

A sign for our times • Souls in Purgatory: Our 'family' obligation

Fall 2021

Marian Helper

Inspiration and news from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception

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IS THE SEED OF THE CHURCH'

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'THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS IS THE SEED OF THE CHURCH'

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AMH DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER:

Fr. Chris Alar, MIC – "Father Joseph, MIC"

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Felix Carroll

DESIGNER: Andrew Leeco

WRITER, ASSISTANT EDITOR: Chris Sparks

AMH GENERAL PROMOTER:

Br. Andrew R. Maczynski, MIC

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Marian Helpers Center

Stockbridge, Massachusetts
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Marian Helpers.
1-800-462-7426

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- A Mass offered for deceased members on All Souls' Day.
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The 'greatest' Marians

We've focused on some of the greatest of my Marian brothers in the cover story for this issue. I call them "greatest" because they gave everything for Jesus Christ in the most literal way possible: suffering torture, imprisonment, and death for love of Christ and His Church.

These aren't stories from the distant past, but rather from the 20th century. And the Marian martyrs aren't alone. In fact, Pope Francis has said repeatedly that we see more martyrs and persecuted Christians today than in the early centuries of Christianity. The noted Vatican journalist and author John Allen has done the research to back that up, especially in his book *The Global War on Christians*.

Our Marian martyrs are part of that history of persecution and martyrdom. So are far too many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, suffering and dying around the world for Christ and His Church.

So what can we do about it?

First and foremost, pray. Never underestimate or forget the power of your prayers. Letting God into an impossible situation is a recipe for the unexpected to happen, for hope to come into hopeless places, for grace to transform even the hardest problems.

Pray the Rosary, in particular. As Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, has told us in his books, the Rosary is a spiritual sword that can invite the grace of God to overcome all enemies of Christ and His Church.

Also, venerate the Divine Mercy Image, because Jesus promised us victory even over our earthly enemies if we would do that. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, especially in the 3 o'clock Hour of Great Mercy, for the conversion of those who are doing the persecuting and for protection and help for those who are being persecuted.

Secondly, we Marians have a charism, a special call from God, to serve the Church where the need is greatest. That's why we have the Marian Martyrs of Rosica,

Belarus, who served their parishioners even to death at the hands of the Nazis. That's why we are pursuing the cause of Servant of God Fabian and his companions, because they were serving the Church where the need was greatest even as the Soviets cracked down on Catholicism. That's why my Marian brothers are serving across the world, even at times in the face of government repression. We are called to bring Christ to the world, especially to those places where Christ and His Church are most in need, most under threat. It's always been that way, as a look at Marian history shows us.

That important work continues today, with your help and prayers. Thank you for being part of our Marian family!

Finally, we need to continue to stand up for religious liberty at home and around the world. Religious liberty has been called the first freedom for a very important reason. God should come first in our lives, even before family, before country, before party, or before self-interest. If God comes first, like He did for the Marian martyrs, then we will be able to keep the rest of our priorities straight.

I point out in my book *After Suicide: There's Hope for Them and for You* that since God is Goodness Itself, Truth Itself, Love Itself, communities that exclude religion are excluding Goodness, Truth, and Love, whether they realize it or not. That's no way to create a just, peaceful society. We need God today more than ever. We need religious liberty, and we need to ask the Communion of Saints to help us preserve it.

Marian martyrs, pray for us!

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.



A SIGN FOR OUR TIMES

Father Ed Nadolny's billboards can be found along highways in Hartford, New Haven, New Britain, Waterbury, and Berlin, Connecticut.

For the past seven months, millions of motorists driving on busy Connecticut highways have been passing large billboards featuring a Divine Mercy Image with the words “Jesus, I trust in You” and the personal cell phone number of Fr. Ed Nadolny of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

“There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t get a call,” said Fr. Nadolny, a priest of the Diocese of Hartford, who at 88 years old truly doesn’t know the meaning of retirement — at least when it comes to evangelization. “The Divine Mercy billboards are having a tremendous effect on people.”

He’s been getting so many calls requesting Divine Mercy Images that he’s had to hire help to send them out. He also receives calls from people who need to go to Confession, people suffering with grave illness, those in broken relationships — people in pain and in need of a listening ear. Others have called just to thank him for putting up the billboards. “You don’t [always] have answers, but people want you to listen. That’s what Jesus wants.”

Father Nadolny was ordained in 1959, inspired to become a priest by his two uncles who were priests. His desire to evangelize through billboards began about 40 years ago. “What inspired me was looking at billboards myself. I never saw anything religious — all ads for material things. I said, ‘Why can’t we [Catholics] do that?’” At one time, 65 billboards featuring the Sacred Heart of Jesus spread across the state of Connecticut, courtesy of Fr. Nadolny. Other billboards have featured Our Lady and

have encouraged devotion to the Eucharist. Each has displayed Fr. Nadolny’s personal cell phone number.

Many times, his billboards have helped change lives forever. “One time I had a billboard that said, ‘Jesus will forgive you.’ I got a call on that one from a man who said he committed adultery. I got another one from a 14-year-old girl who had lost her virginity. ... [These billboards are] powerful ways of reaching out to those who are spiritually abused.”

Father Nadolny sees billboards as simply big sacramentals. “I have a Rosary and a cross, but a billboard is like a big holy card. People see it, and it’s amazing how many people tell me they come back to church because of the billboard ... Media [can be] a source of sin but also a source of grace,” he said.

Father Nadolny is able to afford the billboards because he’s “not afraid to beg for money,” he said. Through the Father Nadolny Good News Fund, he’s raised \$14 million over the past 35 years. A good amount of these funds have gone to evangelization. He’s also used these funds for other works of mercy, including donating \$8.3 million dollars to a housing project for low-income families. Father Nadolny’s mission has always included helping the needy —



the physically needy as well as the spiritually needy.

“I’m closer to the tomb than I am to the womb,” he said. “I want to shape up before I ship out. As long as I have the health, I want to do as much for Divine Mercy, Mary, and the Rosary as I can.”

Indeed, billboard evangelization isn’t Fr. Nadolny’s only game. He’s given away hundreds of thousands of Rosaries over the years. Lately, he’s been focusing more on spreading the Divine Mercy message and getting a Divine Mercy Image into the hands of as many people as he can.

“Why am I so passionate about Divine Mercy? It’s the wonderful promises [Jesus made to] St. Faustina,” he said.

The Lord said, “By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it” (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 570).

Saint Faustina’s confessor, Blessed Michael Sopocko, recalled additional promises our Lord made through St. Faustina regarding the Image:

When chastisements for sins come upon the world and your own country will experience utter degradation, the only refuge will be trust in My mercy. I will protect the cities and homes in which The Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who

will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My Mercy.

Father Nadolny never fails to come up with a creative way to spread the Good News. On Divine Mercy Sunday, everyone who subscribed to the *Hartford Courant*, the largest newspaper in Connecticut, received a 5-by-7-inch Divine Mercy Image, courtesy of Fr. Nadolny.

Father Nadolny has boldly tackled the newest forms of media, too. Though he’s 88 years old, he has his own TikTok account, a form of social media used mostly by tweens and teens.

He also has a Facebook page, all of which he uses to evangelize. “I had to be on the level of the children,” he said.

His social media posts get him calls from people of all ages and from all around the world. “I get a call from every state in the union. From there, I have an opportunity to promote Divine Mercy,” he said. “I’m retired,

but I’m working harder than I’ve ever worked in my life. I have a parish without boundaries.”

Father Nadolny had first discovered Divine Mercy through watching EWTN. “The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is followed by Adoration and the Rosary. That’s my Holy Hour that I try to do every day. ... When you have something important in your life, you want to share it with others.”

“I’m closer to the tomb than I am to the womb. I want to shape up before I ship out. As long as I have the health, I want to do as much for Divine Mercy, Mary, and the Rosary as I can.”

— Fr. Ed Nadolny



Break through all the distractions

By Chris Sparks

Sometimes, in order for things to get better, it will take a miracle. I'm used to thinking in worldly terms, in pragmatic or "practical" ways. We have a certain amount of resources, a certain number of people, and a certain burden to bear. If those all don't add up, then a thing can't be done.

But sometimes what's needed is a little bit of supernatural assistance.

I've been very blessed over the years. I've seen the power of a praying grandmother, of family members with true devotion and authentic faith, and I've been able to visit some of the places that have transformed the world because of someone's prayer and faith: the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, for example, or St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada, founded by St. Andre Bessette, a miracle worker in his own lifetime.

So you'd think I would know better than that by now. You'd think I would be firmly convinced of the power of prayer, of the ways in which inviting God's intervention into a situation loosens up impossibilities, changes probabilities, and opens the door to wonders.

You'd think, wouldn't you? But no. There are days when I remember the miracles, and there are days when I'm too busy staring at my to-do list, or the calendar, or the world situation to lift my eyes to Jesus, standing there on the waters of history, rock solid in the midst of the storm.

It's a very bad habit of mine. After all, St. Faustina recorded Jesus saying:

The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive. (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1578)

So sometimes, when you need something in this world, you have to take a twofold path. We are of course supposed to seek natural remedies for natural problems. We are to go to the doctor when we are ill, buy groceries when our pantry is low (or, if need be, make haste to the food pantry), and maintain our homes. But we are also supposed to be living in relationship with God. We are to be animated with the Spirit of Love, drawn into the Trinitarian embrace with God the Son. We are meant to be keeping God up to speed on what's going on in our lives, talking Him through our needs and intentions, bringing Him up to date each morning with what's coming during the day and seeking His assistance as difficulties arise. We are meant to be children of God.

We are meant to be bringing God into the world, to be welcoming God, to give all things to God and to

receive all things from Him with grace and blessing attached. Now, that doesn't mean we have to go through life muttering under our breath all the time. But it does mean aiming to live life in a state of grace, to be regularly receiving the Sacraments, to have habits of prayer and making small sacrifices of whatever kind, to be doing the work of mercy. It does mean aiming to live life in the Spirit, loving God and therefore loving neighbor, abiding in gratitude and praise of God and His goodness.

Our relationship with God is meant to touch every part of our lives, bringing light, love, goodness, beauty, and peace into everything. We are meant to be so full of light that we have halos by the end of our lives, and so

that we overcome any darkness by the light that is in us, discerning in that same light when to fight and when to walk away, when to work and when to rest, when to stay and when to go.

By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. (Ex 13:21)

So when you're confronted by the imprudence, intemperance, injustice, or weakness of the world, stop a moment. Pray. Ask for the virtues needed in the places and hearts where they're needed in order for things to be set right. Ask for the reform and renewal of the Holy Spirit to come in and rebuild natural goodness so that grace can build on nature to supernatural heights.

