you should be.*

## Be concerned, but ...

Yes, be concerned, but also *be not afraid*. After all, there's hope, real hope. God has not abandoned us. In fact, I believe that the Lord has given us a secret weapon, a weapon that will make us into an army that is sure to win.

But we still need to build that army. We need strong, dedicated, faith-filled recruits. We need people like you who are willing to take up the secret weapon and fight. So, let me put it this way: I want YOU to fight in this army! Will you help me?

All right, but before you answer, before I tell you about the secret weapon and our strategy, let me first explain why I'm so hopeful.

## Now is the time of mercy



Actually, Pope Francis lays out the key to our hope better than I can. Read what he said to the priests of the diocese of Rome last year:

[H]ear the voice of the Spirit speaking to the whole Church of our time, which is the time of mercy. I am sure of this. ... *In the Church, everything is the time of mercy.*

So it's mercy. Mercy is the key to our hope. And the good news is that now is the time of mercy! Pope Francis is certain of it. But what does it mean?

As one of the priests in my community is always putting it, the key to understanding this time of mercy is Romans 5:20: "Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more." In other words, in a time of great evil,

God gives even greater grace. Therefore, because things are so bad right now, God is offering even greater mercy. He's giving us amazing grace.

And you know what? This grace and mercy will soon be even more amazing. I say that because we're not only living in "the time of mercy" right now, but soon (Dec. 8) we'll be entering the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. So we'll be getting a double portion of amazing mercy! But we need to prepare for it. We need to enter into that year of mercy properly. We need to get ready. But how?

## Our Mother of Mercy

According to Pope Francis, it's *Mary* who will prepare us for the Year of Mercy. For instance, in the document that establishes this extraordinary time of grace for the Church, he asked that "the sweetness of [Mary's] countenance" might "watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness."

Also, it's interesting that Pope Francis decided that the Jubilee Year of Mercy should begin on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is the day when we remember and celebrate Mary's greatest experience of God's mercy: her being preserved, from the first moment of her conception, from all stain of original sin. This was an act of mercy she did nothing to deserve. Rather, it came as a totally free gift at the very moment when she came to be.

Because Mary knows the free gift of God's mercy more than any other creature, she wants us to know it, too. And she does that best by the secret weapon I'm about to share.

## The Secret Weapon

Mary can best bring us into God's mercy when we consecrate ourselves totally to Jesus through her. That's the secret weapon that will help us tap into the great graces of the upcoming year of mercy.

Why? Well, according to Pope John Paul II, the whole purpose of consecrating or entrusting ourselves to Mary is so that she can bring us to the pierced side of Jesus, which is the Fountain of Mercy. In other words, Mary's whole role is to help us experience the mercy of God.

And she does it best when we consecrate ourselves to her. This is why St. Louis de Montfort said that a total consecration to Jesus through Mary is the "quickest, easiest, surest, and most perfect" path to becoming a saint. [See box on the next page.]

## Begin on November 5

Now, maybe you've already consecrated yourself to Mary. Well, now is the perfect time to renew it, and I recommend that you use the most popular consecration book available today: *33 Days to Morning Glory* (Marian Press) by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. And don't just renew it yourself; invite others to join you. (Learn more at [AllHeartsAfire.org](http://AllHeartsAfire.org).)

And for those of you who have never made the consecration, now is the best time ever! This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the consecration in preparation for the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. (By the way, this is only the fourth "extraordinary Jubilee" in the whole history of the Church!) So, we're inviting all of our Marian Helpers to consecrate themselves on Dec. 8. To do that, we'll begin our 33 days of preparation on Nov. 5. Please join us! Join Mary's army.

Imagine if all of our Marian Helpers joined us Marians in consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary on the great feast of the Immaculate Conception to begin the

Year of Mercy! I know she will then use us as a powerful army for her Son to bless the whole world in this great time of mercy. God knows the world needs it, and I know that by consecrating ourselves to Mary, we can and *will* change the world. We *will* be victorious, and we will begin our march on Nov. 5, and I want *you* to join us. MH

### Here's what to do

For evangelization purposes, we're offering a special on the consecration book *33 Days to Morning Glory*. (Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Offered until Nov. 5. Visit [ShopMercy.org/33](http://ShopMercy.org/33) or call 800-462-7426. One per household. U.S. only.)

Do the consecration alone or as a group. (Visit [AllHeartsAfire.org](http://AllHeartsAfire.org) for more info).

Begin the consecration on Nov. 5 so that you can complete the consecration 33 days later, on Dec. 8 — the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the start of the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy!

## Why consecration to Jesus through Mary?

*(Excerpted from 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.)*

To properly understand the essence of total consecration to Jesus through Mary, we need to reflect on an important point: Jesus wants to include all of us in his work of salvation. In other words, he doesn't just redeem us and then expect us to kick back and relax. On the contrary, he puts us to work. He wants all of us to labor in his Father's vineyard in one way or another. Jesus relies on others to spread his Gospel, and he commissions his disciples to preach it to all (see Mt 28:19-20). He basically says to them and to us, "Let's get to work!" Of course, that God wants to include us in his work of salvation is a great gift and glorious privilege. Truly, there's no more important work to be done.

While everyone is called to lend a hand in the great work of salvation, not everyone has the same role. For example, St. Paul says, "There are varieties of service and ... there are varieties of working" (1 Cor 12:5-6). He goes on to say that God has appointed to the work of salvation "first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators" (v. 28). Whoever we are, God has appointed us to a special task in his great work.

Among the various roles God has given to his children, there's one that's radically more important than all the others: the task he gave to Mary. We all know that God

uniquely blessed Mary by choosing her to conceive, bear, and nurture Jesus Christ, our Savior. But do we also realize that her blessed work didn't end once Jesus left home and began his public ministry? After the three years of Mary's hidden life during Jesus' public ministry, Jesus brought her back into the picture of his work of salvation at its most crucial time: the "hour" of his Passion. At that hour, we might say he fully revealed Mary's special task — the same task she had begun some 33 years before and that she still continues. Jesus fully revealed Mary's special task shortly before his death. It happened when he looked down from the Cross and said to Mary as she stood with the Apostle John, "Woman, behold, your son" and to John, "Behold, your mother" (Jn 19:26-27). At that moment, Jesus gave us one of his greatest gifts: his mother as our mother. Of course, Mary isn't our natural mother. She's our spiritual mother. In other words, just as it was once her task some 2,000 years ago to give birth to Christ, to feed and nurture him, and to help him grow and develop into a man, so also, from the time she first said yes to being the mother of Jesus until the end of time, Mary's task is to give spiritual birth to Christians, to feed and nurture them with grace, and to help them grow to full stature in Christ. In short, Mary's job is to help us grow in holiness. It's her mission to form us into saints. MH

Our Lord tells us through St. Faustina, “I demand from you deeds of mercy which are to arise out of love for Me” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742). With the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy approaching, let’s all vow to double our efforts to answer Christ’s call. Every day we have opportunities to perform deeds of mercy, as evidenced by the following emails sent in to us from Marian Helpers:

### The ‘good guys’ win

I don’t know who he or she was, but someone left me a beautiful gift basket. I found it all wrapped and waiting for me by my apartment door when I came home. It contained a bottle of nice wine, a hunk of beautiful cheddar cheese, a candle, and other goodies. I have wonderful neighbors, and we all help each other and keep an eye out for each other. I have recently been going through some difficult times. No need to get into that. I only wish to say that, despite all the bad things in the world, the “good guys” still hold sway.

— D.M.

### Time spent wisely

I’ve heard enough already of the regrets people express upon the death of loved ones. “*I should have spent more time with ‘him/her.’ I should have told ‘him/her’ that I loved ‘him/her.’*”

Thanks to one of my siblings, we kids got together and spent the weekend with our mother. We all live in different states, so getting together is always difficult. But we made it happen. It really made our mother’s day/year/decade.

Yes, now is the time to love each other. .

— Frederick

### Wood, could, should

A neighbor I hardly know saw that I had just recently installed a wood stove in preparation for winter. Noticing I had no firewood in the yard, she offered (for free) four cords of her wood. This is a huge, huge gift to me (probably \$500 worth of wood). I share this with you as an example of how people help spread God’s mercy to others. In the case of my neighbor, her kindness is heartwarming in more ways than one! I pray I can use her example to help others.

— Gerald McHugh

### Dear anonymous ...

Just a simple Divine Mercy pamphlet left anonymously in the back of my church has transformed my faith from lackluster to an experience of utter joy. I don’t know who has been leaving this Divine Mercy material, but I thank you and pray that others are doing the same in parishes around the world and the recipients discovering/rediscovers their faith.

Now I need to return the favor and begin to leave Divine Mercy materials where others can find it. This is a deed of mercy that’s so simple and easy.

— Doug M.

