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Fall 2016

Marian Helper

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Marians' Founder a saint



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Our Founder Canonized

The man of mercy who founded the Marian Fathers was declared a saint by Pope Francis. Who was he? What was the miracle that led to his canonization? And why now, in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy?

18 With this weapon, we win

We speak with Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, about his breakthrough new book, *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* (Marian Press).

22 One last word

“This may be the most important article I’ll ever write,” says Fr. Joseph, MIC. And if that doesn’t grab your attention, how about this: Through a new, small-group program written by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, we may have the greatest opportunity ever to bring about a new Pentecost.

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The very epicenter of the modern Divine Mercy movement — Krakow, Poland — played host to an historic World Youth Day.

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Frustrated, saddened, or confused about upcoming national elections? Well, we are obliged to take a road less traveled. In other words, we must allow the Gospel to be our guide.

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On the cover: On the day of the canonization of the Marians’ Founder, members of the Marians’ General Council presented Pope Francis with a portrait of the Church’s newest saint. The Marian priests pictured are (from left) Vicar General Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC; General Councillor Fr. Wojciech Jasiński, MIC; and Superior General Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC. L’Osservatore Romano photo.

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 © 2016 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 website: marian.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!

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.

Marian Helpers, by a decree of the Holy See, share in the following graces:

- the daily Masses, prayers, good works, and merits of the Marian priests and brothers around the world;
- a special Mass offered on feast days of our Savior and His Blessed Mother;
- a monthly Mass on each First Friday and each First Saturday;
- a Mass offered for deceased members on All Souls' Day; and
- the perpetual Novena to the Divine Mercy.

In other words, you share in all the spiritual benefits of our prayers, Masses, and works of mercy just as if you were a member of our religious community!



YouTube



[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
- Friends of Mercy: TheDivineMercy.org/friends
- Holy Souls Sodality: PrayForSouls.org
- or call (413) 298-1382.

Arrange a special gift:

- using stock, a gift through your will or trust, or a charitable gift annuity: marian.org/plannedgiving

- to support a particular ministry or need: marian.org/give
- to create a memorial or tribute: 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.

'PAPCZYNSKI,' WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I remember the first time I encountered the name “Stanislaus Papczynski.” To my non-Polish self, I thought, “I’m not sure who he is or even how to pronounce his name!”

This was over 10 years ago, when I was still discerning a vocation with the Marian Fathers, the Congregation founded by this 17th century Polish priest, whose last name didn’t seem to resonate with any special significance. Wow, was I wrong!

I pray that, with this special issue of *Marian Helper* focusing on our Founder — his canonization and his spiritual legacy — you’ll discover what I was blessed to discover: Father Founder (as we Marians affectionately refer to him) is a gift to our Church, and for we American-born priests, brothers, and Marian Helpers, he’s no longer a light under a bushel basket. He now illuminates our ministry.

You see, unlike our Polish-born confreres, most of my fellow American-born Marians and I weren’t drawn to the Marians because of our Founder. We were drawn because of the Congregation’s evangelization work dating back to 1941, some 240 years after St. Stanislaus’ death. That is to say, we were drawn to the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina.

In my early days of discernment, I knew the Marians as the hosts of the annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration on EWTN and as the publishers of St. Faustina’s *Diary*. I still remember the first *Diary* passage I ever heard — when Jesus says to St. Faustina: “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy” (300). How could I not dedicate my life to this message?

Still, I wondered how this fellow named Papczynski fit in with all this, so I began to read his writings and listen to and learn from our priests from Poland, where “Father Founder” is viewed as a “Founding Father” of a spirituality dear to Poles — that of devotion to the mystery of the Immaculate Conception and the souls in Purgatory.

The connection between him and the Divine Mercy work we Marians in America are so focused upon soon became clear: No doubt, God has been using Poland in extraordinary ways to promote His merciful love. Indeed, the spirituality of St. Stanislaus — an electric personality if

there ever was one — flows along the same circuitry as that of 20th century Polish saints Faustina and John Paul II. And the power Source, of course, is Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

Also, it was a Pole, St. Faustina’s confessor, who handed off original Divine Mercy materials to a Polish Marian priest escaping the Nazis — a handoff that led to the worldwide spread of Divine Mercy from our headquarters here in Stockbridge. Now, recall that Jesus told St. Faustina that from Poland “will come forth the spark that will prepare the world for My final coming” (*Diary*, 1732). It’s no wonder the Congregation entrusted to spread Divine Mercy throughout the world was founded by a Pole!

And here’s another key legacy of Father Founder’s role. For St. Stanislaus, the mystery of Mary’s Immaculate Conception — to which he dedicated his life — is truly a mystery of Divine Mercy. Indeed, her Immaculate Conception, which was unearned, foretold of the unearned mercy her Son extends to sinners. My friends, I can no longer think of the Divine Mercy message now without thinking of the Immaculate Conception — and vice versa. And I can no longer think of Sts. Faustina and John Paul II without thinking of our Father Founder — and vice versa.

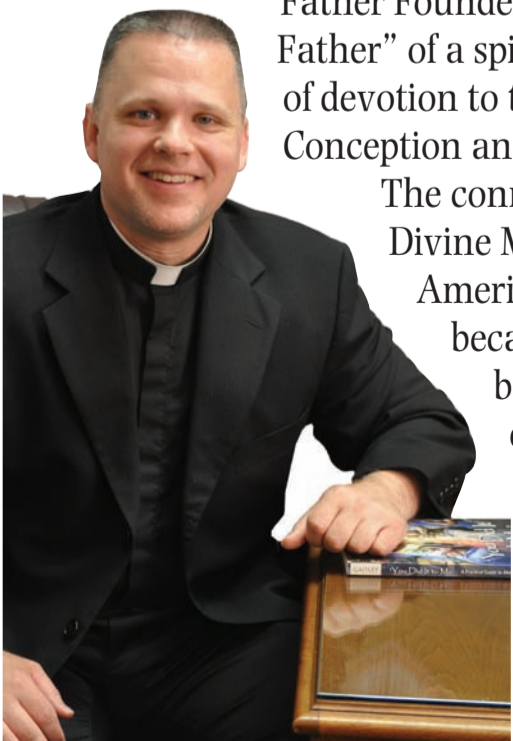
And to top it all off, what’s more fitting than his canonization occurring during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy!

In the name “Papczynski,” I no longer see a pile-up of unpronounceable consonants. Rather, I see a pile-up of God’s mercy!

Saint Stanislaus’ canonization reminds us we have advocates in Heaven. Visit marian.org/b31 to send us your prayer intentions. Your intentions will be remembered at the National Shrine in our novenas leading up to the October feast days of Sts. Faustina and John Paul II.

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.



He was told: Leave or be shot



Some of us send money to support African orphans. Some of us may go on mission trips. Here's the story of a man giving his very life to the cause. Norman MacDonald is a native of South Africa and cofounder with his wife, Sybil, of St. Marcellin Children's Village outside of Harare, Zimbabwe. A family-centered organization for orphans and vulnerable children, the Village provides housing, education, nutrition, and healthcare. Norm recently visited the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. We spoke with him about his work.

How did you come to hear the call to work with children?

We were asked by a Nazareth House sister to come to a meeting where she hoped to start an organization to help those dying of AIDS to die in dignity. I became the chairman, and Sybil did the hard work with the dying in the high-density areas of Harare. We saw the result of the epidemic: The number of orphans was growing rapidly. Our Lady asked for help in her kind, loving way, by gently prodding us for homes for these children.

How did you first begin to answer this call?

After praying about this calling for more than four years, we gave up our employment, our home, and our possessions in December 1993 to serve God for as long as we are able to, working with children in great need. In 1994, with another married couple and a widow, we started a home called The Mother of Peace Community in a remote part of Zimbabwe. It was near a leper colony. At that time, we had to make our own bricks, dig our own wells — it was real pioneer stuff.

Why did you leave that home behind?

Sybil and I were asked by our archbishop to run and resuscitate a mission farm and then build a children's home there. In 2001, there was a lot of political unrest. We had just started building the home when we were told we had two hours to get off the farm or be shot. We were going to go down to Cape Town in South Africa, but I said to my wife, "Are we doing what we want to do, or are we doing what God wants us to do?" — because we did say we were going to

Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

— Mt 19:14

look after children. Two days later, she said to me, “You’re right. Let’s call an estate agent, tell him what size property we want, and if God finds a property and pays for it, we’ll stay.” With the help of an Italian benefactor, we started the home in Harare. We currently live with 77 children in our care at St. Marcellin Children’s Village. We have several children with various disabilities. All the others are orphaned, abandoned, abused. We welcome any child in great need. The ages range from newborns to 18-year-olds.

What brought you to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy?

Ricky, a member of St. Marcellin’s Management Committee, had worked in America. He knew one of the organizers of a conference for lay institutions in Washington, D.C., so we flew out to attend. Ricky worked not far from Stockbridge and told me he knows there is a Divine Mercy shrine nearby. He wants to be a priest and was praying for discernment. He asked, “Should we go?” I said, “Please, I’d love to go.”

How did you first hear about St. Faustina?

When we were in Mutoko, there was a leper colony nearby where John Bradburne had lived, who we in Zimbabwe hope will be a saint one day. His cause for canonization is in Rome at the moment. Pilgrims come because of John Bradburne, and we were introduced to St. Faustina by a girl from South Africa who came up with some Divine Mercy novenas back in ’94, and we got a book on Faustina. We’ve been following it up from there, teaching the children about St. Faustina and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with them, and we encourage them to pray it on their own, too, because when they leave us after they turn 18, they have nobody to remind them. Divine Mercy is our life. That’s what we do. We’ve never asked for salary. We just live on whatever we get. God’s been fantastic to us. Yeah, I don’t regret one day.

Visit StMarcellins.org to learn more about St. Marcellin’s Children’s Village.

MH

— Chris Sparks



Fr. Chris’ homily

IN BRIEF

It’s 50 for 50

Here at the Marian Helpers Center, we’re blessed to have the opportunity to attend weekday Masses at our oratory. When we can, we videotape the homilies and post them onto our YouTube channel (YouTube.com/MarianHelpers).

On June 14, two days after a gunman killed 49 people in Orlando, Florida, we posted the homily by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, who called on the faithful to not only pray for the victims, but also for the shooter, Omar Mateen, who was killed during a standoff with law enforcement. Among the many Marian Helpers who viewed the video was Jennifer Nelson of Rockaway, New Jersey. She wrote the following email to Fr. Chris:

The morning I found out about Orlando, I felt called to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the victims who potentially died without the grace of final repentance. I prayed, “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on (I put a victim’s name in), and on the whole world.” Well, there are 50 beads, and 49 victims. On the last bead, I said, “Have mercy on Omar, and on the whole world.” It felt so unnatural to pray for him, but I know out of all those who died, he is the most in need of prayers. Your homily confirmed this. Thank you for taking what is seen as an unpopular stand. We have to be bold in these times.

Fifty dead. Fifty beads. Thank you, Jennifer, for putting two and two together for us.

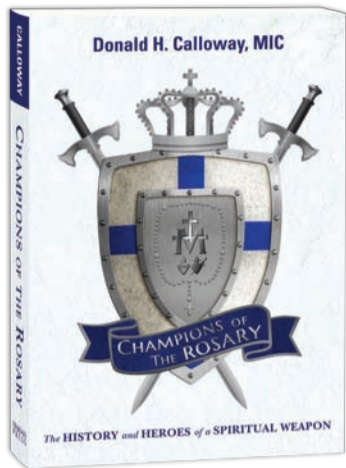
A family meeting

Matters both moral and spiritual are on the docket of an academic symposium, “The Mercy of God and the Family,” on Saturday, Nov. 12, at The Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C. The host is Dr. Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the Marians’ John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy. Speakers include our own Chris Sparks, books editor for Marian Press. Visit TheDivineMercy.org/JPII for more information.

A full explanation

Speaking of Dr. Stackpole, the summer issue of *Marian Helper* included an article in which he discussed Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*. We heard from several readers who were upset about the Pope’s views — and Dr. Stackpole’s commentary — with regard to divorced and remarried Catholics and the reception of Holy Communion. Dr. Stackpole recently gave a well-received talk about the exhortation at a seminar in Fresno, California, in which he went into depth about this controversial topic. We invite you to visit TheDivineMercy.org/exhortation to read a transcript of his talk.

I'd like to recommend to you some timely resources on mercy, Mary, and helping those most in need. Timely, because we are approaching October, the month of the Rosary; November, the month of prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory; and the end of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy on Nov. 20.



CHAMPIONS OF THE ROSARY

By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

In this extraordinary new book, Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, surveys the whole history of the Rosary devotion, from Our Lady's entrustment of it to St. Dominic up to the great promoters of the Rosary in the present day. Throughout, he tells great stories of Rosary victories, outstanding saints, Our Lady's apparitions, and more, highlighting 26 champions of the Rosary as exceptional teachers of this uniquely powerful devotion. This is a perfect book to read and share during 2017, the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, Portugal. \$16.95. **B31-CRBK**

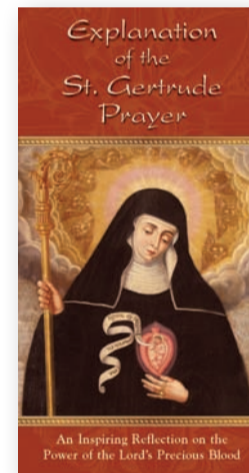
PURGATORY PAMPHLETS

Looking for explanations of some key devotions for the Holy Souls in Purgatory? We've got you covered with two of our newest pamphlets on Purgatory.

- EXPLANATION OF THE ST. GERTRUDE PRAYER: The St. Gertrude prayer is one of the best known devotions for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, but why is it so powerful? We explain.