Set to work according to wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of the natural order while throwing wide open the door to the workings of God, and see what comes of it.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 Jn 4:4)

Pray for me, that I might practice what I preach. I'll pray for you.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! MH

**So when you're
confronted by
the imprudence,
intemperance,
injustice, or weakness
of the world,
stop a moment.
Pray.**

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As we head into fall, season of new school years, county fairs, and the harvest, take time to reap the benefits of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. Here are resources to help you do that.



THE NINE FIRST FRIDAYS AND THE SACRED HEART DEVOTION PAMPHLET

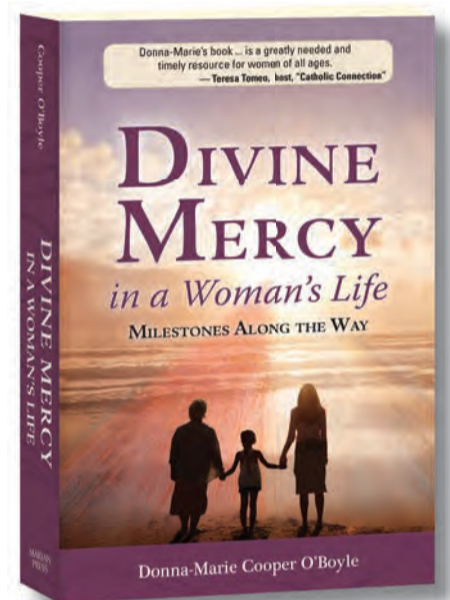
According to the popes of the last 100 years, no devotion is more important to the life of the Church than devotion to the Heart of Jesus, including through the First Fridays of Reparation. But why? What are the extraordinary promises associated with it? And how is it connected to the Divine Mercy message and devotion? Father Chris Alar, MIC, explains. **B51-FFLT**

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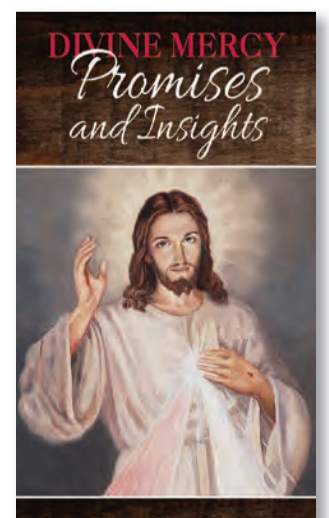
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Already parents of six children, Parisians Clotilde and Nicolas Noël opened their hearts and adopted a child with significant disabilities. *Fallen from the Nest* is Clotilde Noël's love letter to this special child, sharing the story of her family's journey through the labyrinthine French adoption process. Persevering through confusing, shifting socio-cultural dynamics and a frustrating and indifferent bureaucracy, the Noëls are an inspiration to us all as we seek to establish a culture of life through the New Evangelization, leading to a civilization of love. This is a profound, honest, and moving memoir. \$14.95. **B51-NEST**

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BY FR. SCOTT FOLEY

Compiled by Fr. Scott Foley, a priest of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, *Divine Mercy Promises and Insights* will equip you to quickly and easily share with your friends, family, and fellow Catholics what our Lord promises about those who spread the Divine Mercy message and devotion; crucial insights into the theology and spirituality of Divine Mercy; the extraordinary graces that are available through this message and devotion; and more! \$3.99. **B51-BKDM**



HAVE A LISTEN

This year marks my 16th year in Rome serving on the General Council of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. I am on my third term, having been elected to serve during General Chapters in 2005, 2011, and 2017. Our next General Chapter is scheduled for 2023, at which time I will find out the plan of the Lord for me for the following six years of my life.

During these 16 years, my work has been divided between spending time in Rome and travelling internationally to visit our community serving Christ and His Church around the world. When I am in Rome, my time is spent working in our house on the administrative tasks that come up for an international congregation, participating in General Council meetings, saying Mass in Italian in various chapels of religious sisters near our house, and living religious life in community. When I am travelling, I'm usually participating in a canonical visitation of one of our communities, or occasionally helping the Congregation make plans to set up a new mission.

COVID has slowed down my international travel. I did have the opportunity earlier this year in February to attend my niece's wedding in Florida. I had five COVID tests going and coming, and I had to do a two-week precautionary quarantine in our house when I came back from the States.

Around the same time, I had been asked by Felix Carroll, our former *Marian Helper* magazine editor, to do a podcast based on the *Diary* of St. Faustina. I had never done a podcast before, but I was intrigued by the idea. I began working on it as soon as I got back to Rome from the wedding since my quarantine gave me some time to work on such a project.

I must say that the process of putting together the podcast has been very interesting and fulfilling for me. I had read the *Diary* of St. Faustina in the past. However,



Father Joe Roesch, MIC, does his *Diary* podcast from his room.

there is nothing to compare with delving into it in depth, like I am doing now.

During the quarantine, I was recording five podcasts a day. Since then, if I can get in two in a day, I am lucky. The podcast consists of my reading and recording around two pages of the *Diary* and making a brief commentary afterwards. The plan is to get through the whole *Diary* in a year. Each podcast lasts roughly 5-10 minutes.

My process involves reading over the pages, jotting down some notes for my commentary, then going into my bedroom where I have set up a makeshift mini recording studio. If you record something in a big room, the sound bounces off the walls and echoes. Recording studios have foam panels on the walls to deaden the echo. I sit in front of a cabinet filled with pillows and clothing, and drape a comforter over the opening. I record into a small digital recorder. Initially, I had recorded the podcasts standing up, holding the *Diary* up around eye level, and speaking into the recorder that was placed on a tripod. After a while, I had back problems and sciatica. I now record sitting down, with a mike stand and a music stand. After the recording, I listen to it again to make sure that it sounds okay. Then I upload the recordings and they add the music in Stockbridge.

Creating this podcast has been a blessing. Saint Faustina is teaching me a lot. The message of the *Diary* is so needed today!

Visit TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts to listen to Fr. Joe's podcast.



THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO
BY PAOLO VERONESE

A beautiful and glorious
triumph for the Church

This year, on Oct. 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we also mark the 450th anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto, one of the greatest victories won by the Rosary in the Church's history. Father Donald Calloway, MIC, describes what happened in his bestselling book *10 Wonders of the Rosary*:

Saint Pope Pius V, a Dominican pope, knew that if Europe were to be saved from the threat of radical Islam, it would only come about through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. It was his initiative to organize a Christian militia and ask all of Christendom to pray the rosary for victory against the Muslim threat. In preparation for the confrontation, Pope Pius V handpicked Don Juan of Austria to be commander of the Christian fleet.

Acclaimed by G.K. Chesterton as the last knight of Europe, Don Juan knew that he was about to engage in a holy war with Islam. Prior to sailing off to war, he gave orders that all blasphemy was forbidden on his ships and required that all of his men fast for three days. He forbade women from entering his vessels, lest any of his men fall into the sin of lust and mar their souls before battle. He ensured that his vessels would have priests available to hear Confessions and grant absolution. He also distributed a rosary to every man in his armada. Then, on the eve of battle, leading by example, he required that all of his men take the spiritual sword of the rosary into their hands and pray it — and they did.

Likewise, on the evening of October 6, 1571, the day before the decisive battle, St. Pope Pius V himself led the rosary at the Dominican convent of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva in Rome. With tears in his eyes and a rosary in his hand, he entrusted the Christian cause to the Queen of Heaven.

On the morning of October 7, 1571, the Christian fleet set sail in search of the Muslim fleet to meet them head on. Don Juan and his men had no idea that they were sailing toward an advanced and highly trained Muslim fleet of more than 300 vessels and 100,000 men. Though the Christian fleet had close to 285 vessels, they only had 70,000 men, many of whom were unskilled in naval combat. The two forces caught sight of each other for the first time in the large bay just south of the town of Lepanto (now Nafpaktos), Greece. Once they saw each other, they formed their battle lines. The battle was on. It was the cross versus the crescent.

The battle lasted for five bloody hours. At one point, Don Juan steered his vessel toward the vessel from which Ali Pasha commanded the Islamic forces. Before the two flagships collided and their crews could

engage in hand-to-hand combat, Don Juan, filled with the spirit of God, danced with abandon on the deck of his ship. This act enraged Ali Pasha, but he was unable to take his revenge because a musket ball to the forehead immediately killed him. One of the armed prisoners who had been freed from the Muslim ship cut off what was left of Ali Pasha's head and hoisted it on a pike. The banner of Allah was taken down and ripped apart, and the banner of St. Pope Pius V was raised in its place.

The battle was a complete success for the Catholic forces. The Turkish fleet lost more than 30,000 men. Thirty-four Muslim admirals and 120 galley captains were among the dead. The Muslim fleet also lost the majority of its vessels. The Christian fleet was able to set free nearly 15,000 Christian galley slaves who had been aboard the Muslim vessels. It was a complete and total victory for Christianity.

What is less well known about the Battle of Lepanto is that Our Lady of Guadalupe was there. In the battle formation of the Christian fleet, a decorated admiral named Giovanni Andrea Doria was in charge of the right wing of the fleet. Aboard his galley ship, he carried a most precious gift, given to him by King Philip of Spain: a replica of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that had been touched to the original!

As history attests, after the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe occurred in Mexico in 1531, Archbishop Montufar of Mexico City had five copies of the miraculous image made. Each was touched to the original image. One of these images was given to the king of Spain in 1570. King Philip, in turn, gave his copy to Admiral Doria, who brought the image with him on his ship to the Battle of Lepanto. Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Conquistadora, had conquered the false gods of the Aztecs in Mexico; she returned to Europe to be present at the decisive Battle of Lepanto and defeat the Islamic threat.

Also present at the Battle of Lepanto was Miguel Cervantes, the famed author of Spain's greatest novel, *Don Quixote*. One of the many valiant men who had come to the defense of Christianity, Cervantes was severely wounded at the Battle of Lepanto, and wrote the following about the battle that saved the west:

Ages gone by have seen nothing like unto the Battle of Lepanto, nor has our age witnessed anything to compare with it, and in all probability ages to come will never record a more beautiful or glorious triumph for the Church.

Visit ShopMercy.org/b51 to order 10 Wonders of the Rosary and other great resources on the Rosary.

“Martyrdom itself is a revelation of God’s power
and the perfect imitation of Christ’s Passion.”

— Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Pakula, MIC,
superior general of the Marian Fathers



**‘THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS
IS THE SEED OF THE CHURCH’**

Five Marian Fathers, martyred by communists, on the road to canonization

By Chris Sparks

They died for the faith. Let us make sure they're remembered, and ask for their prayers. With the consent of the Holy See and in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Warsaw, Poland, the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception has opened the cause for canonization of the Servant of God Fabian and four companions, Andrew, Eugene, John, and Vladas. All five Marian Fathers were martyrs for the faith, suffering and dying at the hands of the Communist Soviet regime. The opening of their cause came during the jubilee celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.