### Answering the call

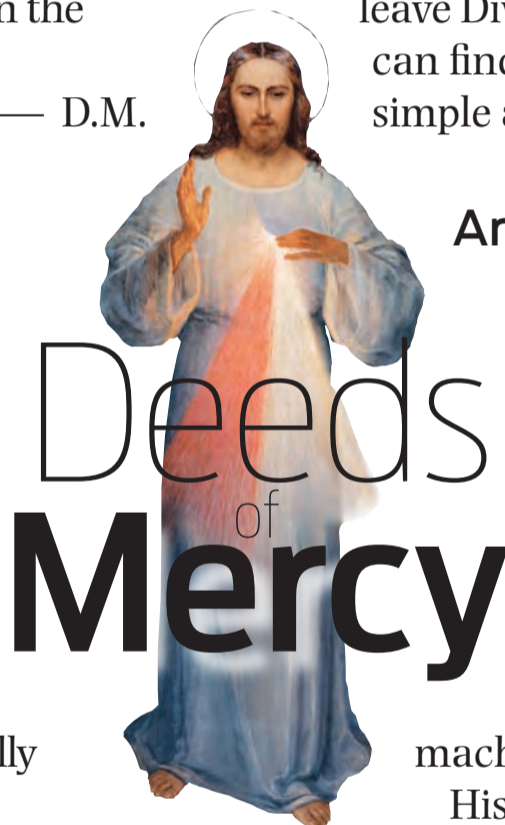
I just witnessed what I felt was an amazing and courageous act of faith. I called a technician who works on our cargo elevators on the ship I am sailing on. I was going to ask some technical questions and hopefully get some advice on how to proceed. But I got his answering machine instead.

His message began in the typical manner: “Leave a message, and I will get back to you,” etc. But it closed with an amazing statement: “And may God bless you today.”

That so struck me that I sat there with the phone in my hand long after the call. I struggle with courage — the courage to say to someone “I will pray for you” or “God bless you.” He said it with such sincerity and strength that it cheered me up instantly. How a simple statement can be such a powerful thing! God did bless me this day.

— Michael

Share with us deeds of mercy you have witnessed or engaged in: [mailbox@marian.org](mailto:mailbox@marian.org).



# THREE NEW PRIESTS THREE ANCIENT VOWS

**P**overty, chastity, and obedience. Before God, family, friends, and fellow Marians, three men recently professed these three vows that undergird the consecrated life. They were ordained to the Sacred Priesthood during the Church's special Year of Consecrated Life, which concludes on Feb. 2, 2016. Pope Francis called for this special year in order to deepen our awareness of consecrated life — a life chosen freely in response to the call of Christ to serve his Church and his world. What do these ancient vows mean to these modern Marians?

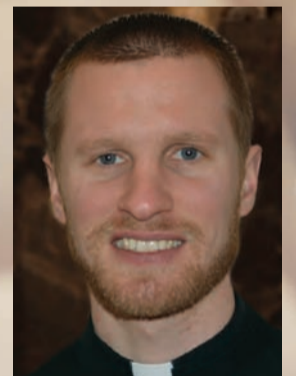


## Poverty

By Fr. Thaddaeus Lancton, MIC  
Ordained May 30

It's been said that we have "God-shaped" holes in our hearts that can be filled only by God himself. Each person, therefore, has an innate desire for God, but because of sinful desires, we often settle for substitutes. We are truly happy only when we possess God, but in order to possess God, we must be purified of sin and all that leads us to it. We must — like Christ — be entirely emptied so as to be filled with the fullness of God. Poverty is emptying oneself in the hope of being filled by God. The vow of poverty is, therefore, something that frees the heart from all that acts as a false substitute for God. Poverty is the ability to freely let go of all that is unnecessary in my life so as to focus the heart's desire to "possess" the most valuable "Possession" of all: God himself in our lives. Poverty frees us from searching for happiness where it cannot be found (i.e., in material or spiritual possessions). Poverty points us, in hope, to our one true happiness: God.

Through our vow of poverty, we seek to imitate Mary who was the perfect example of the *anawim* of the Old Testament, a people bowed down, faithful amidst suffering, rooted in the Lord, wholly dependent upon God the Father who made their cause his own. We are called to follow Mary's perfect example. Poverty frees one from the anxiety and concern for obtaining material and spiritual goods. Poverty allows one to wait in the emptiness, confident that God will fill us with good things as we need them. This poverty, then, is the poverty of a child, free to play with joy, knowing that the Father provides for all his needs.





## Chastity

By Fr. Allen Alexander, MIC  
Ordained July 25



**F**or many people, the vow of chastity is mysterious, even perplexing, because in our culture so much is geared toward sex and indulging sensual pleasures. People tend to see chastity in the negative — that you *give up* marriage, *give up* children, *give up* a sexually intimate relationship. But through the vow of chastity, we profess a *positive*, a profound “yes” to God, “yes” to a life of love of God, “yes” to an undivided heart, a heart that, like Mary’s own heart, enables us to rejoice in the Lord and to constantly live in the presence of the Lord for the sake of a fallen world.

I knew years ago that this is the life to which God was calling me. Yet this does not mean I didn’t struggle with the idea. Through much thought and prayer, I came to the realization that even if I were able to choose any girl and could know that it would lead to the best marriage, I would never take that over having the ability to say “I absolve you” even once or to celebrate Mass just once, because that is how I am called to love. We all have a vocation to love. In the gift of marriage, this means saying with Christ, “This is my body given up for you, and only you,” for marital love is, by its nature, exclusive. The gift of celibate chastity, on the other hand, allows one the unique ability to say with Christ, “This is my Body given up for you,” not just to one person, but to *every* person. For those of us in consecrated life, by dedicating our whole life for the mission of saving souls and glorifying God, we become walking advertisements for the Kingdom of Heaven, where we all “neither marry nor are given in marriage”(Mk 12:25).



## Obedience

By Fr. Jonathan Inskip, MIC  
Ordained May 16



**A**s Marians, we imitate the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When Gabriel came to Mary at the Annunciation and shared God’s will (that she would conceive and bear the Son of God), she modeled obedience: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

I, as a Marian, am to obey Jesus, conforming my will to the will of God, as expressed through the magisterial teachings of the Church, my lawful superiors, and human laws, customs, and practices that are just. That’s not blind or unthinking obedience — we may ask questions or share information with our superiors to confirm that what’s being required of us is the best course of action, and we are not to act against our properly formed conscience. But obedience will sometimes mean we must do something cheerfully and promptly, even if we don’t like the task or find it difficult. By obeying, we take up our cross and walk in the footsteps of Jesus (see Phil 2:8). Mary again shows what obedience looks like at the Wedding at Cana, when she says to the servants, “Do whatever he [Jesus] tells you” (Jn 2:5).

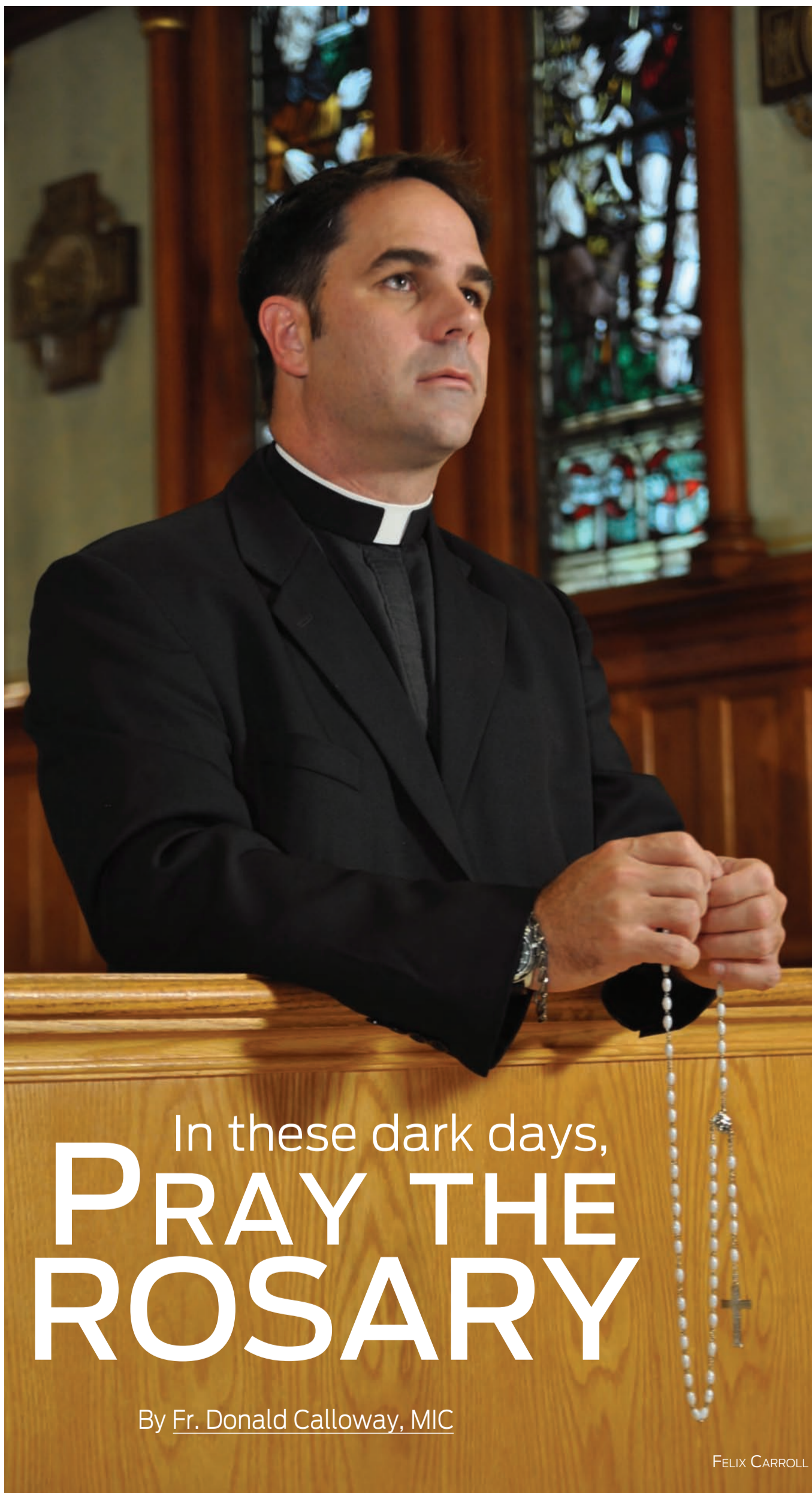
In a world where people seek “freedom” to do whatever they want (regardless of whether it is right or not), the notion of obedience might seem like a total restraint on our happiness. But pay attention to exactly whom we are to obey:

“Do whatever God, who is Divine Love, tells you.”