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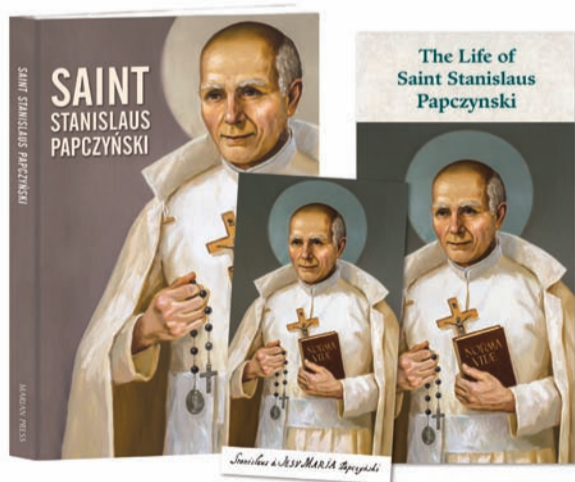
- GREGORIAN MASSES: Many people may have forgotten about the tradition of offering Gregorian Masses (30 consecutive Masses) for the repose of a particular soul. We explain the history of the practice and how to schedule Gregorian Masses through the Marian Fathers.



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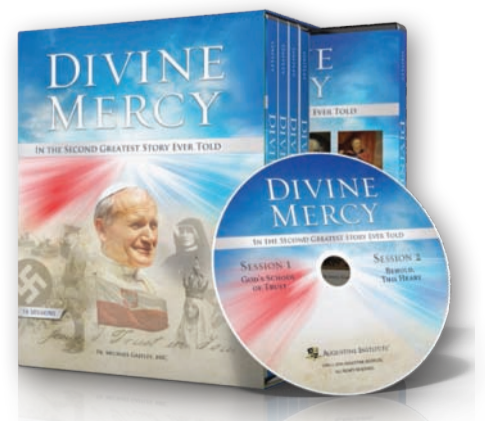


SAINT STANISLAUS SET

The Marian Founder was canonized on June 5, 2016 (see page 8). But few people know his story. Our set will introduce you to St. Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski, one of the first saints canonized in the extraordinary Jubilee Year and the reason there are Marians or Marian Helpers at all. \$14.95. **B31-PSET**

DIVINE MERCY IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD DVD SET

Did you enjoy Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC's book The Second Greatest Story Ever Told? Want to share it with friends and family who prefer a movie to a book? In this evocatively illustrated series, we learn about Marian consecration and Divine Mercy, of St. Faustina Kowalska, St. John Paul II, and God's answer to the great evils of our time. This set is another great resource for the last months of the Jubilee and the 100th anniversary of Fatima. \$99.95. **B31-SGDVD**



NEXT-DOOR SAINTS

Was it simply a coincidence that St. Stanislaus Papczynski, the Founder of the Marian Fathers, and St. Elizabeth Hesselblad, OSsS, the Foundress of the Bridgettine Sisters, were canonized together? I don't think so. I think Divine Providence had something to do with it.

True, at first glance, they don't seem to have much in common. Saint Stanislaus lived in the 17th century. He was from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Saint Elizabeth lived from 1870-1957. She was from Sweden. During St. Stanislaus' lifetime, Poland was invaded by Sweden. It was bloody. Indeed, the Commonwealth lost



approximately a third of its population. Swedish forces destroyed entire cities. Once, when he was a second-year novice in Warsaw, St. Stanislaus was walking home with a fellow novice when a Swedish soldier approached them and drew his sword. Saint Stanislaus' companion fled, but St. Stanislaus fell to his knees and bared his neck, ready to accept martyrdom. The soldier struck his neck three times, causing the young novice great pain but no wounds. Frustrated, the soldier moved on. It seems that God had miraculously protected St. Stanislaus from certain death.

The June 5 canonization made it perfectly clear that time has healed relations between the two nations. In attendance were the Swedish king and his wife, as well as the Polish president and his wife. Though 350 years have passed since the invasion, the people of these two countries know their histories well, and it was highly symbolic to have these two leaders sitting near each other. Before Mass, I had the opportunity to see each of the leaders meet the Holy Father in front of Michelangelo's Pieta in which Mary holds the body of her crucified Son. How fitting. Jesus wants to reconcile all peoples and all nations.

There's also a fascinating link between the two religious communities. Blessed George Matulaitis, the Renovator of the Marians, wanted the community to have a permanent religious house in Rome for our dealings with the Holy See. Though Blessed George died unexpectedly in 1927, the Marians eventually bought part of the property of the

Bridgettine Sisters in Rome in 1932. In fact, the two communities have lived next door to each other ever since. Every Sunday, we offer Mass for the sisters in their convent chapel next door to ours.

The day after the canonization, I looked up the documentation on our purchase of the property from the sisters. I found several documents signed by St. Elizabeth Hesselblad herself, who was the abbess general of the sisters at the time of the purchase. There was a handwritten note signed by her acknowledging the Marians' first down payment on the property.

The Bridgettine Sisters began a mission in India in 1937. Today, most of the sisters who live next door to us in Rome are from Kerala, India. Sister Patricia, the superior, tells me that some of the olive trees on their property were planted by St. Elizabeth. Since our property belonged to them at that time, it's possible that some of the trees currently on our property were also planted by St. Elizabeth.

God is full of surprises in His master planning! Yes, I'm sure that it was more than just a coincidence that St. Elizabeth was canonized together with our Founder. May these two new saints intercede for each of us!



CANONIZED!



By Felix Carroll

The bells of St. Peter's Basilica pealed. The rounded arms of Bernini's colonnade stretched out as if awakening to a new day. Which it was — in more ways than one.

At 10:52 a.m. on June 5, Pope Francis read the words the Marian Congregation had longed to hear for some 315 years: the Formula of Canonization that declared their Congregation's Founder hereby enrolled "among the saints ... to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Amen, indeed.

Pope Francis declares the Marians' Founder a saint



Watch full canonization



Photos from canonization



JIM MONTANARA

In the single most joyful day in the 343-year history of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczynski (1631-1701) was declared a saint, joined by Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad (1870-1957) of Sweden, the foundress of the Bridgettine Sisters.

These first saints to be canonized in this Jubilee Year of Mercy “remained deeply united to the Passion of Jesus, and in them the power of His Resurrection was revealed,” the Holy Father said in his homily.

The word “resurrection” was optimal in this case.



Father Founder’s canonization date was set following the Vatican’s approval in January of the miracle attributed to his intercession. The miracle involved the healing of a 20-year-old, terminally ill woman shortly after Stanislaus’ beatification in 2007 (see pages 14-15). Coupled with the beatification miracle — a fetus brought back to life as a result of prayers by a desperate family member — St. Stanislaus has proven himself a powerful intercessor.

“In both cases, we see the work of God, who brings back life from death,” said the Marians’ Superior General Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC, who was among the dozens



of Marian priests from five continents who concelebrated the Mass of Canonization under bright, blue skies in the world's most illustrious square.

Moreover, by God's Providence, the Sunday readings used by the universal Church on June 5 tell of miracles — of the dead being brought back to life through God Almighty who offers eternal life (see 1 Kings 17:17-24 and Lk 7:11-17).

"When I saw what Sunday's readings were," said Fr. Andrzej, "I saw proof. God put together all this. Amazing. It's amazing."

Both miracles attributed to St. Stanislaus' intercession occurred in his homeland of Poland. The recipient of the beatification miracle, Urszula Markowska, and the recipient of the canonization miracle, Barbara Sobolewska, were in attendance, along with their families. Barbara was chosen to carry the relic of St. Stanislaus and place it by the altar.

Among the 100,000 or more attendees of the canonization were many from St. Stanislaus' homeland, where he remains a folk hero to this day, famous for his mysticism, writings, preaching, teaching, care for the poor, sick, and disenfranchised, and his no-nonsense undertaking of the duties set before him by Divine

Providence. Those duties included serving as a chaplain in the Polish army at a time when his country was roiled by endless war and famine.

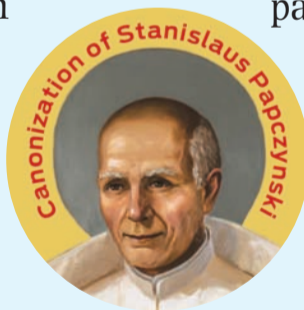
Of humble origins, the future saint would go on to serve as confessor to the future King John III and the papal nuncio for Poland, who would later become Pope Innocent XII.

As a sure sign of St. Stanislaus' sway in matters of the state and matters of the spirit, Poland's President Andrzej Duda attended the Mass of Canonization. Afterwards, at a festive meal hosted by the Marians just outside the

Vatican gates, President Duda spoke eloquently of the Church's new saint, reminding all that in 1764 — 63 years after St. Stanislaus' death — the parliament of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth turned to the Holy See and requested the beatification and canonization of their beloved spiritual son.

Parliament recommended that he should be raised to the honors of the altar, stated President Duda, "not only because he was a great spiritual leader, an excellent preacher who taught his confreres, and a renowned teacher of rhetoric ... but also on account of his being a

Continued on page 12



The canonization: up close

They expected they would be among the spectators in St. Peter's Square. Instead, they were tapped to be among Pope Francis' altar servers.

Four Marian seminarians from the United States were called upon to serve in the June 5 Mass of Canonization of the Marians' Founder, St. Stanislaus.

Yes, they had jitters. Yes, the experience was life-changing.

Here's what they have to say about it.

Brother Joe Lappe, MIC

My job was to hold the microphone for the deacon and a cardinal during the presentation to the Holy Father of the new saints. The mic was a bit heavy and awkward. I was just hoping the mic wouldn't hit the cardinal in the face. I could see the crowd. The thoughts came to me: "Wow, that's a lot of people" and, "Wow, this is really happening now." I was in awe. I realized, too, that my parents would see me on TV. It was a shock to meet Pope Francis. We were all facing the Pieta, praying the Rosary. Then someone said, "The Pope's here." He was so full of joy, a man of peace. I got to help the Pope vest! I didn't expect it. It came out of nowhere. We hadn't talked about that in the rehearsal. At the last moment, I was instructed by the MC to bring an amice over and hand it to the Pope!

Brother Michael Baker, MIC

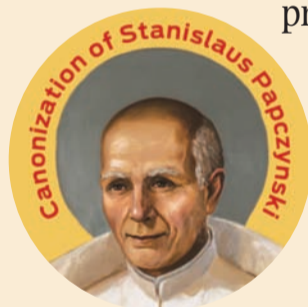
To be called up to serve was a dream come true. We had a run-through the day before the canonization. I expected it to be very regimented and focused on the externals (do this, do that ... hold your hands a certain way). But it was nothing like that. The master of ceremonies began by asking us to pray. ... His emphasis was on the interior. The exterior is secondary. On the day of the canonization we met at the Pieta and prayed a Hail Mary together while waiting for the Holy Father's arrival. My one take-away from that experience is Mary. We were given a rosary from the Holy Father. A rosary — the centrality of Marian devotion in the heart of the Church. It was a beautiful experience, seeing how the Church sees Mary, her role, and how clearly that was communicated to us.

Brother Scott Fanders, MIC

When Pope Francis was in Washington, D.C., last fall, everyone was standing on the pew and cheering. It



Brother Michael Baker greets Pope Francis moments before the canonization as Br. Scott Fanders looks on.



didn't seem like he wanted that. In Rome before Mass, it was quiet and recollected. He was preparing himself for Mass. He never lost that sense of silence about him even while he shook our hands. ... So I thought, "Wow, this is cool." But it wasn't like, "Woo-hoo!" It wasn't emotional, in that sense. I saw it as a sign of God's amazing providence that the Lord would choose me to do this. During the Mass, I found myself thinking of the heavenly Liturgy. If I feel this much joy about meeting Pope Francis and serving in the Mass, how much more significant it will be to be in Heaven and to meet Jesus Christ and to worship perfectly in Heaven.

Brother Alex Chung, MIC

The canonization of our Founder and my being chosen to serve in the Mass affirmed my vocation as a Marian. This was an extra boost of graces to help me keep moving forward toward perpetual vows, which I will profess this August. As to meeting Pope Francis, it all happened so quickly. He grabbed my right hand with both of his hands. Then I automatically grabbed his hands with both of my hands. He had a genuine smile. I could tell it wasn't just for pictures. I thought, "Here is a man like me," and yet, on the other hand, he's the successor of St. Peter. He's carrying the whole history of the Church with him. He's the Vicar of Christ, the closest we can get to Christ on earth in another human being. There were 2,000 years of the Church's history in that handshake!

MH

Canonized

Continued from page 10

great patriot and a great intercessor for his country. He frequently said that love of one's country and giving of oneself to his country is [a virtue to be emulated]. He said we need good Poles, and a good Pole is someone who has given himself to his country in a heroic way — who has morals, who has ethical values and who is courageous.

“This is how I would summarize his own words,” President Duda continued. “He challenged his fellow countrymen to this way of life and was uncompromising in this. He was not only a priest, but he was a warrior — a warrior for a free, strong, sovereign, and independent Poland.”

For his spiritual sons and daughters — including Marian priests and brothers and Marian Helpers —



Polish President Andrzej Duda attended the canonization. Afterward, the Marians' Superior General Fr. Andrzej Pakuta, MIC, presented him with a portrait of the Marians' Founder.

St. Stanislaus' legacy also stretches beyond national borders and, indeed, beyond earthly borders. His mystical experiences included visions of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. He would tell his confreres, “Pray, brethren, for the souls in Purgatory, for they suffer unbearably.” And so strong was his devotion to the Blessed Mother that he named his Congregation for her Immaculate Conception. This was nearly 200 years before the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of the faith.

Saint Stanislaus called all men and women to contemplate God's mercy and proclaim that God's heart is open to all.

“If you read some of his works,” said Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, “he has the most tender approach to sinners, and he calls Mary ‘the hook,’ like a fish hook,

A saint is calling

Upon hearing in March that the Marians' Founder would be canonized in June, Marian Helpers from throughout the United States dropped everything and booked their flights. Here's why:



My wife [Regina] and I came to give thanks to God for St. Stanislaus. It was through his intercession I received a healing from cancer. Saint Stanislaus is proof God is working in my life. We believe it's his intercession and God's will that we have another purpose in life: to continue life according to His plan.

— **Ricardo Escueta of Los Angeles, California.**

The Marians mean so much to us. It's through the Marians that we came to know about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy, and none of that could've happened without the Founder. His canonization is giving us the avenue to take his spirituality back to our parish, which has Polish roots, and explain his spirituality to the people — namely, praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and that we can pray for his intercession. We'll give out his prayercards, just like we do with Faustina prayercards.