“They gave their lives in prisons and were buried either in mass graves or graves which are impossible to identify today,” explained the Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Pakula, superior general of the Marian Fathers. “As sons of the Church, we have a duty to undertake the effort of unearthing from the past and proposing such confreres of ours who, remaining strong in the faith until the end, gave their lives for Christ in the service of men.”

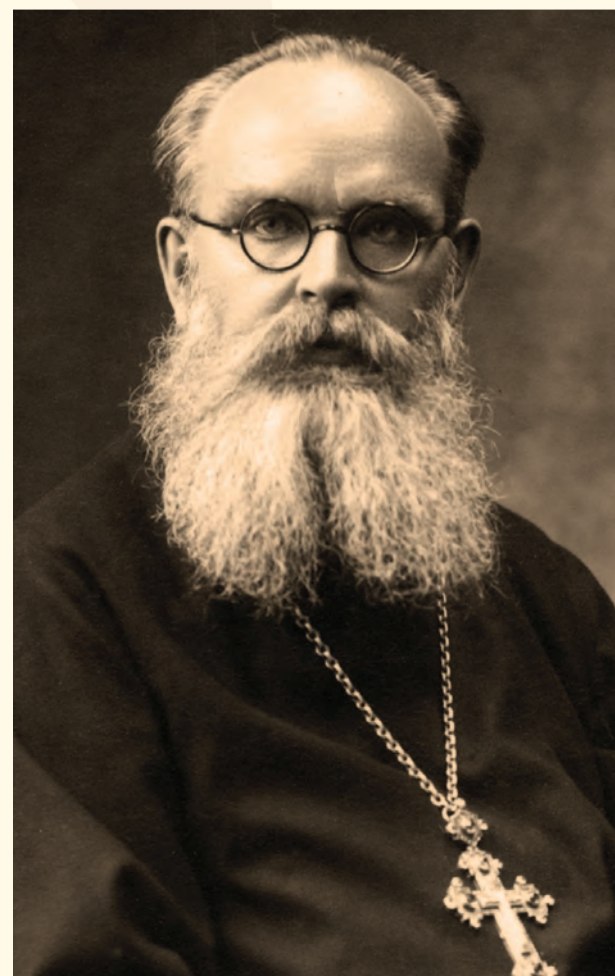
Here, in brief, are their stories.

+++

Servant of God Fabian Abrantowicz

(Sept. 14, 1884–Jan. 2, 1946)

While serving as ordinary apostolic administrator for Russian Catholics of the Eastern Rite in China, Archimandrite Fabian was traveling in Poland when Germany invaded on Sept. 1, 1939. While trying to leave the portion of Poland occupied by Soviet forces, he was detained by German forces and delivered to the Soviets, who arrested him on Oct. 22, 1939. Archimandrite Fabian was transported to the local Soviet police (NKVD) headquarters, where he was charged with membership in a Catholic religious congregation, actively opposing the Soviet authorities, and activities opposed to communism. In Jan. 1941, Archimandrite Fabian was transported to Butyrki prison in Moscow, suffered at the hands of the communists, and died there on Jan. 2, 1946, faithful to the end.



Servant of God Andrew Cikoto

(Dec. 5, 1891–Feb. 13, 1952)

When Archimandrite Fabian was imprisoned by the NKVD in 1939, Fr. Andrew was chosen by Pope Pius XII as his replacement as apostolic administrator of the Eastern Rite Catholics in China. On Dec. 22, 1948, Chinese forces surrounded the Marian Fathers' mission house in Harbin and arrested all the Marian Fathers and lay collaborators there. Three days later, they were all handed over to the NKVD. Father Andrew was imprisoned in the city of Chita, in Siberia, and accused of inciting people against the Soviet Union and espionage for the Vatican. On Sept. 28, 1949, he was sentenced to 25 years of forced labor. While in the camps, Fr. Andrew tried to celebrate the Eucharist daily, heard confessions, distributed Holy Communion, and was a model for other priests and the imprisoned faithful. His health had been ruined from the beginning of his incarceration by severe interrogation, and he died as a result in the prison hospital in Ozernoye on Feb. 13, 1952.



Communists against Catholics

The five new Servants of God aren't the only Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception to face down the communists. The renovation of the Marian Fathers and their life as a religious congregation has been undertaken in the face of communist persecution for decades.

- In 1917, Our Lady of Fatima warned of the spread of the errors of Russia, the destruction of many nations they would cause, and the immense suffering for the Church and the world that would ensue. Among those errors is certainly atheistic communism, condemned by Pope Pius XI in the 1937 encyclical *Divini Redemptoris* (*On Atheistic Communism*). The remedy Our Lady offered to the



world was devotion to her Immaculate Heart, a spirituality at the heart of the Marian Fathers' founding charism of promotion and defense of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception.

- Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, appointed bishop of Vilnius right after WWI, saw Bolshevik forces march in and out of his diocese several times. As you can see from the stories of the lives of the Servants of God whose causes for canonization the Congregation is putting forward, the early life of the renovated order occurred in the face of mortal danger, especially during World War II and the lifetime of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

Servant of God Eugene Kulesza

(March 8, 1891–June 30, 1941)

Father Eugene joined the Congregation of Marian Fathers on Jan. 1, 1915, and was ordained a priest on Oct. 2, 1921. Beginning in 1926, he served in the Bielany College of the Marian Fathers in Warsaw, teaching and serving as a confessor. Appointed superior of the Marian house in Druya, Belarus, in 1938, Fr. Eugene served well and faithfully as a good superior and a talented director, earning a reputation as a man of great personal holiness. When the Soviets occupied Belarus, he heroically continued his ministry, instructing priests and nuns on how to defend the faith and the faithful who were being persecuted by the Bolsheviks, and warning against political involvement. Father Eugene was arrested on June 30, 1941, and murdered by Soviet soldiers fleeing the German forces. A few days later, the faithful found his body and buried it at the church in Druya. He was immediately and spontaneously declared a martyr by the faithful.



● The 1958 ban on the Divine Mercy message and devotion as given through St. Faustina was imposed in large part because of the difficulties in communicating between Poland and Rome, due to Communist oppression. Later, during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, when then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (the future Pope St. John Paul II) consulted with Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani of the Holy Office and was advised to begin St. Faustina's cause for canonization while witnesses were still alive, he was in Rome for Vatican II in spite of the best efforts of the Communists to prevent his participation. Cardinal Wojtyla was the target of Polish secret police plots and Soviet Communist persecution, as described by papal biographer George Weigel in *The End and the Beginning*, as was the heroic and holy Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Poland's "primate of the millennium," who had suffered house arrest



under the Communists in 1953 and who will be beatified on Sept. 12.

● In spite of the best efforts of the Communists to suppress the Catholic faith, some of the greatest movements of the Holy Spirit in the last couple centuries have happened in countries trapped behind the Iron Curtain.

Father Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, ultimately was able to bring St. Faustina's Diary out of Communist Poland by carrying a microfiche copy in his luggage, in defiance of Communist restrictions preventing the export of religious materials. When he traveled with the Digan family into Poland in March, 1981, the little group of pilgrims were venturing into a country in the grip of Communist rule. Two months later, St. John Paul II was shot and nearly killed on May 13, the anniversary of

Servant of God Vladislovas “Vladas” Mazonas

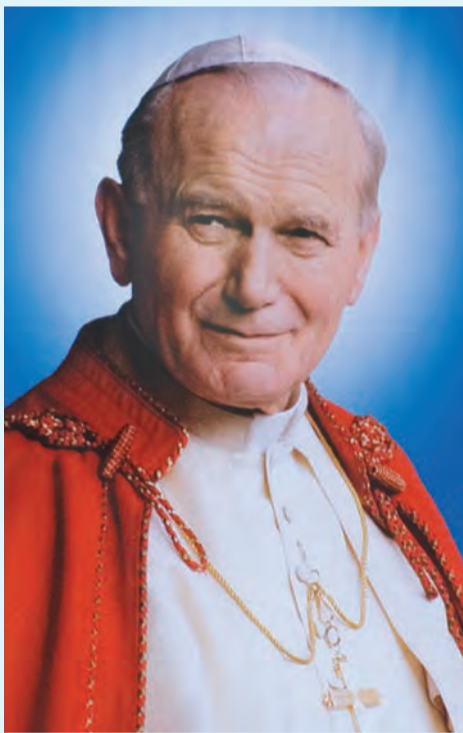
(June 24, 1881–Jan. 1945)

Ordained a priest in 1906, Fr. Vladas joined the Marian Fathers in 1924. Serving repeatedly as editor of the Catholic magazine “Šaltinis,” Fr. Vladas wrote about the persecution of Christians under the Soviet Union. After the Soviets occupied Lithuania, the NKVD arrested Fr. Vladas on June 14, 1941, and deported him to Siberia. He was interrogated and tortured, which ruined his health. Sent to Moscow for further interrogation, he was immediately placed in the prison hospital of Butyrki, where he died in Jan. 1945, faithful to the end.



Our Lady’s first apparition at Fatima. The assassination attempt was probably the result of a Soviet Communist plot. Cardinal Wyszyński died on May 28, 1981, 15 days after St. John Paul II was shot.

- The Congregation of Marian Fathers persisted and endured, even in the face of the infinite difficulties of maintaining ordinary religious life in countries behind the Iron Curtain. As Weigel details in *The End and the Beginning*, Soviet intelligence had a substantial presence in Rome, including in a number of the seminaries.



“In the 20th century, many Marians had to live clandestinely under the Communist regimes in a number of countries in the former Soviet Union,” explained Very Rev. Fr. Andrew Pakula, MIC, in a 2014 interview. “There have been repercussions both positive and negative on the way our community lives and has developed until today. For example, many of our men who had to study clandestinely for the priesthood were trained to keep everything secret and to

trust no one.

“Today they live in community and are asked to be open and transparent with their brothers and their superiors and to do things in common,” he added. “This goes against the grain of their training and the way they had to live for so many years so it doesn’t come naturally.”

- After St. John Paul II made the consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart in 1984 (an act that Sr. Lucia of Fatima said was accepted by Heaven), it only took five

years for the Berlin Wall to fall. The Soviet Union dissolved in 1991.

Devotion to Divine Mercy; devotion to Mary Immaculate; the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception — all came face to face with the evils of communism in the 20th century. All triumphed. All now are some of the greatest treasures of the Church, helping to secure the springtime of the new evangelization.

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Servant of God John Mendriks

(Jan. 21, 1907–Aug. 1, 1953)

On Oct. 25, 1950, he was arrested by the Soviet secret police, and on March 24, 1951, was sentenced to 10 years forced labor at a camp in Vorkuta for “anti-Soviet activism.” While in the camp, Fr. John continued his pastoral work among his fellow prisoners. During the political thaw after Stalin’s death in 1953, the prisoners began a protest, seeking to regain their freedom. The camp authorities called in the armed forces, who surrounded the camp on Aug. 1, 1953. Convinced that, as a priest, he should be where the people were in greatest danger so he could prepare them to meet God, Fr. John moved to the first row of prisoners. He was shot dead while reciting the formula of absolution.