“Do whatever God, who is Divine Goodness, tells you.”

“Do whatever God, who is Divine Wisdom, tells you.”

Perfect obedience to Divine Love, Goodness, Wisdom — that is not a bad thing at all. It will lead to our perfect happiness.



In these dark days,  
**PRAY THE  
ROSARY**

By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

FELIX CARROLL

It's been recommended by saints and sinners, popes and peasant children, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Incarnate Son of God. It's more than 800 years old, and it's still the source of inexhaustible graces.

I'm talking, of course, about the Rosary. With October coming upon us — the month dedicated to the Rosary — let's turn our attention to this devotion that's powerful enough to stop wars, bring world peace, and convert sinners.

The Rosary is so important to me that, when I was discerning my vocation, I only wanted to join a religious community that prayed the Rosary every day. The Marian Fathers were just that community. We are required by our Constitutions — the governing documents of the Congregation — to pray at least one set of mysteries every day. I love this about our community.

But what makes the Rosary so important?

When the Rosary was given to St. Dominic in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, its primary purpose was to convert those in error back to the truths of Catholicism. Throughout history, this story continues to repeat itself. When Catholicism has been threatened, popes and saints have doubled up their efforts to

promote the Rosary as a means to overcome evil.

One of the most dramatic examples was the appeal of Pope St. Pius V, who asked all of Christian Europe to pray the Rosary for victory over an invading Islamic armada. On Oct. 7, 1571, standing at the window of the papal apartment in Rome, he had a vision of the Christian victory won that day during the Battle of Lepanto. That's why the Church celebrates the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7 each year.

The recent Holy Fathers have also given a great example of devotion to the Holy Rosary as well. One of the first public statements that St. John Paul II made after he was elected pope in 1978 was that the Rosary was his favorite prayer. He prayed it often, alone or in public.

Unbeknownst to St. John Paul II, his witness would touch a future pope. Then-Fr. Jorge Bergoglio was deeply inspired by St. John Paul II at a public recitation of the Rosary in 1985 in Rome.

"He was in front of everybody, on his knees," then-Cardinal Bergoglio recalled in an interview with *30 Giorni* in 2005 in the wake of the death of St. John Paul II. "I saw the Holy Father from the back and, little by little, I got lost in prayer. I was not alone: I was praying in the middle of the people of God to which I and all those there belonged, led by our Pastor.

"In the middle of the prayer I became distracted, looking at the figure of the Pope: his [piety], his devotion was a witness," Cardinal Bergoglio continued. "And the time drifted away, and I began to imagine

#### **ROSARY TIP:**

Even if you have to fight distractions all through your whole Rosary, be sure to fight well, arms in hand: that is to say, do not stop saying your Rosary even if it is difficult to say and you have no sensible devotion. It is a terrible battle, but one that is profitable to the faithful soul.

— St. Louis de Montfort

the young priest, the seminarian, the poet, the worker, the child from Wadowice ... in the same position in which [he] knelt at that moment, reciting *Ave Maria* after *Ave Maria*. His witness struck me. I felt that this man, chosen to lead the Church, was following a path up to his Mother in the sky, a path set out on from his childhood. And I became aware of the density of the words of the Mother of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego: 'Don't be afraid, am I not [...] your mother?' I understood the

presence of Mary in the life of the Pope. ... From that time on I recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary every day."

If Pope Francis can take the time in his busy daily schedule to pray at least *three* Rosaries a day, I think we can find the time to pray at least *one* set of mysteries a day. And we can pray the Rosary almost anywhere!

We need the Rosary today more than ever as a weapon of truth and an instrument of mercy. Add to that, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed on ordinary rosary beads, rendering this simple string of beads not only a weapon to overcome evil, but also a way to plead for God's mercy upon ourselves and on the whole world.

So let us take up the Rosary and pray it every day for peace in the world, for my Congregation, for the Association of Marian Helpers, and for every intention for which our Lord and Our Lady want us to pray.

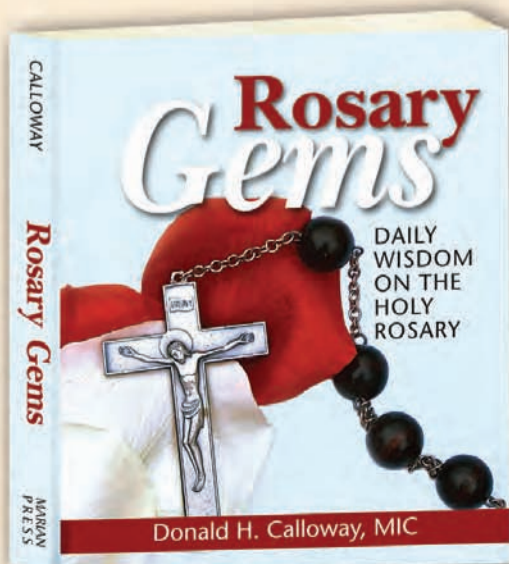
Take up the spiritual sword of the Rosary, and renew the face of the earth!

MH

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# teach your children

## TO PRAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS

By Fr. Andy Davy, MIC

**W**hat if you could somehow arrange for an army of personal patron saints to look after your children throughout their lives? You'd do it, right? What if you could have your children perform one of the greatest acts of love in the process? You'd do that, too, right?

Well, you can. And here's how: Have them pray and offer sacrifices for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

As we approach November, the month when the Church especially encourages us to remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory, I want to help you teach your children about this important devotion.

The Church teaches that the Holy Souls in Purgatory cannot pray for themselves. In purgatory, where Divine Justice purifies souls, the prayers and sacrifices of the living — of us and of our children — can extinguish our loved ones' burning pain of waiting to be united with God in eternity.

For children, this may all be a lot to take in.

So where do you begin? You can start by teaching them that *the greatest act you can do for someone*

*who has died is to pray for them.* Start with the basics — that these children loved their grandma (or whoever has passed away). Focus their attention on their love for that person. Explain that this love doesn't

end with death. Explain that when we are praying for our loved ones, we are keeping that connection. Encourage them to speak in prayer to their deceased love one, something like: "Grandma, I love you so much that I'm going to be thinking about you and praying for you."

Next, since purgatory can be a rather abstract concept for many younger children to grasp, I like to give them an analogy they can understand. My favorite is from writer Mark Hart. He says, "Have

you ever tried to put a wrinkled dollar bill into a soda machine? You try your best to straighten it out, but the machine simply can't receive it in its wrinkled, tattered state. But if you put in a crisp, new bill, the machine takes it no problem. Purgatory is where all the 'wrinkles' are purged and 'ironed out.' Remember, the wrinkled dollar is not worth less than the new one, it just needs some help. Put simply, pur-

I suggest taking older kids to the cemetery. It will help them to visualize, 'I'm here at the cemetery, Grandma is buried here, and I'm praying for her as I put flowers here. I'm doing something for Grandma.'

— Fr. Andy Davy, MIC

gatory means you'll get to heaven some day, but that you have a few things God has to 'iron out' first."

From there, one activity I like to encourage children to do is to make small sacrifices for their loved ones who have died, such as saying, "I won't eat that second cookie, and will instead offer it for Grandma who has passed away."

When I bring kids into Adoration, I have them imagine that particular person who has died is cradled in their hands, then I have them lift their hands up to an image of Jesus as they offer that person to the Lord. I have had kids tell me afterwards that they could feel the Lord was telling them, "Don't worry" — he is taking care of this person.

As for the older kids, one of my favorite activities is to have them imagine themselves as a Holy Soul in Purgatory. Then I tell them that they have been forgotten. I let them picture what it would be like to be stuck waiting, hoping that someone will help them get to heaven. Then I tell them that because of one person's prayers, they are now in heaven. I ask the kids, "If you were that soul, would you ever forget what that one person, who maybe didn't even know who you were, did for you?" It really gets them thinking. They often say, "I would never forget that person."

I go on to explain that once those souls in purgatory reach heaven, they become the personal patron saint of the person who helped them be released from purgatory. Further, I tell them that by praying for the Holy Souls, you, in a sense, get an army of saints who want to return the favor to you in some way.

So that can be a way of getting your children and grandchildren to think about how they can actively create this army of prayer warriors just by helping the Holy Souls.

What are some prayers you can have younger children say to hasten the progression of the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory to their place in Heaven? The Eternal Rest prayer is a great one. You could teach them that prayer at the same time that they are learning the Our Father or the Act of Contrition. Another great one is the Memorare because it offers you the chance to specifically commend to God that person who has died.

As for the older children, I would teach them the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. I would also suggest the Prayer of St. Gertrude. The key to all of this is that they offer a prayer from the heart. They can pray during Adoration, the Mass, the Rosary, or at any moment throughout the day.

An army of future saints awaits.

MH

*In upcoming Holy Souls Sodality newsletters, I will have more suggestions for teaching children about the Holy Souls. See [marian.org/b27](http://marian.org/b27) to join the Holy Souls Sodality or to join the Marians in our November remembrance.*

**Father Andy Davy, MIC, serves as the pastor of St. Mary Parish in Plano, Illinois, and has enjoyed working in youth ministry for the past 20 years.**



# Help souls to heaven



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# HIDDEN TREASURE



By Breanne Reilly

FELIX CARROLL

**T**here is a humble white house on Eden Hill where wandering pilgrims, sensing the presence of the Lord within, often pause to genuflect. The house is fronted by a flower garden that thrives through drought, flood, or spring frost.