— **Charles Yezak of Marlin, Texas. He attended with his wife, Nellie.**



that catches sinners to come back to the Lord. Other preachers in his time preached fire and brimstone. Not in his writings. He speaks of Mary's uttermost tenderness to get sinners back."

For the congregation he founded — which now has more than 500 priests and brothers in 20 countries — his was a message that presaged the Divine Mercy revelations of St. Faustina in the 1930s, which the Marians have promulgated since 1941 from their Stockbridge, Massachusetts-based province.

Born into a blacksmith's family in Podegrodzie, in Poland's rural southern region, St. Stanislaus was dedicated by his mother to the Virgin Mary from the time he was still in the womb — in fact, during a harrowing river crossing that nearly drowned mother and child. As a child, he engaged in pious play that included building altars and taking on the gestures and demeanor of priests. He joined the Spanish-based Piarist congregation in 1654, but left after nine years, dissatisfied that they were no longer living up to their founder's dedication to strict piety and penance.

He founded the Marians in 1673 with the mission to promote the Immaculate Conception, pray for souls in Purgatory, and assist pastors in their parish ministry. He died at Gora Kalwaria, outside Warsaw, where his remains are entombed in the Marian church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

His spiritual sons today discover in their vocations a direct link to their Founder, who demanded of his

Congregation a daily and dogged pursuit of sanctification for the glory of God and the Church.

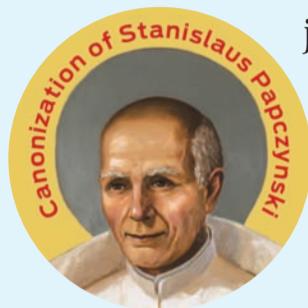
"We are taught about him, but not in a way that puts him up on some insurmountable pedestal," said Br. Alex Chung, MIC, who took final vows on Aug. 13. "Yes, the mystical experiences were there, but he had such a desire for the salvation of other souls. You just want to emulate that. He had his struggles, and [...] when he encountered struggles, he prayed to Mary and let her dust him off and give him the strength. His humanity speaks today. It speaks of the rewards of trust, of prayerfulness, and of pursuing holiness, and serving those who are in despair."

And it speaks to the reality that God is at work in the world through His saints.

If it weren't enough that the Marians' Founder was finally canonized, add to that that he was one of two first saints canonized in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which began Dec. 8, 2015 (on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, no less). What's the meaning of this?

"That God has many things in store for our Congregation," said Fr. Kaz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior of the Stockbridge-based province. "God is giving us many graces and many responsibilities, and through His graces, we follow in our Founder's footsteps to help save souls and preach to the world the mercy of God under the maternal guidance of Mary Immaculate."

MH



Saint Stanislaus has indirectly played a huge role in our lives, for without him, we would never have had any Marians! He has inspired me to offer up every one of my sufferings for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. My family now asks for the intercession of St. Stanislaus every night at dinner.

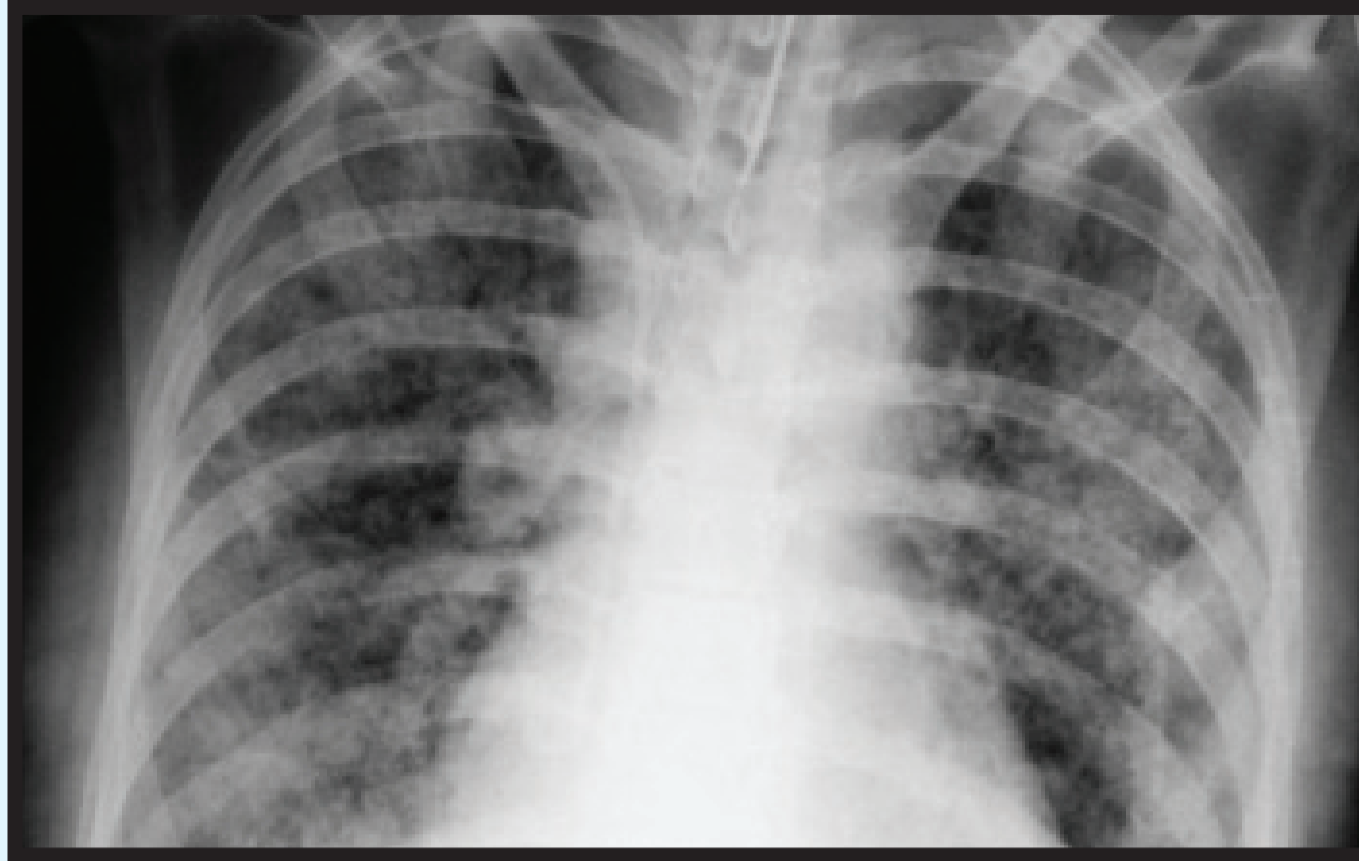
— **Gabriella Trause, 13 (pictured, far right), of North Arlington, New Jersey. She attended with her parents, Gene and Marianne, and 12-year-old sister, Elizabeth.**



As Marian Helpers, we were greatly honored and excited to be able to attend the canonization. As a member of [the Marian apostolate] Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy, it was wonderful to hear how the Marian Founder's intercession to the Lord helped bring forth the miraculous healing of the young woman. (See pages 14-15 for details.)

— **Dr. Ronald Sobecks of Cleveland, Ohio, who attended the canonization with his wife, Dr. Nancy Sobecks.**

Chest X-ray taken on March 19, 2008, shows the severe condition of Barbara's lungs. Her lungs were not exchanging oxygen, and deadly levels of carbon dioxide caused cerebral hypoxia with life-threatening complications of total organ failure and septic shock.



It was a ■ miracle

By Marie Romagnano, RN, BSN, CCM, and Very Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC

The following is an account of the Vatican-approved miracle attributed to the intercession of Marian Founder Stanislaus Papczynski, which opened the way for his canonization.

Barbara Rudzik was 20 years old and engaged to be married in June 2008. She had no history of any unusual diseases or medical conditions, but in February 2008 that all changed.

She developed symptoms of a heavy cold. First she went to her family doctor, who prescribed flu medication. Seeing no improvement, Tomasz Sobolewski, Barbara's fiancé, took her to the hospital where she was told she had nothing out of the ordinary wrong with her. But her symptoms became more acute. She experienced shortness of breath and severe chest pains. More hospital visits ensued.

On Feb. 24, Tomasz reported: "We went to the emergency room, and at my insistence a chest X-ray was done. I was anxious because the doctors maintained that they could not find any problem, yet my girlfriend was feeling so bad that she was forced to use the hospital wheelchair. She had already lost 11 pounds and looked awful." The X-rays showed severe pneumonia and dehydration. She was hospitalized at the local Mazurski

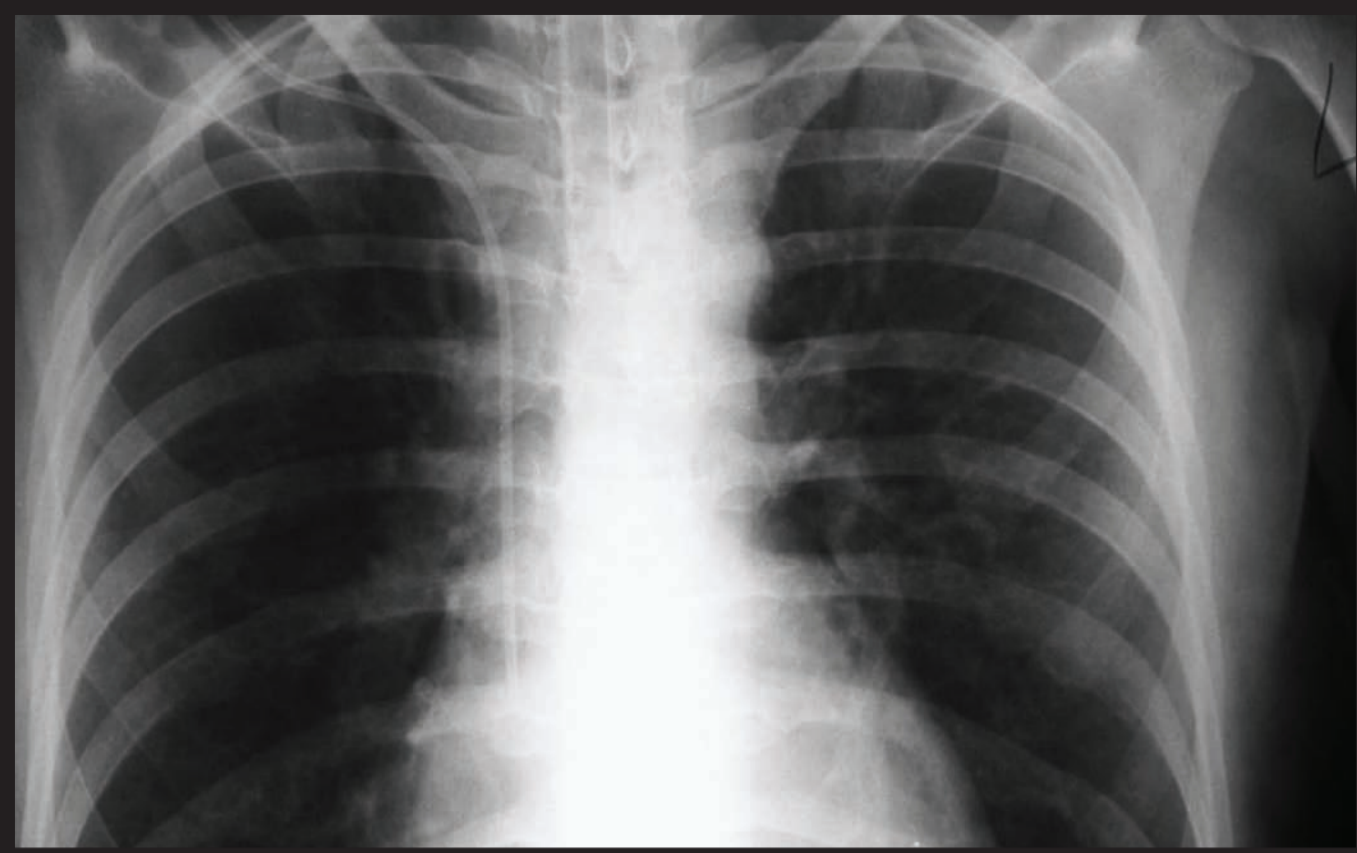
Health Center, in Elk, Poland.

The following day, she suffered complete respiratory failure and was placed on full life support under the care of Dr. Waldemar Szypulski, the department chief and specialist of the Intensive Care Unit.

Dr. Irena Minarowska, a radiologist, reported: "On February 25, 2008, for the first time, I looked over her lung X-rays and examined her in the ICU. The patient had severe difficulty breathing, was pale, and in critical condition. We had to deal with a very serious injury of the lungs that prevented the ventilation of her lungs predominantly. Any work on the patient resulted in the worsening of her condition. The patient was very unstable. No matter what was tried on her, it provoked further instability. We wondered if the patient would survive, and if she survived, in what state. The status of the patient was so serious that she was in a constant state of critical condition. ... Despite the lack of improvement in her clinical status, our team did not give up and carried on with the therapeutic protocol for the whole time."

A multidisciplinary treatment plan was followed for the diagnosis of Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) concurrent with pneumonia. Aggressive treatment of symptoms included multiple antibiotics and mechanical





This chest X-ray, taken on March 25, 2008, shows medically unexplained clearing with normal functioning of the lungs. This was the seventh day of the novena to St. Stanislaus.

ventilation on a respirator. Still, Barbara's condition worsened. She went into a coma, developed multiple organ failure and septic shock, and remained in critical condition.

By March 19, Barbara was not responding to targeted therapy. She remained in critical condition. Dr. Szypulski recognized that the medical team had exhausted all therapeutic methods. He told the family that he considered her condition desperate and irreversible, and expected her death in a short time.

Alfreda Rudzik, Barbara's mother, deeply distraught, went to the parish church, where she encountered Anna Mazurek, her catechism teacher and the parish organist. In her efforts to console her, Anna suggested that Barbara's family pray the novena to Blessed Stanislaus Papczynski for her healing. Since Alfreda was not aware of these prayers, Anna gave her a novena booklet to guide her. That evening, together with her husband and Barbara's fiancé, Alfreda began the novena.