“I encourage you to learn more about the lives of the Servants of God,” said Fr. Pakula, especially to study their lives and teachings.

“Atheistic Communism has been one of the greatest persecutors of Christians in history,” said Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “How powerful that our Congregation includes these heroes of the faith! We must remember our brothers who suffered for their fidelity to Christ and to His Church, and we should turn to them for their intercession as we confront the culture of death, the dictatorship of relativism, and an atheistic cancel culture being spread through globalization to every corner of the world.

These brothers in Christ who suffered and died, whose final resting places are essentially unknown to us, remind us that even those whom the world treats as disposable are infinitely precious in the eyes of God.”

MH

Almighty and merciful God, You granted Your servant Fabian and four companions — our confreres — Andrew, Eugene, John, and Vladas, the grace of martyrdom and called them to be witnesses of Your Son’s Passion and Resurrection. May they be raised, we pray, to the glory of the altars, while we, living out the charism of our Congregation, may faithfully devote our lives until the end in the service of the Church, for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

OUR 'FAMILY' OBLIGATION

By Fr. Joseph, MIC

We Marian Fathers know things have taken a positive turn when we receive letters such as this one, from Fred Joseph Lopiccolo of Imlay City, Michigan:

I have a passionate devotion to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. A day doesn't go by without me interceding for the poor captive souls in Purgatory. I have a Baptismal fount on a wall between my bedroom and the main part of my home. Every time I pass by it, I dip my fingers into it and say the words: "Mother, for the Holy Souls in Purgatory." I also go to Holy Mass, Monday through Thursday, and on the weekend. Every Mass, I offer up the Holy Souls in Purgatory to the Eternal Father, through Mary and Jesus. Every Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy I pray is for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Same thing with my Holy Hours I pray. Non-stop, I'm offering prayers through Mary and Jesus to the Eternal Father to release the Holy Souls from Purgatory.

My hope is that when I die and walk towards Heaven's gate, I will see a multitude of people waiting to greet me, those whom my prayers through Mary and Jesus released from Purgatory. What a family reunion it will be!

This recent letter is just one of many from Marian Helpers around the world that underscore how the message is getting through.

What message is that?

Well, since the canonization in 2016 of our Marian Founder, St. Stanislaus Papczynski (1631-1701), our religious Congregation has placed a renewed focus on a founding charism of ours: the importance of offering Masses and personal prayers and sacrifices for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We've done so through our print and web articles, our livestream talks, our homilies, books, pamphlets, and prayer cards.

Why all these efforts? Because the souls in Purgatory need us.



For St. Stanislaus, to assist the souls in Purgatory — that is to say, those who die in God’s friendship, assured of their eternal salvation in Heaven, but who must undergo purification before they enter Heaven — “is to exercise the highest charity.” That’s a bold statement, but one formed from experience. For instance, in one account, at a gathering of family, friends, and religious, St. Stanislaus had a profound mystical encounter with the Holy Souls and 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.

In more recent times, God seems determined to prompt us as to the reality of Purgatory.

For instance, in Fatima, in 1917, Our Lady told the children about the fate of two women who had died (one was in Heaven, and the second was in Purgatory). Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938) wrote in her Diary about the time her Guardian Angel led her to Purgatory (see entry 20).

We learn several important things from this account. First, “there was a great crowd.” Indeed, many Church mystics have testified that a large number of souls dwell in Purgatory. Second, the souls were “fervently” praying for themselves, “but to no avail.” As Faustina rightly says, only we — the Church Militant, those living on earth —

“can come to their aid.” In other words, the poor souls are at our mercy.

Third, Jesus says, “My mercy does not want this.” Indeed, even our Lord doesn’t want souls to have to suffer in Purgatory. He wants us to be His family and to share in His joy. Yet, in order to share eternity with Him, the only logical conclusion is that these souls must become pure like Him. Fourth, the souls in Purgatory long only to be with God. Saint Faustina, in entry 20, says this spiritual longing constitutes their greatest suffering. She refers to it as a “fire” in their hearts, a fire that purifies them of any remaining attachment to sin.

So why does God reveal to His saints the state of the souls in Purgatory? Not to terrify us, but rather to fill us with hope for eternal life. He wishes to point us toward the graces He provides to enter Heaven. He did so to show us that if our loved ones died with merely a flicker of faith and love, He can transform that flicker into an inferno.

As St. Stanislaus knew, as Mr. Lopiccolo and thousands of Marian Helpers have come to know, the souls in Purgatory are part of our family. We have an obligation to come to their aid and hasten their entrance into that heavenly home.

As Mr. Lopiccolo put it: “What a family reunion it will be!”

MH

We invite you to join the Marians this November in our month-long remembrance of all the faithful departed. Visit marian.org/b51 to join us in our November Remembrance.

HOLY FATHER LENGTHENS LITANY

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH

On the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, the Vatican announced that the Holy Father has added seven new invocations to the famous litany in honor of St. Joseph.

With that in mind, we turn to Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, whose most recent book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, utilizes the Litany of St. Joseph as the template for a preparation for consecration.

“It’s interesting: The Litany of St. Joseph dates back to at least the 16th century and has been prayed by countless saints,” Fr. Donald said. “But in its official form, it was only approved and indulgenced in 1909 by Pope St. Pius X, so it’s fairly ‘new.’ Still, until now, it’s been unchanged for over 100 years.”



“I anticipated that Pope Francis would add more titles, but I didn’t think it would be seven new titles,” Fr. Donald continued. “That’s going all out. I think the new titles will only serve to further highlight St. Joseph’s many heroic virtues and help us come to know and love our spiritual father in a deeper way and encourage people to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.”

The seven new additions (with each one’s unofficial translation) are:

Custos Redemptoris (Guardian of the Redeemer)

“That’s a classic title,” Fr. Donald noted. “Of course, it ties in with Pope St. John Paul II’s great love for St. Joseph that he underscored with his apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph in 1989, *Redemptoris Custos*.

“The title ‘Guardian of the Redeemer’ emphasizes the fact that St. Joseph not only took care of the Blessed Mother and dedicated himself to Jesus Christ’s rearing, but he also continues to watch over and protect Christ’s Mystical Body,” Fr. Donald continued. “That is, he watches over the Church, the people that God has called together from the ends of the earth who draw their life from the Word and Body of Christ. As Guardian of the Redeemer, St. Joseph continues in his role as caretaker and protector of God’s plan for our redemption.”



Serve Christi (Servant of Christ)

“We often don’t think about St. Joseph today as a ‘servant,’” Fr. Donald said. “But of course he was the earthly father of Christ. He literally clothed, fed, and tucked Jesus into bed. This does raise the point that there’s a misuse of manhood today. There’s so much confusion about what it means to be a man. With this title for St. Joseph, we see manhood equated with service for the greater good, and so to look at St. Joseph as the Servant of Christ is an invitation for us today to draw from his example. We, too, are to be servants of Christ. By extension, we are to be servants of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. We, too, are to humbly labor and exert ourselves in the name of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Minister Salutis (Minister of Salvation)

“This is a fascinating one,” Fr. Donald said. “It’s a title used by St. John Chrysostom. It basically says that St. Joseph — though never ordained — administers Jesus. His role in the life of the Holy Family and the life of Christianity was to make Christ present. Therefore, he is truly a minister of salvation. That’s a bold title. Theologians will be unpacking this one on a deeper level for a long time to come. If St. Joseph is a minister of salvation, we all are ministers of salvation. This tells us that being a minister of salvation is not something simply for the ordained. Saint Joseph was a layman. So this lets lay people know that every follower of Christ is called to minister to others and bring people closer to Jesus Christ.

Fulcimen in Difficultatibus (Support in Difficulties)

“The litany already has ‘Hope of the Sick’ and ‘Comfort of the Afflicted,’ so this one may seem to be a bit repetitive at first glance,” Fr. Donald said. “But I think a little more is happening here. Pope Francis is specifically addressing issues of our present day. There is so much distress today. So many people are experiencing difficulties and are losing hope. But we have St. Joseph on our side. Saint Joseph is there to intercede for us. He is our support. That’s what a good father does.”

Patrone Exsulum (Patron of Exiles)

“Here’s another one that is definitely geared for our times,” Fr. Donald said. “Because of war, poverty, and persecution, so many people around the world are forced to flee their native lands. Of course, St. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were exiles themselves. They were forced to flee to safety all the way to Egypt. I think Pope Francis is calling upon the faithful to be ever mindful of the hardships and sorrows of exiles. But he’s also calling upon exiles themselves to turn to St. Joseph, who knew as well as anyone that in times of disorder and confusion, God is with us, that God is our refuge, that God is our dwelling place.”

Patrone Afflictorum (Patron of the Afflicted)

“Referring to St. Joseph as ‘patron’ in this case again brings out the fatherly responsibilities and obligations that he excelled at on earth and continues to excel at in Heaven,” Fr. Donald said. “He is a protector, a defender, a guardian of those who suffer. With so much affliction,

people need to be aware they have a spiritual father and that they can turn to his paternal care.”

Patrone Pauperum (Patron of the Poor)

“This is classic Pope Francis, emphasizing to the poor that they are not forgotten,” Fr. Donald said. “From the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has said he wants ‘a poor Church, for the poor.’ On one hand, what he is advocating is that people of faith shun unhealthy attachments to earthly possessions in favor of a profound trust in the Lord as the only Source of salvation and true happiness. But for the financially and materially poor, Pope Francis is also saying they have a father in St. Joseph. After all, St. Joseph was the earthly father to the Heavenly King who was born in a manger. Saint Joseph understands material poverty! Likewise, he shows the rewards of having profound trust in the Lord. Through St. Joseph, the poor can discover the joy in being blessed with riches of salvation.”

MH

The Litany of St. Joseph

In this Year of St. Joseph — which extends from Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021 — praying the Litany of St. Joseph comes with a plenary indulgence, which may be earned once a day, subject to the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, and a total detachment from all sin, including venial sin).