Here reside the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Eucharist, presently five sisters who can be glimpsed on Eden Hill in pure white robes emblazoned with a Host and a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit. Their habits are representative of the Eucharist and of their motto: “Through Christ, with Him and in Him.”

On Eden Hill, they are at once prayer warriors, servants of the Lord, and assistants to the Marians who administer the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Described by Marian priests and brothers as well as by many pilgrims as “motherly,” “peaceful,” “happy,” and “holy,” the sisters are reluctant to talk about themselves, unless it is to confidently profess their faith.

Mother Superior Victoria, who took her perpetual vows in 1981, said she knew she wanted to devote her life to Christ when she was still in elementary school. Her family fervently opposed her decision. When she was 18 and living at a convent in Mexico, her brother was sent to force her to return home.

“If a girl falls in love with a boy and the parents don’t allow them to marry, they get married any-

way, so why can’t I do the same with my Jesus?” Sr. Victoria said with a smile. “I said, ‘No, brother, I’m happy and I want to stay.’”

All five of the sisters are natives of Mexico — as is their Congregation, which was founded in Mexico City in 1945 by Reverend Mother Maria Auxilia de la Cruz, with the blessing and support of Archbishop Luis Maria Martinez. In 1967, upon the invitation of the Marians, members of the Congregation traveled to the United States. The two Congregations have maintained ties ever since. Today, the Oblates maintain their mother-house with four communities in Mexico City and also have a house in Washington, D.C.

On Eden Hill, they have lived a life of constant oblation — of generous surrender to the Lord.

Sister Martha, who professed her perpetual vows in 1968, tends to the garden in front of the convent, which provides flowers for the altar in the convent chapel. She said she did not find peace until she surrendered her life to Christ. Growing up, she was plagued | by stomach illnesses. Her parents told her she would not make it to her vows because of her poor health, but she daily felt Jesus’ encouragement to continue.

“Jesus’ call was much stronger for me than anything else in my life,” Sr. Martha said. “And once Jesus calls, he never stops calling.”

## A prayer for priests

As a semi-contemplative Congregation, the Sisters' most important work is done with open hearts behind the convent walls. At 5:30 a.m., they begin a vigil that they carry into the night. As part of their charism, the Sisters take part in Perpetual Adoration in their chapel. Each sister, in rotation, spends one hour in the presence of the Eucharistic Jesus and prays for the sanctification of all priests, including the pope. Each of the Sisters is assigned Marians for whom they pray.

"In [Christ's] presence, we ask him for help and [we pray for the] needs of the whole world," Sr. Martha said.

The Very Rev. Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, the Marians' provincial superior in the United States and Argentina, has known the sisters for 35 years. He said the sisters cook for the Marians five days a week. But their most powerful contribution to the Marians' ministry in Stockbridge, he said, is the nourishment of their spiritual presence.

"The sisters' witness to the reality of the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the reality of Christ's love is manifested in everything they do," Fr. Kaz said.

He recalls a retreat he took with a group of the Sisters to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., when he was still a seminarian. As he sat in the backseat next to one of the Sisters, he endeavored to direct the conversation toward high-minded theological truths, but was thwarted. The sister spoke instead of faith, not in scholarly terms, but rather from her heart, infused with God's grace and love. For the eager young disciple of Christ, the moment was eye-opening.



FELIX CARROLL

"She talked about Jesus as someone who she so loves, who is close to her heart," Fr. Kaz recalls. "Through this dialogue with her, I realized I was talking about Jesus as living — so personal and so close, I could feel it,"

## The 'Sources of grace'

When asked about the grace and love with which others associate them, the Sisters say the Source of their happiness is the Presence of Jesus, both in their hearts and in their chapel.

In their chapel, the Eucharist is kept exposed in the monstrance. Visitors are welcome for Eucharistic Adoration. Just ring the doorbell. The Eucharist is also kept in the ciborium inside the tabernacle.

"The Hosts in the tabernacle are hidden. No one necessarily knows about them, but nonetheless they're Sources of grace," Sr. Martha said.

Pilgrims to Eden Hill must sense this, the Sisters say. How else to explain why so many pause in front of the convent, genuflect, and make the Sign of the Cross? Christ is alive in that tucked-away building. He's alive in the hearts of the Sisters inside who quietly pray for God's mercy on the whole world.

## SHRINE CALENDAR

This fall, spiritually prepare for the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy by coming on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Receive the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist; immerse yourself in the Divine Mercy devotions; explore the beautiful grounds, including the many candle shrines, our life-sized Stations of the Cross, and other places of prayer; and take part in some of our special ethnic and other days. Our fall calendar includes:

**Sept. 13** — National Grandparents Day

**Sept. 19** — Polish Day

**Sept. 24** — Healing Mass (monthly)

**Sept. 26** — Blessing of Families

**Sept. 26** — St. Faustina Novena

**Oct. 4** — Mercy for Souls Conference

**Oct. 5** — Feast of St. Maria Faustina

**Oct. 13** — St. John Paul II Novena

**Oct. 22** — Feast of St. John Paul II

**Oct. 29** — Healing Mass (monthly)

**Oct. 31** — Blessing of Families

**Nov. 1** — Prayers for Poor Souls

**Visit TheDivineMercy.org/shrine for more information about these events.**

# as we forgive those who trespass against us

By Chris Sparks

Pastora Mira Garcia had a son and daughter killed during the years of violence in Colombia. Now she devotes her life fostering reconciliation between former fighters and their victims.

BBC

Forgiveness. It's one of the hardest challenges of being Christian, and yet it's one of the most important, as shown by Pope Francis' emphasis on God's merciful forgiveness in *Misericordiae Vultus* (*The Face of Mercy*), his papal bull calling the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which begins Dec. 8. But what is forgiveness, and how do we do it?

One way to understand forgiveness is to see it in action.

The Marian Helpers who attended the Third World Apostolic Congress on Mercy in August 2014 heard Colombians who had endured incredible acts of violence testify about forgiving the perpetrators. Marcela Murillo, a native Colombian and a longtime Marian Helper, found the testimonies uniquely powerful.

"One of the witnesses was named Pastora Mira Garcia," Marcela recalled. Pastora was from a small, poor town, constantly under attack by armed groups. Her father was murdered when she was just a girl. At 18, she married and had a child. When her daughter was only 2 months old, tragedy struck again: Her husband was killed.

But the worst was yet to come.

Years later, her 22-year-old daughter was kidnapped.

During nine months of captivity, this mother never ceased to search for her daughter. She eventually learned her daughter had been killed. Pastora then sought to find her remains. In her search, she found several bodies. Horrifying though it was, this gave her a degree of peace because she was then able to help other mothers who were looking for the remains of loved ones. At last, Pastora buried her daughter, but again her faith would be tested when her son was also kidnapped by a paramilitary group. After two weeks of suffering unimaginable tortures, her son's body was found on the side of the road.

"Pastora says that, despite her pain, she had a deep faith, and it was through faith that she could go on," Marcela continued.

A few days after the burial of her son, Pastora found a man who was badly hurt lying on the side of the

road in the same place where her son had been found.

“Without hesitation, she took him home to tend his wounds,” said Marcela. “When this man saw the pictures of her dead son, he said, ‘Do you know this man? We killed him last week.’ Pastora said she felt her world collapsing, but asked the Virgin Mary to cover her ears to the words of this man and not let her heart be filled with hate. Pastora begged the Mother of God to help her forgive those who killed her son. And so Pastora, with love and dedication, cared for the murderer of her child. She said that she loved this man so much that, several years later, when he was unfortunately killed, she felt it like the loss of a child.”

Now, forgiveness isn’t always as dramatic as Pastora’s story. As C.S. Lewis put it in his *Essay on Forgiveness*, “It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single great injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life — to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son — how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night ‘Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us.’ We are offered

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.

— C.S. Lewis, *Essay on Forgiveness*

forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it is to refuse God’s mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what He says.”

To refuse to forgive others is to refuse God’s mercy for ourselves. What a stark statement! But it’s right there in Scripture (see Mt 6:14-15; see also Mt 18:21-35). In order to receive mercy, we must show mercy. In order

to be forgiven, we must forgive. As Pope Francis indicates in *Misericordiae Vultus*, we become witnesses to the mercy of God if we are merciful people ourselves. Saint Faustina wrote, “We resemble God most when we forgive our neighbors” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1148).

To make the challenge a little easier, let’s listen to the teaching of the Director of the Association of Marian Helpers, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, on some myths about forgiveness, as well as the reality.

### **Myth 1: Forgiveness requires rebuilding the relationship.**

In the dictionary and in life, forgiveness doesn’t necessarily mean reconciliation.

reconcile (verb): *to restore to friendship or harmony; to check (a financial account) against another for accuracy*

*Continued on page 28*

# BLESS A FAMILY



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Fr. Joseph,  
MIC, explains  
enrollments.



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## GRACES RECEIVED

### Son survives difficult surgery

We would like to acknowledge a grace received from God through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski. Last July, our second son was facing a serious, difficult, and painful operation. Doctors gave him only a 50 percent chance of survival. We asked Blessed Stanislaus to intercede for our son, and the procedure was a tremendous success. Recovery was very slow, but now he is in good health, high spirits, and grateful to be with his wife and two sons.