On March 22, the fourth day of their novena, Dr. Szypulski noticed a slight improvement in Barbara's clinical status, including in the levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in her blood. He modified the mechanical ventilation settings and reduced her medications. He stated that, "after those days of desperation and lack of hope," they were "blown away" by her improvement. The chest X-ray taken on March 25 (the seventh day of the novena) shocked the doctors even more as it showed a complete healing of her irreversibly damaged lungs.

On March 27, the final day of the novena, Barbara's breathing tube was removed and she began to spontaneously breathe on her own.

Seeing her lungs restored — lungs that had been dam-

aged beyond modern medicine's treatment capabilities — and seeing the overall positive turn in her condition, both Dr. Szypulski and Dr. Minarowska were dumbfounded. They admitted that their medical intervention was not responsible for this reversal and healing and that no scientific reason would explain it. Although her lungs were healed, serious questions remained. Dr. Minarowska stated:

"We were certain that she would survive, but unable to answer the question 'how' she would function after her eventual recovery."

The doctors wondered: Would her brain function normally after such high levels of carbon dioxide in her blood for over four weeks, which caused cerebral hypoxia (severe lack of oxygen to the brain)? Would her vital organs, damaged by septic shock and total organ failure, recover? Would the resultant quadriplegia be reversed? The physicians had no answers on that day, as they feared permanent brain injury, organ dysfunction, and total bodily paralysis.

The answers came during her stay at the hospital's Rehabilitation Department. Despite her cerebral hypoxia, she had no cognitive

impairment. Her Rehabilitation Discharge Summary stated: "Twenty-year-old patient was admitted for rehabilitation after quadriplegia and cerebral hypoxic respiratory failure. She has achieved a significant improvement in functional status, now ambulating independently on level surfaces, climbing stairs and was discharged home." She was healed from the permanent damage of cerebral hypoxia and quadriplegia, which is medically unexplainable.

Barbara Rudzik returned to lead a normal life. She married Tomasz on June 21, 2008. They now have two healthy boys.



Barbara places a relic of St. Stanislaus Papczynski before the altar during the Mass of Canonization.

MH



MARIE ROMAGNANO



The life of
Stanislaus
Papczynski

WHY NOW?

On the day of the canonization of St. Stanislaus Papczynski, members of the Marians' General Council had the opportunity to meet Pope Francis.

"We've waited more than 300 years for this day," the Marians' Superior General Fr. Andrzej Pakuła, MIC, told the Holy Father.

Smiling, Pope Francis responded, "*To non cedo 300 anni*," by which he meant, roughly: "I'm the type of Pope that, if I find a holy person, I will not wait 300 years." In other words: "Don't blame me it took so long."

Kidding aside, why now? Why, 315 years after the Marian Founder's death, has God seen to it that he be canonized? Is He merely dotting i's and crossing t's to enshrine the good name of a man who founded a Congregation whose impact on the world would become mighty centuries later?

No. Through St. Stanislaus, God is calling upon us, at this point in history, to model ourselves on the Founder's preaching and practice.

"Significant is the fact that Fr. Stanislaus is declared a saint during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy," noted Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, archbishop of Krakow, in his homily at the Marians' Mass of Thanksgiving the day following the June 5 canonization. "He left us the example of a man and a priest with a great heart, concerned about

his neighbor's poverty and not indifferent to his fate."

Through St. Stanislaus' canonization, we can discern what God is telling us.

God is Mercy

At a time when most preachers dwelt on a wrathful God and the fate of the unfaithful, St. Stanislaus predominantly focused on the *mercy* of God and the fate of the *faithful* — a catechetical corrective that remains at the heart of the Marians' apostolic work today.

Indeed, the Marians point to Divine Providence to explain the remarkable and reaffirming fact that the central theme of St. Stanislaus' ministry — that God's greatest attribute is mercy — reoccurs later in the Divine Mercy

revelations of St. Faustina, of which the Marians have been lead promoters since 1941.

In words that were later echoed in St. Faustina's revelations, St. Stanislaus wrote, "The most merciful Savior of the world cares for the salvation of all people, and not only does He have in consideration the happiness of the just, but also, or even mainly, of the sinners."

May we take up as our own the exhortation of St. Stanislaus to "learn to immerse with great trust all [our] imperfections in the immense abyss of this Divine Mercy."

Mary Immaculate is our gracious advocate

Guiding St. Stanislaus throughout his life was the Mother of God herself. He wrote: "I know that she is concerned for us in the same way that she was concerned for Christ the Lord."

Nearly 200 years before the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of the faith, St. Stanislaus professed: "I believe everything that the holy Roman Church believes, but first of all I profess that the Most Holy Mother of God, Mary, was conceived without any stain of original sin."

Why is this mystery so central to the faith? As St. Stanislaus knew, by being preserved from all stain of original sin, Mary became living proof to God's love and care for all of humanity. Through her Immaculate Conception, we find solace that Christ had conquered sin and that we are called to eternal life in Heaven.

Let us take up as our own the frequently repeated prayer of St. Stanislaus: "May the Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception be our health and our protection."

We are obliged to strive after sanctity

Saint Stanislaus preached that each of us is called to be a "mystical temple of God," built and maintained by means of prayer, sacrifice, submission to God, and love of neighbor.

Let us follow St. Stanislaus' advice: "Plead with God for light so that you may understand how great is the importance of each virtue, all that He wants you to do, and how He wants you to advance in perfection."

Turn to God with trust

Saint Stanislaus suffered trials in every stage of life. In his childhood, he struggled to learn the alphabet. Later, he nearly died of illness. His family was not supportive at first of his religious calling. He was persecuted throughout his religious life. He had difficulty obtaining the Holy See's approval for his new Order.

Through St. Stanislaus, God tells us that we are to persevere in our faith, even if all signs on earth seem to indicate He has forgotten us.

Let us take to heart St. Stanislaus' words: "The heavier are the crosses that you endure on earth, the greater shall be the rewards that await you in Heaven."

Be prepared for death

Saint Stanislaus taught that we are to live with our attention on dying, looking toward our ultimate meeting with God.

Let us learn from him: "Wherefore, since you surely are not able to promise yourself an additional morrow ... pay close attention to your every thought and deed; seriously improve your life; adopt more holy conduct, and apply yourself more assiduously to perfection."

Be intimately engaged with the world

We are to be people of God *and* people of our times. Indeed, St. Stanislaus was not only a man of deep prayer; he was intimately engaged with the people and events of 17th century Poland, a time of great upheaval.

He served as a chaplain in the Polish army when his native land was being plundered by foreign invaders. Having experienced poverty and even homelessness, he was especially sensitive to the needs of the poor. He took the Word of God to the socially marginalized whose spiritual needs were overlooked. Witnessing widespread alcoholism, he taught sobriety and prayer as effective curatives against all forms of dependency.

May we make St. Stanislaus' words our own: "[L]et us apply ourselves to the works of mercy, let us exert ourselves; through them we restore the Temples of God, our souls."

Pray for the souls in Purgatory

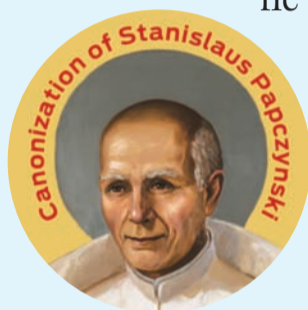
It's safe to say that among the thousands of saints throughout Church history, none was more moved than St. Stanislaus to engage in, and advocate for, prayer and penance on behalf of the souls in Purgatory.

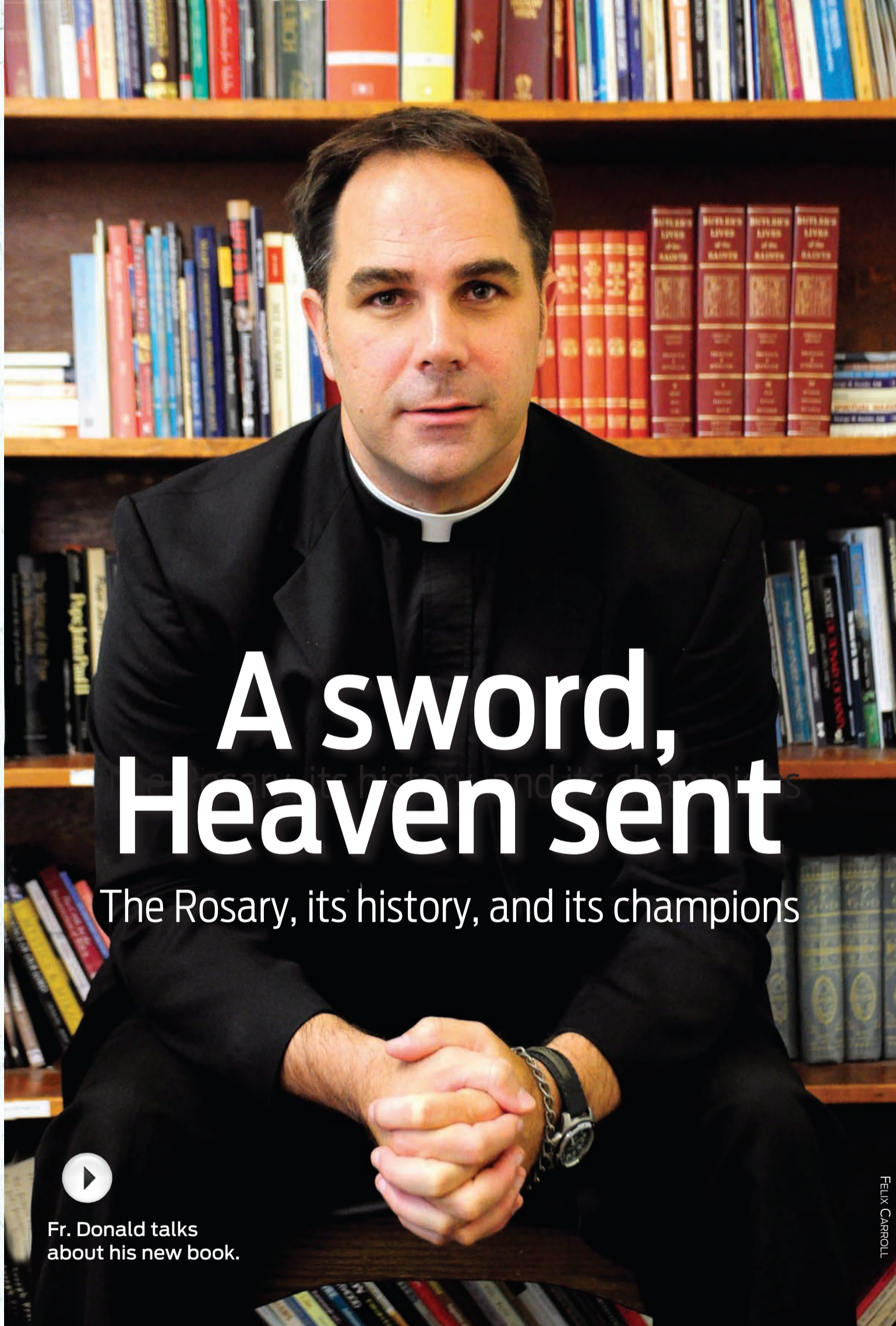
In one account, at a gathering with a family and other guests, St. Stanislaus had a profound mystical experience of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. He later told his confreres: "Pray, brethren, for the souls in Purgatory, for they suffer unbearably." He then locked himself in his cell and spent three days praying for them.

Let us respond to St. Stanislaus' teaching that "it is the greatest charity to pray earnestly to God for the freedom of the souls remaining in Purgatory, or to assist them by merciful alms as by various other means."

As Marian Helpers, we are called to be the spiritual heirs of St. Stanislaus. The world needs holy, joyful, self-sacrificing witnesses. MH

— Felix Carroll





A sword, Heaven sent

The Rosary, its history, and its champions



Fr. Donald talks
about his new book.

FELIX CARROLL

Father Donald H. Calloway, MIC, the Marians' vice provincial and vocations director, just published a new book about the Rosary — *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon* (Marian Press). We recently sat down with Fr. Donald to talk about it.

What was the impetus behind writing this book?

The Rosary was a big part of my own personal growth, beginning with my own introduction to Catholicism. It's one of the first Catholic prayers I heard and, at the time, I didn't know what it was, but as I

learned more about it, praying the Rosary really became a daily practice on my journey to becoming Catholic. And it has been a daily practice ever since. But apart from my own personal journey, I wanted to write a comprehensive book on the Rosary that would say, “This is the history of the Rosary.”

You talk about three keys to understanding the Rosary. The first key is that the Rosary is a spiritual sword made by God. Can you shed a little more light on the divine origin of the Rosary?

Well, we are in a spiritual battle, and you don’t win a battle without a weapon. Knowing what kind of weapon you’ll need will be determined by your enemy and his capabilities. So, you have to ask, who is our enemy? The evil one, the devil. And from the evil one flows sin and vices and so forth. What on earth could be the weapon we use to defeat him?

The weapon we have been given is the weapon given from Heaven, and that is, when Jesus came into the world and was Incarnate, He gave to us His saving mysteries. Those mysteries are really lived out — especially through the Sacraments and the teachings of the Church. Those are the things that set us free. Those are the means that give us the power to overcome the enemy.

So, what God seems to have done throughout history is to mold together a weapon that encapsulates all of these things — the sacred mysteries of Christ — and that’s the Rosary. That’s why many have said it’s a spiritual sword.

What are some of the different ways throughout history the devil has tried to destroy the Rosary?

Any enemy, if he knows there is a weapon, is going to try to destroy it — or cause people to forget about it, ignore it, or outright abandon it. Throughout history, we have seen this happen. Soon after the founding of the Rosary, the Black Plague came to Europe and millions of people died. Buildings had to be burned, especially buildings where religious orders lived and where they were taking care of the sick, so documents were destroyed as a result. Documents pertaining to the founding of the Rosary were invariably destroyed. When you had the Protestant resistance, the so-called “reformers” started to turn against the Rosary. And whole countries turned against this devotion and said it’s made up by the Catholic Church. So we see how the devil uses these circumstances. And you have to ask why the evil one would want to destroy this weapon. Because he knows it can destroy him.