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Noble Offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Guardian of the Redeemer,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-Father of the Son of God,
Zealous Defender of Christ,
Servant of Christ,
Minister of Salvation,
Head of the Holy Family,

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, graciously hear us.*

*have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.*

*pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.*



Joseph Most Just,
Joseph Most Chaste,
Joseph Most Prudent,
Joseph Most Courageous,
Joseph Most Obedient,
Joseph Most Faithful,
Mirror of Patience,
Lover of Poverty,
Model of Workmen,
Glory of Domestic Life,
Guardian of Virgins,
Pillar of Families,
Support in Difficulties,
Comfort of the Afflicted,
Hope of the Sick,
Patron of Exiles,
Patron of the Afflicted,
Patron of the Poor,
Patron of the Dying,
Terror of Demons,

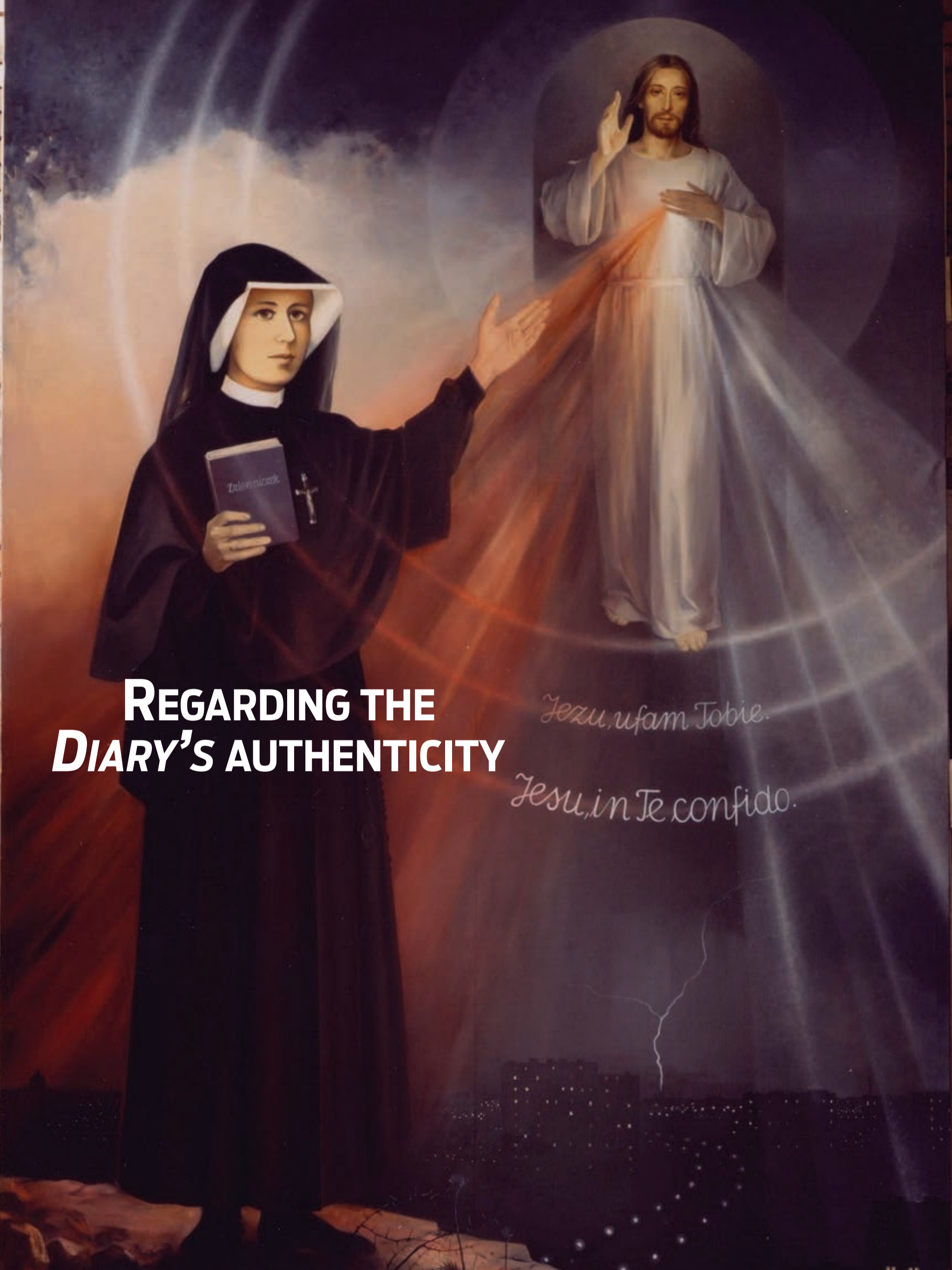
Protector of the Holy Church,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
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pray for us.
pray for us.
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pray for us.
pray for us.

pray for us.
Spare us, O Lord.
Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Have mercy on us.

V. He has made him lord of his household,
R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray: O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in Heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.



**REGARDING THE
DIARY'S AUTHENTICITY**

Jezu, ufam Tobie.

Jesu, in Te confido.

A reader named Mark recently had questions regarding the authenticity of St. Faustina's *Diary*, considering her lack of formal education. Referring to St. Faustina, Mark wrote:

[S]he wrote a 730-page diary. With phrases like this, "The flames of mercy are burning Me, clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don't want to believe in My goodness." Unfortunately, I am a review real estate appraiser. So, I read numerous appraisal reports. Mostly the reports are poorly written, riddled with typos, left out words, mistakes and other disasters. Most of the authors have college degrees. When I write my own review reports, the first go around is merely getting my thoughts down. I spend hours and hours re-writing and improving my report. Then proofread them the next few days, improving them. So, how is it that someone with three years of basic education can write such beautiful prose? I feel that something is disingenuous. Either she had more education or someone helped her with the writing. On Divine Mercy Sunday, I tried as faithfully as possible to open my soul to the burning flames of mercy from our Lord. Let the flames of mercy burn away all of the temporal punishments that I have built up over all these years. I am sorry but it just struck me and so I am writing you for some clarifications on this topic.

We thought it would be worthwhile to share with you the response provided by Robert Stackpole, STD, the director of the Marian Fathers' John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy:

Dear Mark,

Many thanks for your good question! You are obviously a sincere seeker after truth, and your desire to get to the bottom of this matter is certainly commendable. To begin with, however, I am going to make your conundrum even worse, before I do my best to make it better. The fact of the matter is that little Helena Kowalska (in Polish, "Helenka," the future Sister Faustina) did not have three years of basic education. She actually had only three *semesters* of basic education! Publications sometimes innocently and erroneously state the former, but the latter is the case.

Now, you might say: "Well it's obvious, then, that someone with only a second grade education, only in the middle of her second year of schooling before she left, could not write her *Diary*. So the *Diary* must be a forgery."

But there are several reasons why this line of reasoning doesn't hold water.

First of all, Helenka did not start her elementary education when our children normally do, at about the age of six. Rather, she started at the age of 12. The problem was that the schools for Polish children were closed when she was a child because life was completely disrupted for families living in the war zone during the First World War. As her father certainly could read, he may have helped her get a head start at home during those difficult years. In any case, we know for a fact that when she finally got to go to the local school in the village of Swinice, she breezed through much of the elementary curriculum before having to leave again because she was too old to continue.

(Room had to be made for the younger students.)

Second, we know from historical sources that her teacher regretted that such a clever child had to finish her education prematurely. Indeed, throughout her youth, Helenka impressed everyone by her lively intelligence and good memory. In her biography of Sr. Faustina, titled *St. Sister Faustina: Her Life and Mission* (1989; an excellent biography, by the way, which includes information from

the official Vatican investigation about her life, including testimonies from her family members, friends, and fellow religious sisters), Maria Tarnawska shows that Helenka was remarkably bright, and already an avid reader even before she left to live and work outside home at the age of 14:

Her father, who liked to read, had a modest collection of books. She

would tell [the other children in the neighborhood], above all, what she had heard from him. He read to them "from the Bible, or about missionaries teaching wild tribes, or about hermits living on roots and totally absorbed in prayer." To her father's readings could be added the Sunday sermons, which she would repeat faithfully and convincingly when she came back from church. When she herself had learned to read, she took over from her father the times of reading aloud to the family. Then her repertoire of stories grew far larger, for she borrowed books wherever she could: from neighbours, the parish priest, her teacher. They were always religious books. (p. 27-28)

Third, remember that education in those days in Poland,

Throughout her youth, Helenka [Kowalska] impressed everyone by her lively intelligence and good memory.

7 1931 rok 22 lutego

Wierowem kiedy bylam w acti; ujrataam Pana
Jesusa, ubranego w szacie bialej, jedna ruka uniesiona
do blegostawienia, a druga dotykata raty na piensiaci
z uchylenia raty na piensiaci, wystrzely dwa wielkie
promienice jeden czerwony a drugi biały, w milczeniu
wpatrywataam sie w Pana. Dwa maja byta przejeta
bojarniq ale i radością wielką.
Pochwiti powiedzial mi Jesus, wymaluj obraz w dteiq
rysunka, ktury widzie, a podpisano Jesu ufam Tobie
juzque, aby ten obraz czereno najprowd w kapeli cy
waris i na całym świecie.

Obiecuje ze dwa ktura czeic bydzie ten obraz niezmiel

Handwritten passage from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*.

as almost everywhere at the time, and especially in rural areas (think “Little House on the Prairie” and a one-room schoolhouse!), was almost exclusively centered on the so-called three “Rs”: reading, (w)riting, and (a)rithmetic. There was almost nothing in the way of social studies, art, drama, music, physical ed, etc. — all the bells and whistles of a modern western education. All that emphasis on the three Rs meant that most children in those schools, in those days, and especially the bright ones, could read and write and do their sums at a considerably earlier age than children today normally do. Indeed, the inability to write proper English is an epidemic among schoolchildren today, even at the university undergraduate level (in which I used to teach). It was a very different world back then, with no television or video games to distract children either!

Finally, Mark, the example you gave in your letter helps illustrate another important consideration. You quoted *Diary*, entry 730: “The flames of mercy are burning Me, clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don’t want to believe in My goodness.” But notice that those were words spoken by Jesus to St. Faustina, which she merely wrote down according to her (rather good) memory. It certainly is a florid and expressive quote, but so are many of the things that Jesus said to her, as recorded in her *Diary*. To me, that is one of the main things that makes her *Diary*, and the revela-

tions recorded in it, ring with authenticity: *Jesus doesn’t sound like her!* Her prose is fairly simple and straightforward (except when she breaks into poetry, which is very profound in content, but the poetic form is not very good). When Jesus speaks, however, He is not just conversational. (He sounds a lot like Aslan from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, books which had not been written yet, of course.) But He doesn’t sound phony, pompous, or grandiose, either. He sounds, well ... like Jesus — and certainly not like her.

Anyway, I hope that helps. Besides all this, there is absolutely zero historical evidence of any conspiracy by anyone to produce a fake *Diary* with fake revelations in it, and the writing and periodic review of the whole thing was overseen by another holy soul, Blessed Fr. Michael Sopocko, who (with two doctoral degrees under his belt) could not be easily bamboozled by anyone, and who (in his “Recollections”) stated that he had asked St. Faustina to write it. In short, we are on firm ground in believing that St. Faustina really wrote this book, that she really, sincerely believed that Jesus personally instructed her about His merciful love, and that she faithfully recorded these revelations from our Lord as His own “secretary of Divine Mercy” (*Diary*, 1605).