— IM

### Solution found for serious financial woes

I can't tell you how grateful I am for the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. It has been more than two years since I started asking him to intercede for my son, who was in a serious financial situation. In the past month, a solution was found. I will continue to ask Blessed Stanislaus to intercede for my son's health and success.

— MD, Newfoundland and Labrador Canada

### Son finds job after long search

My son finally got a job after several months of searching. I believe it was through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. I learned about people finding jobs through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus when I read the "Graces Received" column in *Marian Helper*. I obtained a prayercard and asked Blessed Stanislaus to intercede on my son's behalf. During the second novena, he got an interview in the city where he and his family live. We were all excited because his last job

was far away from his family. He likes the job, and he is able to be home with his family.

— KM, Wykoff, Minnesota

### Mom overcomes long illness

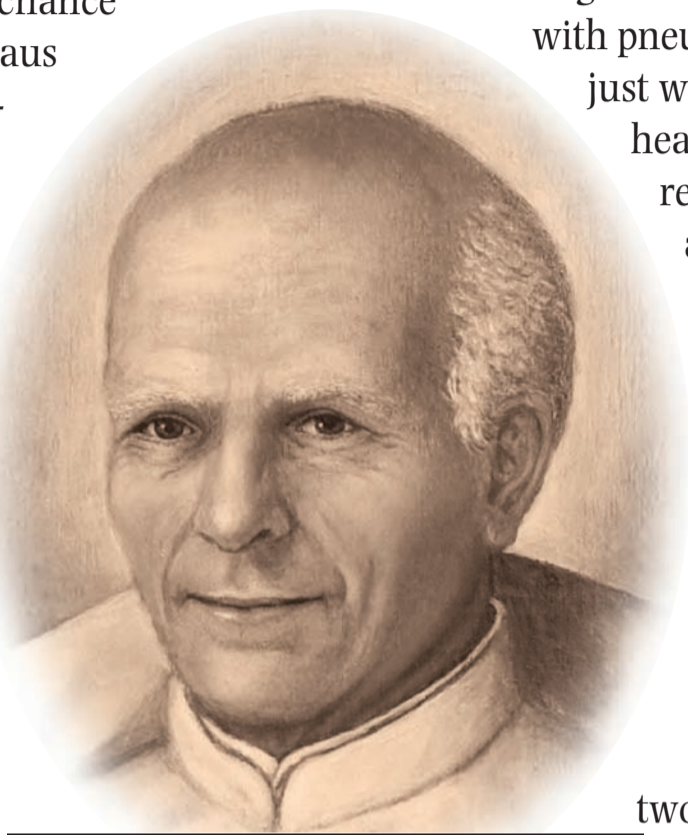
Throughout the winter, my mom was sick with pneumonia and bronchitis. Then, just when she was starting to gain her health, she suffered another occurrence. My mom is very active, both at home and with our parish, and she is rarely ill. I was very worried. I said a novena and asked Blessed Stanislaus for his intercession. My mom's health quickly improved, and she has been feeling great ever since.

— JF, Valencia, Pennsylvania

### Daughter avoids jail

I am writing to tell you about two graces received through the intercession of Blessed Stanislaus. First, my daughter's wound from surgery was not healing. I asked Blessed Stanislaus to intercede, and the wound healed. I also asked him to help my daughter do the right thing in regard to a legal matter. Again, Blessed Stanislaus interceded, and she avoided going to jail.

— TF



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

For a Blessed Stanislaus prayercard (B27-CPPC), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: [graces@marian.org](mailto:graces@marian.org).



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# Remembered on Eden Hill

**K**elsie and J Thomas take great care to raise their children according to Catholic teachings. But in a culture that glorifies sex and violence, the task is not an easy one.

“We have been married for 16 years and have four children — Emma, 15; Will, 13; Julia, 9; and Catherine, 20 months,” J says. (By the way, “J” is his full name.) “It can be quite a challenge raising children Catholic in these times.”

For this reason, they say they are looking forward to Pope Francis’ visit to the United States this September, and particularly to his attendance at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“We hope and pray that it will spur a catechetical movement on the importance of family as the domestic church,” J says.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says “the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church.’” It teaches that the home should provide “a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity” (1666).

The Thomases hope that because of Pope Francis’ emphasis on the family, more priests will be encouraged to speak on the dignity and role of marriage and family.

“It can be difficult trying to teach our children the virtues in a time when vice seems all too attractive,” Kelsie says.

They have turned to daily prayer and Scripture for strength and guidance. They have strong devotions to Our Lady and Divine Mercy, and practice Eucharistic Adoration.

“Since 2007, we spend an hour with our Lord every week in Eucharistic Adoration at our parish in Tulsa, Oklahoma,” J says. “I believe that this devotion is respon-



**Kelsie and J Thomas say raising children in these times can be quite challenging and are hopeful the World Meeting of Families will offer guidance.**

sible for leading us to Our Lady, the Rosary, and Divine Mercy.”

Kelsie says she appreciates the role J, who grew up Baptist, has taken in raising their children in the Catholic faith.

“I am so thankful for the man God has given me as a husband,” she says, “and I love how he takes care of me and our children. He is a strong spiritual leader for our family and recognizes the power of

prayer, especially through the gift of the Mass.”

Speaking of gifts, J says an offer from the Marians helped him create a special Mother’s Day present for his wife, whose strong Catholic faith was one of the things that first drew him to her.

“Kelsie does such a wonderful job nurturing our children through word and example, so for Mother’s Day, I had her name etched onto a stained-glass window at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine [on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts],” J says. “I received a letter from the Marians promoting the memorials for Mother’s Day. I couldn’t think of a better way to honor her.”

Kelsie loved it.

“J is very faithful and thoughtful,” she said. “The stained-glass window was a total surprise. I hope someday to visit Eden Hill. It would be exciting to see the window in person!”

*Like the Thomas family, benefactors can have a name etched on a stained-glass window, or engraved in granite or marble at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine. All benefactors and those they honor are remembered daily at Holy Mass and the Perpetual Novena to Divine Mercy at the National Shrine. To learn more about these and other special opportunities, visit [MemorialsOnEdenHill.org](http://MemorialsOnEdenHill.org) or contact Fr. Joseph’s assistants for special gifts at (413) 298-1382. MH*

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# FORGIVENESS

Continued from page 25

In a relationship where one person won't accept that they wronged the other, you cannot have harmony. If, for instance, I know my friend thinks he did nothing wrong in spreading something I told him in confidence, I also know he will do it again, and I won't want to risk telling him my secrets again. Forgiveness depends upon "me;" reconciliation depends upon "us." While God requires me to unconditionally forgive the business partner who cheats me, he does not require that I stay in business with him.

## **Myth 2: Forgiveness means forgetting what happened.**

We don't have to pretend we are not hurt. That is not forgiveness; that is *lying*. The human mind is amazing, but it does not have the ability to forget at will. Forgiveness is not denying the reality of our pain.

## **Myth 3: Forgiveness requires release from consequences.**

Suppose I've just stolen \$1,000 from you. I say, "I sincerely repent of my actions. I will never do it again. Please forgive me." Do I get to keep the \$1,000 because I apologized? What is repentance worth if I keep the money? If I don't return what I stole, my supposed repen-

tance is hollow and meaningless; I have no intention to turn from my previous behavior. When Zacchaeus repented of stealing from Jews by inflating their taxes, he offered to pay it back (see Lk 19:1-10). People can be forgiven and still have to pay for their crime — that's why God has many souls pass through purgatory before they can enter heaven. We have to face the consequences of breaking the law of the land or the law of God.

## **Myth 4: If they are not sorry, I should not forgive.**

If someone stole from you and did not repent, they may not remain your friend. But should you forgive them? You certainly can't restore the relationship, but you *can* and *should* forgive. While repentance and remorse are necessary to *receive* forgiveness, they are not prerequisites for *granting* forgiveness. You are not likely to hear the person who jumped in front of you at the grocery store line repent, but you should still forgive them and move on.

Your repentance is necessary to receive God's forgiveness and restore our relationship with him. But *their* repentance is not necessary to grant forgiveness.

So let us imitate Pastora and ask for the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession — that we may be faithful in forgiving and so open ourselves to receiving the mercy of God.

MH



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# THE 'GOD OF SURPRISES'

**H**elene Cooney, a Marian Helper from New York, prays to do God's will in all things. "I follow; he leads," she says. Like the Blessed Mother, she often works quietly in the background and is delighted by his generosity. She, like Pope Francis, lovingly calls him "the God of surprises."

One of the great surprises in her life was unexpectedly encountering the message of Divine Mercy while taking part in a prayer group. Since then, Divine Mercy has been the source of many more unanticipated blessings.

For instance, her dear friend Tami from California had a sister who was dying. Helene and Tami would pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together on the phone, aware of the promise Jesus made to St. Faustina: "At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 811).

Tami's sister, Marilyn, peacefully passed to eternal life. When Helene went to her funeral, she brought a box of 1,000 chaplet prayercards for Tami. They left a bunch of them in the Adoration chapel at the John Paul the Great Catholic University. A few weeks later, Tami learned that one of the students had gone door-to-door distributing all the prayercards to students. This was more than she ever expected, and it also opened the door for her to have an even closer relationship with the university. For example, she was invited to join the students on a prolife pilgrimage during which she shared her sister's peaceful passing that occurred thanks to the grace of Divine Mercy. Helene was delighted by the ripple effects that a little thing — a simple stack of prayercards — had had. A Divine Mercy devotee for decades now, she marvels at

how God takes our small acts of faith and uses them in powerful ways to build his Kingdom.