The second key you discuss is the “pious tradition.” What is the pious tradition, and why is it important to our understanding of the Rosary?

The pious tradition is the papal understanding that the Rosary originated with St. Dominic in the 13th century. Since 1495, we have documented evidence from popes in the form of encyclicals and apostolic letters that hold the founding of the Rosary was by St. Dominic. That carries a lot of weight because you are grounding the foundations of the Rosary in a particular person and in a particular time period. In essence, the Rosary was brought into existence as a weapon in a time of darkness. The Rosary isn’t just a crown of roses for Mary. It overcomes evil. It overcomes vice. It brings peace in the world. It overcomes ideologies, because you can trace its founding all the way back to when it was founded by St. Dominic to overcome the heresy of Albigensianism. If we don’t ground the founding of the Rosary in this way, we risk the danger of the Rosary becoming whatever we want it to be, and it becomes just an option. But in this spiritual battle, not having a weapon is not an option.

The third key you talk about is the Rosary’s antecedents and its developments. What preceded the Rosary? And what kinds of developments helped to shape the Rosary as we say it today?

Before St. Dominic there was a practice of praying a form of devotion to Our Lady that was based on the 150 Psalms on paternoster beads, which were prayed by monks. But this wasn’t a form of meditation, and there were no mysteries attached to it. Also this was not understood to be an evangelical tool to convert heretics. It was mostly a form of prayer for monasteries. It was not something that was said in common. But those are the antecedents God used to mold the Rosary. It already had a set of beads. People were already praying the Hail Mary 150 times. God came and used that and brought in the mysteries and the meditations. He took it out of the monastic setting to the mendicant orders of the 13th and 14th century.

God took this great preacher, St. Dominic, who was already trying to win souls, but he wasn’t bearing much fruit. So that’s when he went into prayer in the forest, and Our Lady gave him the Rosary and told him, “Preach my psalter.” She was saying to St. Dominic, combine your preaching with my psalter.

You note how, over time, there have been some changes made to the Rosary. Can you give an example?

Yes, I consider the Rosary to be “alive.” It’s able to

adapt. The mysteries St. Dominic was given were the exact mysteries the Albigensians were attacking. So, would God, the maker of the Rosary, see in the future other things that would be attacked? Would He, therefore, give through popes or saints other mysteries that needed to be prayed in order to counter this poison? In fact, He did. Saint George Preca came up with the Luminous Mysteries, and then St. John Paul II embraced those mysteries, modernizing the ancient sword of the Rosary and re-sharpening the blade for our time. John Paul II updated the sword and turned it into a lightsaber — the Luminous Mysteries. They're the mysteries we need to hear today.

How so?

Marriage is being attacked, so what do we get? The Feast of Cana where one man is marrying one woman. Many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence, so we

get the Institution of the Eucharist. Some don't believe in the true divinity of Christ, so we get the Transfiguration: He is God.

What do you hope people will take away from this book?

I want to help turn this tide of not wanting to pray the Rosary or thinking that it's just for old people by showing that that the Rosary is powerful. It has the power to bring back your loved ones to the practice of the faith, or to heal your marriage, or to bring back a vitality to your parish. There are some unbelievable stories about the power of the Rosary. I want people to pray it — all across the Church — and this would spark a revolution of devotion. And when you pray the Rosary, it changes things. It changes you, but it also has the power to change history!

MH

— Joan Lamar

St. Dominic, Founder of the Rosary (1170-1221)



*Excerpted from Champions of the Rosary:
The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon.*

According to the Dominican tradition, St. Dominic founded the rosary in the year 1208. After having devoted all his efforts to trying to win back the hearts and minds of those who had been swept away by the Albigensian heresy, St. Dominic retreated to a forest near Prouille, France, to seek guidance from heaven. It was there that the Virgin Mary entrusted the rosary to St. Dominic, instructing him in its use and implementation, and effectively making him the father of a new form of preaching and praying. With the spiritual sword of the rosary in his hand, St. Dominic's new style of preaching became effective against the Albigensians and won many back to the fullness of Christian teaching in the Catholic Church.

As part of her instructions to St. Dominic about the rosary, the Queen of Heaven informed him that the rosary was to be understood as a weapon of war and a battering ram against heresy. With this in mind, St. Dominic founded the Order of Preachers, a band of brothers known as the “dogs of God” and the Order of the Rosary. In time, the rosary would be officially recognized as part of the Dominican habit and worn on the left side in order to symbolize a sword ready to be unsheathed and taken into spiritual combat. The greatest stories of the power and effectiveness of the rosary in the life of St. Dominic are recorded in *The Secret of the Rosary* by the Third Order Dominican St. Louis de Montfort.

Saint Dominic is also credited with founding the Confraternity of the Rosary. In his zeal for promoting truth and saving souls, St. Dominic founded this association of prayer to accompany the rosary and assure its spread throughout the world. Much like the rosary itself, this movement was initially known by various other names and titles. Yet it has been affirmed by many popes that this confraternity of prayer was originally founded by St. Dominic. In all likelihood, the Confraternity of the Rosary began in the Church of St. Sixtus in Rome in 1216 and was brought to other countries such as Spain and France by St. Dominic himself.

Wonder not that until now you [St. Dominic] have obtained so little fruit by your labors; you have spent them on a barren soil, not yet watered with the dew of divine grace. When God willed to renew the face of the earth, he began by sending down on it the fertilizing rain of the Angelic Salutation. Therefore, preach my Psalter.

— Our Lady's words to St. Dominic

New!

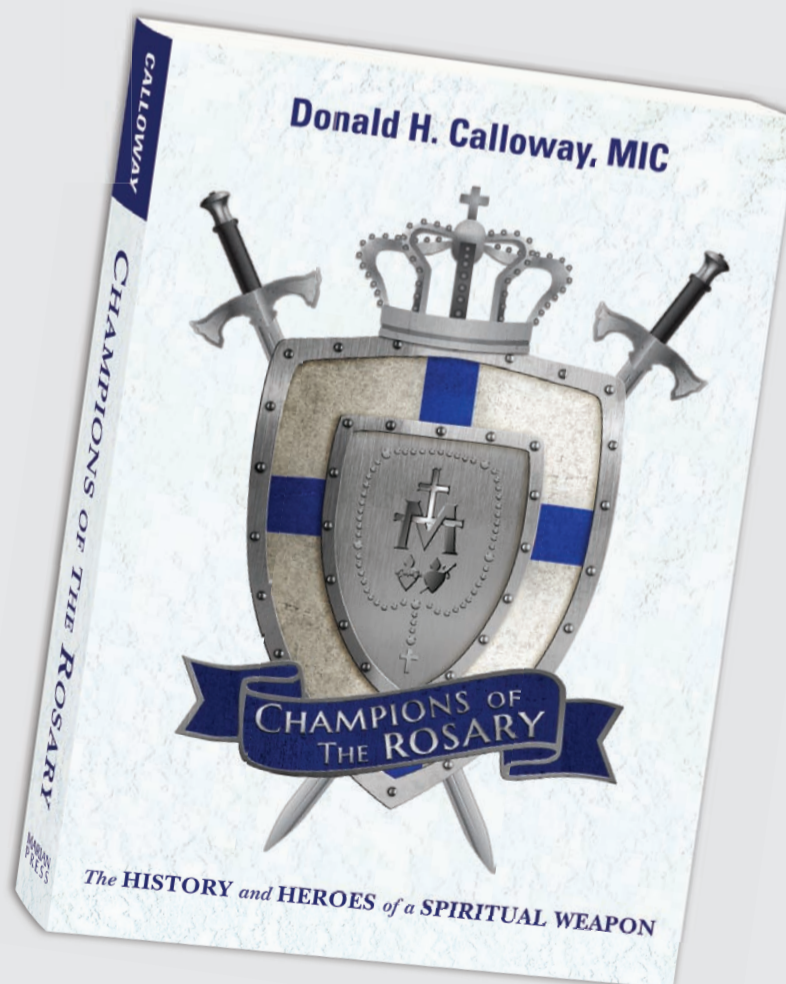
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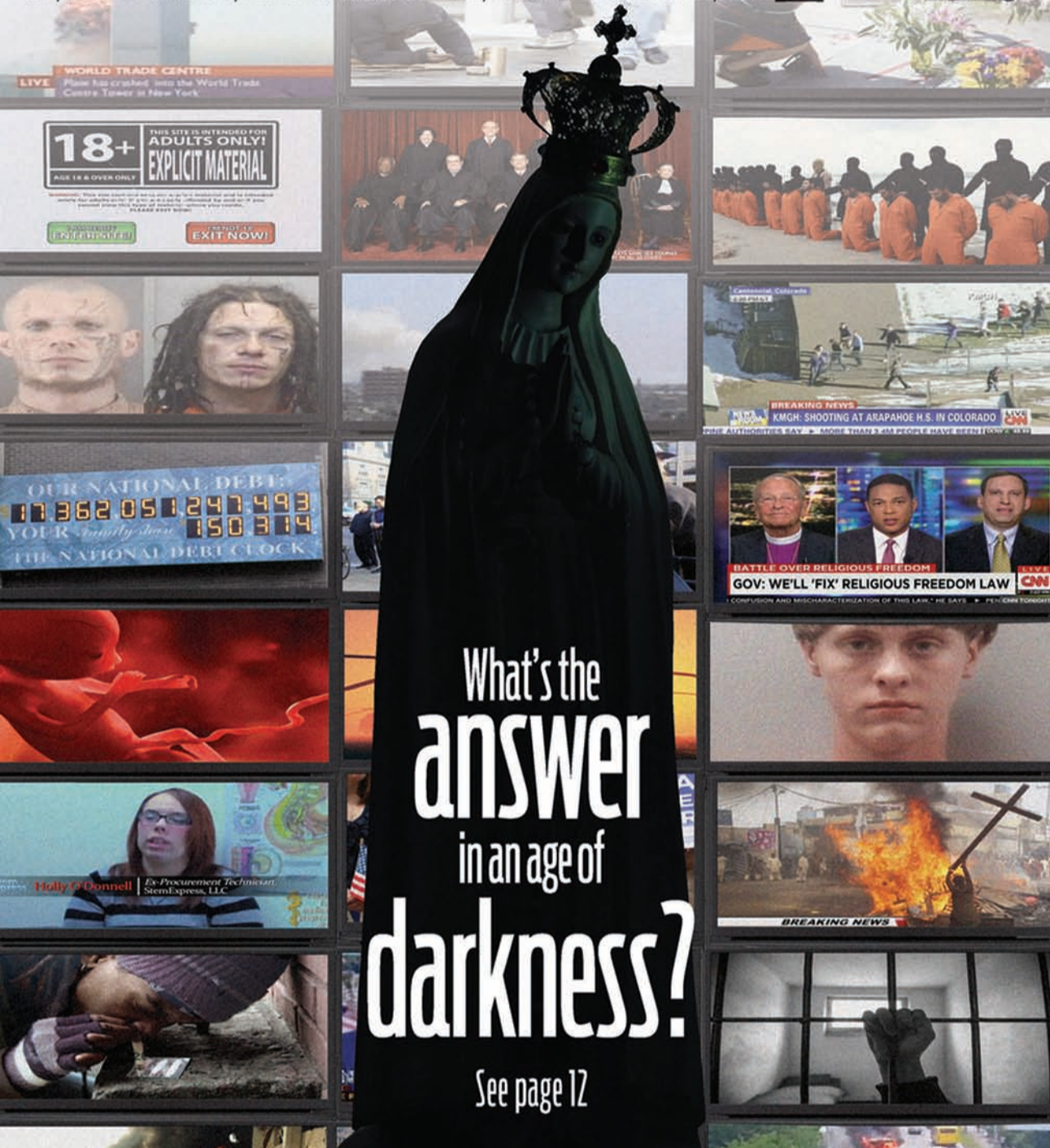
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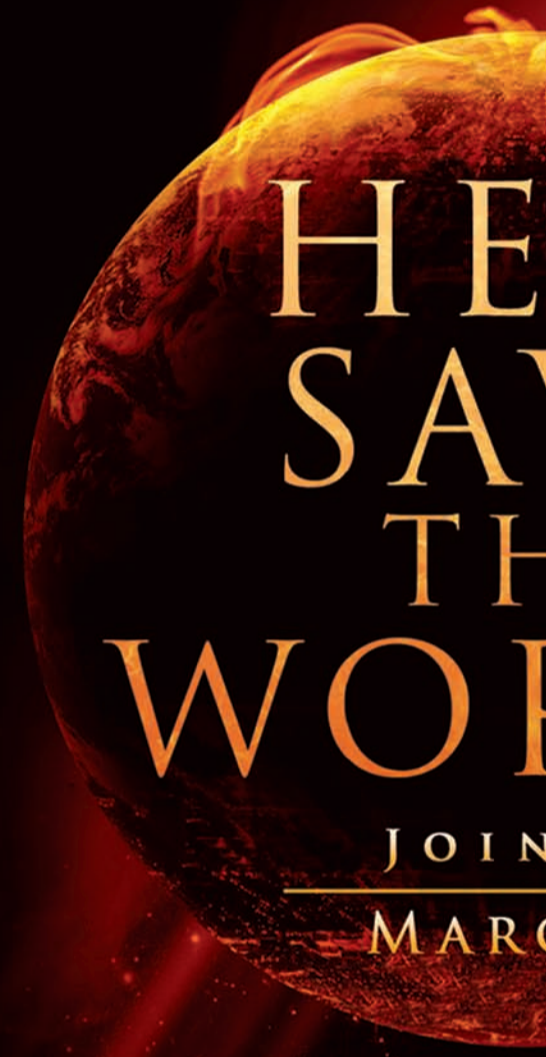


What's the
answer
in an age of
darkness?
See page 12

YEAR OF
SPECIAL

Marian

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the



One last word

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

This may be the most important article I'll ever write. It's the culmination of nearly a year of articles I've dedicated to a common theme. It's the last of these articles — my one last word on the subject.

But before I get to that word, let's first review where we've been.