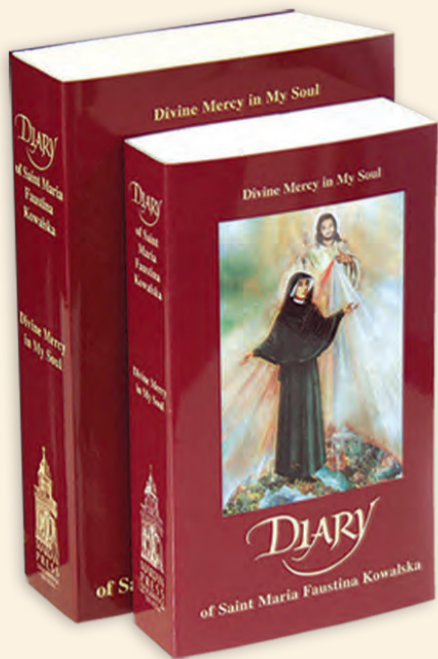
MH

Yours in our Savior,
Robert Stackpole, STD, director of the
John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy.


Essential Divine Mercy Resources

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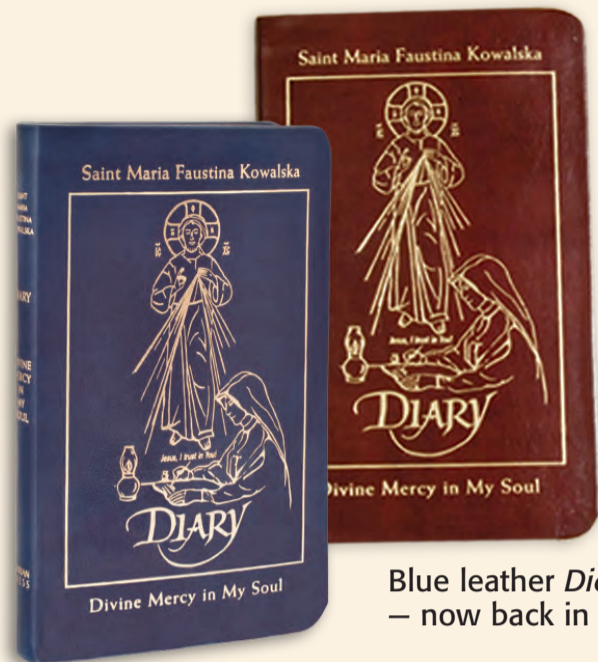
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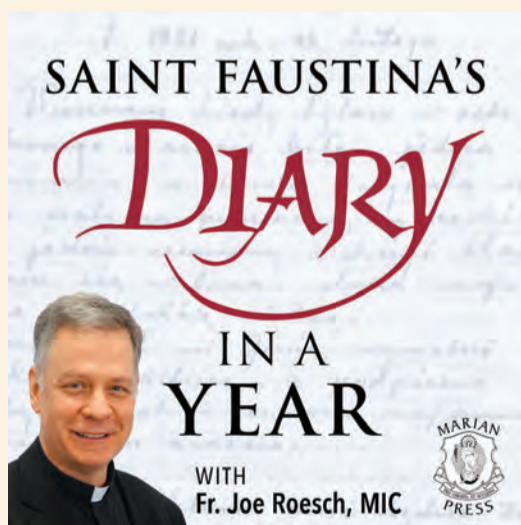
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For anyone who may think the *Diary* is too thick and formidable, Fr. Joseph Roesch, MIC, has the solution. Join him for a few minutes each day as he reads from the *Diary* and offers commentary. Over the span of one year, you will have “read” the *Diary*, beginning to end. Together, through the mystical writings of St. Faustina, let’s come to better know the tender love of Jesus for all humanity.

To access our podcasts, go to your preferred podcasting platform and search for the name of the podcast.



Visit TheDivineMercy.org/podcasts for all our podcasts.

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER GETS A HOLIDAY

The state Senate in Louisiana has adopted a resolution officially acknowledging the Year of St. Joseph and recognizing May 1 as St. Joseph the Worker Day. The resolution was the work of Senator Fred Mills.

“There is an authentic passion and zeal in spreading this St. Joseph devotion in Louisiana that I have personally witnessed. I was grateful to be a part of memorializing this effort at the state level for generations to come!” Sen. Mills said, according to the *National Catholic Register*.

On July 4, the official Facebook account for the Louisiana Secretary of State said, “On May 28, Secretary Ardoin took extreme pride in signing Senate Resolution 116 commemorating this year as the Year of St. Joseph, as well as recognizing May 1 as St. Joseph the Worker Day in Louisiana. May we always remember the importance St. Joseph has in our state.”

Marian Helper Jennifer Angelle played a major role in the effort, launching the initiative and helping draft the resolution. She told the *National Catholic Register*, “This is far beyond anything I could do alone. It’s the work



Jennifer Angelle

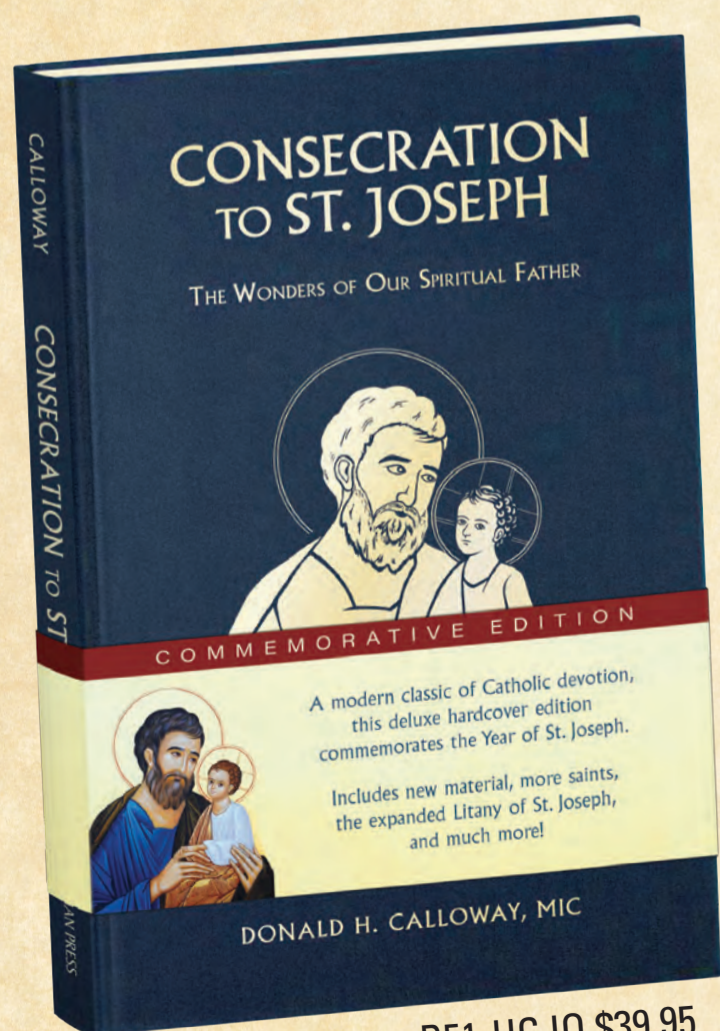


Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

and perseverance of the Holy Spirit. We are simple people in a small town, taking small steps [to] live our lives better each day — not perfect, but continually trying to share our God-given gifts where we can.

“Being part of this movement brought much comfort through some tough months of COVID. But Fr. Calloway gets all the credit for his ‘yes’ to doing the laborious research, ensuring publication and his tireless promotion on the global scene. His gift is in teaching and encouraging all to be brave and to lean into the faith. He is a true leader unafraid of getting in the foxhole of spiritual battles — knowing people need more than just preaching but actual tools to help overcome — ‘dragon slayers,’ as he says, armed with the spiritual swords! This book and devotion became a spiritual asset during a tough time in the world — providential timing! With over a million copies sold in the last year, there is no doubt he is turning people’s eyes to Jesus in hope, mercy and love.”

Please visit ConsecrationToStJoseph.org to learn more about consecration to St. Joseph. MH



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CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

An expanded edition of one of the most popular and best-selling Catholic books in recent years, this premium hardcover edition of Consecration to St. Joseph includes a new foreword from Fr. Calloway, 3 ribbons for marking pages, papal additions to the Litany of St. Joseph, more quotes from saints and blessed about St. Joseph, Fr. Calloway’s letter to the pope requesting a Year of St. Joseph, full-color artwork, and lots of other special new material. This will definitely be a keepsake to treasure! 380 pages.

**Order now: Visit ShopMercy.org/b51
or call 1-800-462-7426.**

LIVING ON A PRAYER

One of the greatest treasures available to Marian Helpers is the spiritual assistance of the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayer Ministry, based at the Marian Helpers Center on the grounds of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts — and they're under new management!

Previously, the role of prayerline manager had been filled by a lay employee. Now, though, the manager of the prayerline will be one of the Marians in formation.

“Prayer is the heart of our apostolate,” said Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, the director of the Association of Marian Helpers. “It makes sense to have a Marian in that role as manager of the prayerline. Not only can he bring his seminary training to those in need, but it brings the whole community into contact with our Marian Helpers. This really helps us hear the needs of the people. Our hope is that this will be a long-term continuation of our formation program.”

Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., prayerline staff and volunteers can pray with callers directly



over the phone. More often, though (due to call volume and the other ways the prayerline receives intentions), the intercessors prayerfully read through or listen to the intentions. Marian priests pray for every intention received at three daily Masses offered on Eden Hill. Prayerline employees and volunteers also bring the intentions each afternoon to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady of Mercy Oratory. During these afternoon hours of Adoration, the prayerline workers all pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. Finally, the prayerline accepts intentions for candles to be lit in the adjoining candle shrine.

You can help the Divine Mercy Intercessory Prayerline in two ways: through praying as a volunteer and through your financial contributions. Volunteer as a minister of prayer if you're within commuting distance to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, or join the 4,000 volunteers across the United States, Canada, and the Philippines praying a Holy Hour a week for all the intentions that come into the prayerline.

Please visit TheDivineMercy.org/Prayer to get involved. MH

MARIAN FATHERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

2021 CAMPAIGN FOR HOLY PRIESTS 2022



“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Support our
Marian seminarians
Visit marian.org/seminarians
Call 1-800-462-7426

— St. John Vianney



Renovations have begun at the Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine; the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy bell tower is being cleaned; new drainage is being installed at the Shrine; a new roof is being added to our Marian Helpers Center; and there's more to come!

OUR URGENT REQUEST

A few months ago, we asked for your assistance with urgent needs here in Stockbridge. We needed to repair our well-loved Mother of Mercy Outdoor Shrine, among other necessary maintenance.