That's why she has enrolled many loved ones in the Association of Marian Helpers (just as a friend enrolled her 55 years ago) so that they receive the spiritual benefits of the Masses and prayers offered by the Marian Fathers for all the Marian Helpers. In gratitude to the Marians for their work, Helene decided to create a charitable gift annuity. Now she uses the quarterly payments to help her two granddaughters pay their college expenses. In turn, the amount the Marians will receive from the annuity supports the education of seminarians. "Each time I give them [my granddaughters] checks to support their education," said Helene, "I remind them that it comes from a gift that I made to support the education of future priests."

Passionate about supporting vocations, Helene has "spiritually adopted" priests and seminarians, praying for them daily. With a chuckle, she says, "It is such a gift to be a silent prayer warrior in my senior years." Her prayers are another gift to the Church and the world, unlooked for, unexpected, coming from the God of surprises!

To learn more about supporting Marian vocations or to make a charitable gift annuity, please get win touch with me.

Ellen Miller is director for Special Gifts. Contact her at: Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263; (413) 298-1380; or [helpers@marian.org](mailto:helpers@marian.org). Visit our website: [marian.org/plannedgiving](http://marian.org/plannedgiving)



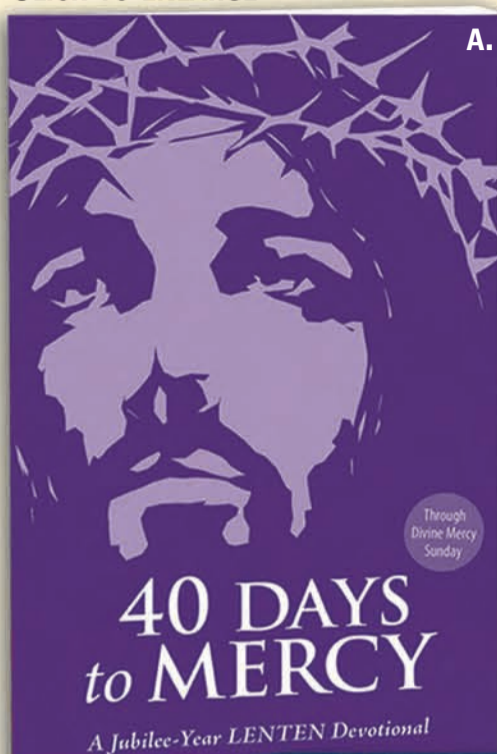
# Jubilee Year of Mercy resources

## The Jubilee Pack

The Holy Father has called us all to celebrate an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy from Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016. This pack includes resources to guide you on your pilgrimage throughout the extraordinary Jubilee Year, helping you receive all the graces available in this once-in-a-lifetime occasion and share the Good News of God's mercy with your family, friends, and neighbors.

B27-JUBPK • \$7.95

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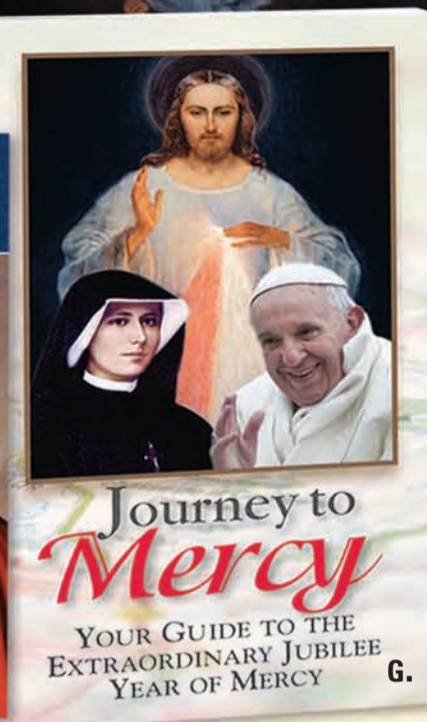
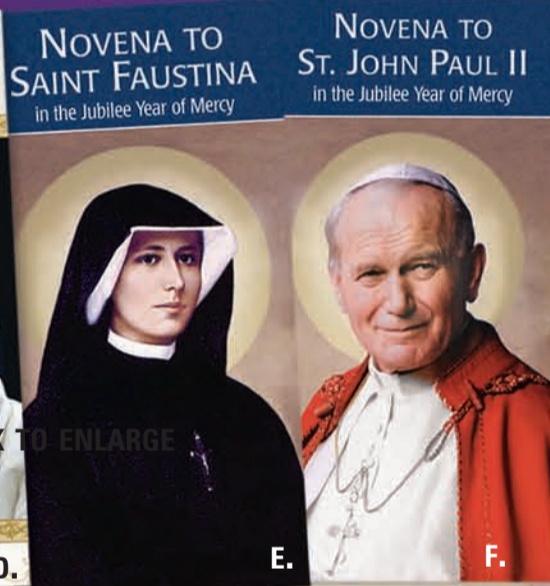
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YOUR PACK WILL INCLUDE: A. 40 DAYS TO MERCY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL (B27-LD16)

B. 5x7 FLAT CANVAS VILNIUS PRINT (EXCLUSIVE TO PACK)

C. JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY PRAYERCARD (B27-PFJPC)

D. JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY PAMPHLET (B27-JYPC)

E. NOVENA TO ST. FAUSTINA PAMPHLET (B27-FJPC)

F. NOVENA TO ST. JOHN PAUL II PAMPHLET (B27-JPNP)

G. JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY GUIDEBOOK (B27-JYBK)

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## Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016 Calendar



Packed with beautiful images and inspirational quotes, this special calendar offers a bonus section with information about the Jubilee Year and Divine Mercy. Includes the months from Dec. 2015 through Dec. 2016 to guide you through the entire Jubilee Year.

B27-CAL16 • \$12.95

## Divine Mercy 101 DVD

Newly updated, this popular presentation by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, is better than ever: all the basics of Divine Mercy in a clear, one-hour presentation. Ideal for both personal formation and



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religious education, this is an essential tool for everyone proclaiming the mercy of God.

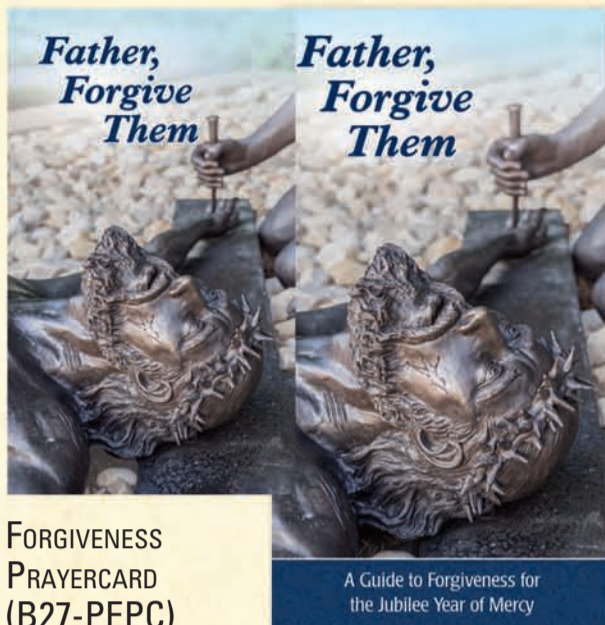
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# More on mercy

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## Soften all hearts of stone

► Read why the act of forgiveness is so important, page 24.



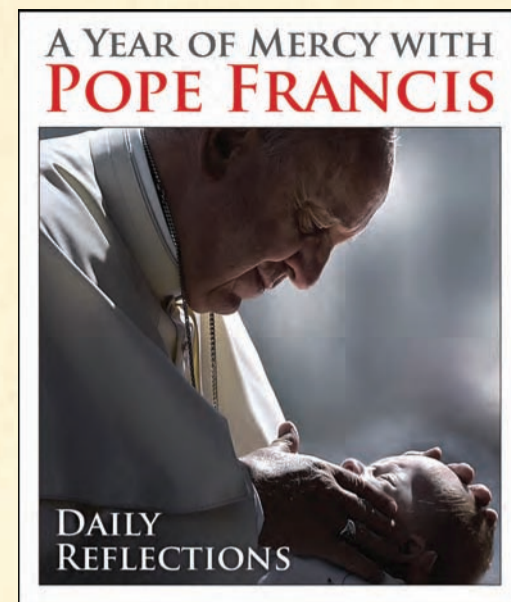
FORGIVENESS PRAYERCARD (B27-PEPC)

FORGIVENESS PAMPHLET (B27-FORP)

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## A Year of Mercy With Pope Francis

Daily Reflections  
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► See reviews of *Journey to Mercy*, *Mercy 101 DVD*, and *A Year of Mercy With Pope Francis* on page 6.

### PAMPHLET PRICING

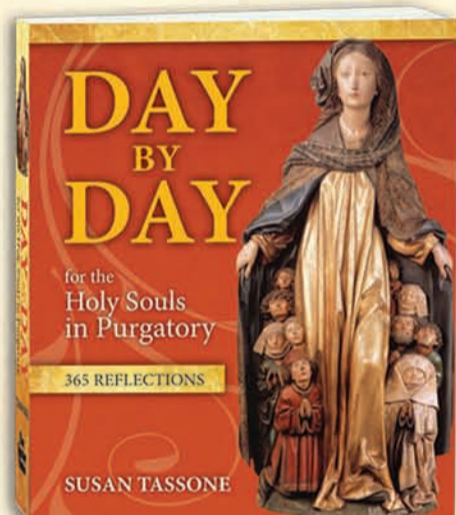
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|----------|-------|
| 25       | \$5   |
| 50       | \$9   |
| 100      | \$14  |
| 1,000    | \$120 |

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# Also prepare for November remembrance

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## Day by Day

For the Holy Souls in Purgatory Purgatory expert Susan Tassone combines insightful quotes with powerful prayers to offer readers a day-by-day guide to loving and aiding the Holy Souls. Includes quotes from Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and Fr. Dan Cambra, MIC.