Where We've Been

I mentioned that this past year my articles have followed a common theme. That theme has been the

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. More specifically, it's been several calls to action to help us live this Year of Mercy to the full — and your response to those calls has

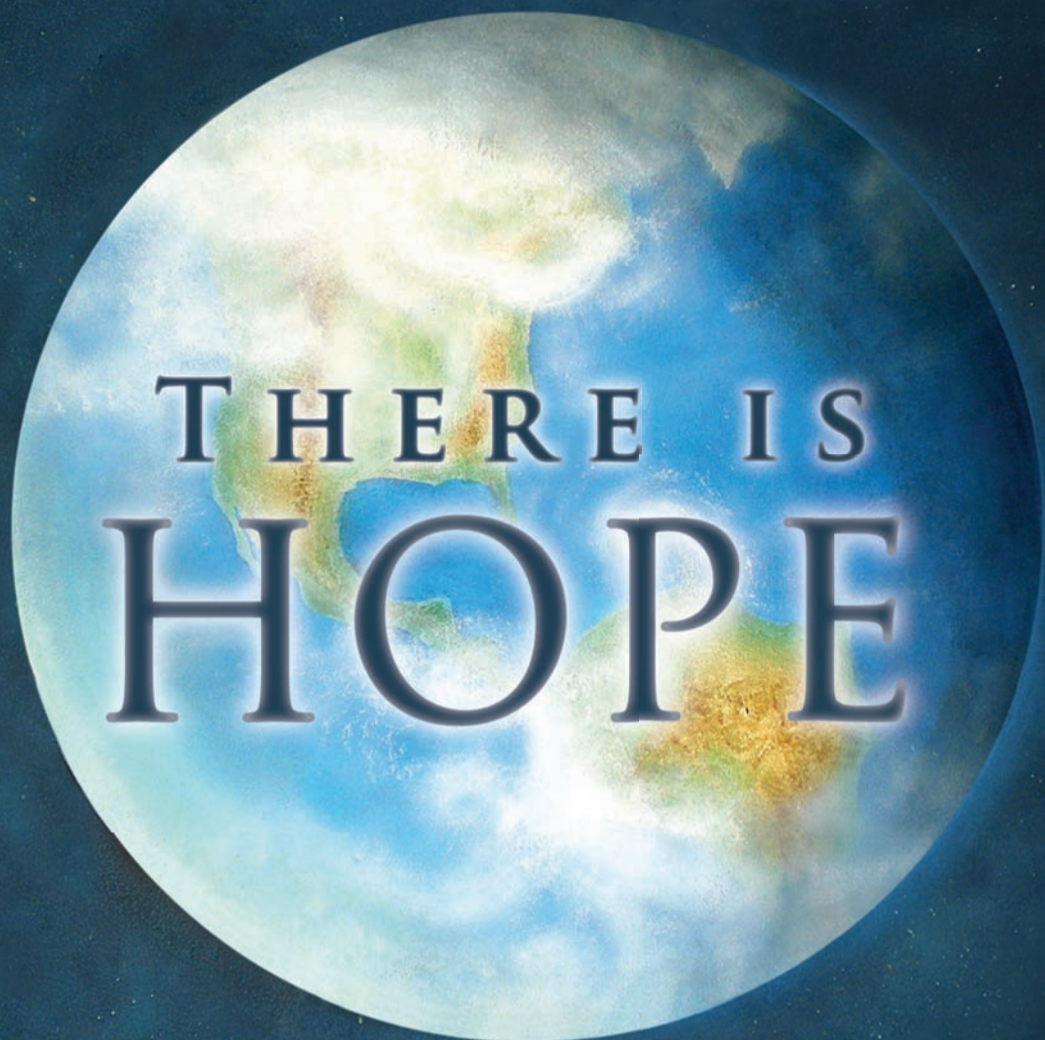


Marian Helper

Summer 2016

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YOU RESPONDED DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

been overwhelming.

In last year's Fall issue of *Marian Helper* magazine, I wrote a cover story entitled, "What's the answer in an age of darkness?" In it, I called on all our Marian Helpers to join me in making a Marian Consecration on Dec. 8, 2015, the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy — and your response was amazing. So many of you took me up on my offer to receive Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC's preparation for Marian consecration, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, by making any voluntary donation. More importantly, so many of you joined me as we prayerfully prepared with that book for 33 days and consecrated ourselves on Dec. 8.

Then, at the beginning of 2016, I wrote another cover story with a second call to action. The title was "Help Save the World," and the call to action was to join me in making a consecration to Divine Mercy on April 3, 2016 — Divine Mercy Sunday in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In that article, I shared the background of how Fr. Michael's new book on consecration to Divine Mercy, *33*

Days to Merciful Love, came to be — how it spawned from a powerful experience I had at Mass about two years ago. Long story short: I was inspired by the Lord to ask Fr. Michael to write it. In a sudden stream of inspiration last November, he did — and once again I wanted everyone to have it, and so, through that cover story, we offered it to our Marian Helpers for any voluntary donation.

Now, so many of you responded to the "Help Save the World" cover story that I wrote *another* cover story for the last issue, titled, "There Is Hope." In that article, I shared how so many of you responded to my invitation to make the consecration to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday that our phone lines shut down.

Well, there's something else that happened that I *didn't* share in that article, something I'd like to share now.

Where We're Going

After witnessing firsthand the incredible response you gave to joining me in making the consecration to

Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday, I felt I received a big inspiration.

As most of you already know, Fr. Mike had put together a small group program for each one of his books — except the last one, *33 Days to Merciful Love*. Well, I had the bright idea of asking him to put together another small group program for *33 Days to Merciful Love* so our Marian Helpers could make the consecration to Divine Mercy in small groups to end the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Father Mike said the only way he could do it in time would be if he skipped the canonization ceremony of our Founder in Rome. I said with a wink, “Well, what’s more important, attending the canonization or helping thousands of our faithful Marian Helpers end the Year of Mercy with a bang?” He laughed and said, “Okay, I’ll do it.”

So Fr. Mike took one for the team. In other words, with a small team, he stayed back from the trip to Rome, wrote the talks for the videos, filmed it all, wrote up the study and leader guides, and got it all done in time for you and me to do the small group program, which is currently available.

Now, I myself have watched the videos and looked at the study guide, and I’m telling you, it’s the best of all of Fr. Mike’s small group programs. I feel like the Lord gave him some extra grace, not only because he was obedient to what I asked of him, but also because this is the great year of grace, the Jubilee Year of Mercy! And this small group program is the culminating gift that I’d now like to offer to you Marian Helpers in this greatest of years.

Alright, so what do we do?

What We Can Do

Here’s what I’d like all our Marian Helpers to do: Reach out to your friends and family and invite them to do this small group program with you or ask your pastor if you can start a small group in your parish. Of course, that may take some courage. After all, many of you have probably never done something like this before. Well, just as I asked Fr. Mike to take one for the team, now I’m asking *you* to take one for the team. I mean, it’s the Year of Mercy! Now is a time to get out of our comfort zones and to try something new. Now is a time to be courageous as we spread Divine Mercy!

To help you respond, I’m going to make it easier than ever. On the following page, I’m giving you a step-by-step guide on how to get your group started. But before you look at that, let me conclude with some words of encouragement.

Some Final Words of Encouragement

First, if you’re saying to yourself, “But I already did the consecration to Divine Mercy,” that’s great that you did it! But this consecration is not a “one and done” kind of thing.

In other words, you can always go deeper, and the small group program will take you *much deeper than you can imagine*. Believe me. I’ve looked through all the materials — the DVDs, the Retreat Companion Guide, and the other components — and I’m blown away. Also, it’s not just the materials. Doing a retreat on one’s own is great. But all who do Fr. Mike’s programs say their favorite part was doing the program in a group, where they met new friends and experienced Christian fellowship like never before.

Second, in the earlier cover stories I’ve written over the last year, I’ve offered you consecration books for any donation. Well, while I can’t give away the small-group packages for any donation — they cost us a lot more to produce — here’s what I can do: I’m going to give you the biggest discount I’ve ever given on any of Fr. Mike’s small-group packets. (See next page for details.) Why? Because I want every one of our Marian Helpers to be able to end the Year of Mercy in the most powerful way possible — and I believe that is to consecrate yourself to Divine Mercy *in a group*.

Why are groups so important — and in this case, small groups? Because they can change the world. Jesus began with a small group of disciples, and they went on to set the world on fire with the Good News of salvation in Him. Your small group of friends can help change the world. Really! It’s like this ...

I believe we got the process going of helping our country and our world with our Marian consecration to begin the Year of Mercy. Then, I believe we made a great impact on the world when we consecrated ourselves to Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday. But now we need an even deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which comes down especially on small groups of people who want to love and serve the Lord. That’s what happened during the first Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-4). That’s what can happen again. And if it doesn’t happen this year, this Jubilee Year of Mercy, then when else would it happen? This might very well be one of the greatest opportunities ever to bring about a new Pentecost!

The time of mercy is now — but the Year of Mercy is ending. So, let’s get out there, invite our friends and family to join us, and end this Year of Mercy with some great graces. I say “great graces” because Jesus told St. Faustina, “I often wait with great graces until towards the end of prayer” (268). Well, I have a feeling He’s waiting to give the greatest of graces at the end of this Year of Mercy. I have a feeling that we can get those graces by making the consecration to Divine Mercy in small groups. I have a feeling that, once again, your response will be overwhelming and that we’ll help Jesus and Mary to change our hurting world for the better. Are you with me?

MH

End the Year of Mercy with Fr. Joseph, MIC!

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This can be people from among your friends, family, or parish.

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Retreat Coordinator's Guide

Both the packets and kits can be ordered with or without the book, *33 Days to Merciful Love.*

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Kit with book

B31-MLCKWB ~~(\$49.95)~~ **(\$37.46)**

(Discount only applies to Coordinator Kits and Participant Packets.)

4. Start the retreat.

Note to Retreat Coordinators: Your Coordinator Kit comes with a *Guide* that explains everything.

5. Consecrate with Fr. Joseph on Nov. 20.

November 20 ends the Year of Mercy!

Visit Marian.org to consecrate with Fr. Joseph, MIC

Father Joseph is going to post a video of himself, Fr. Michael Gaitley, and their group making their consecration. (Video will be posted by early morning on Nov. 20.) Join along with your group!

Photos: Please email photos and testimonies from your group to editorial@marian.org.

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- ▶ Welcome ceremony
- ▶ Pope Francis visits Divine Mercy Shrine
- ▶ Vigil
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YOUTHFUL, HOPEFUL, MERCIFUL

Youth receive spark of Divine Mercy at World Youth Day

The youth of the world came to Krakow, Poland, the international capital of the Divine Mercy message and devotion, for World Youth Day (WYD) in the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy — and Jesus, the Divine Mercy, watched over it all.

Literally.

A massive reproduction of the upper half of the Divine Mercy Image stood as the backdrop behind the Holy Father's chair at the 31st WYD celebrations, held from Monday, July 25, to Sunday, July 31. Images of two of the co-patrons of the event and former inhabitants of Krakow — St. John Paul II (1920-2005), the Great Mercy Pope and founder of WYD, and St. Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), the Secretary and Apostle of the Divine Mercy — adorned the stage, the programs, and banners hanging throughout Krakow, home of the International Shrine of

The Divine Mercy.

“Mercy always has a youthful face!” said Pope Francis at the welcoming ceremony on Thursday, July 28, in Blonia Park, the site of St. John Paul II's historic 1979 appeal to the Holy Spirit to come down and renew Poland. “Because a merciful heart is motivated to move beyond its comfort zone. A merciful heart can go out and meet others; it is ready to embrace everyone. ... To say the word ‘mercy’ along with you is to speak of opportunity, future, commitment, trust, openness, hospitality, compassion, and dreams.”

The whole event was hosted by Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, archbishop of Krakow and former private secretary to St. John Paul II.

“Krakow is alive with the mystery of Divine Mercy, also owing to humble Sister Faustina and John Paul II,

who made the Church and the world sensitive to this specific trait of God,” said Cardinal Dziwisz, a longtime friend of the Marian Fathers and promoter of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. “Returning to your countries, homes and communities, carry the spark of mercy, reminding everyone that ‘blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’” (Mt 5:7).

The week was full of great moments of devotion to Jesus, the Divine Mercy; to Mary, the Mother of Mercy; and to the great saints of mercy. During the Mass on July 26 that opened the 2016 WYD, the faithful processed relics of



St. John Paul II, St. Faustina, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the three co-patrons of this WYD, to the altar. Throughout the week, choirs sang the official hymn of the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, “*Misericordes sicut Pater!*” (“Merciful Like the Father”), or songs with the words, “*Jezu, ufam Tobie*” (Jesus, I trust in You), among others.

The Holy Father celebrated Mass for hundreds of thousands of pilgrims on Thursday, July 28, at the great shrine of Jasna Gora, where the historic image of Our Lady of Czestochowa is kept, to mark the 1050th anniversary of Poland’s baptism. On Friday, July 29, Pope Francis visited the Nazi-era death camps Auschwitz and Birkenau, spending time in prayer in the prison cell where St. Maximilian Kolbe underwent his torturous martyrdom for charity, offering his life in exchange for the life of a husband and father. This year is the 75th anniversary of St. Maximilian’s martyrdom. Then the Holy Father met with Holocaust survivors and some of the Righteous Among the Nations, those who had heroically protected the targets of Hitler’s genocidal campaigns. And on Saturday, July 30, the Holy Father visited the tomb of St. Faustina in the chapel of the Krakow convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy, where he heard Confessions; and the Shrine of St. John Paul II, where he celebrated Mass for priests and religious.

The Holy Father walked with youth representing the peoples of the inhabited continents through the Jubilee Year Holy Door at the *Campus Misericordiae*, the Field of Mercy, site of the concluding vigil and Mass; that Holy Door was adorned with “Jesus, I trust in You” in multiple languages, as well as red and blue streamers to represent the rays coming from Jesus’ Heart in the Divine Mercy Image. During the vigil on Saturday night, an estimated

1.8 million pilgrims watched a theatrical presentation in which St. Faustina is present in modern challenges facing youth. Then, during Eucharistic Adoration, the whole crowd joined the Holy Father in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. At the end of the concluding Mass (celebrated by the first Jesuit Pope on July 31, normally the liturgical feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of

the Jesuits), youth from five continents were given lamps symbolizing the light of Christ and the spark of mercy, which they and their brethren are to bring back to all corners of the world.