The response was incredible! Thanks to supporters like you, **we have exceeded our goal**, which now allows us to continue upgrades and repairs. **Thank you!**

We have already completed much of the work and even moved on to projects such as replacing an old, leaking roof on our Marian Helpers Center — the wheelhouse from which all of our worldwide efforts begin.

Thank you for your prayers, for your continued support, and for being a part of our Marian family! May God reward your generosity!





Debbie Childress (center, back) with her women's Cursillo group.

IN HIS REAL PRESENCE

Our Marian Helpers find all kinds of truly creative ways to help spread the message of Divine Mercy. Debbie Childress of Kansas City, Missouri, is one such Marian Helper.

“I attended a women’s Cursillo Weekend in 2003, and it changed my life,” said Debbie, referring to a Catholic program that teaches how to live the faith. In Debbie’s case, the experience led her to the Divine Mercy.

She’s been part of a small women’s Cursillo group at her parish for nearly 18 years. “Each week we gather, share, and discuss our individual piety, study, and apostolic actions. With others sharing their Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplets, Novenas, etc., I was inspired and grew to incorporate these into my daily piety routines as well. From here, Jesus’ Divine Mercy Image, message, and Chaplet continuously pull my heart into an ever-deepening love of Him.”

A social worker, Debbie loves helping people, so it’s natural for her to want to help others understand who the Eucharist really is and how spending time before His Real Presence can help. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, “And therefore expressly our Lord did not say: *This bread is My body ... nor This My body is My body ...* but in general: *This is My body ...*” (*Summa Theologiae*, III q. 78 Art. 5).

Drawing closer to our Lord is more important than ever. “There’s a lot of pain in the world,” says Debbie, who has worked with youth, the homeless, and dislocated workers. “We need the love of Jesus, His love and peace. Nothing else can fill that hole.” Debbie reminds us that “the Eucharist is Divine Mercy. This was His ultimate mercy. Jesus is with us in the Eucharist. He did not leave us alone.”

She describes her experiences in Eucharistic Adoration as “pure bliss.” She feels Jesus so powerfully in Eucharistic Adoration that it’s palpable. “In fact, one evening, I felt such supernatural peace, love, and joy, I didn’t want to leave,” she said. “This experience may have been the

beginning of my continual, ever-deepening love of Divine Mercy. Jesus keeps pulling me further into Himself.”

Feeling called to do more for the Kingdom of God, Debbie helped create the “In His Real Presence” Eucharistic Congress in her diocese three years ago. She also keeps the bright light of Divine Mercy glowing in her heart through regularly attending Eucharistic Adoration at the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel; visiting Divine Mercy Park, home to a 25-foot-tall Divine Mercy statue; and attending Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Kansas City’s official Divine Mercy Shrine.

She loves listening to the Marian Fathers on YouTube. And the Childress family has a “super large” Divine Mercy Image in their family room. They’ve been praying the Divine Mercy Novena as a family for many years.

They packed up the car and headed out for a family pilgrimage to the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in July 2018. “When I entered the Church, I felt God’s presence overwhelmingly and didn’t want to leave,” she said.

It’s no surprise Debbie helps support the Marian ministries through enrollments in the Association of Marian Helpers. She enrolls family and friends, including the deceased who may be in Purgatory.

Requesting prayers for others is a beautiful act of mercy. Our director, Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, says, “As a Marian Helper, you are given the graces you need to step out in faith. Specifically, by a decree of the Holy See, you share in the graces that are extended to all our Marian Helpers.” It’s a great way to support the Marian Fathers *and* to practice acts of mercy!



Hope Ponsart Hansen is a donor relations officer for the Marian Fathers. Contact her at (413) 298-1387; helpers@marian.org; or Association of Marian Helpers, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Visit marian.org/PlannedGiving to learn more.

Living Divine Mercy

WITH FR. CHRIS ALAR, MIC

JOIN FR. CHRIS ON EWTN

Beginning Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. (EST), Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, will host a brand new 30-minute program on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). Join him each Wednesday as he and other members of the Congregation of Marian Fathers present teaching on the Divine Mercy message and devotion, as well as stories about Divine Mercy “miracles” in the real lives of Marian Helpers. Tune in to learn how you can begin living Divine Mercy in a whole new way!

SAVE THE DATE: Nov. 5, 6, and 7



17th Annual Virtual Divine Mercy *Medicine, Bioethics & Spirituality Conference*

Keynote speakers:

Bishop Robert McManus, DD, STD

Topic: Eucharistic Consistency of Catholic Health Workers and Catholic Legislators

Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, PhD, FAAP

Topic: Pediatric Bioethics



Other speakers include:



Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC



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Fr. Chris Alar, MIC



Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN



Dr. Bryan Thatcher



Dr. Ronald Sobecks

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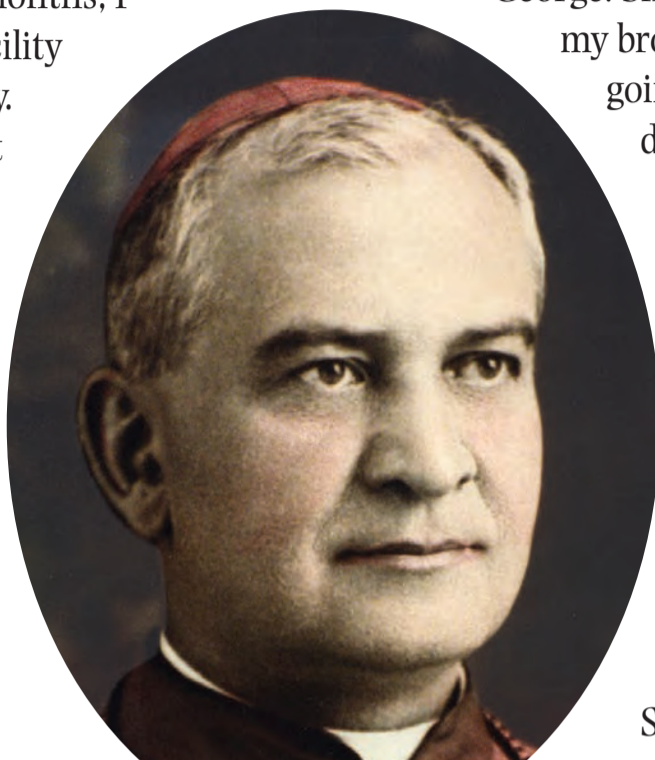
A job where I can glorify God

I wanted to share the graces received through the intercession of Blessed George. I have been a medical assistant for over 24 years. Prior to the pandemic, I accepted a new job. After a couple of months, I discovered one of the doctors in the facility performed abortions. I quit immediately. Unfortunately, now I was out of a job at 50 years old and COVID was spreading across the country. I sent my resume to as many places as I could, but received no responses. One day, a few weeks into my search, I received a *Marian Helper* magazine. I found the Graces Received page and two stories about Blessed George helping with jobs. I started praying to Blessed George to intercede for me. Within the hour, I got my first call for an interview. I went to three interviews, but I didn't get any of those jobs. Fortunately, three more places called me. One wanted to hire me on the spot. I ended up accepting a job that was in my hometown and down the hill from my church. I was offered better pay and benefits than I had had before. I had prayed to Blessed George to help me find a job where I can glorify God. Now I have time to drive to my parish at lunch to spend time with Jesus.

— LC, Moorpark, California

On the road to recovery

My brother had a brain aneurism due to high blood pressure. Since the bleeding was at the center of the brain, the doctors told us that he wasn't going to live. My



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

family and I immediately reached out to many people for prayers. My best friend told me to pray to Blessed George since she had received a special blessing through his intercession. She sent me the novena to Blessed George. She and I started to pray on behalf of my brother. My brother is alive and he's going through physiotherapy every day to strengthen his right side. We continue to pray for my brother's complete recovery, and we are so grateful for Blessed George's intercession.

— SAJO, Parsippany, New Jersey

Granddaughter spared from illness

My granddaughter, age 7, suffers from CVS, Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome, which causes her to have cycles of intense vomiting that continues for about three days.

I prayed to Blessed George for a special grace for her to be free of this forever.

The cycle was scheduled to repeat this past weekend, but it did not occur.

I know this is because of the intercession of Blessed George.

— ML, email

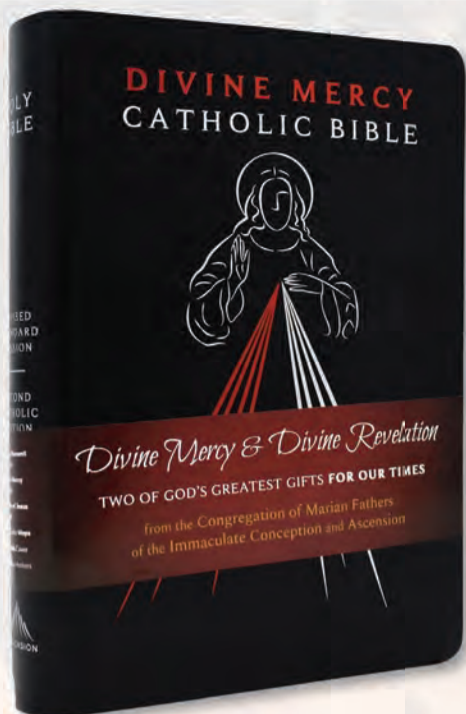
For a Blessed George prayer card (B51-CBGP), call toll free 1-800-462-7426. If you have received graces through his intercession, please write: Br. Andrew Maczynski, MIC, Vice Postulator of the Marian Causes of Canonization, Stockbridge, MA 01263. Email: graces@marian.org.

Prayer for a Special Grace Through the Intercession of Blessed George

O God, our Lord and Father, You surround us always by Your care; receive our humble petition, and through the intercession of Blessed George, who suffered so much for Your glory and for the increase of Your Kingdom here on earth, grant me the grace (mention intention), for which I ask You with confidence, promising to live from now on with greater fidelity to Your commandments. Amen.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be to the Father ...