## Holy Souls Rosary

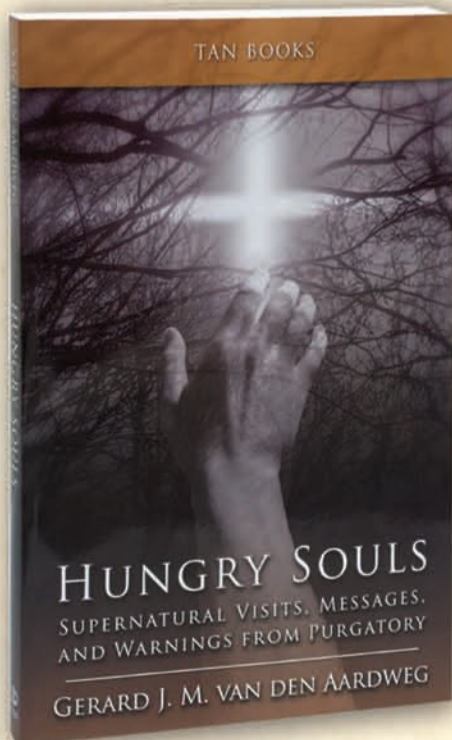
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## Hungry Souls

Supernatural Visits, Messages, and Warnings from Purgatory

Hungry Souls by Gerard J.M. van den Aardweg, Ph.D., recounts many trustworthy, Church-verified accounts of earthly visitations from the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Accompanying these accounts are photos from the Museum of Purgatory in Rome.

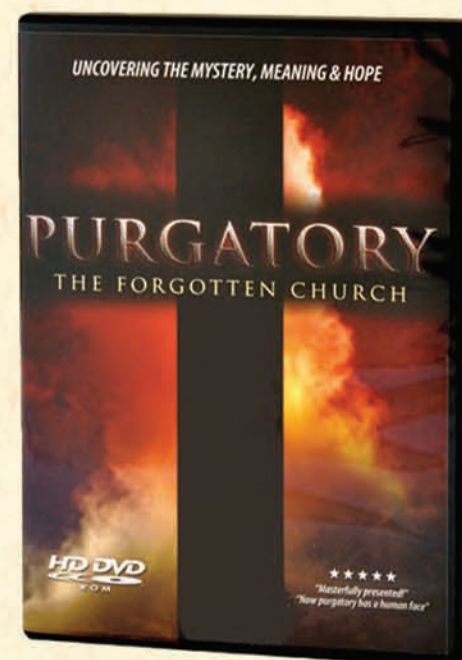
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## Purgatory: The Forgotten Church

Is Purgatory real? Could the afterlife require suffering? Can the living help alleviate the anguish of the dead? This documentary investigates these compelling life-after-death questions through spiritual, scientific, and cultural perspectives. 85 minute DVD.



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From our  
ARCHIVES

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Below is a letter to Fr. Joseph, MIC, published in our Fall 1952 edition of the *Marian Helpers Bulletin*. It just goes to show the lengths to which our Marian Helpers have gone over the years to help spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion around the world. The letter was written by a native of Gloucester, Massachusetts, Lt. Col. William McLaughlin, a Marine serving in Korea during the war. In an army chapel in Korea, Lt. McLaughlin had chanced upon a Divine Mercy novena booklet published by the Marians. He wrote to the Marians in Stockbridge requesting additional Divine Mercy material. The Marians sent him a “care package” of prayercards and novena booklets. Thus began Lt. McLaughlin’s work to evangelize his fellow troops and the people of Korea.



Lieutenant Col. William McLaughlin with a Catholic priest in Korea during the Korean War.

SOKCHO, NORTH KOREA — Dear Father Joseph, Perhaps you have been wondering what has happened to the project of printing material on “Jesus, King of Mercy” in Korean. I have good news for you. I have been notified that copies have been made and, upon my return from North Korea where I am now operating, I will be able to pick them up.

I have further good news. For the last two months I’ve been operating in North Korea on the east coast about 50 miles north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. During that period I’ve made connections with various Korean Catholics. Since there are no priests in the area, we said the Rosary on Sunday morning in a little church which has only a picture of Our Blessed Mother in it. Everything else in the church was taken out by the communists. In some cases even barb-wire was put around the churches to keep people out during their stay in this part of North Korea.

There are 63,000 civilians in the area. I asked the heads of the various religions to rally their people to prayer even if they were Buddhists.

This Sunday I scheduled a meeting of the Catholics to discuss the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and the Mercy of God. Since I was here



with various Korean Catholics. Since there are no priests in the area, we said the Rosary on Sunday morning in a little church which has only a picture of Our Blessed Mother in it.

I passed out hundreds of rosary beads, holy pictures, and medals to young and old.

This is our foothold in once occupied Communist territory. I had been on a lot of military missions, but never before had I prayed as much as on this mission of spreading devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and Jesus, King of Mercy, that it be successful.

Before I leave North Korea in September, I will try to make these two devotions take root as they did during my stay in South Korea. I’ll do the work and leave the rest to

the Good Lord.

With this little bit of information I’ll say to you and your people – God love you!

Yours in Christ — Lt. Col. Wm. Mcl.

(Many thanks for sending us the Korean paper with the Mercy of God message. It was most inspiring merely to look at it since we have no way of reading the Korean script. It is so good to see the Merciful Savior and that of Sister Faustina on its pages — with Korean inscriptions. It is a most valuable addition to our museum, now being organized at the directorate. May God give us more soldiers like you!)

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Lieutenant Col. McLaughlin died in Texas in 2006 at the age of 87. He earned the Silver Star in World War II and the Bronze Star in Korea. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In his name, let’s pray for North Korea, where God has been banished by a ruthless dictatorship. Let us pray its leaders experience a personal encounter with the Merciful Lord that brings healing and renewal to a suffering people.*

# 'How we heard the call'



Brother Michael Baker, MIC, presents intro to Divine Mercy.



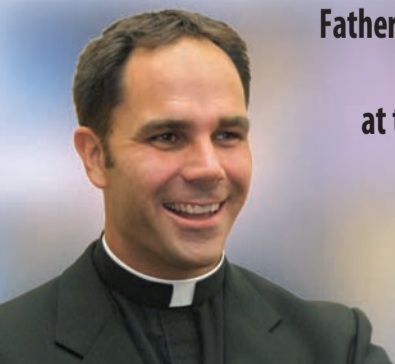
## **Brother Michael Baker, MIC:**

I was praying in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima when I heard an interior voice say to me, "I'm going to give you a gift on your birthday, but you're not going to figure it out right away." That "gift" ended up being my vocation to the Marian Fathers. And five years later, this "gift" of my vocation has continued to be a source of grace in my life.

## **Mary and Gene Boteler:**

We've attended the Divine Mercy Chapel in Brookeville, Maryland, for more than 35 years. How could we not support these young men who we've seen develop from novices into leaders? We are grateful and humbled the Lord has allowed us to witness these committed young men of varied talents serve and help lead an increasingly diverse Church.

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



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

The next retreats will be:  
Nov. 27-29,  
Dec. 11-13.

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

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



Father Donald talks about the formation process:  
[marian.org/vocsupport/ blessings/](http://marian.org/vocsupport/ blessings/)