“It is really just a very consoling truth that the

young people are so exposed to the heart of the Gospel, the message of merciful love,” said the Very Rev. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC, provincial superior of the Marian Fathers in the United States and Argentina. “The many young people there become the apostles of God’s mercy. It gives me such incredible joy, fulfillment. That’s what we wished as a community. I’ve been involved in the promotion of Divine Mercy since 1979, since just before [Pope John Paul II’s] encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* was published. It is a message that has gone out to all the world. I think this fulfills St. John Paul II’s desire.

“In 2002, during the consecration of the International Shrine of The Divine Mercy, he said, ‘I wish solemnly to entrust the world to Divine Mercy. I do so with the burning desire that the message of God’s merciful love, proclaimed here through Saint Faustina, may be made known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. May this message radiate from this place to our beloved homeland and throughout the world. May the binding promise of the Lord Jesus be fulfilled: from here there must go forth “the spark which will prepare the world for His final coming”’ (see *Diary*, 1732).

“In many ways, God’s providence is allowing that to happen, especially among the new generations,” Fr. Kaz concluded.

World Youth Day pilgrims agreed.

“The Holy Father has inspired me to form my future and strive for greatness and sanctity,” said a WYD pilgrim named Toan, 19, from Houston, Texas. “Being here today, I’ve realized that not everything goes the way you want, but it does go the way the Lord wants, and trusting our whole lives into the merciful hands of our Lord is what I’m learning to do here at World Youth Day.” MH

— Chris Sparks



True greatness: How?

What makes someone truly great? Many people are asking and answering that question one way or another in a presidential election year in the United States. We all get to cast our votes to decide who should fill one of the most important job openings in the world.

To whom will we entrust our nuclear weapons? To whom should we entrust the leadership of the most powerful nation on earth? Who do we want wielding the sort of power that would have been utterly unimaginable to our ancestors, save in myths and legends about the gods?

Yes, a lot of time and attention is going into this presidential campaign, as into every presidential campaign, and it certainly deserves it. In the immortal words of Spiderman's Uncle Ben, "With great power comes great responsibility." We, the electorate who get to bestow such great power, have a great responsibility to vote wisely and well, informing our consciences and our minds so that we may make a prudent decision at the ballot box. We should find good introductions to Catholic social teaching and allow the truths of the Gospel to guide us as we vote and talk to our friends and family about the election, especially those

with whom we disagree. An election is for a year, and a presidential term is for four years, but the impact you make on your own soul and the souls of those around you will have eternal consequences.

As C.S. Lewis once wrote in *The Weight of Glory*: "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit — immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

Our actions help people to Heaven or grease the already slippery slope to hell. Our words, our charity or our contempt, our witness to the hard truths in self-sacrificing love or our witness to a naked will to power, a will to impose our desires and interests on our neighbors — these will have consequences for all of eternity.

Saint Faustina had a very clear vision of those consequences when Marshall Joseph Pilsudski, the famed Polish military leader and ruler of the nation, was dying. Her confessor and spiritual director, Blessed Michael Sopocko, would later reveal that it was Pilsudski's soul that Faustina

Visit DivineMercyForAmerica.org to learn more about imploring Divine Mercy for our nation and all nations around the world.



wrote about in a long passage in her *Diary*. It's an important excerpt for us to consider during this election year. It reads:

A little child came and woke me up. ... The child was beautiful beyond words and resembled the Child Jesus, and he said to me ... "True greatness is in loving God and in humility."

Then I saw a soul which was being separated from its body amid great torment. O Jesus, as I am about to write this, I tremble at the sight of the horrible things that bear witness against him. ... I saw the souls of little children and those of older ones, about nine years of age, emerging from some kind of a muddy abyss. The souls were foul and disgusting, resembling the most terrible monsters and decaying corpses. But the corpses were living and gave loud testimony against the dying soul. And the soul I saw dying was a soul full of the world's applause and honors, the end of which are emptiness and sin. Finally a woman came out who was holding something like tears in her apron, and she witnessed very strongly against him.

O terrible hour, at which one is obliged to see all one's deeds in their nakedness and misery; not one of them is lost, they will all accompany us to God's judgment. I can find no words or comparisons to express such

terrible things. And although it seems to me that this soul is not damned, nevertheless its torments are in no way different from the torments of hell; there is only this difference: that they will someday come to an end (*Diary*, 424-428).

"True greatness of the soul is in loving God and in humility." Remember that as you watch the campaign unfold in the coming months. We are choosing an earthly leader, a fallen human being, to take on the office of president of the United

States. That office is both one of the greatest occasions for sin on the planet and one of the greatest opportunities to do good. We will elect someone who will need to rule wisely according to the truth in love and virtue to properly confront the challenges of our time — and that is only possible by the grace and mercy of God.

So let us pray through the intercession of St. Faustina for all running for federal, state, and local offices. Let us ask Jesus, the Divine Mercy, to cleanse them of their sins, renew their lives, and help them to accept and live the mercy of the Lord. Let us pray for all of us who will vote and all those who will be affected by our choices, that we may remember that loving our neighbor is far more important than defeating our enemies, and that our enemies and our neighbors may often be the same.

— Chris Sparks

What should we look for in a politician's platform?

The U.S. bishops offer us important guidance in their list of seven themes of Catholic social teaching. Visit uscgb.org and search "Seven Themes Of Catholic Social Teaching."

‘AT THE CENTER OF ALL MERCY’

She’s walked on hot coals, gone to psychotherapy seminars, and dabbled in just about every religion and spiritual movement imaginable. Trina Hayes has been on a search for meaning, forgiveness, healing, and mercy for decades since her abortion and drug addiction 37 years ago, and it wasn’t until she passed through the Holy Doors at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in June that she could say, “I know what mercy is.”

How did she wind up here? This spring, prompted by her daughter’s own escalating drug addiction, Trina needed to make a drastic change — to move back to her native Canada from Florida, where she lived for 13 years. She was in search of a better job to pay for her daughter’s rehabilitation program. Before leaving, she cried to God for help. A day later, a woman she didn’t know handed her a pamphlet in the grocery store that explained the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Confession, and Holy Doors. It led her to a local parish, Our Lady of Mercy.

Mind you, Trina is not Catholic.

When she entered the church, she thought, “I don’t know what I’m doing, I should leave.” But she took a seat in a pew, and a priest soon came in. She told him her whole story.

“That priest was like God’s representative,” Trina said. He told her, “Sometimes when we’re young we make decisions that cause us a lot of pain in our adulthood,

but God forgives.”

She passed through the Holy Doors at that church. It was just the beginning of her journey home.

At the request of Pope Francis, for the first time in the 700-year-old tradition of Jubilee years, dioceses around the world opened their own Holy Doors at specific pilgrimage locations. That includes the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. To pass through a Jubilee Year Holy Door is meant to signify healing and mercy through God the Father, who welcomes everyone into His arms.

Trina knew that her journey home would be a journey through Holy Doors. She found a list online and then planned her route back to Canada accordingly.

She arrived at the National Shrine having never heard of St. Faustina or the message of Divine Mercy. A Shrine staff member explained to her the story of St. Faustina’s Divine Mercy revelations in the 1930s in which Jesus calls upon humanity to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins. It sent chills throughout Trina’s body and tears to her eyes.

She said, “I’m at the center of all mercy.”

It was a long time coming. Trina shared with us that she had eventually named her aborted baby Michael

James, and that he would have been 37 years old this year. She said that one night, years ago, she felt a tug on her bed and heard, “Mom, Mom.” She woke up and saw a figure sitting on the edge of her bed. He said, “Mom, it’s Michael. I came to teach you forgiveness, and when you learn to forgive yourself, you will teach other women.”

Turns out, at every shrine and cathedral Trina visited during her Holy Door pilgrimage she met women who had suffered from abuse, addictions, or abortions. She started taking the phone numbers of these women and texting them every

time she passed through a Holy Door. They would pray for each other. More than 30 women are now part of this prayer chain.

“Before I began this pilgrimage, I didn’t know what mercy was,” Trina said. “It was a word to me. Now, I know what mercy is — it’s beyond grace, it’s beyond forgiveness.”

After searching so long for meaning, forgiveness, healing, and mercy, Trina found it at the National Shrine. God keeps proving there are no limits to His mercy.

— Melanie Williams



Zofia Laux

‘LET ME TELL YOU ...’

In this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, I have been privileged to hear from many Marian Helpers who are taking Pope Francis’ exhortation to heart to be “Merciful like the Father.” That is the motto that our Holy Father chose for the Jubilee Year. (It comes from Luke 6:36, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.”) Zofia Laux fits the bill!

“Let me tell you ...” is how most of Mrs. Laux’s sentences begin. She has so much to share, and she wants to tell the world. “I talk to people about Divine Mercy in elevators. I talk to them about it in waiting rooms. I share Divine Mercy everywhere I go,” she says. “I even talk about it to the nice young man who helps me to carry my groceries to my car! I always have Divine Mercy prayercards in my purse. I buy them by the thousands. And when I give them one, I make sure they are going to use it. I ask their permission to give it to them, very carefully. They always ask me for more!”

It is no surprise, after years of sharing the message of God’s mercy with everyone she can, that Mrs. Laux also shares stories of the impact that the message of Divine Mercy has had on others. People, even strangers she does not remember, have come up to her years later to thank her and explain the impact that her “little conversation” has had on their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

She recently reminded me that when we meet our Lord, the first question He may ask of us is “Whom have you brought with you?” In other words, whose lives have we impacted from our living and sharing the Gospel?

She has good reason to believe in the power of Divine Mercy. She married a Lutheran who converted to Catholicism in part because of the Divine Mercy message of turning to the Lord with trust, receiving His mercy, and sharing that mercy with others. But she, like most of us, has those in her family about whom

she worries. She has enrolled each member of her family in the Association of Marian Helpers, and she has requested a Novena of Holy Masses to be said for each one. She has also called our Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline when in need of specific prayers.

Beyond her evangelization work and her prayers, Mrs. Laux has also financially supported the Marian Fathers, including by donating stock. She earmarks her donations to go toward the Marians’ work with the poor and for staffing of our prayerline, which receives more than 11,000 calls a month!

As our Lord told St. Faustina, “I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first — by deed; the second — by word; the third — by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 742).

Mrs. Laux is clearly committed to fulfilling all three of these demands. Recently, when trying to arrange a time to get together with her, we had to work around her Adoration and Mass schedule, as well as her prayer groups and charitable activities. Her schedule is so busy, you would never guess her age (86) or that she suffers from serious health issues.

She is an inspiration to us all!

When the day comes when our Lord asks her whom she has brought with her, I have no doubt she will say, “Let me tell You ...”



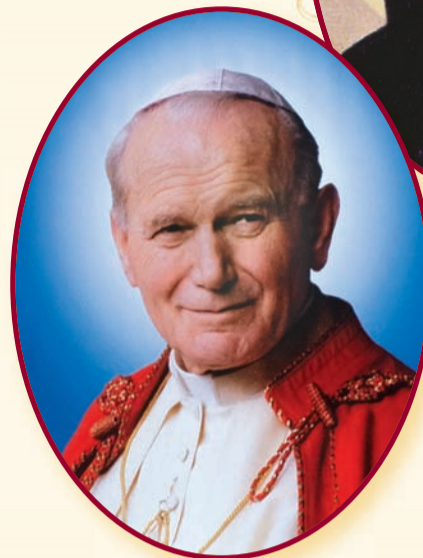
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and his feast day, Oct. 22.



We have a new saint!

Saint Stanislaus Papczynski had a great devotion to praying for the deceased, including children. He can be a powerful intercessor for those families who have lost a child and for the repose of the souls of those children. To remember a deceased child at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents with a glass tile, visit MemorialsOnEdenHill.org/sohi or call (413) 298-1382.

Only help would be a Holy Mass

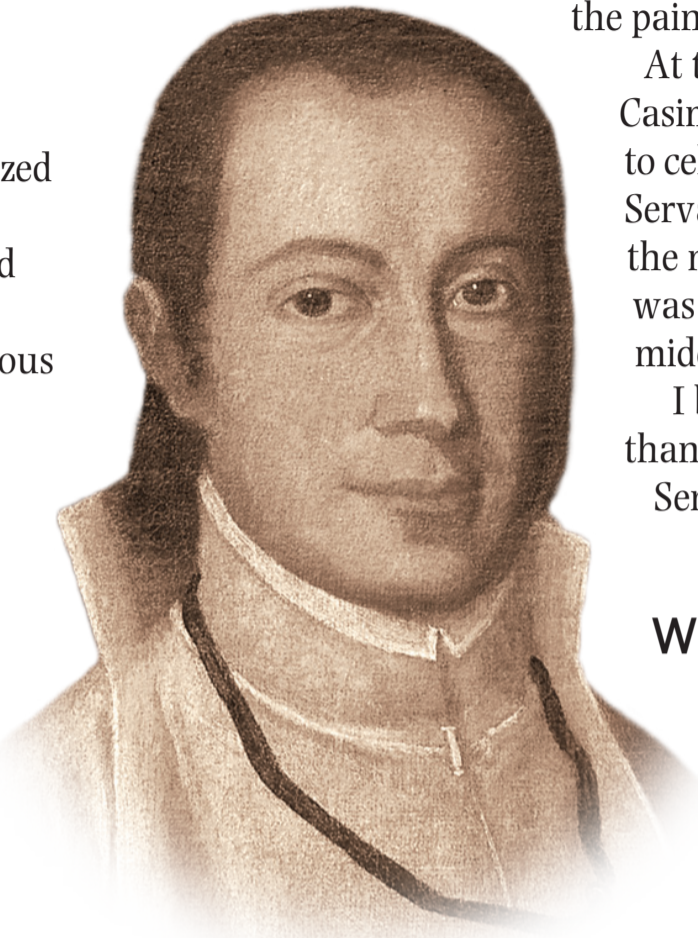
When my sister's daughter, Karolina, was 5 months old, she became ill. She was taken to the doctors in Grójec and Warka, in Poland, who suspected heart disease.