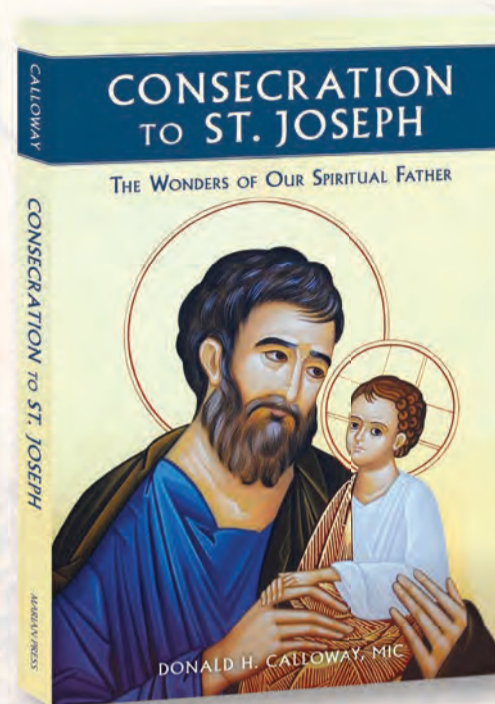
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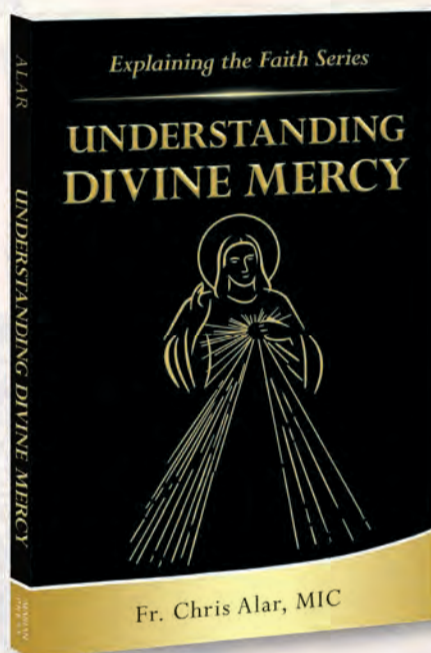
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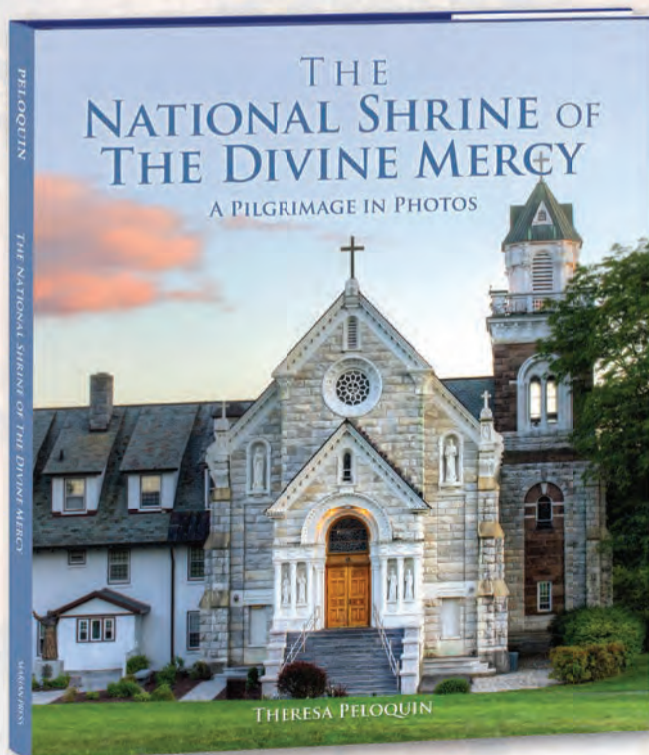
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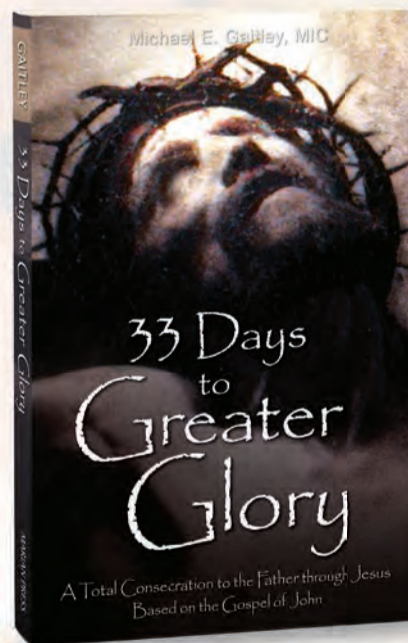
The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy: A Pilgrimage in Photos

The breathtaking grounds of Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, have long been appreciated as a sign of God's mercy in creation. If you already have come to this holy place, here are images to remind you of your pilgrimage. If you are only able to be here in spirit, let these photos speak to your heart, giving you an appreciation for all the Lord has done for His Church through

Eden Hill, the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, and the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy. Hardcover, 128 pages. **B51-NSDM \$24.95**



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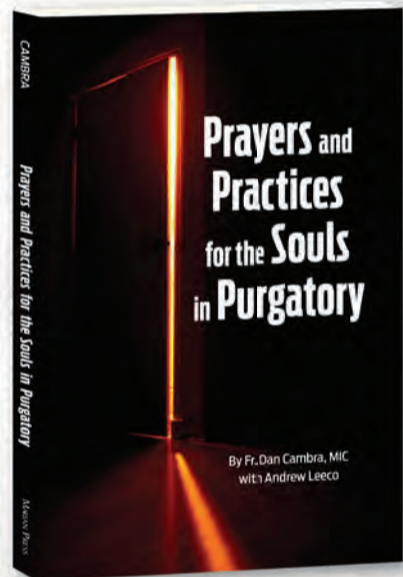
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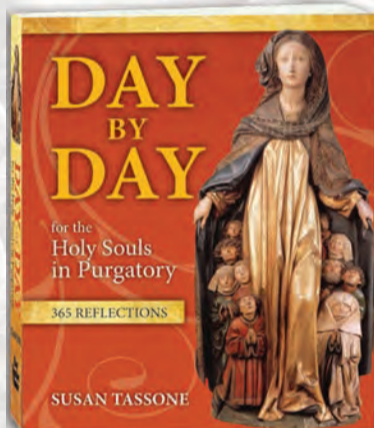
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From the
VAULTS

A poem from the Jan.-March, 1969, issue of the Marian Helper Bulletin:

The Boy and Joseph

“Go to Joseph,” she would say, —
And he would run to place his small hand in the large one that
 awaited him,
A gentle hand for all its work-worn callouses and sturdy strength.
These hands of Joseph’s —
These the child well knew.
Beloved hands that harbored him and held him,
Served him and safe-guarded him.
these they were and more.
Steadfastly protecting hands,
Hands that led, provided, guided.
These they were and more.
They were working hands —
and loving hands —
and praying hands.
And they were hands that made work, love and prayer all one.
His hand in Joseph’s; thus he grew.
And growing, learned.
As boys since time began must learn from men.
To throw a ball —
to sing a song —
to climb a tree,
Or plant a tree and match its yearly progress with his own.
To watch families of sparrows as they nested in its foliage,
And to share its fruits with friends and strangers,
And to make those strangers friends.
To name the stars seen through its branches
And use the moon as monthly measure
And foretell the morning’s weather from the cast of evening’s sky.
To delight in springtime’s sunshine and its gifts of life aborning
And its unexpected showers sent to brighten nature’s green.
And to sorrow.
Yes, to sorrow
At those things that lacked all gladness
For there also was grave sadness to be seen.
Joseph showed him as he led him by the hand.
To the worn and the afflicted,
To the beaten and defeated,

To the lost souls who’d left off trying,
The lost hearts that tired of hoping,
The forlorn whose faith was failing,
They would bring their consolation —
And what help their hands could give.
And a share in their small treasures.
Welcome to join their pleasures.
These they offered.
Little measures.
Still that little meant a lot,
And somehow their very presence made each place a sacred spot.
The boy grew in youthful vigor,
Yearly stronger, wiser, bigger,
Needing less of Joseph’s guidance and his firm paternal care.
Heeding more the needs of living,
Doing more and more his share.
And his hands, now skilled as Joseph’s,
Matched in craftsmanship and caring those he’d copied since
 his childhood
In their every mood and art
In the manner of their movement —
in the method of their labor —
In their mercy —
in their might —
and in their meekness.
In their very manliness.
Hands both of master and of servant Joseph’s hands had been.
And they’d been model hands the full while they’d been
 molding hands,
For they were all a father’s and a teacher’s hands could be.
All these they were and more.
These humble workman’s hands —
fallible human hands —
remarkably ordinary hands —
These hands had taught their God to be a man.
Go to Joseph, you who walk alone.
His hands are waiting.

MH

Anne Trudden

Live the call!



Marian Helpers Jerry and Denise McKeon:

We have known Stephen for many years and know the faithful background he comes from. We were thrilled when he joined the Marians. Over the past decade, our family has benefitted sacramentally, spiritually, and educationally by our connection to the Marians. At our local parish, we sometimes lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet, which is another wonderful blessing given us through the Marians. We recently consecrated ourselves to St. Joseph, using Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC. We are blessed to have a resource like the Marians and to be able to support them.

Br. Stephen Camara, MIC:

I first felt called to religious life during college. I began to pray to St. Joseph during sophomore year, and made my first Marian consecration with 33 Days to Morning Glory on Dec. 8, 2013. During the summer after my junior year, I sensed a distinct call to join the Marians. With great joy, I went on a "come-and-see" retreat, then formally applied to join the Congregation. I thank God every day for the "storms and rainbows" (Diary, 761) by which He leads me!

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:

Nov. 26-28

Feb. 4-6

Feb. 11-13

Learn more

Email: vocations@marian.org

Call toll free: 1-877-261-8806

Visit: marian.org/vocations

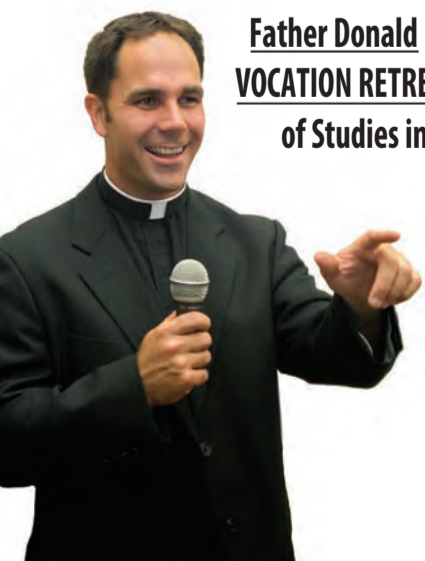
Write: Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
Vocation Director
Marian Fathers of the
Immaculate Conception
350 Belleview Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952


Support

Want to help the seminarians?

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

To donate, visit
marian.org/give/seminarians
or call 1-800-462-7426.



A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a white vestment over a dark shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. He is leaning over a table covered with a white cloth, pouring water from a golden vessel into a golden bowl. The table also holds a small golden bell and a red book. In the background, a window with a cross on the sill is visible, and the scene is lit with warm, natural light.

FAITH: INHERIT IT. LIVE IT. PASS IT ON.

Everyone needs an up-to-date will. Whether you're 18 or 80, it's the best way to make a plan, get peace of mind, and protect what God has blessed us with. Take 20 minutes today to write your will with our free online tool.

Visit [Marian.org/will](https://marian.org/will) or contact Ellen Miller at EMiller@marian.org or (413) 298-1380.