**Want to help the seminarians?** Visit [marian.org/seminarians](http://marian.org/seminarians) or call (413) 298-1382.

# Celebrate

the feast days of  
St. Faustina

&

St. John Paul II

Participate in our novenas of Holy Masses

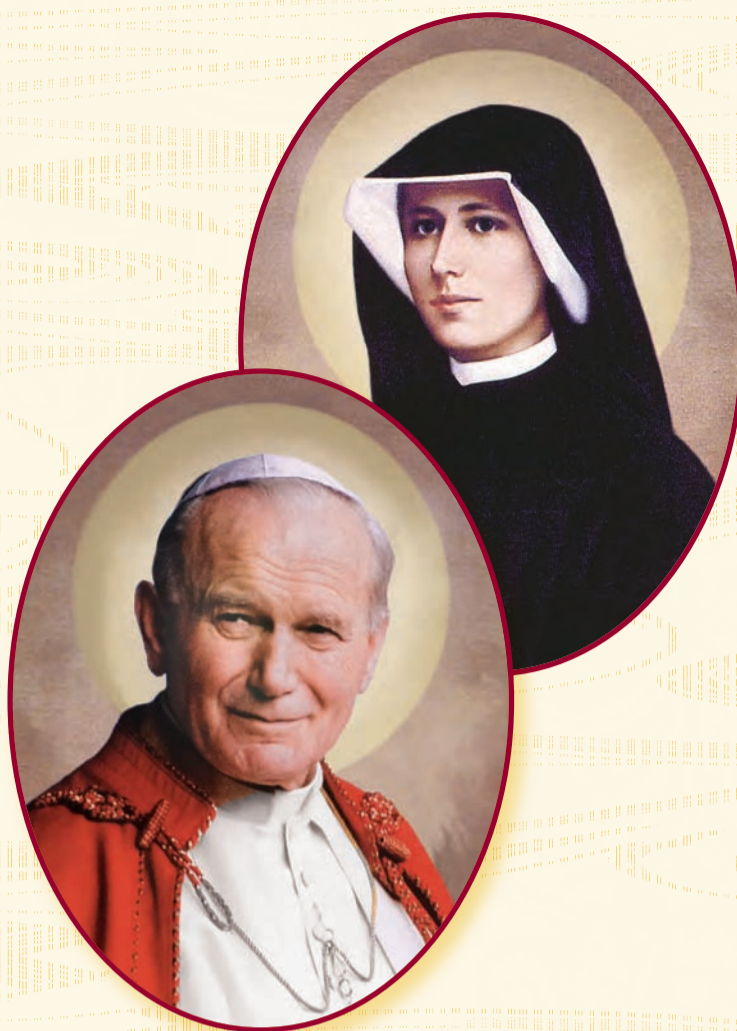
Click here

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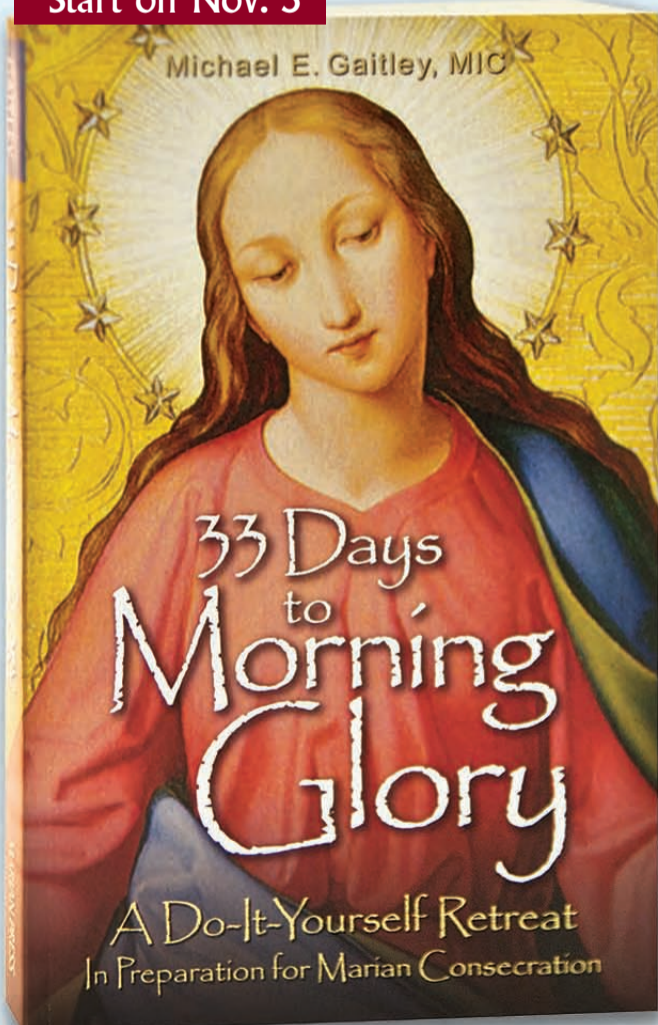
1-800-462-7426



*St. Faustina* - Sept. 26-Oct. 4,  
and her feast day, Oct. 5.

*St. John Paul II* - Oct. 13-Oct. 21,  
and his feast day, Oct. 22.

Start on Nov. 5



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## Consecrate to Mary on Dec. 8

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE YOURSELF  
FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

We're inviting all of our Marian Helpers to consecrate themselves to Mary on Dec. 8. If you have never consecrated yourself to Jesus through Mary, now is the best time ever! This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the consecration in preparation for an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. And if you've already consecrated yourself, now is the perfect time to renew it. To do so, use the most popular consecration book available today: 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. To be able to consecrate on Dec. 8, you will have to start your 33 days of preparation on Nov. 5. Please join us! Join Mary's army.

For evangelization purposes, we're offering a special on the consecration book 33 Days to Morning Glory. (Price: Your donation, plus \$5.25 shipping. Visit [ShopMercy.org/33](http://ShopMercy.org/33) or call 800-462-7426.

(Good until Nov. 5. One per household. United States only.)

► [Read why Fr. Joseph, MIC, wants you to consecrate to Mary on Dec. 8, page 12.](#)

# Please declare St. Faustina Doctor of the Church

Your Holiness,

I hereby request that you grant St. Maria Faustina Kowalska the formal designation of Doctor of the Church.

A humble Polish nun, St. Faustina received extraordinary revelations in the 1930s, which she recorded in her diary. Our Lord told her, “In the Old Covenant I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart” (entry 1588).

Through the life and writings of St. Faustina, millions around the world have received the grace to trust in God’s merciful love, seek his forgiveness and healing, and bear witness to his mercy in their daily lives. Declaring St. Faustina a Doctor would magnify Christ’s redemptive mission to proclaim anew his infinite love and mercy for all humanity.

“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.” — Jesus’ words to St. Faustina (*Diary*, 300)



**Saint Faustina’s revelations have led to what many consider to be the greatest grassroots movement in the history of the Church.**

Click here: [TheDivineMercy.org/doctor](http://TheDivineMercy.org/doctor) to sign the petition online.

1

Name (print)

Signature

Address

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State

Zip Code

email address

2

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Signature

Address

City

State

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3

Name (print)

Signature

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(To add more signatures, please photocopy additional pages prior to signing.)

Mail to: Father Joseph, MIC  
Marian Helpers Center, Stockbridge, MA 01263

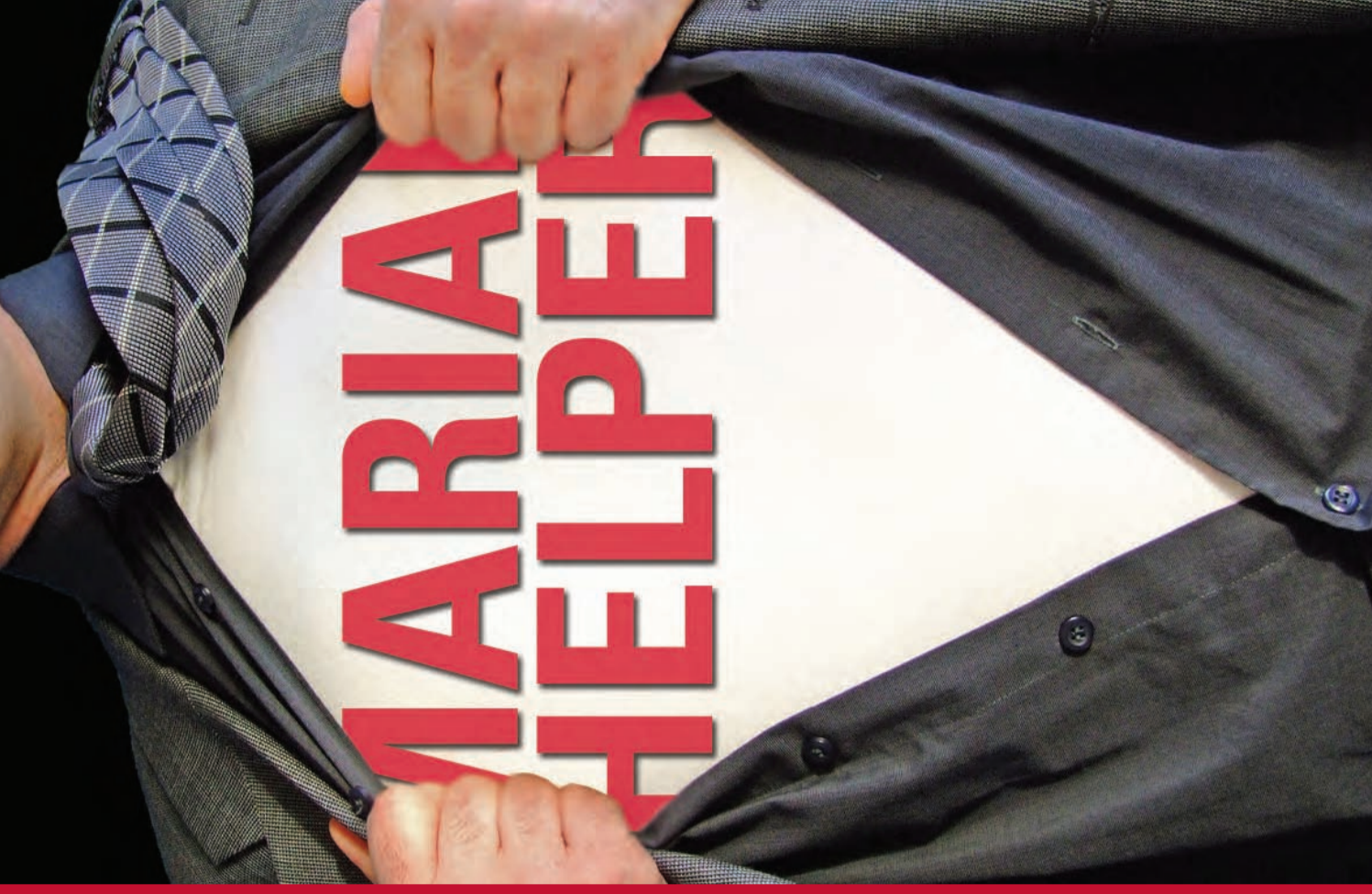
“Saint Faustina’s greatest desire was to be a saint. In turn, through her witness and her writings, she teaches us all how we, too, can become saints. She’s a gift to the Church and the world.” — *Fr. Joseph, MIC*

*Marians of the Immaculate Conception*



ASSOCIATION OF MARIAN HELPERS

STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01263



Visit us online at [marian.org](http://marian.org) and [thedivinemeracy.org](http://thedivinemeracy.org)

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PETITION DRIVE**

See inside the back cover