Then her mother took Karolina to the Children's Healthcare Center in Miedzylesie, where she was hospitalized and placed under oxygen, because during a blood draw, she experienced circulatory collapse. Karolina was resuscitated, but remained unconscious for several days.

At that point, Karolina was diagnosed with a heart defect. She spent about a month at the hospital after experiencing a second collapse. She was resuscitated again and got well enough to go back home. However, the doctors said the only help we could give her would be to offer a Holy Mass.

When Karolina fell ill, we started to pray for her health through the intercession of the Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski, using a novena pamphlet. We all prayed daily. We also had Holy Masses celebrated to implore the intercession of the Servant of God.

We have all observed a noticeable improvement of Karolina's health, which we believe is thanks to the intercession of the Servant of God. She now has to take heart medication, but she is healthy and developing properly.



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

— Maria, Poland

'The pain vanished'

After a work-related accident, I had my right kidney removed. The surgery left me in poor health. It took me approximately five months to recover.

Following my recovery, I felt considerable pain in

my left kidney. The pain was similar to what I had previously felt in my right kidney before surgery. I went to see a doctor, who prescribed medication.

The medicine did not bring any relief; instead, the pain intensified.

At that time, I received a Venerable Casimir Wyszynski prayercard. I decided to celebrate a novena and asked the Servant of God for his intercession. On the morning of the ninth day, the pain was just as acute as before, but about midday, the pain vanished.

I believe that my pain went away thanks to the intercession of the Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski.

— Ferdynand, Great Britain

Wife recovers

After having miscarried a 2-month-old fetus, my wife was hemorrhaging for three weeks, which left her in a weakened state. Further, she had to undergo surgery for cancer removal. Her condition was life threatening.

We had a Mass celebrated for the intention of the beatification of the Servant of God Casimir Wyszynski, also asking for his intercession for my wife's health. My wife came home in April, and now she feels totally fine.

For this grace, I want to give thanks to the Servant of God Fr. Casimir Wyszynski.

— Josef, Poland

For a Venerable Casimir prayercard (B31-BCWP), 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.



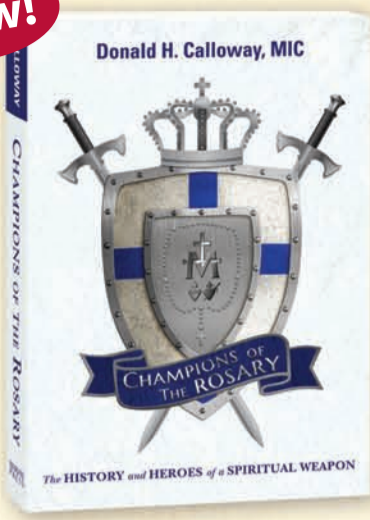
For more information, call 1-866-895-3236 or visit TheDivineMercy.org/ministries.

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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.

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New!



Champions of the Rosary

The latest book by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, presents a complete history of this spiritual weapon, 26 of its greatest heroes, detailed accounts of its victories, and 30 color images of the Rosary in art!

B31-CRBK \$16.95

► See [review](#) on page 6, and a [Q&A with Fr. Donald](#), page 18.



New canvas images: Champions of the Rosary

“The 26 Champions of the Rosary” image was painted by artist Maria Madonna Bouza Urbina in 2016. Now available on canvas, the image depicts Our Lady holding the rosary and a sword, surrounded by 26 individuals who were champions of the Rosary. Image size is 10" x 18".

B31-CR10GW (with names) \$19.95

B31-RC10GW (without names) \$19.95

New!



Back

Front

Champions of the Rosary T-Shirt

Show your love of the Rosary with this T-shirt bearing the cover image of *Champions of the Rosary* – the perfect gift for those who want to spread their love for this devotion!

T-shirts are black cotton/polyester blend. **\$14.95**

Men's:
 Small: B31-MCRS
 Medium: B31-MCRM
 Large: B31-MCRL
 XL: B31-MCRXL
 XXL: B31-MCRXXL

Women's:
 Small: B31-FCRS
 Medium: B31-FCRM
 Large: B31-FCRL
 XL: B31-FCRXL
 XXL: B31-FCRXXL

Celebrate the canonization



B31-BAM1

B31-CPPC2

B31-CGBG2

Saint Stanislaus set

Marian Founder Stanislaus Papczynski was declared a saint on June 5 during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Who was this man? What did he teach? This set contains the answers! Includes a book, pamphlet, and prayercard. **B31-PSET \$14.95**



New canvas image: St. Stanislaus

Welcome the spiritual presence and powerful intercession of St. Stanislaus Papczynski, the Marian Founder, into your home or parish with this official image from his canonization. Image size is 10" x 18".

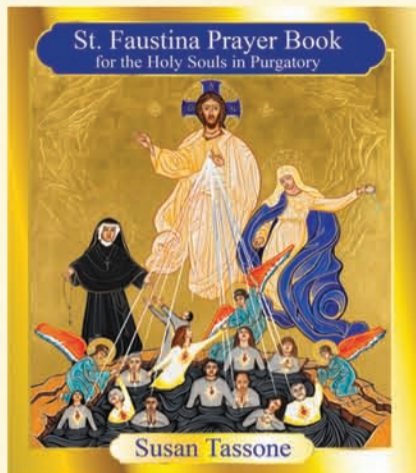
B31-ST10GW: Gallery Wrap (\$19.95)

B31-ST10BF: Black Frame (\$39.95)

B31-ST10GF: Gold Frame (\$49.95).

Remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory

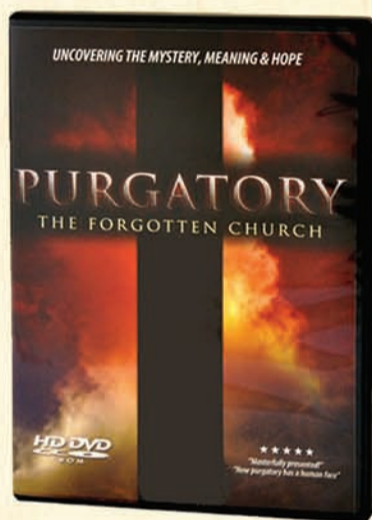
Saint Stanislaus' mystical experiences in Purgatory confirm for us the great need to pray for the souls in Purgatory. Hundreds of thousands of people die each day, especially those who may have died unprepared due to the violence of today's society. Stanislaus clearly says that one of the greatest acts of charity that we can perform is praying for those souls because they cannot pray for or help themselves while they are in Purgatory.



The St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Here you'll find a wealth of spiritual tools that you can use to join in this soul-changing mission. Includes devotions, meditations, novenas, and prayers, coupled with the wisdom of St. Faustina.

B31-FSBK \$15.95



Purgatory: The Forgotten Church

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

B31-PFCDVD \$19.99

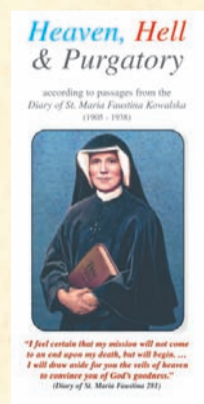
Purgatory pamphlets



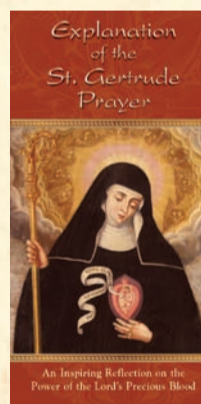
To Eternity
B31-PFTD



Your Sorrow
Will Be
Turned to Joy
B31-TTJ



Heaven, Hell
& Purgatory
B31-HHP



Explanation of
the St. Gertrude
Prayer
B31-EOGPF



Gregorian
Masses
B31-GMMPF



Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

B31-DBD \$16.95

PAMPHLET PRICING

MIN QTY.	TOTAL
10	\$1.60
100	\$14
1,000	\$100



The Holy Souls in Purgatory need your prayers. They can't pray for themselves. Receive a Holy Souls rosary when you join the Sodality for a year. To sign up or donate, visit PrayForSouls.org/join or call (413) 298-1382.

Order Info

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of phone or online orders; 2-4 weeks for mail orders.

Operators are available (Eastern Time): Mon.- Fri. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

toll free: 1-800-462-7426 **shop online:** ShopMercy.org

mail: Order Department

Association of Marian Helpers
Stockbridge, MA 01263

Checks payable to: Association of Marian Helpers

Postage/handling: U.S.

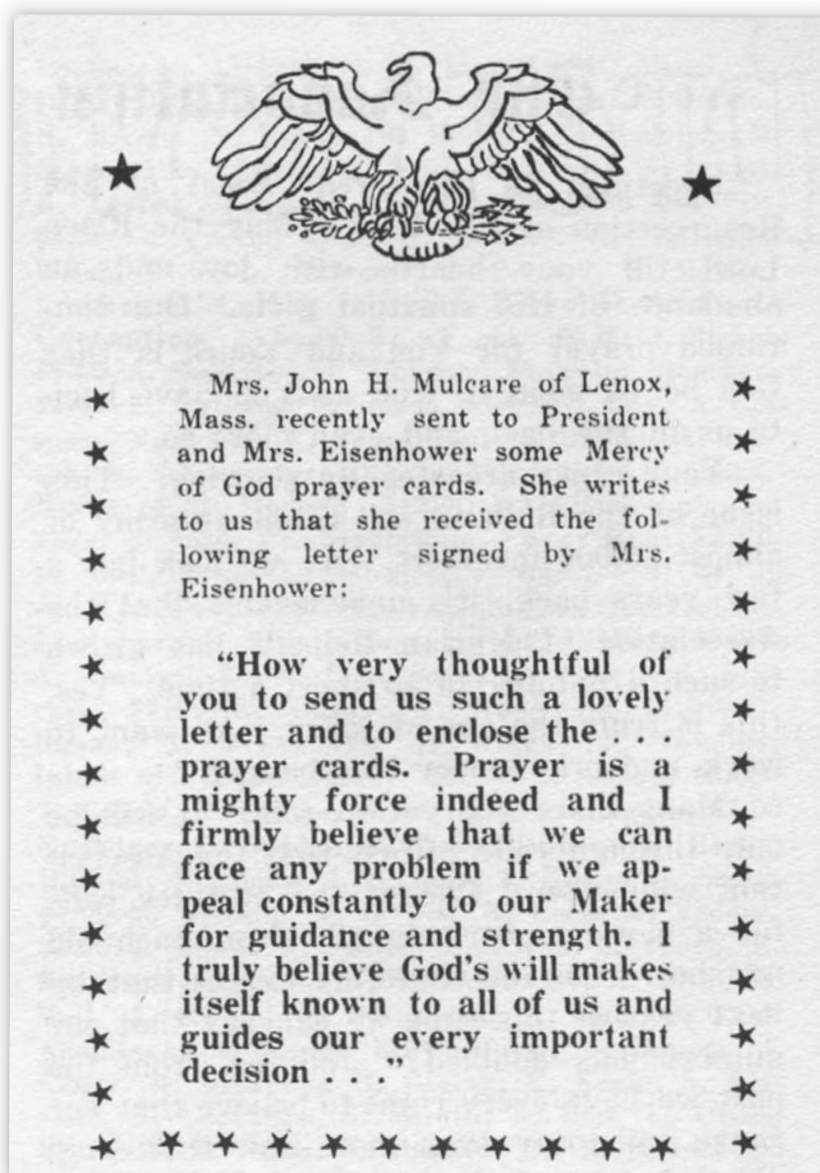
Canada

\$0.01-\$20.00	\$5.25 p/h	...	\$6.75 p/h
\$20.01-\$35.00	\$7.25 p/h	...	\$9.50 p/h
\$35.01-\$75.00	\$8.50 p/h	...	\$11.25 p/h
\$75.01-\$125.00	\$9.50 p/h	...	\$13.50 p/h
over \$125.00	10% of subtotal	...	15% of subtotal

From Our
ARCHIVES



Look what we found while thumbing through our archives: sentiments from the White House that could not be more appropriate as we look ahead to this fall's election. This comes from the April 1953 issue of the Bulletin (the precursor to Marian Helper magazine):



10 priests in 5 years

following in the footsteps of St. Stanislaus



Attend a retreat

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

The next retreats will be:

Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Nov. 25-27

Dec. 2-4

Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org

Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806

Visit: marian.org/vocations

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

Support

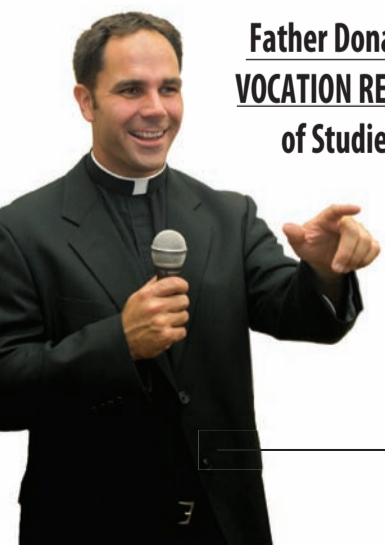
Want to help the seminarians?

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or call (413) 298-1382.

We have more than 30 men preparing for religious life and the priesthood.



Father Donald talks about vocations: marian.org/vocsupport/blessings

EXERCISE WILL POWER

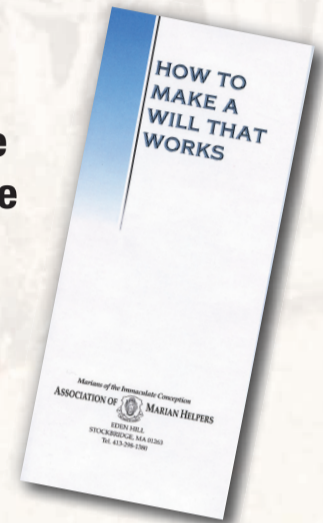


At least 50 percent of Americans die without a will. They miss a chance to make a difference.

To help you plan your will or review your will, please request our booklet.

Call 1-800-462-7426 and press 5 or email helpers@marian.org.

Whatever you do, please make sure you have a will and that you provide for those you love.



Visit marian.org/plannedgiving for more information.

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